

Agriculture

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan August 2004



Business District



Power Plant



Hoodlebug Trail



Chestnut Ridge

Prepared by Mackin Engineering Company for: Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs and Black Lick, Burrell, and Center Townships

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

Mackin would like to thank the those people who volunteered their time to serve on the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

> Arlene Barker Tom Benmati Leann Chaney Bob Cochran Judy Coury Tony Distefano Linda Gwinn **Bea Harris** Les Henry Floyd Hill Ron Hood Robert Kunkle Kevin Montagnino Bob Pozik Rod Ruddock **Bill Shane** MJ Smith Maryanne Troxell George Urban

The Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was funded in part by the Indiana County Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Land Use and Planning Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) through an application submitted by the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development.

The Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was prepared by Mackin Engineering Company. 117 Industry Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15275 412-788-0472

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

	The	tement of Community Development Objectives
2.	Region	nal History & Community Character2-1
3.	Socio-	Economics
4.	Comm	nunity Facilities and Amenities
5.	Econo	mic Development 5-1
6.	Housi	ng
7.	Trans	portation
8.	Recrea	ation, Open Space, Greenways
9.	Land	Use & Natural Resources
	Inte Co Pu	Coordination10-1errelationships Among Various Plan Components10-1ntiguous Municipalities Statement10-2blic Participation10-3pital Improvements Plan10-6
Ap	pendic	es
		Implementation Plan I.a Priority Goals and Strategies I.b. Funding Sources
	III.	 Public Participation Results II.a First Public Meeting Results (SWOT) II.b Second Public Meeting Results (Community Imaging Exercise) II.c Second Public Meeting Results (Goal Prioritization) II.d Student Survey Results II.e Public Survey II.f. Public Survey Results Recreation Assessment Tool
	IV.	References

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

List of Tables and Figures

Figure 2-1	Location Map
Figure 3-1	Land Area
Figure 3-2	Male vs. Female Population
Figure 3-3	Median Age
Figure 3-4	Population living in same house as in 1995
Figure 4-1	Infrastructure Map
Figure 6-1	Age of Housing Structure
Figure 7-1	Regional Transportation Map
Figure 7-2	Local Transportation Map
Figure 9-1	Existing Land Use Map
Figure 9-2a	Blairsville Zoning Map
Figure 9-2b	Homer City Zoning Map
Figure 9-3	Future Development Constraints Map
Figure 9-4	Black Lick Township Undermined Areas Map
Figure 9-5	Blairsville Undermined Areas Map
Figure 9-6	Burrell Township Undermined Areas Map
Figure 9-7	Center Township Undermined Areas Map
Figure 9-8	Homer City Undermined Areas Map
Figure 9-9	Hydrologic Map
Figure 9-10	Future Land Use Map
Table 3-1	Population Density
Table 3-2	Population % Change
Table 3-3	Total Population (1960 to 2000)
Table 3-4	Population Projections
Table 3-5	Percent Age Distributions
Table 3-6	Race
Table 3-7	Family Information
Table 3-8	Educational Attainment
Table 3-9	School District Comparisons
Table 3-10	Occupations of Employed Persons
Table 3-11	Percent Employment Status
Table 3-12	Income in 1999
Table 3-13	Poverty Status by Age
Table 3-14	Migration
Table 4-1	Municipal Contact Information
Table 4-2	Volunteer Fire Companies in the Project Area
Table 4-3	Solid Waste Disposal Companies in the Project Area
Table 4-4	Water Suppliers in the Project Area
Table 4-5	Sewer Providers in the Project Area
Table 4-6	High School Information
Table 5-1	Employment Statistics
Table 5-2	Major Employers in the Project Area
Table 5-3	Major Employers in Indiana County
Table 6-1	Housing Occupancy
Table 6-2	Housing Tenure
Table 6-3	Heat Source
Table 6-4	Housing Value and Rent
Table 6-5	Units in Structure
Table 7-1	Annual Average Daily Traffic
Table 7-2	Southern Indiana Projects on the 2003-2006 Transportation Improvement Project List
Table 9-1	Land Use
Table 9-2	Southern Indiana County Description of Local Geology
Table 9-3	Southern Indiana County Soil Classifications
Table 9-4	Southern Indiana County Watershed Information

RESOLUTION NO. 7-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLACK LICK, COUNTY OF INDIANA, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, DATED THIS <u>6</u> DAY OF <u>July</u>, 2004 AS PREPARED BY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FACILITATED BY MACKIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

Whereas, a copy of the comprehensive plan, which includes the text, maps, charts and any other items which form the whole of the comprehensive plan and was made available for public review in the township office is attached hereto as exhibit "A"; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and recommended by the Black Lick Township Supervisors; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was sent to all contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission for review and comment on May 7, 2004; and,

Whereas, Black Lick Township has received no substantial comments from the contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission within forty-five (45) days of submission of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan; and,

Whereas, notice of a public hearing was forwarded to the Indiana Gazette to be advertised and published on June 22, 2004 and June 29, 2004; and,

Whereas, the Township Supervisors held a public hearing on July 6, 2004 to hear and consider public comments, and that the comments received at the public hearing were duly noted; and,

Whereas, the Black Lick Township Supervisors, after consideration of comments received (or lack thereof, as the case may be), has determined that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, as originally set forth in Exhibit "A", should not be substantially revised in whole or in part; and,

Whereas, the Township has found the comprehensive plan is beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLACKLICK TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME: SECTION I. The Township Supervisors of the municipality of Black Lick Township, by this resolution, adopts the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan as attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as pursuant to Article III and Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

SECTION II. Any and all previous comprehensive planning documents are hereby repealed.

Resolved and enacted this 6 of July 2004.

Township Supervisors

E. Calrao e Chairperson

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BLAIRSVILLE, COUNTY OF INDIANA, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, DATED THIS <u>14</u> DAY OF <u>July</u>, 2004 AS PREPARED BY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FACILITATED BY MACKIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

Whereas, a copy of the comprehensive plan, which includes the text, maps, charts and any other items which form the whole of the comprehensive plan and was made available for public review in the borough office is attached hereto as exhibit "A"; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and recommended by the Blairsville Borough Council; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was sent to all contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission for review and comment on May 7, 2004; and,

Whereas, Blairsville Borough has received no substantial comments from the contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission within forty-five (45) days of submission of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan; and,

Whereas, notice of a public hearing was forwarded to the Indiana Gazette to be advertised and published on July 6, 2004 and July 13, 2004; and,

Whereas, the Borough Council held a public hearing on July 20, 2004 to hear and consider public comments, and that the comments received at the public hearing were duly noted; and,

Whereas, the Blairsville Borough Council, after consideration of comments received (or lack thereof, as the case may be), has determined that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, as originally set forth in Exhibit "A", should not be substantially revised in whole or in part; and,

Whereas, the Borough has found the comprehensive plan is beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLAIRSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME: SECTION I. The Borough Council of the municipality of Blairsville, by this resolution, adopts the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan as attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as pursuant to Article III and Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

SECTION II. Any and all previous comprehensive planning documents are hereby repealed.

Resolved and enacted this 14th of July 2004.

Borough Council ALTRO Chairperson Kleth

RESOLUTION NO. 7-7-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BURRELL, COUNTY OF INDIANA, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, DATED THIS <u>7</u> DAY OF <u>5</u> <u>9</u>, 2004 AS PREPARED BY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FACILITATED BY MACKIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

Whereas, a copy of the comprehensive plan, which includes the text, maps, charts and any other items which form the whole of the comprehensive plan and was made available for public review in the township office is attached hereto as exhibit "A"; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and recommended by the Burrell Township Supervisors; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was sent to all contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission for review and comment on May 7, 2004; and,

Whereas, Burrell Township has received no substantial comments from the contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission within forty-five (45) days of submission of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan; and,

Whereas, notice of a public hearing was forwarded to the Indiana Gazette to be advertised and published on June 23, 2004 and June 30, 2004; and,

Whereas, the Township Supervisors held a public hearing on July 7, 2004 to hear and consider public comments, and that the comments received at the public hearing were duly noted; and,

Whereas, the Burrell Township Supervisors, after consideration of comments received (or lack thereof, as the case may be), has determined that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, as originally set forth in Exhibit "A", should not be substantially revised in whole or in part; and,

Whereas, the Township has found the comprehensive plan is beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BURRELL TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME:

SECTION I. The Township Supervisors of the municipality of Burrell Township, by this resolution, adopts the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan as attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as pursuant to Article III and Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

SECTION II. Any and all previous comprehensive planning documents are hereby repealed.

Resolved and enacted this 7 of 3u y 2004.

Township Supervisors

Curto

Lastie Henry

RESOLUTION NO. 04-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CENTER, COUNTY OF INDIANA, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, DATED THIS <u>12th</u> DAY OF <u>July</u>, 2004 AS PREPARED BY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FACILITATED BY MACKIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

Whereas, a copy of the comprehensive plan, which includes the text, maps, charts and any other items which form the whole of the comprehensive plan and was made available for public review in the township office is attached hereto as exhibit "A"; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and recommended by the Center Township Supervisors; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was sent to all contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission for review and comment on May 7, 2004; and,

Whereas, Center Township has received no substantial comments from the contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission within forty-five (45) days of submission of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan; and,

Whereas, notice of a public hearing was forwarded to the Indiana Gazette to be advertised and published on June 28, 2004 and July 1, 2004; and,

Whereas, the Township Supervisors held a public hearing on July 12, 2004 to hear and consider public comments, and that the comments received at the public hearing were duly noted; and,

Whereas, the Center Township Supervisors, after consideration of comments received (or lack thereof, as the case may be), has determined that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, as originally set forth in Exhibit "A", should not be substantially revised in whole or in part; and,

Whereas, the Township has found the comprehensive plan is beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME: SECTION I. The Township Supervisors of the municipality of Center Township, by this resolution, adopts the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan as attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as pursuant to Article III and Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

SECTION II. Any and all previous comprehensive planning documents are hereby repealed.

Resolved and enacted this 12th of July 2004.

Township Supervisors Chairperson

ATTEST

Fruce SEAL

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF HOMER CITY, COUNTY OF INDIANA, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, DATED THIS <u>6</u> DAY OF <u>Jole</u>, 2004 AS PREPARED BY THE SOUTHERN INDIANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE, AND FACILITATED BY MACKIN ENGINEERING COMPANY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

Whereas, a copy of the comprehensive plan, which includes the text, maps, charts and any other items which form the whole of the comprehensive plan and was made available for public review in the borough office is attached hereto as exhibit "A"; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and recommended by the Homer City Borough Council; and,

Whereas, the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was sent to all contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission for review and comment on May 7, 2004; and,

Whereas, Homer City Borough has received no substantial comments from the contiguous municipalities, the Blairsville Saltsburg and Homer Center School Districts, and the Indiana County Planning Commission within forty-five (45) days of submission of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan; and,

Whereas, notice of a public hearing was forwarded to the Indiana Gazette to be advertised and published on June 22, 2004 and June 29, 2004; and,

Whereas, the Borough Council held a public hearing on July 6, 2004 to hear and consider public comments, and that the comments received at the public hearing were duly noted; and,

Whereas, the Homer City Borough Council, after consideration of comments received (or lack thereof, as the case may be), has determined that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, as originally set forth in Exhibit "A", should not be substantially revised in whole or in part; and,

Whereas, the Borough has found the comprehensive plan is beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOMER CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME: SECTION I. The Borough Council of the municipality of Homer City, by this resolution, adopts the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan as attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as pursuant to Article III and Article XI of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

SECTION II. Any and all previous comprehensive planning documents are hereby repealed.

Resolved and enacted this 6 of July 2004.

Borough Council

Chairperson David Myers, President

Statement of Community Development Objectives

The following are statements that were prepared listing objectives of the study area concerning its future development, including, the location, character and timing of future development. The objectives were developed based on input during the public participation effort of the planning process.

- Protect, maintain and enhance the environmental qualities of the communities including waterways, aesthetics, and open space
- Provide a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of present and future residents
- Improve the current transportation network utilizing a multi-modal approach that includes public transportation, air, water, rail and bike/pedestrian trails
- Promote and encourage the use of recreation amenities by:
 - Creating connectivity
 - o Increasing and improving programmed activities
 - o Promoting non-traditional sports and recreation activities
- Foster economic development by supporting appropriate business ventures, increasing business opportunities, and strengthening the existing economic base to encourage well-paying and sustainable jobs for community residents
- Encourage a well thought out pattern of land use that supports positive growth and development

1. Introduction

The Goal of the Comprehensive Plan

Once adopted and implemented by the communities in the study area, the comprehensive plan will provide the basis for directing future growth in an orderly and efficient manner and encouraging sound land use policy. The Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was developed with the goals of:

- Revitalizing the economic structure of the boroughs and townships
- Developing a comprehensive transportation system, including alternative modes of transportation
- Ensuring efficient use of resources and fiscal responsibility
- Providing a quality of life which is pleasing to residents and visitors
- Fostering a mutually advantageous relationship with surrounding municipalities
- Capitalizing on the geographic features of the community
- Protecting the integrity of established neighborhoods while offering additional housing opportunities

The Comprehensive Plan is a framework that outlines the strategies that should be taken by local leaders to achieve the stated community development objectives. However, it is up to the residents and local elected officials to implement the recommendations stated herein. Only by working together can the community hope to achieve the desired "vision" of the region as identified through the Comprehensive Planning process.

1. Introduction

What is the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan?

Ideally, a comprehensive plan will describe how, and at what pace, a community desires to develop its land to direct growth and preserve natural resources and historic or cultural character, while strengthening the commercial and economic base. In addition, a comprehensive plan will identify what social aspects a community believes are important and will provide strategies to improve the quality of life for its citizens such as providing appropriate public services and improving the quality of the housing stock.

The comprehensive plan is the only public document that describes the community as a whole in terms of its complex and mutually supporting networks. The plan will contain policy statements, developed by the community and adopted by its officials, which are used to support community decisions and anticipate future conditions.

The Southern Indiana Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was prepared in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 170 of 1988). Although the plan is not a legally binding document, once adopted it will be the official statement for future development in the respective communities.

The Southern Indiana Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan is:

- A set of general guidelines for future development of all land in a manner which will promote the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of all residents;
- A tool to promote the public interests of all residents rather than the interests of individuals or special interests groups;
- A public policy guide to decision making regarding the physical development of the community;
- A strategy to guide leaders when making decisions about future land use, housing, economic development, natural, cultural and historic features, transportation, community facilities and services, parks, recreation and open space;
- A statement of the past and present conditions of the community;
- A description of how and at what pace the community desires to develop physically, economically and socially; and,
- An expression of the community's "vision" of the optimally desirable pattern of development for the future.
- A document adopted by the governing body.

The communities of Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough are located along US Route 119 and US Route 22 in southern Indiana County, Pennsylvania. The project location is shown on Figure 2.1. For many years prior to their establishment, the Delaware and Shawnese Indians inhabited the region. The Indians roamed the region until the French and English nations began their quest to colonize the land. Fierce battles occurred as the Indians fought the interlopers and early settlement of the region often came at the significant price of death.

Formal establishment of the region came about on March 30, 1803 when Indiana County was created from Westmoreland and Lycoming Counties. The county seat - Indiana Borough - was created in 1804 from land deeded to the county by George Clymer who was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Some of the early industries that were established within the county included farming and lumbering, which remain a significant source of income to residents. Other business ventures included foundries, saw and gristmills, glass works and coalmines. Many of the natural resources that are still present in the county contributed to the development and prosperity of the people who settled here. Key minerals included sand, coal, gravel, natural gas, and salt; thus, much of the early history of the county centers around the mining and processing of these minerals.

Agricultural pursuits also played an important role in the development of the county. Indiana County is known as the Christmas Tree Capital of the World. This agricultural crop contributes significantly to the economy of the county as well as to its culture and heritage.

Like many other communities in Pennsylvania and the nation, the rail industry was a major player in the settlement of the area and the corresponding ability to establish commercial centers. In the mid 1800's the Pennsylvania Railroad Company built a track that provided a route between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia through Blairsville. The Indiana Branch Railroad was constructed shortly thereafter, in 1856, and opened other areas of the county to the economic benefits that the rail lines provided.



Homer City Train (Source: Internet site: http://www.indianainfo.org/cgi-

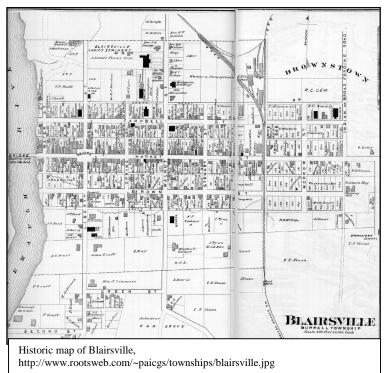
Education was important to the county and continues to influence its character and economy. Indiana University of Pennsylvania was founded as a Normal School in 1872. In 1927 the Normal School was established as a Teachers College and in 1965 as the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Indiana University is located just a few miles north of the project area in Indiana Borough and White Township.

Black Lick Township:

Black Lick Township was formed in 1807 from Armstrong Township, and was named for Black Lick Creek, which was a stream that flowed over black coal (http://www.pittsburghcitypaper.ws/prev/archives/newsarch/ask/ask01/ya91201.html). The first town in Indiana County, Newport, was located here. When Indiana County was being formed, the residents of Newport felt that their village would be the county seat because it was a busy river port at the time. That didn't happen, however, and today all that is left of Newport is an old natural stone wharf at the river's edge.

There are no schools in Black Lick Township today. All students attend the Blairsville schools. Black Lick Township is also the only township in Indiana County that doesn't have its own post office.

<u>Blairsville:</u>



Blairsville is the second largest borough in Indiana County in terms of population and was founded and laid out by James Campbell and Andrew Brown in 1811 at the junction of the Conemaugh River and the planned route of the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike. The town was named for John Blair, president of the turnpike company (Blairsville History).

Blairsville was always oriented toward transportation in one form or another. In 1829, the Pennsylvania Canal was completed between Pittsburgh and Blairsville.

Boats were both built and repaired in Blairsville, which was sometimes called "the town of wheels and keels".

When canal operations ended in 1865, Blairsville focused on rail transportation. In the 1850's a railroad connected Blairsville with Indiana and Pittsburgh. In 1870 the railroad became a major employer in the borough when the railroad repair shops were moved to Blairsville. Industry grew up quickly around the town at this point. Blairsville had coke

works, iron foundries, two glass works, and many other smaller industries (Blairsville History).

After WWII, several events altered both the physical community and the economic base of Blairsville. One was the Conemaugh Dam flood control project, which required the clearance of all structures in the low-lying lands abutting the river (Blairsville History).

The second event happened in 1951 when Route 22 relocated from Market Street in downtown Blairsville to a new highway to the north. While the relocation helped ease traffic problems in the downtown area, new businesses grew up along the highway and several established businesses abandoned their locations on Market Street (Blairsville History).

The third event was a redevelopment project in the 1960s that included clearance of structures along Market Street. The vacant land was then sold to Vale Technical Institute for the extension of its campus complex. Some of the oldest buildings in Blairsville were lost during the demolition phase of this project (Blairsville History).

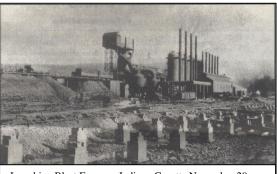
Today Blairsville remains an important transportation hub in Indiana County and an attractive and affordable place to live and raise a family.

Burrell Township:

Burrell Township was formed in 1853 from Black Lick Township and was named for Judge Burrell. The development of Burrell Township was spurred by the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal in 1825, which linked Burrell Township with Pittsburgh and Johnstown. The canal closed in 1870, but was replaced with the Pennsylvania Railroad. Although farming was still the major industry at this time, others such as, gristmills, brick making, coal mining and coke production grew up in the township mainly because of the Pennsylvania, and the Buffalo-Rochester and Pittsburgh railroads.

The first principal settlements in the township were Black Lick and Josephine, and in the early 1800's the primary road through the township was the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike.

The prominent manufacturing companies were Corrigan, McKinney and Company, Josephine Furnace and Coke Company, and the Blacklick Manufacturing Company, which was a very important manufacturer for the county.



Josephine Blast Furnace, Indiana Gazette November 29, 2003

The high production by Corrigan, McKinney and Company helped boost the employment in the Black Lick – Josephine area. Trolley service from Indiana to Blairsville had stops

in Black Lick and Josephine as late as 1931. The closing of the Corrigan, McKinney and Company and other industries along with the Great Depression in the late 1920's and 1930's had severe consequences on the towns within Burrell Township. Stores became vacant and population fell. It is only recently that the township has seen these economic conditions improve.

Center Township:

Center Township was formed in 1807 from Armstrong Township and was named for its location in the center of Indiana County. The first industries in the township were raising animals and grain and distilling whiskey. Farming is still an important business in the township today (Stewart, 1913).

Even though the coal industry did not take off in Center Township until well after its establishment in outlying areas of the county, the township is still well known for its coalmining past. By the turn of the 20th Century, coal patch towns began springing up throughout the township, and the Buffalo Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad built one spur after another through the township in order to serve the industry, the miners and their families (Indiana Gazette, 2003).

By the middle of the 1980's mining companies began to close their mines stating that they could no longer extract coal from them economically. In 1993 the Helen Mines closed with Lucerne following in 1994. Hundreds of jobs were lost in the coal patch towns of Center Township when the mines were shut down.

Today, a century later, while the coalmines and railroad lines are silent, many of the coal patch towns still remain. Some of them are Coral, Graceton, Aultman, Lucerne, and Luciusboro. The sewage system constructed by the Central Indiana County Joint Sanitary Authority (CICJSA) in the mid 1990's to serve the communities along Route 119 and the current widening of Route 119 should help spur new growth in the communities of Center Township (Indiana Gazette, 2003).

Homer City:

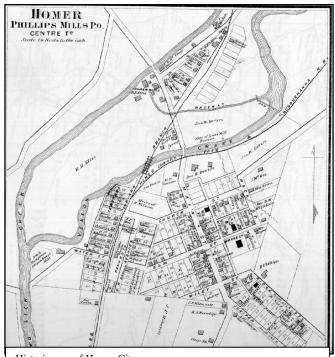
The history of Homer City dates back to the mid 1700's, when settlers began to establish homesteads on lands previously owned by six Indian nations. The village of Homer City was laid out in 1854 by William Wilson, who named it after the ancient Greek poet, Homer. The first industries were gristmills and sawmills (http://www.indiana-co-pa-tourism.org/things/towns/homer_city.htm).

The Indiana Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad was completed to Homer City in 1855. The Homer Station was located on the north side of what is now West Elm Street, and David Boyd was the first agent for the company. In 1850, Mr. Boyd built a brick home nearby, which became a station of the Underground Railroad System by which slaves were aided on their way to freedom (Homer City Borough – History, www.homercity.com/history.htm).

Homer City's most enduring industrial site was developed in 1887 when a factory was built along Two Lick Creek to manufacture chick-hatching incubators by James Nix. The

business was called the Prairie State Incubator Company and began with 40 people on an assembly line. Although major fires destroyed the factory in 1892 and 1911, it was rebuilt each time. By 1913 it was considered the largest factory of its kind in the world, and today the Prairie State catalogue is considered a collector's item and sells for \$375 on the High Ridge Books Inc. website. The factory closed in 1925 and remained this way until Syntron bought half of the plant in 1937. Syntron was bought and merged with the FMC Corp. in 1955. Today FMC Technologies employs about 175 people in the Homer City plant and manufactures vibratory products used in coal, automotive and pharmaceutical industries and food-handling processes.

Today, Homer City is the third most populated borough in Indiana County.



Historic map of Homer City, http://www.rootsweb.com/~paicgs/townships/homercity.jpg

Analysis

 T_{o} protect the region's architectural heritage, historic preservation provisions should be incorporated into future zoning ordinance development and building code updates as authorized by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Ordinances that focus on demolition, historic district overlays, zoning bonuses for the preservation of specific resources and protection of such features as scenic areas and historic sites could be particularly effective. If these types of requirements are incorporated into the zoning ordinance, the municipalities will have more control over the balance of preservation and development.



Blairsville Armory, Mackin 2003



om/~paicgs/nationalre gister.shtml

Currently the following structures are listed on the National Register of Historical Places by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation:

- 1. Blairsville Armory in Blairsville Borough
- 2. St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory in Blairsville Borough

The following properties are listed as eligible on the National Register of Historical Properties by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation:

- 1. Gillis Doty House in Black Lick Township
- 2. Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike Bridge and Crossing in Blairsville Borough
- 3. Big Row in Burrell Township
- 4. Rodger Isenberg House in Center Township
- 5. John Ross Stonehouse and Springhouse in Center Township

Although the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission formally recognizes the structures listed above, many other structures offer fine examples of period architecture. Many homes built before or around the turn of the 20th Century exist and are in fine condition. These homes and businesses serve to impart a sense of character and should be preserved as the basis for future streetscape planning efforts.

There are various strategies available to assist a community interested in preserving historical sites and structures. Some of which are listed below:

• <u>Historic Preservation Zoning</u>: The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) provides local governments the ability to incorporate historic preservation provisions into comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances. Utilizing the zoning ordinance is especially effective for communities where historic resources may be widely scattered. A few of the techniques that have been utilized by communities are Historic Zoning Overlays and Zoning Bonuses.

The benefit of historic preservation zoning is that it allows a community to look at the historic everyday landscapes in the region and balance the preservation of resources with development.

The first step in protecting historic resources is to include them in a comprehensive planning process as well as completing a historical and architectural survey / inventory (Land Use in Pennsylvania, 2000).

• <u>Preservation Easements:</u> Local governments or non-profits can acquire a preservation or façade easement on a historic property. These easements are legal agreements between the property owner and the local government or non-profit agency, and require the easement donor to allow restrictions on the property while the recipients of the easement ensure that the property owner meets the terms of the agreement. A property owner who donates a preservation easement on a National Register site may be eligible for federal income tax credits.

The property owner and the easement recipient set the conditions of the easement which may include restricting alterations to a building's façade, demolition or other changes to the property.

Landscaping at an entry point into a municipality imparts a sense of arrival or departure along roadways, railroad crossings, river access points or trails. These visual gateways can serve to increase awareness of the community and promote the municipality to visitors as well as enhance community appeal for residents. Gateways play a vital role in the initial perception of a community and can be tied into the local history, businesses, and community events. Gateways can also be used as a traffic calming measure, especially at entrances to densely populated areas, to improve pedestrian safety by alerting motorists that they are entering a community and are likely to encounter increased pedestrian activity. Gateways should include a thematic design in which such aspects as signage and landscaping should be attractive but not overpowering and developed with consideration to maintenance and the overall features of the community.

As the project area sits along key roadways that experience significant amounts of traffic, there are numerous opportunities to capitalize on the opportunity to increase awareness of the municipalities by improving visual appeal.

Key Locations:

Blairsville Borough and Homer City Borough: Capitalizing on established downtowns offers exposure to "through traffic". A consistent signage system should be developed along with plantings to showcase each community's commitment to beautification.

Local Roads: Other entryways should be considered to establish complimentary gateway attributes / themes.

Future Access Locations and Opportunities: The river provides a natural access point. Consideration should be given to establishing public access to the river and developing these areas in such a way as to offer an attractive vantage point when viewed from the river. The communities can then capitalize on the traffic that is generated through recreational river use.

Gateway improvements at railroad crossings would serve to minimize the intrusion of tracks into a community's visual landscape. Beautification efforts must adhere to safety regulations and constraints, but there is much that can be done to offset the dramatic effect that railroads can have on the visual appeal of a community. In addition, establishing gateways at key entrances to communities is recommended. Areas where gateways should be established are located on Figure 7.2.

Shade trees and landscaping along roadways, sidewalks and public spaces provide residents and visitors a pleasing atmosphere. Shade trees also improve pedestrian safety, encourage physical activity and generally improve public health of a neighborhood. Blairsville currently has a shade tree commission to assist in beautification efforts, and Homer City should establish a volunteer group who can assist in planting and maintenance efforts. The biology department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania may also be willing to partner with the communities in this endeavor.

Improving existing business districts also increases a sense of pride within communities and provides an economic development tool for the area. There are several tools available to communities to assist in business district improvement.

- <u>Main Street Program</u>: This program is a local public / private partnership designed to assist a community's downtown economic development efforts through:
 - 1. Establishing a local organization dedicated to downtown revitalization
 - 2. Hiring a professional downtown coordinator to manage the downtown revitalization

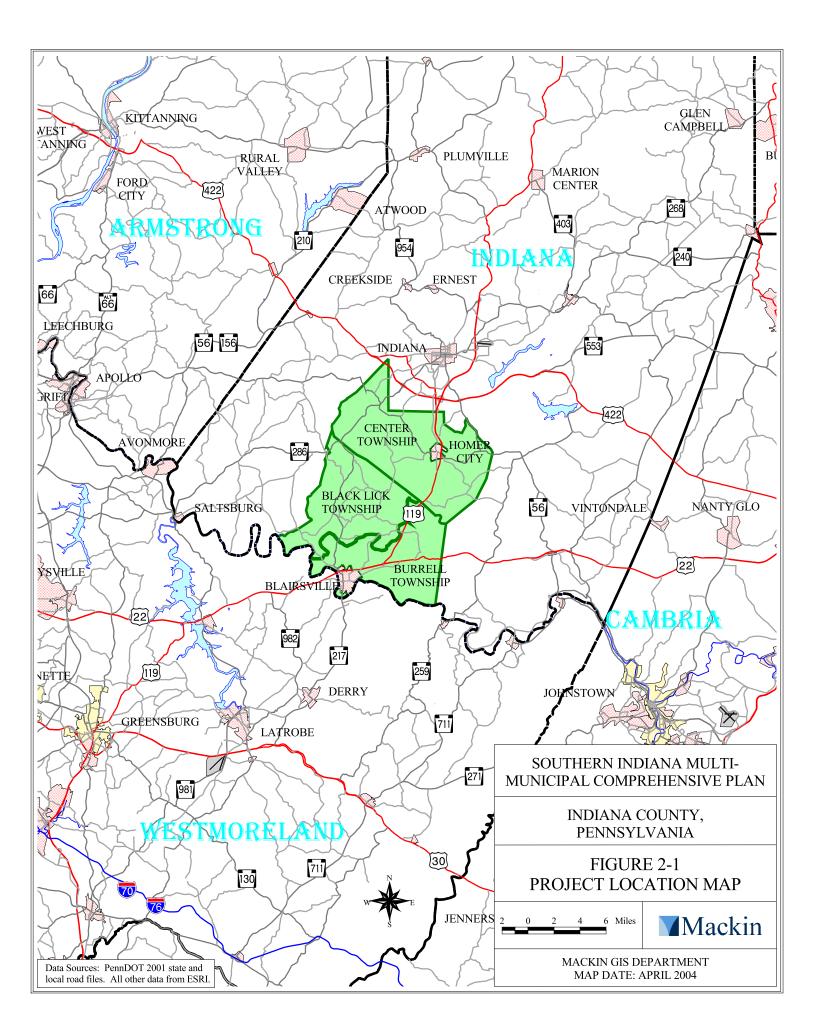
The Main Street program is designed to promote preservation by using the quality elements of a built environment to create a positive image for everyone who uses the downtown area residents and visitors alike (Land Use in Pennsylvania, 2000).

The Blairsville Improvement Group has received a \$5,000 grant for downtown revitalization in Blairsville from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Once the initial planning requirements have been fulfilled BIG will be eligible to receive an additional \$170,000 matching grant to hire a Main Street manager and assist business owners with façade grants. More information on this program is in Section Five of this plan.

- <u>Design Guidelines</u>: One component of the Main Street program as well as historic preservation programs is to develop guidelines and standards for building facades and streetscapes. The set of guidelines ensures a semblance of commonality in a downtown area. By preserving an area's unique character, these guidelines often boost property values and stimulate investment as well as foster community pride and help to improve quality of life (Land Use in Pennsylvania, 2000).
- <u>Business Improvement Districts (BIDs</u>): BIDs are legal entities solely created for the implementation of business improvement activities in defined districts. BIDs typically consist of commercial uses and are based on the ability to levy assessments on property within the district. Common activities of BIDs usually focus on cleaning up the district and increasing the safety. Some other activities may include: strategic planning, maintenance, security, consumer marketing, business recruitment and retention, parking and transportation management, façade programs, social services and capital improvements.

A local example of a successful BID is the Oakland Business Improvement District in the City of Pittsburgh (Land Use in Pennsylvania, 2000).

<u>Shade Tree Ordinance</u>: This type of ordinance is designed to reduce tree loss during development, reduce damage to standing trees during construction, provide for replacement trees lost during construction, provide for planting trees where none occurred previously, provide for the maintenance of preserved trees after construction is complete. Once a shade tree ordinance is adopted, the municipality should appoint a shade tree commission, which would be responsible for the planting and maintenance of plants on municipal property (www.mnstac.org, 2004). As was mentioned above, Blairsville currently has a shade tree ordinance and a shade tree commission.



3. Demographics

Understanding the socio-economic structure of the project area is essential for elected officials who want to properly plan for the future needs and demands of its residents. For instance, the number of individuals in a specific age group will provide an indication of the demand for certain services and facilities. A community with a proportionally higher amount of elderly citizens may require more healthcare related services and community programs focusing on home maintenance. In contrast, a community with a large concentration of children within the zero-to- 4 and 5-to-17 age brackets will require an emphasis on additional education, recreation and child care needs.

To provide a regional comparison, the project area was compared to the contiguous municipalities of Armstrong Township, Brush Valley Township, Conemaugh Township, and Indiana Borough. For the purpose of completing a demographic analysis, Indiana County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were also included. A total for the project area is also included when possible.

A. Existing Conditions

Population

Table 3-1 also provides a perspective of how the project area compares to the region, county and state. It can be shown through this analysis that the region as a whole is more densely populated than the county but not the state. Comprised of almost 94 square miles, the project area, comparatively speaking, contains a significant amount of the county's population (17.2%) and would do well to approach land use planning from a regional approach.

	Land Area (Square Miles)	Total Population (2000)	Density (Persons Per Square Mile)
Black Lick Township	27.4	1,317	48.1
Blairsville Borough	1.4	3,607	2,576.4
Burrell Township	23.7	3,746	158.1
Center Township	40.4	4,876	120.7
Homer City Borough	0.6	1,844	3,073.3
Project Area	93.5	15,390	164.6
Armstrong Township	37.7	3,090	82.0
Brush Valley Township	41.5	1,881	45.3
Conemaugh Township	33.8	1,196	35.4
Indiana Borough	1.8	14,895	8,275.0
Indiana County	829.3	89,605	108.0
Pennsylvania	44,816.6	12,281,054	274.0

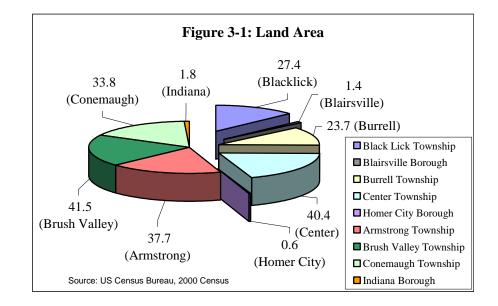


Figure 3-1 graphically displays the total land area, in square miles, for each of the communities within the project area and the region.

Table 3-2 depicts the percent population and change for each decade since 1960. The table also illustrates the cumulative population change from 1960 to 2000. Since 1960, the project area has experienced an overall loss of population, except for the decade between 1970 to 1980. Black Lick Township is the only study area municipality that has maintained a population increase between 1960 to 2000. All of the communities, with the exception of Center Township (-7.2%) have seen some increase in population from 1990 to 2000. While Indiana County experienced a slight overall decrease (-0.4%) from 1990 to 2000, the state of Pennsylvania has experienced an increase (3.4%) in this time frame.

_	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	1960-2000
Black Lick Township	33.87	26.94	5.24	7.51	18.4
Blairsville Borough	-10.53	-5.55	-13.71	0.3	-7.4
Burrell Township	5.64	11.76	-10.60	2.1	2.2
Center Township	-6.08	4.19	-3.98	-7.2	-3.3
Homer City Borough	-0.24	-8.80	-19.53	1.9	-6.7
Project Area	-2.55	2.61	-9.34	-1.06	-2.6
Armstrong Township	60.53	49.22	9.40	1.4	30.1
Brush Valley Township	1.82	35.15	-0.22	3.9	10.2
Conemaugh Township	10.40	6.75	-2.70	-0.4	3.5
Indiana Borough	23.80	-0.30	-5.46	-1.8	4.1
Indiana County	5.42	16.15	-2.48	-0.4	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.25	0.53	0.15	3.4	2.1

Table 3-3: Total Population	n 1960-2000				
_	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Black Lick Township	685	917	1,164	1,225	1,317
Blairsville Borough	4,930	4,411	4,166	3,595	3,607
Burrell Township	3,476	3,672	4,104	3,669	3,746
Center Township	5,595	5,255	5,475	5,257	4,876
Homer City Borough	2,471	2,465	2,248	1,809	1,844
Project Area	17,157	16,720	17,157	15,555	15,390
Armstrong Township	1,163	1,867	2,786	3,048	3,090
Brush Valley Township	1,319	1,343	1,815	1,811	1,881
Conemaugh Township	2,135	2,357	2,516	2,448	2,437
Indiana Borough	13,005	16,100	16,051	15,174	14,895
Indiana County	75,366	79,451	92,281	89,994	89,605
Pennsylvania	11,319,366	11,800,766	11,863,895	11,881,643	12,281,054
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000					

Table 3-3 shows actual population numbers from 1960 to 2000.

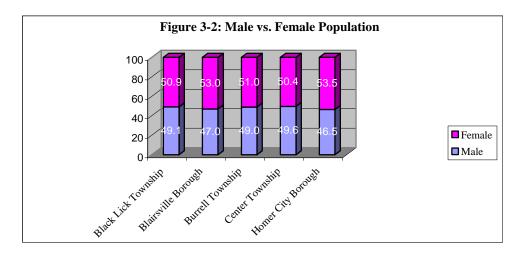
Shown in Table 3-4 are the total populations in 2000 and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's population projection figures for each of the municipalities and the county for the years 2010, 2020, and 2025. The entire project area is projected to experience a decrease in population. In contrast, the county is expected to experience a slight population growth of 3.9 percent over the 25-year period.

Table 3-4: Populatio	n Projecti	ons			
	2000*	2010**	2020**	2025**	% Change 2000-2025
Black Lick Township	1,317	987	1,009	1,061	-19.4
Blairsville Borough	3,607	2,930	2,991	3,145	-12.8
Burrell Township	3,746	2,961	3,022	3,180	-15.1
Center Township	4,876	3,762	3,810	4,021	-17.5
Homer City Borough	1,844	1,647	1,740	1,812	-1.7
Armstrong Township	3,090	3,418	3,448	3,445	11.5
Brush Valley Township Conemaugh	1,881	1,538	1,615	1,685	-10.4
Township	2,437	2,429	2,429	2,429	-0.3
Indiana Borough	14,895	15,029	15,737	16,145	8.4
Indiana County	89,605	88,269	90,733	93,138	3.9
Source: *US 2000 Census,	** SPC Long	Range Forec	ast		

3. Demographics

Male and Female Characteristics

Figure 3-2 illustrates the percentage of the project area's population that are male and the percentage that are female. As is consistent with statewide averages, the male and female populations for the study area are almost the same.



<u>Age</u>

In determining municipalities' needs as well as residents' needs, an important factor to consider is the age of the population. The facilities and services needed within a community and region are dependent upon the age of the population they serve. Table 3-5 below illustrates the percentage of residents in the various age cohorts. The age cohorts are broken into four categories, which show pre-school, school age, working population, and retirement age.

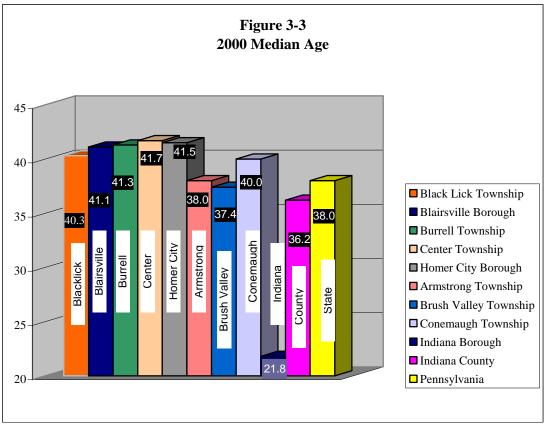
When comparing the age demographics, the five communities in the project area are very similar in all categories with the other municipalities in the region with the exception of Indiana Borough. In each of the communities over half of the population lies in the 18-to-64-age cohort, with the over 65-age cohort the second largest group. Black Lick and Center Townships have a slightly larger population in the 18-to-64-age cohort, whereas Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs have a slightly higher population in the over 65-age cohort. The analysis shows a higher percentage of working age population in Black Lick and Center Townships, while Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs have a higher percentage of retirees. This may impact the types of services that each community should be providing.

3. Demographics

Table 3-5: Percent Age l	Table 3-5: Percent Age Distribution								
	Male	Female	0-4	5-17	18-64	65+			
Black Lick Township	49.1	50.9	6.3	17.2	61.9	14.7			
Blairsville Borough	47.0	53.0	5.6	16.8	56.4	21.2			
Burrell Township	49.0	51.0	5.4	16.1	59.7	18.8			
Center Township	49.6	50.4	4.8	15.9	61.3	18.0			
Homer City Borough	46.5	53.5	4.7	17.5	57.1	20.8			
Project Area	48.4	51.6	5.3	16.4	59.3	19.0			
Armstrong Township	48.9	51.1	5.4	20.2	64.0	10.4			
Brush Valley Township	50.8	49.2	6.6	20.3	62.2	11			
Conemaugh Township	50.2	49.8	5.6	18.4	59.2	16.9			
Indiana Borough	45.6	54.4	1.8	6.4	83.6	8.2			
Indiana County	48.5	51.5	4.9	16.1	64.1	14.9			
Pennsylvania	48.3	51.7	5.9	17.9	60.6	15.6			
Source: US Census Bureau, 200	0								

Much of the project area is lower in the percent of persons below the age of 64, but higher in the percent of persons over the age of 65 when compared to Indiana County and the state. Indiana County as a whole is reflective of the state but has a higher percentage of persons in the 18-to-64-age cohort, suggesting that the county, as a whole, has a fairly large available work force.

Figure 3-3 shows the median age (in years) of the population in 2000 of each municipality, the county and the state. This chart illustrates that the median ages for the communities within the project area are higher than the region, county and state. Indiana Borough has a low median age (21.8) this is most likely due to the fact that Indiana University of Pennsylvania is located within this municipality.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Race

As shown in Table 3-6, the entire region is extremely homogenous with 98 percent of the population being white. Indiana County has a white population of 96.9 percent; a black population of 1.7 percent; and 1.4 percent of the total population is made up of other races. When compared to the state, the county and the project area have a significantly higher percentage of white population and correspondingly low percentages of minority population. The project area has approximately two percent of the total population identified as minority.

	Total	White	% White	Black or African American	% Black or African American	Other	% Other
Black Lick township	1,317	1,310	99.5	0	0.0	7	0.5
Blairsville borough	3,607	3,462	96.0	129	3.6	16	0.4
Burrell township	3,746	3,658	97.7	78	2.1	10	0.3
Center township	4,876	4,829	99.0	35	0.7	12	0.2
Homer City borough	1,844	1,830	99.2	6	0.3	8	0.4
Total Project Area	15,390	15,089	98.0	248	1.6	53	0.3
Armstrong township	3,090	3,063	99.1	12	0.4	15	0.5
Brush Valley township	1,881	1,871	99.5	2	0.1	8	0.4
Conemaugh township	2,437	2,395	98.3	8	0.3	34	1.4
Indiana borough	14,895	13,714	92.1	838	5.6	343	2.3
Indiana County	89,605	86,815	96.9	1,499	1.7	1,291	1.4
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	10,484,203	85.4	1,224,612	10.0	572,239	4.7

Family Information

Table 3-7 illustrates information regarding families living in the region, county and state. The table displays the total number of families, the number of married-couples with and without children as well as the number of female-headed households with no husband present with and without children.

Black Lick Township has the lowest number of single female-headed households with children (2.6%). Blairsville, on the other hand, has the highest number of single female headed households with children (11.5%). The county has a fairly low number of single female-headed households with children (7.1%) compared with the communities in the region and the state.

	Total	Total Married-Couple			Female-Headed, No Husband Preser		
	Families	Children	No Children	Children	No Children		
Black Lick township	386	40.4	49.0	2.6	3.4		
Blairsville borough	1,000	29.4	49.2	11.5	7.2		
Burrell township	1,083	31.9	46.5	9.3	7.3		
Center township	1,457	29.7	52.3	8.0	5.2		
Homer City borough	514	33.3	46.9	9.1	5.8		
Project Area	4,440	32.9	48.8	8.1	5.8		
Armstrong township	894	37.1	49.1	6.3	3.8		
Brush Valley township	545	39.4	47.7	4.4	4.0		
Conemaugh township	699	32.9	49.9	6.9	4.4		
Indiana borough	1,708	28.5	51.0	7.3	7.8		
Indiana County	22,605	34.8	47.6	7.1	5.6		
Pennsylvania	3,225,707	34.6	43.0	10.5	6.2		

Education

Educational attainment refers to the level of education completed in terms of the highest level of schooling or highest degree obtained. The education level of a population identifies the employment opportunities and needs of a community. Table 3-8 examines the educational attainment in the project area, region, county and state for all persons ages 25 and over. In 2000, Black Lick Township had one of the highest percentages of persons who received at least a high school diploma at 86.2 percent. This rate is higher than the county and the state and only Indiana Borough had a higher percentage (90.5). Homer City Borough had one of the highest rates of residents with a Bachelor's Degree or higher (18.2). This rate only fell behind the state (22.4) and Indiana Borough (36.2). Indiana University of Pennsylvania is located in Indiana Borough, however, so that explains the high percentages of Bachelor's and Professional or Graduate Degrees (19.7) within the municipality. In contrast, Burrell Township had one of the lowest percentages of High School Graduates (76.7) as well as residents with a Bachelor's Degree (9.5).

		Less than	High Schoo	l Bachelor's	Professional or
	Total	High	Grad or	Degree or	Graduate
	Persons	School Grad	d higher	Higher	Degree
Black Lick Township	920	13.8	86.2	13.4	5.2
Blairsville Borough	2,539	17.7	82.3	15.2	6.5
Burrell Township	2,678	23.3	76.7	9.5	3.4
Center Township	3,509	23.2	76.8	10.0	5.1
Homer City Borough	1,330	15.3	84.7	18.2	4.5
Project Area	10,976	18.7	81.3	13.2	4.9
Armstrong Township	2,082	16.4	83.6	15.5	5.4
Brush Valley Township	1,222	16.3	83.7	12.3	3.9
Conemaugh Township	1,692	25.8	74.2	6.7	3.3
Indiana Borough	4,994	9.6	90.5	36.2	19.7
Indiana County	55,995	19.0	81.1	17.0	7.7
Pennsylvania	8,266,284	18.1	81.9	22.4	8.4

The project area is served by two school districts, the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District and the Homer-Center School District. The schools in the project area include: Homer Center Junior/Senior High School and Elementary School, and Blairsville High School, Middle School and Elementary School. Students who live in Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough and Burrell Township attend Blairsville-Saltsburg School District, while students living in Center Township and Homer City Borough attend Homer-Center School District. The Blairsville-Saltsburg School District also includes students outside the project area. For this reason, the two high schools in the project area, Blairsville High School and Homer-Center High School were compared rather than the entire school districts. The total expenditures per pupil category, however, are at the district level because the information was not available for individual schools.

Table 3-9 High School Comparison, compares these two high schools for the 2001-2002 school year.

	Blairsville Senior High School	Homer-Center Junior Senior High School	Pennsylvania High Schools
Total Enrollment	402	1,023	N/A
% 11th Graders below Basic for Stanford Achievement Test Scores in Math	24%	26%	29%
% 11th Graders below Basic for Stanford Achievement Test Scores in Reading	17%	20%	20%
Teacher to Student ratio	1:15	1:15	N/A
Total Expenditures per pupil*	\$8,903	\$9,123	N/A
Dropout Rate (9th-12th Grade)	3.8%	2.0%	3.4%

Blairsville Senior High School has a total student enrollment (9th through 12th) of 402 while Homer Center Junior Senior High School has a student enrollment (7th through 12th) of 1,023. Each school has a teacher to student ratio of 1:15. Homer-Center Junior Senior High School's expenditure per pupil of \$9,123 was slightly higher than Blairsville High School at \$8,903. Compared to the state of Pennsylvania's dropout rate of 3.4 percent, Blairsville High School had a slightly higher dropout rate of 3.8 percent, while Homer-Center Junior Senior High School's was lower at 2.0%.

The percentage of 11th graders who scored below basic on the Stanford Achievement Tests in math is lower in the project area than the state. The percentage of 11th graders who scored below basic on the Stanford Achievement Tests in reading is similar across the board. Blairsville Senior High School did score slightly lower in this category than Homer-Center Junior Senior High School and the state.

Employment

Employment statistics were determined from the civilian labor force, 16 years and over. Table 3-10 denotes the employment in the region by job type, including the percentage employed in management or professional occupations, service occupations, sales and office occupations and farming / fishing / forestry; construction / extraction / maintenance; production / transportation / material moving occupations.

Table 3-10: Occupations	s of Employed	Persons 16 and	Over			
		% Employed				
	Total	Management/ Professional Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming/Forestry/Fishing; Construction/Extraction/Maintenance; Production/Transportation/Material Moving	
Black Lick Township	611	27.2	12.4	20.5	40.0	
Blairsville Borough	1,440	26.4	16.0	26.0	31.6	
Burrell Township	1,539	19.8	17.9	25.3	37.0	
Center Township	2,134	20.6	19.1	27.2	33.2	
Homer City Borough	805	29.1	19.3	26.3	25.4	
Project Area	6,529	24.6	16.9	25.1	33.4	
Armstrong Township	1,404	22.4	16.4	28.6	32.7	
Brush Valley Township	801	21.5	12.5	29.5	36.6	
Conemaugh Township	985	18.7	17.7	19.3	44.4	
Indiana Borough	6,445	32.4	26.0	30.5	11.1	
Indiana County	37,758	26.0	17.7	25.8	30.5	
Pennsylvania	5,653,500	32.6	14.8	27.0	25.7	
Source: US Census Bureau, 200	0 and PaSDC Per	nsylvania County Da	ta Book, 200)3		

The majority of the working population within the project area is employed in the last category, which is made up of primarily "blue-collar jobs" such as farming, forestry, fishing, construction, extraction, maintenance, production, transportation and material moving. Homer City is the exception, as the majority of its working population is in Management/Professional (29.1) or Sales and Office (26.3). These occupations are more commonly known as "white-collar" jobs.

The percentages of workers employed in white-collar jobs are similar throughout the project area, ranging from 18.7 percent to 29.5 percent. Not surprisingly, the percentage of white-collar workers is higher in the state (32.6 percent and 27.0 percent) than the project area and the county. The percentage of white-collar jobs is higher in Indiana Borough as well. This is most likely due to the fact that Indiana University of Pennsylvania is located in this Borough.

Table 3-11 shows the unemployment numbers from the 2000 Census for the population. Employment levels are gathered by identifying all residents who are not listed as active duty in the military and who are 16 to 65 years old. Residents who are employed are those who worked over 15 hours a week for a family farm or business, or a person who worked as a paid employee for any given amount of time. Persons were considered unemployed if they had not worked within the last four weeks (except for vacation or temporarily absent) and those persons who were available for work. The Civilian Labor Force refers to persons not listed as active duty in any of the U.S. Armed Forces. "Not in Labor Force" includes all people 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

A community that has a substantial population who are elderly, unemployed or receiving government support will receive less support in the form of a wage tax and will be called upon to provide social support services more so than if residents were able to provide for themselves.

Blairsville has the lowest percentage of unemployment (3.2) in the project area. This number is lower than the surrounding communities, the county and the state. In contrast, Center Township has the highest rate of unemployment (7.6) in the project area as well as the region, the county and the state.

Table 3-11: Percent Emp	loyment Status	s for population	n 16 years and ove	er
	Total	Employed	Unemployed	NLF*
Black Lick Township	517	63.3	5.6	30.0
Blairsville Borough	1,316	60.2	3.2	35.8
Burrell Township	1,450	58.8	5.2	35.9
Center Township	1,958	58.5	7.6	33.9
Homer City Borough	670	56.0	5.2	38.4
Project Area	5,911	59.4	5.4	34.8
Armstrong Township	1,156	64.6	5.3	30.1
Brush Valley Township	718	61.7	7.0	30.8
Conemaugh Township	950	58.2	3.9	37.9
Indiana Borough	6,237	44.0	7.4	48.5
Indiana County	34,869	57.4	5.7	36.8
Pennsylvania	4,598,907	65.1	4.0	30.8
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000	*Not in L	abor Force		

Income

The income levels of a community influences the municipality in several ways. Municipal services are supported by tax dollars, thus a resident population that has a higher income level will be better able to pay for more intensive services and facilities, including recreational facilities, police services and infrastructure expansion. Whereas, a municipality that has a population with a lower income level may see its municipal services suffer from the restricted tax base. Other economic influences include the existing business and industrial base present in the community.

Income statistics were compiled for the project area, which include median family, household, and per capita income, and the poverty level of a community. Household income includes the total income of all members of the household over the age of 15. As many households consist of one person, the median household income is usually lower than the family household income. The median income divides the income distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and other having incomes below the median.

Table 3-12 below depicts the incomes for the project area, the county and the state from the 2000 Census. Black Lick Township has the highest median household and family income of the project area (\$35,536 and \$42,500 respectively). The project area is close to the county levels in terms of income, but they are lagging behind the state levels.

	Median household	Median family	Per capita
	income	income	income
Black Lick Township	\$35,536	\$42,500	\$16,766
Blairsville Borough	\$30,625	\$38,585	\$16,771
Burrell Township	\$31,366	\$37,377	\$15,645
Center Township	\$32,311	\$36,563	\$16,891
Homer City Borough	\$30,815	\$39,375	\$16,293
Armstrong Township	\$35,213	\$41,622	\$17,772
Brush Valley Township	\$33,095	\$38,456	\$14,337
Conemaugh Township	\$31,184	\$35,386	\$14,378
Indiana Borough	\$21,279	\$47,192	\$12,317
Indiana County	\$30,233	\$38,386	\$15,312
Pennsylvania	\$40,106	\$49,184	\$20,880

Poverty

Knowing the extent to which the population is living within poverty is made possible through information gathered and published by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Poverty thresholds are a measure of the number of persons who live below the poverty level as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. For the 2000 Census, the poverty level was determined at \$8,350/annually for persons who were 18 and over, and resided in the contiguous United States. The poverty level for a family of four was \$17,050 per year (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002).

Table 3-13 reflects the poverty status by age of residents. The project area is consistent with the region and the state in terms of people living in poverty. The project area is below the county numbers in terms of people living in poverty, however.

	Total Percent Below Poverty	Percent Under 5	Percent 5-17	Percent 18-64	Percent 65+
Black Lick township	10.0	8. <i>3</i>	22.7	56.8	12.2
Blairsville borough	11.2	14.4	22.0	45.1	18.6
Burrell township	13.7	11.5	24.1	51.8	12.7
Center township	9.0	7.5	23.1	61.6	7.8
Homer City borough	10.8	0.9	2.9	93.4	2.8
Armstrong township	8.3	6.0	28.6	57.5	8
Brush Valley township	12.7	7.1	24.8	62.6	5.5
Conemaugh township	13.0	11.4	18.7	63.8	6.0
Indiana borough	44.1	0.9	2.9	93.4	2.8
Indiana County	17.3	6.8	16.8	68.2	8.3
Pennsylvania	11.0	8.9	23.4	55.1	12.6

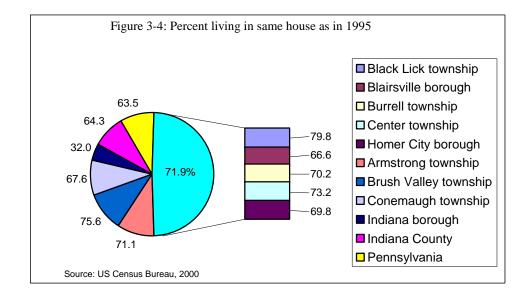
Migration

Table 3-14 illustrates migration of the residents five years and over in the project area, the region, the county and the state. Migration refers to where the person lived five years ago (1995) and where they lived at the time of the 2000 Census. Migration shows stability of communities as well as the amount of people moving into and out of the area.

The project area is stable in terms of migration. Most residents living in the project area resided in the same house as they did in 1995. Very little of the population lived in a different county or outside the U.S. in 1995. This is consistent with the rest of the project area as well as the county and the state.

	Population 5 years and over			Different house in the U.S. in 1995		
	years and over		Same County	Different County	in 1995	
Black Lick Township	1,237	79.8	13.7	6.5	-	
Blairsville Borough	3,381	66.6	22.0	11.2	0.2	
Burrell Township	3,537	70.2	18.0	11.6	0.2	
Center Township	4,641	73.2	20.2	6.7	-	
Homer City Borough	1,760	69.8	22.7	7.3	0.1	
Project Area	14,556	71.9	19.8	9.0	0.1	
Armstrong Township	2,078	71.1	18.2	10.7	-	
Brush Valley Township	1,330	75.6	14.4	9.6	0.4	
Conemaugh Township	2,294	67.6	15.6	16.5	0.3	
Indiana Borough	14,639	32.0	16.8	49.0	2.2	
Indiana County	85,184	64.3	17.3	17.8	0.7	
Pennsylvania	11,555,538	63.5	21.7	13.4	1.4	

Figure 3-4 graphically displays the project area's population that lived in the same house in 1995.



B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

The five study communities share many similarities in regards to population characteristics. In most aspects, they are representative of the region and Indiana County. Indiana County has a low population density compared to most of the project area and the state, suggesting a rural atmosphere. Black Lick, Burrell, and Center Townships have fairly low population densities (48.1, 158.1 and 120.7 respectively) while Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs have fairly high densities (2,576.4 and 3,073.3 respectively).

In terms of land area, Black Lick, Burrell and Center are much larger than the two boroughs, at 27.4, 23.7 and 40.4 square miles, respectively. Center Township is the largest Township in the project area. Future land use developments will need to be well planned to ensure that improvements do not drain the municipal budgets. On the other hand, Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs, which have smaller areas at 1.4 and 0.6 square miles respectively, will need to rely on redevelopment and infill development efforts.

With the exception of Black Lick Township from 1960-1980, the project area has seen very little population change over the last 40 years. Black Lick Township experienced the highest cumulative population gain from 1960 to 2000 with an increase of 18.4%. Blairsville Borough showed the highest cumulative loss of population during this time period with a loss of 7.4 percent. Burrell Township increased slightly from 1960 to 2000 with 2.2 percent, but the remaining communities all lost population in this time period. The project area showed a net cumulative loss from 1960 to 2000 of 2.6 percent. Indiana County has gained 4.1 percent of its total population since 1960. All of the communities in the project area are projected to experience a decrease between 2000 and 2025. Black Lick and Center Townships are expected to experience the largest decreases at 19.4 and 17.5 percent respectively. Indiana County, however, is projected to increase by 3.9 percent during this time frame.

The five study area communities are reflective of the state and county in regards to age cohorts. Approximately 22 percent of the population is under the age of 18, with 59.3 percent between 18 and 64, and the remaining population age 65 and over. The large percentage of the population between 18-64 suggests a strong earning capacity and the increased ability to complete infrastructure and capital improvement projects. The study area communities do have a slightly higher population in the 65 and over age bracket than the county and the state. The median age in the study communities is slightly higher than the median age in Indiana County (36.2) and in Pennsylvania (38.0). This indicates the population of the project area is becoming older and may need more programs and services targeted for senior citizens.

The project area is comprised of racially homogenous communities. The populations in the communities in the region, including the study communities, are over 92 percent white. This racial composition is reflective of the county, in which 96.9 percent of its population is white. In contrast, approximately 15 percent of Pennsylvania's population is comprised of minorities, compared to less than four percent in Indiana County and the study communities.

Educational attainment is a good indication of the type of workforce available and the job market needs of a community. A higher education typically means that residents are more capable of obtaining higher paying and more skilled jobs and can also adapt to changing job markets. Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough and Homer City Borough have some of the highest rates of high school graduates and higher in the region (86.2, 82.3 and 84.7% respectively). These numbers are higher than the county and the state. Other than Indiana Borough, which is home to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (19.7%), Blairsville Borough has the highest rate of residents with a Professional or Graduate Degree at 6.5 percent. However, this number is below the county (7.7%) and the state (8.4%) figures.

Burrell and Center Townships have two of the lowest percentages of residents with at least a high school degree (76.7% and 76.8% respectively). Ongoing attention should focus on high school attendance, supporting the school district, and adult education programs.

In examining the employment sector of the project area, residents of Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships as well as Blairsville Borough are predominantly employed in the blue-collar sectors, which include farming/forestry/fishing, construction/extraction/maintenance and production/transportation/material moving. This is true especially in Blairsville, where 40 percent of the residents work in the blue-collar professions. This figure is much higher than the state (25.7 percent).

The total project area has an average unemployment rate (5.4%) that is reflective of the region, the county (5.7%) and the state (4.0%). Blairsville Borough, however, does have the lowest unemployment rate (3.2%) of the region when compared to the county and the state.

The project area has an educated, employed workforce with higher than average incomes. In 2000, Black Lick Township had the highest median household income in the region (\$35,536). The median household incomes for all the communities in the project area were higher than that of the county (\$30,233), but not that of the state (\$40,106).

The communities in the study area have been experiencing an overall population decrease over the past several decades. The population in these communities is getting older as well. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission predicts that in the next 25 years the population will continue to decline. The communities need to focus on economic development, education and housing programs to entice young people and families to move into the area in order to reverse the population decline that is facing the Southern Indiana County communities. Community facilities and services are the backbone of a community and are often one of the measures used to assess its quality of life. The ability for a community to provide desired facilities and services will ultimately impact its potential for growth in the future. Proper planning enables a community or region to eliminate additional and unnecessary costs that typically come from reactionary responses due to an unforeseen long-term demand or failure to improve and maintain the current facilities and services.

The provision for facilities and services normally requires capital investments by the community that are funded through municipal budgets (local tax base) or through the implementation of user fees. Communities must consider whether it is more cost effective to provide the services themselves or have private providers do this on a contractual basis. Some of the advantages of utilizing public agencies are their ability to secure long-term financing for projects and their capability of planning for contingencies. Therefore, the type, quality and quantity of facilities and services being provided by the community or region are most often a compromise of the resident's ability or interest in paying for it. Once a community or region has decided to provide a particular facility or service, it is important to consider where they are provided in relation to the current and future development they are intended to serve.

In order to identify the future needs of the community, an inventory and analysis of the community facilities and services being provided was conducted and is found in this section of the comprehensive plan.

A. Existing Conditions

Municipal Government:

Municipal governments include counties, cities, boroughs and townships. The responsibilities or duties of local governments are many and include providing for public safety/emergency services, garbage collection, sewage collection/treatment, repair and maintenance of local roads (including snow removal), code enforcement and local planning and zoning.

Both Blairsville and Homer City operate under the Borough Council form of government. The Borough Council form of governing has a dominant council with broad powers to implement policy while the mayor of each municipality is considered a "weak executive" who oversees daily operations such as police operations and code enforcement.

The three communities of Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships operate under the Board of Supervisors form of government. The Board of Supervisors form of government is comprised of three individuals elected at large from the community. In addition to other duties, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for appointing people to various committees within the Township's government. Table 4-1 details the location, contact information and hours of operation for each of the five communities in the study area.

Table 4-1

1 able 4-1				
Black Lick	Blairsville	Burrell	Center	Homer City
300 Muddy	203 E. Market	PO Box 483	1212 Neal	30 Wiley Street
Run Road	Street	Blacklick, PA	Road Homer	Homer City, PA
Blairsville,	Blairsville, PA	15716	City, PA 15748	15748
PA 15717	15717			
724-459-9138	724-459-9100	724-248-3308	724-479-2688	724-479-8005
(Secretary)				
9 am – 4 pm	9 am – 5 pm	8 am – 4 pm	7 am – 3 pm	8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Emergency Services

Police

Of the five municipalities in the study area, two - Blairsville and Homer City have police protection. Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships have no regular local police coverage and rely on the Pennsylvania State Police to respond to police related matters.

The Blairsville Police Department provides 24-hour police coverage and has four full-time and four part-time staff, which includes officers and clerical staff. In addition to normal police services, the department sponsors an advertised Neighborhood Crime Watch. The department owns a 1992 unmarked sedan and 2000 and 2001 marked police sedans. At the current time the department has a verbal mutual aid agreement with surrounding municipalities, and is attempting to formalize this through the



implementation of a written agreement. Burrell Township has expressed an interest in joining with the Blairsville Police Department to provide regional services.

The Homer City Police Department has two full-time and five part-time staff, which includes officers and clerical staff. The department provides bike patrol and drug and alcohol awareness programs in addition to the typical police services. The department owns one 1991 and one 2000 Ford Crown Victoria that are used as police vehicles.

Fire

Five different departments provide fire protection services for the communities in the project area. Mutual aid agreements (an agreement to provide backup support when needed) are commonplace among the fire departments in the region.

The fire departments were contacted during the planning phase to identify potential problems or



Blacklick Fire Department, Mackin 2002

areas of concern. There were no issues mentioned as problems or areas of concern.

Information on the fire departments serving the Southern Indiana County study area communities are found in Table 4-2. Efforts were made to gather information from all five departments, but the Coral-Graceton Volunteer Fire Department did not return the survey.

			le 4-2		
Volu	inteer Fire Com	panies Serving	the Southern I	ndiana County Reg	gion
	Aultman	Blacklick	Blairsville	Coral-Graceton	Homer City
Date Established	1964	1932	1897	1952	1918
Service Area	Center and Black Lick Townships	Black Lick and Burrell Townships	Blairsville, Burrell, Black Lick	24 square miles of Center Township	Homer City and most of Center Twp.
# of Volunteers	11 active 19 total	35 active	46 active	25 active	33 active 60 total
Funding Source	Fundraising (mainly Bingo)	Fire tax and fundraising	3.5 mill tax on residents, fundraising, state grants	Contract fees (1/3 mill tax), fundraisers, grants	Bingo, Fund raisers, state grant money
Avg. calls per year	40	140	294	85	124
Equipment	1968 Brush Truck (Fair), 1981 Ford Rescue (Fair), 1981 Pumper (Fair), 1984 Tanker (Good)	1987 E-one Pumper (Good), 1994 Rescue / Pumper (Good), 2000 Ford Pickup Truck (Good), Utility Van (Fair)	1981 & 1991 Class A Pumpers, 1985 Rescue, 2000 Special Service Light Rescue, 1998 Utility, Boat	1979 and 1986 Pumpers, 1996 Rescue	2001 Pierce Fire Engine (Excellent), 1989 Ford Fire Engine/Tanker (Excellent), 1981 Ford Rescue Truck (Very Good), 2000 Ford 4- Wheel Drive Pick-Up Truck (Excellent), 1974 Dodge 4- Wheel drive brush truck (Fair)
Future Plans	Upgrade breathing apparatus and purchase new Pumper / Rescue	Future consideration for substation on Route 22 Corridor		Purchase a new pumper and upgrade current building	New roof on fire department building, update old equipment

Insurance companies evaluate fire protection when determining rates for homeowner's insurance. The American Insurance Association suggests the following for Municipal Fire Departments.

American Insurance Association Standards Municipal Fire Department Standards				
Service Area	No more than 0.75 miles from a Pump and Ladder Company for business districts, 1.5 miles for residential areas, and four miles for areas with homes 100 feet or more apart.			
Fire Companies	A fire company should consist of at least seven men and one piece of motor equipment.			
Equipment	One ladder company per 20,000 population where there are five buildings or more having three story height or greater.			
Pumper & Tank Truck	A 1,500 gallon per minute pumping capacity in higher value areas.			

Source: American Insurance Association, 1999

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The only municipality within the project area that has their own ambulance service is Blairsville. Blacklick Township, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough have emergency services dispatched either through Indiana County or Blairsville depending on where the emergency is located. The emergency service for all communities can be reached by dialing 911.

Solid Waste Disposal

As identified in Table 4-3: Solid Waste Disposal Companies, two different companies, BMS Refuge and USA Waste provide for the collection and disposal of municipal waste for Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs respectively. Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships do not have a contract with any particular company. Residents are free to use whatever garbage company they choose. In Burrell Township, residents are required to have a registered hauler. Blairsville currently has a community-driven recycling program in place and they have recently been awarded a Department of Environmental Protection 902 Recycling Program Grant to establish a municipal drop off recycling program.

Table 4-3: Solid Waste Disposal Companies			
	USA Waste	BMA Refuge	
Communities	Homer City	Blairsville	
Concerns	None	None	
Cost to Consumer	Billed on resident's water bill	\$10 / month	

Public and Private Utilities

Water

Four entities provide water service to the project area. Representatives of each of the authorities were contacted to identify service capacity, problem areas, costs, and future expansion plans. The results of these efforts can be found in Table 4-4.



High Ridge Water Authority, Mackin 2003

Table 4-4:	Water Suppliers	s in the Project Area		
	Central Indiana County Water Authority 724-479-8005	Lower Indiana County Municipal Authority 724-248-3819	High Ridge Water Authority 724-459-8033	Indiana County Municipal Services Authority 724-349-6640
Service Capacity	1,300,000 gallons a day	Limited to 300,000 gallons a day in Blairsville, 57,000 gallons a day in Homer City and unlimited from High Ridge	4,500,000 gallons a day	205,000 gallons per day
Service Areas	Homer City, Center Township and a small portion of White Township	Center and Burrell Townships	Blairsville, West Wheatfield, East Wheatfield, Armaugh, small portion of Buffington, and into Westmoreland County	Blacklick and Center Townships
Expansion Plans	None in project area	New pump station near Homer City, updating lines along Routes 119 and 22 with the highway expansion, installing a new monitoring device, just built a new water tank on Dean Drive in Burrell	Completing a feasibility study to expand lines along Chestnut Ridge and Muir Roads, plan to expand lines into area (south of Route 22	Water treatment plan in Crickside will connect to Warren Road, which will eventually connect to Aultman. There is also a petition to extend lines in Blacklick where Rt. 217 intersects with Rt. 286
Tap In Fee	\$636	\$350	\$700	\$800 plus roadwork costs

Sewage

Four sewage authorities have responsibility for providing sanitary sewage services to the project area. Table 4-5 identifies each authority and the information obtained for this study.

	Blairsville Municipal Authority 724-459-9100	Burrell Township Sewer Authority 724-248-7272	Central Indiana County Joint Sanitary Authority 724-479-3151	Indiana County Municipal Services Authority 724-349-6640
Service Capacity		180,000 gallons a day	650,000 gallons a day	
Service Areas	Blairsville and a small portion of Burrell Township	Burrell Township	Homer City and Center Township	Blacklick and Center Townships
Expansion Plans	Actively trying to separate storm water from sanitary waste, talking to Burrell Township about combining services	In the near future the new homes in Marshall – Heights will need more lines	Will extend lines into Luciousboro in near future. Recently completed line extension in Waterman.	There are plans to update plants as well as some expansions
Tap In Fee		\$1,000	\$2,000	\$800 for existing structure and \$1700 for new construction

Throughout the planning process no major issues were mentioned regarding the provision of water and sewer services. Participants in the public participation efforts do feel, however, that there is a need to expand water and sewer lines to encourage development in the townships. Figure 4.1 displays the current areas that have public water and / or sewer.

According to the Water Supply Plan for Indiana County, the following improvements to the Southern Indiana County water suppliers are needed.

Blairsville Municipal Authority:

- Replace about 25% of transmission and distribution main with adequate diameter piping.
- Increase leak detection efforts to identify and target problem areas within the system for repair or replacement.

Central Indiana County Municipal Authority:

- Upgrade high service pumping facilities to provide adequate capacity to supply maximum day demands.
- Replace about 20% of transmission and distribution main with adequate diameter piping.
- Intensify leak detection efforts to identify and target problem areas within the system for repair or replacement.

Highridge Water Authority:

- The Sugar Run Reservoir dam, which was compromised in a flood of 1995, is out of service. The spillway for this dam is reportedly undersized. The Authority is conducting studies to determine required repairs.
- Replace about 10% of transmission and distribution main with adequate diameter piping.
- Identify and target problem areas for repair or replacement.
- Observe unaccounted-for water closely to monitor condition of older transmission mains.

ICMSA – Coy:

- The Waterman and Luciousboro storage tanks may need to be repainted.
- Replace about 20% of main with adequate sized piping.

ICMSA – Edgewood / Warren:

- The existing source lacks capacity to supply projected demands because of allocation limits with Pennsylvania American Water Company. The following are two alternatives to increase source capacity:
 - Increase permitted allocation to purchase water from PA American. This alternative is not likely to happen.
 - Increase system storage.
- Construct a new 140,000 gallon water storage tank. The increase will provide adequate distribution and fire storage as well as reduce the required net source yield.

ICMSA – Jacksonville

- Upgrade existing facilities to provide required treatment capacity.
- Replace about 20% of main with adequately sized piping.

ICMSA – Lucerne

- Replace about 1,250 ft of smaller diameter main with adequate size piping.
- Increase leak detection efforts to identify and target problem areas within the system for repair or replacement.

Lower Indiana County Municipal Authority

- Increase permitted allocation for purchase of water from any or all of the three systems from which LICMA purchase finished water. OR
- Increase system storage (about 1,000,000 gallons of storage is required to reduce the required source net yield below the existing source yield.)
- Construct a new 175,000 gallon water storage tank
- Repaint existing storage tank. Replace about 20% of main with adequately sized piping.





Education

Two school districts serve the study area, Blairsville / Saltsburg School District and Homer Center School District. There are two high schools (one within each district) located in the project area, Blairsville High School and Homer Center Jr/Sr High School. Information for each high school as well as comparisons to state averages are listed in table 4-6.

	Blairsville Sr. High School	Homer-Center Jr/Sr High School	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
# Of Students	402	510	N/A
Communities Served	Blairsville, Burrell and Black Lick Townships	Homer City and Center Township	N/A
2001-2002 Tax Rate	mills	mills	N/A
Student Attendance Rates	92.7%	94.4%	93.0%
% Low Income Students	36.4%	41.4%	30.9%
Average Dropout Rate (grades 9-12)	3.75%	2.6%	3.1%
SAT Overall Average	983	956	997

The Blairsville / Saltsburg School District has no plans to expand or replace structures in the near future in Blairsville. Homer-Center, however, recently completed a feasibility study regarding the renovation of the high school. Renovations to the elementary school and a new track were also recently completed in Homer-Center. The track is open to the public as well as students for recreational use.

The 10-12 graders at both Blairsville High School and Homer-Center Jr/Sr High School were asked to complete a survey regarding what they view as strengths, weaknesses, and issues of the community they reside in.

The results from the Blairsville High School show the following as the top four strengths identified:

- 1. Businesses
- 2. Recreation / Parks
- 3. Friendly People
- 4. Small Town / Safe Atmosphere

The overwhelming weakness for Blairsville students is the lack of things to do for teenagers. This is reflected in the results for the issues as well. A majority of students would like to see more teen activities in their communities. The item that ranked second in terms of issues is the appearance of the communities.

The students at Homer Center Jr. / Sr. High School expressed a lot of the same ideas as the Blairsville students. The top four strengths are listed below:

- 1. Small Town Atmosphere / Friendly People
- 2. Recreation / Parks / Sports
- 3. Small Commercial Activity
- 4. Clean neighborhoods

The major weakness for the Homer Center students was the same as Blairsville, the lack of things to do for teenagers.

Higher Education – WyoTech

The Wyoming Technical Institute, known locally as WyoTech, which is based in Laramie, Wyoming, has a branch campus in Burrell Township, Indiana County. WyoTech offers specialized training in automotive, diesel, collision/refinishing, street rod, service management, custom trim & upholstery, and advanced diesel applications. Training is designed to provide students a competitive advantage when entering the workforce. Students can complete their training in only 9-12 months depending on the individual program (www.wyotech.com).



WyoTech building in Burrell Township, Indiana Gazette 2003

WyoTech has experienced tremendous growth at its Blairsville campus since opening in 2002. The original attendance (39 students) increased by 1,600 percent to 630 students presently and is projected to reach 1,200 to 1,500 students in the next few years. The campus, which was formerly located in downtown Blairsville, now occupies three

buildings at the Corporate Campus in Burrell Township. The school is also investigating several locations in and around Blairsville to provide off campus student housing.

Hospitals

No hospitals are located within the project area boundaries, but three major hospitals are located within a 20 mile radius around the study area.

The Indiana Regional Medical Center is located in White Township, Indiana County and has been serving the region since 1914. Indiana Hospital has a 176-bed capacity and provides outstanding basic medical care as well as the following services (a complete description of their facility and services can be found on their website at www.indianahospital.net):

- Cardiac Rehabilitation: A supervised education and exercise program for patients recovering from various serious cardiovascular conditions
- Pediatric and Adolescent Dental Clinic: Providing basic dental services for children ages 3 through 18 receiving Medical Assistance
- Diagnostic Imaging Services
- An on-site medical helicopter, local ambulance service, and Emergency Services Department
- Neurodiagnostic Center
- Nuclear Medicine
- Infection Control, Intensive Care, Laboratory Medicine, and Pediatrics/Obstetrics
- Counseling services covering such topics as nutrition, occupational health and wellness
- Executive Fitness Program designed to help individuals deal with everyday stress

The Latrobe Area Hospital is located in Latrobe, Westmoreland County and has been serving the area for over 90 years. The Latrobe Area Hospital provides care in the following areas (a complete description of their facility and services can be located on their website at <u>www.lah.com</u>):

- Heart care
- Cancer care
- Women's health
- Primary care
- Home health
- Behavior health and rehab

The UPMC Lee Regional Hospital, located in Johnstown, PA, has been providing services to the region for 80 years. The following services are provided for at UPMC Lee Regional Hospital (a complete description of their facility and services can be located on their website at http://leeregional.upmc.com/Default.htm):

- Services for women and infants
- Primary care
- Stroke care
- Cardiac care
- Occupational health
- Comprehensive cancer care

Public Libraries

0

There are two public libraries located within the study area. The following list provides the name, location and contact information for these public libraries.

- Blairsville Public Library
 - o 113 Walnut Street, Blairsville
 - o 724-459-6077

Hours: Monday	1:30 - 8:30
Tuesday	1:30 - 5:00
Wednesday	10:00 - 5:00
Thursday	1:30 - 5:00
Friday	1:30 - 5:00
Saturday	10:00 - 5:00

- o Services: Free membership to Blairsville residents
 - Books, including best sellers
 - Magazines and Newspapers
 - Computers
 - Reference materials
 - Books on tape
 - Summer reading programs
 - Toddler story times
 - Story hours
 - Homebound library service
 - Educational enrichment classes
 - Monthly book discussions
- Burrell Township Public Library
 - o P.O. Box 476, Park Drive, Black Lick
 - o 724-248-7122

0

- Hours: Monday:
 10:00 6:00

 Tuesday:
 11:00 6:00

 Wednesday:
 10:00 6:00

 Thursday:
 2:00 8:00

 Saturday:
 10:00 4:00
- Services: Free membership to Burrell Township residents
 - Books, including best sellers



Burrell Township Public Library, Mackin 2003

- Interlibrary loan
- Books on tape
- Magazines and Newspapers
- Public computer access
- Adult programs (some require a small fee)
- Children's programming (including summer reading program)
- Tax forms and government literature

B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

Overall the municipal services provided to residents within the study area adequately meet resident needs. According to public input, fire and police protection as well as the school systems have been determined sufficient. However, water, sewer, road maintenance, and refuse collection are areas of concern. In addition, several areas have been identified where cost savings and increased productivity could be realized if the communities establish regional efforts.

Police Services

Currently, Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships have no local police service and rely on the Pennsylvania State Police for local law enforcement.

Having a local police presence serves to impart an atmosphere of order. Waiting long periods for police to arrive could be detrimental to the health and welfare of residents who are in need of these services. This situation is both unsafe for residents and does nothing to help the townships move towards attracting potential home owners who will agree to uphold community standards and obey the law.

The two police forces in the study area, Blairsville and Homer City, face their own challenges. Retaining police officers and providing needed training and equipment remains an obstacle as costs and demands frequently outweigh funding.

Through the public participation efforts and stakeholder interviews, the idea of regionalizing police services, was one that garnered a lot of support. In the community imaging exercise (CIE) that was conducted at a public meeting during the planning process, sharing police services ranked third out of a possible 67 choices. The complete results from the CIE are located in Appendix I.b.

Fire Protection Services

The volunteer fire departments within the study area are fine examples of the commitment of volunteers to their community. Each facility is well kept and equipment is well taken care of and reflects the community spirit of each borough. As with the police services, merging, regionalizing or consolidating fire companies has been a popular idea throughout the planning process. In the community imaging exercise that was conducted, sharing fire services with surrounding communities ranked sixth out of a possible 67 choices.

Sharing of fire and police services is not something new. Across Pennsylvania the number of volunteers have continued to decrease while equipment and service costs have risen. Many fire companies across Pennsylvania have realized that forming a partnership is the only option if they are to continue providing the level of response that the

communities have grown accustomed to receiving. The following are options available for service providers who may want to work together.

- A merger involves the combining of two or more companies with one retaining its original name.
- Consolidation happens when one or more companies join together to form a new company with a new name.
- Regionalization occurs when one or more companies combine specific resources to share services/costs while retaining their own identities.

Code Enforcement

Code enforcement is another area that could be improved. Currently, Blairsville and Homer City have a code enforcement officer to enforce municipal codes and issue building permits. The remaining communities within the study area have a third party that issues building permits and provides code enforcement. In order to obtain a building permit the applicant must first have a sewage permit. A prompt response to code violations and requests for building permits is essential to good community relations with residents as well as maintaining a standard of housing that individuals will find attractive. Communities should identify and hire a person who can objectively enforce all code violations and who is conscientious about responding to building permit requests or questions about building codes.

The state of Pennsylvania has a new code to govern building codes across the Commonwealth. Under Act 45, the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), local municipalities will be mandated to adopt the UCC and determine how it will be administered and enforced. Municipalities can decide if they will "opt in" and administer and enforce the UCC themselves (or, through a third-party agency) or if they will "opt out", in which case the Department of Labor and Industry (Department of L&I) will be responsible for administration and enforcement. Although some municipalities currently have building code ordinances, unless these meet and/or exceed UCC requirements, the existing codes will become null and void.

As Act 45 will govern new construction and will significantly impact the way construction activities are regulated, it is strongly recommended that the municipalities complete a thorough review of Act 45 and its corresponding implications. Should a municipality decide to retain local control the following options are available to administer and enforce the UCC:

- Utilize municipal employees
- Contract with a third-party agency
- Contract with another municipality
- Utilize an inter-governmental agreement with one or more municipalities to jointly administer a codes program

Enter into an agreement with the Department of L&I (certain criteria exist for this option which limit the allowable structures for this alternative to apply)

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) are offering incentives to municipalities to choose the intergovernmental option, including funding incentives and different requirements for establishing the required UCC appeals board. Act 45 outlines the specifics relating to the appeals board, however it should be noted that eligible members must be knowledgeable about construction standards and building codes. As this requirement may place certain hardship filling the required slots on the board, municipalities may fill the position with a person who resides outside of the municipality.

Implications to municipalities that "opt in" include identifying the appropriate person to administer and enforce the UCC, provide certification and ongoing training, and establish the UCC Appeals Board. If a municipality would "opt out", non-residential construction compliance would be provided by the Department of L&I, while one and two family residential construction compliance will be the responsibility of the property owner (and completed by a certified third-party agency).

The boroughs in the study area currently enforce a building code that meets UCC standards. The UCC will mainly effect additions to homes and changes in occupancy, rather than new structures in the boroughs, as there is not much room for new development. However, to meet residents' desires for improved community appearances, it would be in the boroughs' best interest to consider entering into an intergovernmental partnership with the surrounding municipalities to address property maintenance issues.

Public and Private Utilities

All of Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs as well as a large portion of Burrell Township and portions of Blacklick and Center Townships have public water and / or sewage. As well, other services such as refuse collection, electric, natural gas, and cable are provided to residents through private companies. Results from the public survey, showed that 22.1 percent of respondents felt that public officials should focus on water and sewer issues.

Residents in some areas of Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships currently utilize septic systems and wells. Future projects should accommodate plans to extend public utilities to the areas that have expressed a need and are within a reasonable distance to current water and / or sewer lines. Efforts should be made by the municipalities to follow the recommended improvements that were included in the Water Supply Plan for Indiana County.

Black Lick and Center Townships need to complete Act 537 plans as required by state law. The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537 as amended) was first enacted in 1966 to correct existing sewage disposal problems and prevent future problems. The Sewage Facilities Program (Act 537 program) is largely administered by individual municipalities (known as local agencies) or groups of municipalities (known as joint agencies). These agencies receive technical and financial assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The major provisions of Act 537 are:

- All municipalities must develop and implement an official sewage plan (reviewed and approved by DEP) to address present and future sewage needs. These plans are modified as new development occurs or whenever the municipality's sewage needs change.
- Local agencies are required to employ both primary and alternate trained and certified Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEO). SEOs are not employees of DEP.
- Local agencies, through their SEO, approve or deny permits for construction of onlot sewage disposal systems prior to installation.
- DEP provides grants and reimbursements to municipalities and local agencies for costs associated with the Act 537 planning and permitting programs.
- An Environmental Quality Board (EQB) must adopt regulations establishing standards for sewage disposal facilities, which then apply throughout the Commonwealth.
- A Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) reviews existing and proposed rules, regulations, standards and procedures and then advises the Secretary of DEP. This committee is comprised of members representing many sectors of the regulated community.

Emergency Management Planning

With the close proximity of the Homer City Generating Station, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and several large industrial facilities, the Southern Indiana County Region would be well advised to coordinate emergency management plans at the regional and county level. As mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, each municipality is responsible for preparing an Emergency Management Plan. Because of the increased security concerns at both the national and state level, it is recommended that the municipalities review and update, if necessary, their emergency management plan. Close coordination with the county's emergency management agency is strongly recommended.

Education

The K through 12 education facilities in the project area are adequate and meet the residents' needs. The high quality of the educational providers in the project area was mentioned throughout the planning process. However, 24.1 percent (ranking second out of a possible 13 responses) of respondents to a public survey indicated the public officials should focus on education. Continuing to provide the high quality of education should be a priority of all the communities in the study area.

One issue that was mentioned during stakeholder surveys regarding the school districts was the unfair tax structure. Because the state doesn't provide enough funding to local

school districts, a large burden is placed on local residents to cover the gap. There is nothing that local school boards can do regarding this matter; however, it is an issue that the state legislature needs to address.

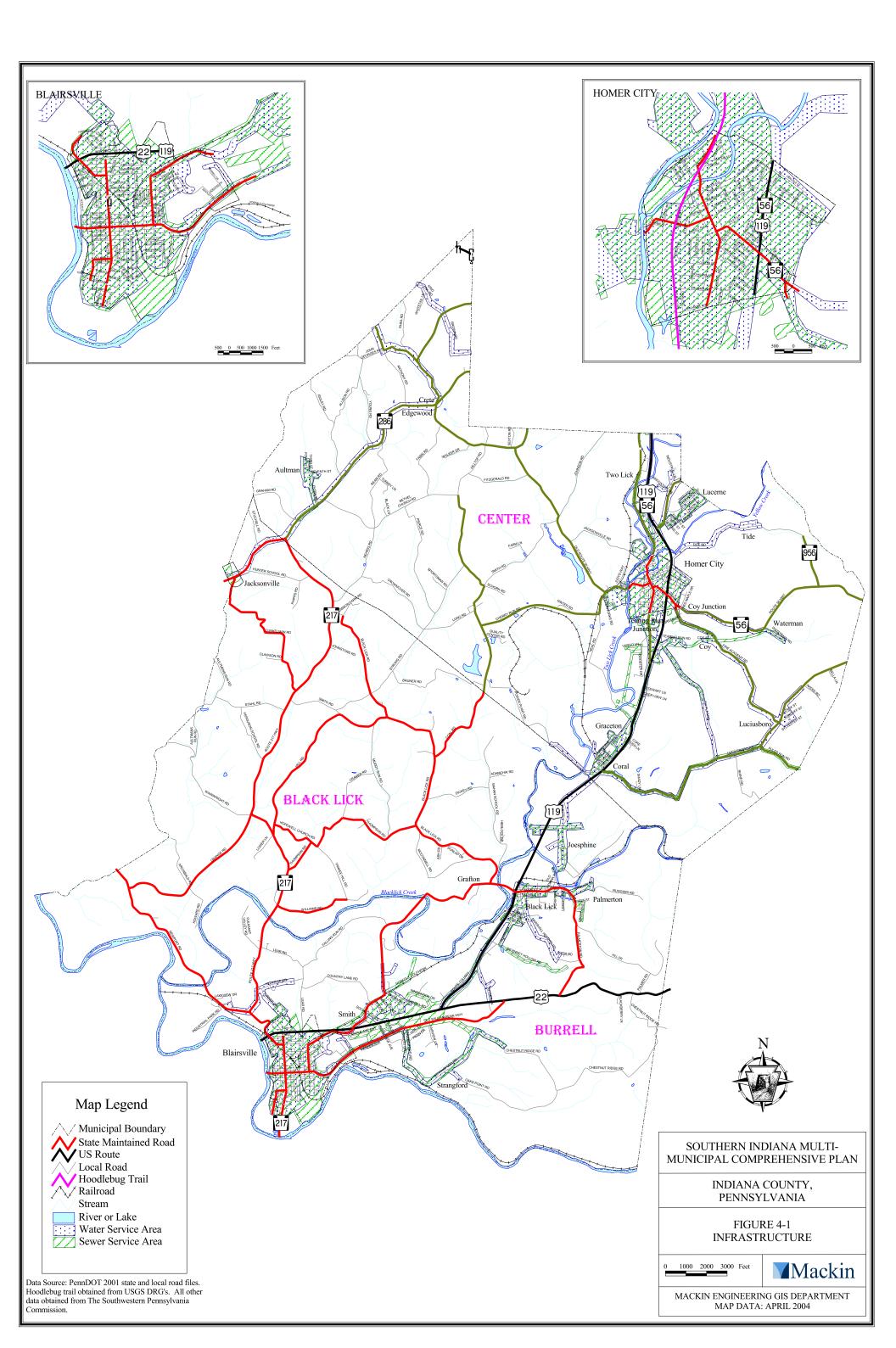
The lack of activities for young people was listed by a large majority of students as one of the major weaknesses.

Higher Education

Residents in Blairsville are concerned with the increased number of students at the Burrell Township campus of WyoTech and the need for additional student housing. The borough should continue working with WyoTech to address the issue of housing as the WyoTech campus is an asset for the area, and efforts should be made to retain the school and its students.

Libraries

There are two libraries located within the project area, and both are located in the southern portion of the project area. During stakeholder interviews, the fact that there was no public library facility in the Homer City area was mentioned as a detriment. Public officials in that area should investigate partnering with the Homer City Historical society or the school district to provide a public library to residents. Blairsville and Burrell Township Public Libraries should be involved in this endeavor so that they can offer their expertise to explore partnership opportunities.



A. Existing Conditions

The project area economy functions as part of the larger Indiana County economy. Both of which are an important component of the Southwestern Pennsylvania / Pittsburgh economic structure. The Southwestern / Pittsburgh economic region includes Armstrong, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties. As the largest municipality, Pittsburgh is the cornerstone of the region and has remained so economically, socially, and culturally. From the city of Pittsburgh, economic development has moved north and east along the Route 22 and Route 119 corridors through Murrysville and Southern Indiana County to Indiana.

The Indiana economy also functions as part of a three-county region known as the Tri-County Workforce Investment Area, which is comprised of Armstrong, Butler and Indiana Counties. This area, and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania region, was an industrial powerhouse beginning in the late 1800's and included glass factories, coalmines and steel mills.

By the mid 1970's, the economy of the region stagnated; glass factories and coalmines closed, steel mills idled and thousands of people were unemployed. The region experienced a significant population loss as many people moved to other states in search of work. However, within the last decade, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Indiana County have begun to see an economic revitalization. Improvements to Routes 119 and 22 should assist in bringing additional businesses and industry into the project area.

As of December 2002, Indiana County's unemployment rate was at 7.0%, which was slightly higher than the 2001 rate of 5.9%, which was Indiana County's lowest rate in ten years. The rate of 7.0% was the third lowest since 1993, however. Table 5-1 illustrates the Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data for the county from 1993 to 2002. (www.palmids.state.pa.us).

Year	Period	Civilian	Total	Total	Unemployment
теаг	rerioa	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
2001	Annual	38,000	35,800	2,200	5.9
1999	Annual	37,000	34,500	2,500	6.8
2002	Annual	38,600	35,900	2,700	7.0
2000	Annual	36,100	33,500	2,600	7.2
1998	Annual	37,500	34,800	2,800	7.4
1997	Annual	38,300	35,200	3,100	8.1
1996	Annual	37,800	34,600	3,100	8.3
1995	Annual	37,500	34,100	3,500	9.2
1994	Annual	36,900	33,200	3,700	10.1
1992	Annual	38,400	34,100	4,300	11.1
1993	Annual	37,500	33,300	4,200	11.2
Source: www	.palmids.state.pa	i.us	•		

Table 5-1

Employment projections used in this section are from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Long Range Forecast (Adopted on July 31, 2000). The Long Range Forecast is the product of a national econometric model created by Regional Economic Models Inc (REMI), and reflects the following adjustments:

- a. The REMI model uses 1995 as the last historical year and begins forecasting for the year 1996. The co-owner of the Pittsburgh REMI model, the University of Pittsburgh University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), has calibrated the model to incorporate 1996 employment data.
- b. 1997 total regional population was adjusted to match Bureau of the Census 1997 total population estimates. A proportional adjustment was then reflected in each post-1997 forecast year. This adjustment was also expressed in proportional adjustments to post-1997 regional employment totals based upon the 1997 population-to-jobs ratio.
- c. REMI manufacturing employment forecasts have been adjusted to exclude employment at manufacturing non-production sites. Employment at these non-production sites has been reclassified to the "other" employment category.
- d. The REMI forecast reflects recent, planned, and proposed large economic development projects that are identified in the Long Rage Plan. The data on economic development projects were current to December 13, 1999.
- e. The REMI forecast reflects the impact of the transportation projects included in the Long Range Plan.

The regional forecast from REMI is allocated to traffic analysis zones using the SPC modeling procedure called MERLAM (Mature Economic Region Land Allocation Model). MERLAM employs statistical extrapolation of historical trends in various social and economic data weighted, in some cases, by characteristics of zones or municipalities. Since the forecast includes impacts of transportation user benefits from the SPC Long Range Plan and the effects of Long Range Plan economic development projects, the forecast explicitly assumes completion of the Long Range Plan (SPC Long Range Forecast, 2000).

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) projects that Black Lick Township will experience the greatest increase in total employment in the study area, from 174 to 1,314 between the years of 1997 and 2025, which is a 655.2% increase. They are projected to slightly decrease in manufacturing (at sites where production occurs) from 12 in 1997 to 5 in 2025. The retail sector is expected to decrease as well (22 to 14) and the highest increase in employment will be in other jobs, which are jobs that provide employment at non-production sites of manufacturers (140 in 1997 to 1,295 in 2025) (SPC: Long Range Forecast, 2000).

Blairsville Borough is projected to have an overall increase (40.5%) in total employment over the next 20 years, from 1,686 in 1997 to 2,369 in 2025. Most of this gain is projected to occur in the other sector, up from 956 in 1997 to 1,807 in 2025. Slight decreases are predicted for the retail sector (366 in 1997 to 269 in 2025) and the manufacturing sector (364 in 1997 to 293 in 2025) (SPC: Long Range Forecast, 2000).

Burrell Township is expected to experience a significant increase in total work-place employment from 1997 (1,155) to 2025 (2,246). This translates into a 94.5% increase in total employment during the study years. The most significant change is expected in the other sector with an increase of 125% (786 in 1997 to 1,769 in 2025). The retail sector is projected to increase by 38% (314 in 1997 to 435 in 2025), and the manufacturing sector is expected to decrease from 55 in 1997 to 42 in 2025 (SPC: Long Range Forecast, 2000).

According to SPC, Center Township will experience a very slight decrease in total employment between 1997 and 2025 from 1,992 to 1,955. The area that is expected to experience a decrease is the retail sector (from 285 in 1997 to 205 in 2025). The manufacturing and other sectors are expected to increase from 141 and 1,566 in 1997 to 149 and 1,601 in 2025 respectively (SPC: Long Range Forecast, 2000).

Homer City is expected to experience the most significant decrease in total employment from 681 in 1997 to 464 in 2025, which is a –31.9% change. The manufacturing sector is predicted to have the greatest decrease (443 in 1997 to 206 in 2025). A slight increase is projected for the other sector (202 in 1997 to 229 in 2025), and the retail sector is projected to experience a slight decrease from 36 to 29 during this time period (SPC: Long Range Forecast, 2000).

A consideration of the analysis of the economic conditions for the project area should include existing employment centers - commercial and industrial. There are existing industrial sites and commercial areas located within the project area. Commercial development in Blairsville and Homer City is concentrated along Market Street and Main Street respectively, which are traditional main street corridors. These areas include a dense mix of commercial retail, restaurant businesses, and office space. Commercial development is located primarily along the Route 22 corridor in Burrell Township, and is sporadically located throughout Center and Black Lick Townships.

The three townships all have a mix of rural commercial businesses scattered throughout their boundaries. Some examples are Bed and Breakfasts, deer processing businesses, Christmas tree farms, car repair shops, etc.

There are two light industrial parks located within the project area, the Corporate Campus in Burrell Township and the Serell Industrial Park in Blairsville. There are also other industrial businesses throughout the project area including FMC Technologies and the EME Homer City Generating Station.

Table 5-2 lists the industrial and commercial employers located within the project area. Table 5-3 displays major employers located in Indiana County not including the ones that were listed in Table 5-2 for the project area.

$5. \, E {\rm conomic} \, D {\rm evelopment}$

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

COMPANY	CITY	ТҮРЕ	EMPLOYEES
Blairsville Saltsburg School District	Blairsville	Education	435
EME Homer City Generation L.P.	Homer City	Power Generating	236
FMC Technologies	Homer City	Manufacturer	230
Adelphia	Blairsville	Communications	219
Dlubak Corp	Blairsville	Manufacturer	145
Homer Center School District	Homer City	Education	120
Clark Metal Products Co	Blairsville	Manufacturer	105
Perfetti Trucking Inc	Blairsville	Trucking	90
Superior Well Services Ltd	Black Lick	Oil/Gas	85
Specialty Bar Products	Blairsville	Manufacturer	80
North Cambria Fuel Co	Blairsville	Coal/Mining	80
Joy Mining Machinery	Homer City	Mine Equip	80
Bentley Development Co	Blairsville	Coal/Mining	75
Garden State Growers	Blairsville	Greenhouse	60
Halliburton Energy Services	Homer City	Natural Gas	60
Conveyor Services Corp	Blairsville	Convey/Belts	55
Mcs Logistics Division Of Wc Mcquaide Inc	Homer City	Trucking	51





Homer City Generating Station, Mackin 2003



Serell Industrial Park, Mackin 2003



Rosebud Mining Company, Mackin 2003

Table 5-3: Major Employers, Indiana County*						
COMPANY	CITY	ТҮРЕ	EMPLOYEES			
Indiana University Of Pa	Indiana	Education	1655			
Indiana Regional Medical Center	Indiana	Hospital	1063			
First Commonwealth Financial Corp	Indiana	Financial	850			
Indiana Area School District	Indiana	Education	545			
Wal Mart Super Center Store No 2318	Indiana	Dept Store	525			
S & T Bank	Indiana	Financial	513			
Diamond Drugs Inc	Indiana	Pharmacies	491			
Indiana County Courthouse	Indiana	Government	406			
Reliant Energy	Johnstown	Pwr Generating	404			
Gorell Enterprises Inc	Indiana	Manufacturer	397			
Pa Dept Of Transportation	Indiana	Government	369			
Sci Pine Grove	Indiana	Government	365			
Polyvision Corporation	Dixonville	Manufacturer	349			
Specialty Tires Of America	Indiana	Manufacturer	308			
Indiana Printing And Publishing Co	Indiana	Newspapers	268			
Breeze Industrial Products Corp	Saltsburg	Manufacturer	253			
Marion Center Area School District	Marion Center	Education	237			
ARAMARK Services	Indiana	Catering	226			
Arin Intermediate Unit 28	Indiana	Education	218			
St Andrews Village	Indiana	Healthcare	200			
Purchase Line School District Source: Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, 20	Commodore	Education	197			
* Not including study area						

Several organizations exist within Indiana County to help the private sector meet the growing needs of business and industry.

- <u>Governor's Action Team</u> an extension of the Governor's office, which attempts to identify and meet the needs of the business community on behalf of the Governor.
- <u>The Blairsville Improvement Group (BIG)</u> BIG serves as the catalyst for ideas, energy, and resources that stimulate economic growth, preserve, protect and promote historical and scenic assets, and improve the quality of life in the Blairsville area, making it a community that residents are proud to call home and tourists are eager to visit.

Currently BIG has raised money through various fundraisers, borough assistance and private donations (<u>http://www.blairsvillepa.net/indexb.php</u>).

BIG also received a \$5,000 grant for downtown revitalization in Blairsville from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in December of 2003. This initial grant is intended to help the borough complete

required planning in the first year of the Main Street program and establish an office. Once those requirements have been fulfilled, the borough could receive an additional \$170,000 over three years in matching state funds to hire a Main Street manager to oversee improvement and marketing to the business district. In addition to hiring a Main Street manager, the Main Street program will provide up to \$20,000 per year to help downtown merchants improve their facades. Individual store owners would be eligible for a maximum matching grant of \$2,500, provided the new storefront meets design criteria established by BIG and approved by state officials.

- The Indiana County Center for Economic Operations The Indiana County Center • For Economic Operations (CEO) serves as an integrated service delivery system spearheading economic efforts in Indiana County by facilitating access to resources and information and assisting businesses in their efforts to grow and expand. Through this public/private partnership cooperative effort, Indiana County has crafted the most sophisticated business assistance delivery system available. There are five affiliate members of the CEO: Indiana County Board of Commissioners, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Indiana County Development Corporation, Indiana County Tourist Bureau, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). The CEO Board of Directors as well as the CEO Technical Committee meet on a monthly basis to set policy and to maintain important communication and performance standards. In 1997 the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry recognized the CEO as the "Outstanding Community of the Year" for its ongoing efforts to recruit and retain businesses and to create jobs.
- <u>The Indiana County Chamber of Commerce</u> Just as Chambers through the centuries have changed and adapted to meet the needs of the time, so will the Chamber of today be constantly alert to the changes taking place in our society and adapting to meet those needs. The Indiana Chamber of Commerce was formed ninety years ago by a group of Indiana businessmen who were granted a charter that same year. The members met for lunch regularly over the years, but the Chamber functioned as little more than a social club.

Things changed in the late 1940's with the faltering of the coal industry, Indiana County's mainstay. Severe unemployment accompanied a drop in coal production to its lowest point in years.

A group of concerned business and professional men who were determined to turn the local economy around chose the Chamber of Commerce as their vehicle. They established the Indiana Community Development Corporation and the Greater Indiana Development Corporation, and together with the Chamber they began a drive to raise money for industrial development.

Funds from individual and business donations and the sale of bonds made the drive a success. The money was deposited in a rotating savings account and designated for industrial development only; the fund exists to this day.

The first industries to come to the county through Chamber efforts were Indiana Sportswear Co., Robertshaw-Fulton Controls Co., Season-All Industries and Fisher Scientific Co. Over the years the Chamber has been responsible for bringing in many new industrial and manufacturing firms and for helping a number of others expand and grow.

About 1960 the Chamber changed its name to the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce and developed a financial division to give assistance to industries interested in locating in the county.

The added responsibilities of a countywide organization led the Chamber to enlarge its board of directors to include representatives from communities throughout the county as well as designating a specific board person to the northern and southern extremes of the county respectively. While most of the Chamber's time and energy is devoted to industrial and economic development, the organization has volunteer committees that assume a wide range of community and educational projects.

The Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, its board of directors, staff and membership are determined to make Indiana County the most economically viable county in the state as well as in the global community; through aggressive planning and industrial and economic development.

The Indiana County Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate member of the Center for Economic Operations, a public/ private alliance. The consortium includes the Indiana County Board of Commissioners, Indiana County Development Corporation, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Indiana County Tourist Bureau and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Center of Economic Operations addresses business needs through the divisions of Research and Development Outreach, Infrastructure, Labor Force Readiness/Training, Capital Resources, Technology Communications, Quality of Life, and Small Business Development. The Center for Economic Operations (CEO) is a community alliance dedicated to serving the special needs of the corporate business sector. The CEO's responsibility is to enhance corporate profit potential by assisting in the location and expansion of business, and by providing quality programs, services, and products, so that it may be able to compete successfully in the open market. Indiana County was named as the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Business and Industry's 1997 "Outstanding Pennsylvania Community" award recipient. Floyd W. Warner, president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry announced that Indiana County was selected as the winner of this year's award. Warner said "Indiana County is to be commended for its growth and leadership over the past several years. The economic development initiatives

being promoted in Indiana County are indicative of a community on the move in the right direction!"

The CEO has established a number of major projects to enhance economic development in Indiana County. The Indiana County Chamber of Commerce fulfills a primary role in the accomplishment of the goals through unification of business members, the provision of on-going business assistance and overall marketing for the county of Indiana.

Under the leadership of its full-time president, dedicated staff, and corps of hardworking volunteers, the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce has committed itself to a renewed effort of facilitating economic development in the County by expanding the Chamber membership base, by servicing Chamber membership in important, caring ways, by developing international contacts to pursue commerce and trade opportunities, and by cooperating with and working in partnership with the Indiana County Center for Economic Operations in every part of Indiana County.

• <u>The Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC)</u> – this private non-profit organization was incorporated in the early 1960's to serve as a conduit for PIDA a low-interest loan program available at from the state. The ICDC fulfilled this singular mission until the mid 1990's when they bought the land for the Corporate Campus in Burrell Township. Currently, the ICDC owns the Corporate Campus in Burrell Township, the Commerce Center II building in White Township and an 7.8-acre site along Indiana Springs Road. The ICDC is comprised of a 13-member board with a four-member executive board. The Indiana County Office of Planning and Development provides professional staffing for the ICDC.

The ICDC owns the Corporate Campus, which is an approximately 101-acre industrial park in Burrell Township (approximately 83 acres are developable). Sixty-five of the acres are designated a Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone (KOIZ) while the remaining 21 acres are a Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (KOEZ). KOEZ and KOIZ are the successors the KOZ program. The difference in the programs is the duration of the tax abatements. KOEZ abatements were designated in 2000 and are set to expire in 2010 (for a ten year abatement). KOIZ abatements were approved in 2003 and will expire in 2018 (for a fifteen year abatement).

Keystone Opportunity Zones are defined as parcel specific areas with greatly reduced or no tax burden for property owners, residents and businesses. KOZ's have been designated by local communities and approved by the state. They are, in fact, a partnership between each community and the region among state and local taxing bodies, school districts, economic development agencies and community-based organizations. Over 10,000 new jobs have been created since the initial KOZ program began in 1999, and the number is growing rapidly (www.inventpa.com).

The tenants at the corporate campus are WyoTech, which owns approximately 26 acres; Penn Machine, which owns approximately 4.6 acres; and the Interchange Center, which is a 30,000 square foot multi-tenant building on about 5.8 acres and is owned by the Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC).

- <u>The Indiana County Office of Planning and Development</u> this department oversees the general planning and development for projects at the county level. The county community development, economic development, land use and transportation staff work in this office.
- <u>The Indiana County Tourist Bureau</u> located at 2334 Oakland Avenue in Indiana, offers a unique collection of services to help local businesses grow. Their mission is to help promote, assist and guide businesses towards success. Membership in the Tourist Bureau provides benefits that include a free 25 word listing in the yearly Visitors Guide, free listing with link on their web page, free distribution of marketing brochures at their office, special events and travel shows, and reduced-rate advertising opportunities. In addition to publishing the Visitors Guide they also publish a quarterly newsletter to advertise events and opportunities around the County.

B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

The PA Route 22 Interchange Project and the widening of PA Route 119 from two lanes to four lanes will aid in providing a better connection between the project area and areas to the southwest such as the City of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, etc. This will help to bring in commercial and industrial development to areas such as Black Lick, Burrell, and Center Townships and Homer City and Blairsville Boroughs. The Route 119 project will also offer a better connection between the project area and Indiana Borough providing access to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

Heavy industrial development, as depicted in Figure 9-1, is mainly located in remote areas in Center and Burrell Townships. The largest industrial companies in the project area are the EME Homer City Generating Station in Center Township, FMC Technologies in Homer City, and the Dlubak Corporation in Blairsville. Efforts should be made to ensure that these businesses are operating efficiently due to the fact that they are large job generators in the region.

PA Routes 119 and 22 are heavily traveled roadways in the Southern Indiana County region and have the potential to become a major commercial corridors due to the many sites available for both new and infill development as well as the roadway widening projects that are being completed in the project area. Burrell Township is currently experiencing growth along the PA Route 22 corridor with the construction of the Wal-Mart Plaza. The areas adjacent to this route should be the focus of commercial and mixed-use development efforts. Zoning districts should incorporate regulations to allow appropriate mixed-use development and encourage commercial establishments. Specific zoning tools are discussed further in Section 9 of this plan. Thematic improvements to the corridor would foster a community appeal and encourage individuals to shop in this area. Pedestrian amenities should be addressed through the provision of crosswalks, sidewalks, and street furniture.

To fully achieve a successful economic development strategy, the Southern Indiana County region must be able to utilize the available workforce of the region to effectively support economic growth and respond to the economic and social changes of the region that have occurred over the last several decades. A workforce development strategy must be created that addresses what types of industries / businesses are needed to support the region in the future. Public policies must then be implemented that will support the development strategy and work to bring about economic growth.

Any economic strategy should at a minimum address the following elements:

- Identifying sites needing improved infrastructure and access;
- Identifying opportunities and developing recommendations for retrofitting buildings and sites to current standards;
- Conducting an analysis of vacant space with strategies on how to market the space to progressive, but complimentary firms;

- Suggesting standards for lighting, signage and streetscape improvements that will create a unified visual appeal for new development;
- Defining the obstacles that are located in the project, which might hinder business growth (i.e. zoning, lack of infrastructure);
- Identifying traffic and parking issues;
- Determining what types of public investment are needed to assist in this process; and
- Identifying the issues that could be of concern to local business owners such as public safety, lack of space, lack of a business organization, perceptions community identity and proper mix of business types.

Once such goal of the economic development strategy should be to establish industry / business clusters within the Southern Indiana County Region. The objective of an industry cluster is to support local business and increase the economic vitality of the region by identifying the regions strengths in terms of the economy. Often industry cluster strategies are created to solve crises such as high unemployment, recession, stagnant economy, real estate collapse, or loss of a key industry. An industry cluster is an interconnected group of firms and industries within a region that conduct business with one another and / or share a common need for talent, technology, and infrastructure. The firms and industries may be competitive with other members in the cluster and / or they may cooperate with other members.

Considerable work has been completed by Indiana County to address economic growth across the county and within the project area. The Indiana Center for Economic Operations is a countywide organization that is working with existing entities, such as the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Indiana County Development Corporation, Indiana County Tourist Bureau, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, to attract and retain businesses. The project area communities should become a part of and utilize these existing partnerships in order to ensure economic prosperity in their communities.

The Enterprise Zone Program is also a tool that communities can use to revitalize economic development in their business district. This program provides grants to financially distressed communities to prepare and implement business development strategies and loan funds to Enterprise Zone businesses to assist in financing business growth and job creation. There are several financial programs available to businesses located within and Enterprise Zone as well. The Enterprise Zone Tax Credits program provides tax credits, and there are low interest loans available to businesses locating or expanding within enterprise zones. Homer City Borough should investigate this program for their Main Street.

Residents of the municipalities expressed that they would like to see continued improvement along the major roadways (Routes 22, 119, 422 and 286) to provide opportunities for new businesses to move in and bring in good jobs to the region. Residents also expressed an interest in providing assistance to existing businesses as well as bringing in new opportunities. A third opportunity that was mentioned at public meetings is to take advantage of economic development based on recreation.

Heritage tourism is one way that communities have been using recreation and history as a means to boost the local economy. Heritage tourism is "a leisure trip with the primary purpose of visiting historic, cultural, natural, recreational and scenic attractions to learn more about the past in an enjoyable way." Pennsylvania has been a leader in heritage tourism development for the past decade, launching a number of programs at the local, state and regional levels that have been duplicated around the nation (Moving Heritage Tourism Forward in Pennsylvania, 2001).

Southern Indiana County has a number of assets that could be used to attract the heritage tourism market. One such asset is the existing Hoodlebug trail and its extension into Burrell Township and Blairsville Borough. The Hoodlebug trail could be utilized in conjunction with various other historical and recreational aspects in Southern Indiana County such as the Armory, the coal and transportation history, the park system and any recreation amenities that are developed along the Conemaugh River. Partners in a heritage tourism effort are discussed further in the Implementation Section of this plan.

Section Two of this plan also discusses several programs and services available to municipalities who would like to revitalize their economy (especially business districts with small towns).

A. Existing Conditions

Housing characteristics speak volumes about a community, therefore it is important to examine the existing housing conditions within a community in order to understand the trends and identify future needs. The appeal of a community to its residents is directly connected to the availability of attractive, affordable homes as well as type of housing. Homes that are occupied and well kept lend to a residential character that is attractive to current residents and future homebuyers. This portion of the comprehensive plan analyzes the present conditions of the housing stock in the project area, while comparing it to surrounding municipalities, Indiana County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The US Census defines a household as "all persons who occupy a housing unit" (2000). Housing units are structures intended for residential use and can include a house, apartment, modular home, townhouse, trailer or even a single room that is maintained as separate living quarters for an individual.

The relationship between owner and renter occupied housing and vacancy rates typically correspond with the availability of, and demand for, housing. Owner occupied homes are traditionally considered more desirable as they retain a better resale value and are typically in better physical shape than rental units. Renters are considered to be less connected to a community as they have less "at stake" than a homeowner and many communities try to limit the number of rental units. It is important, however, to offer various housing options in order to attract new residents into a community.

Municipal officials need to be aware of the number of occupied and vacant units within their communities. The potential for deterioration, vandalism, or arson increases as homes are left vacant. As well, officials must be aware of the value of homes in the community as this directly influences the tax base and financial stability of the municipality.

A. Existing Conditions and Analysis



As primarily rural and small town communities, the housing stock available in both the townships and the boroughs is predominately single-family homes. However, Blairsville and Homer City have a wider variety of housing types available, with more multi-family options such as duplexes, apartments buildings, etc. Center and Burrell Townships both have new housing developments that are presently being built. The development in Burrell Township is divided into two

subdivisions Greater Green and Greater Heights. Greater Green consists of 36 singlefamily parcels in three sections. Greater Heights consists of five single-family lots on larger parcels (ranging from five to 10 acres). The developer for these projects is Stern Properties, Inc. out of Mill Hall in Center County. To provide a regional comparison, the project area was compared to the contiguous municipalities of Armstrong Township, Brush Valley Township, Conemaugh Township and Indiana Borough. Indiana County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were also included to complete the analysis.



Table 6.1: Housing Occupancy shows the total number of housing units in each municipality, the percentage change in the number

of housing units between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of occupied units, and the percentage of vacant units. Interestingly, the number of housing units in the study area has increased over the past decade while the population is decreasing. This would suggest that the average household size is decreasing due to a lower birth rate, aging of the population, more divorce / separation and changing lifestyles or that more multi-family housing is being constructed to accommodate the changing population.

	Total Housing	% Change	%	%
	Units	1990 to 2000	Occupied	Vacant
Black Lick Township	540	17.4	95.4	4.6
Blairsville Borough	1,830	2.8	89.1	10.9
Burrell Township	1,632	8.7	91.6	8.4
Center Township	2,132	2.5	94.9	5.1
Homer City Borough	869	2.8	92.6	7.4
Fotal Project Area	7,003	5.1	-	-
Armstrong Township	1,233	9.6	94.2	5.8
Brush Valley Township	801	4.2	86.8	13.2
Conemaugh Township	1,023	5.9	93.6	6.4
Indiana Borough	5,096	6.1	94.3	5.7
Indiana County	37,250	7.1	91.6	8.4
Pennsylvania	5,249,750	6.3	91.0	9.0

Of the study area communities, Blairsville, along with Brush Valley Township, has the highest rate of vacant units (10.9 and 13.2 respectively). Black Lick and Center Townships, on the other hand, have the lowest vacancy rates in the region at 4.6 and 5.1 percent respectively. These rates are lower than the county (8.4) and the state (9.0) as well.

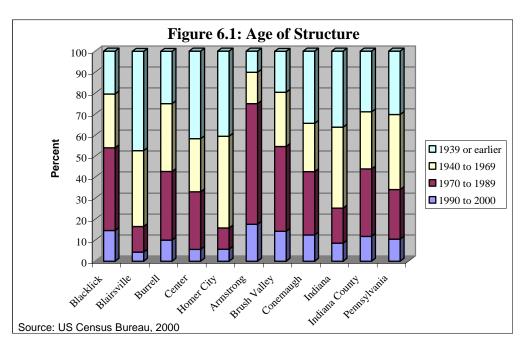
Table 6.2 denotes the total number of occupied units by both number and percentage of those units that are occupied by either the owner or a renter.

As shown in Table 6.2, Black Lick Township has the highest rate of owner occupied units in the region at 86.2 percent. Black Lick Township's owner occupied rate is higher than the county (71.8) and the state (71.3) as well. Blairsville Borough, however, has the second lowest rate of owner occupied units in the region at 63.0 percent, which is lower

6. Housing

than that of either the county (71.8) or the state (71.3). Only Indiana Borough's home ownership rate at 37.8 is lower than Blairsville.

The age of existing housing is another important factor to be considered. The year of construction can provide information about many things including identifying the potential for housing growth, housing maintenance needs, and historical value. As shown in Figure 6.1: Age of Structure, none of the communities in the study area have seen a high percentage of growth in housing in the last decade. Black Lick Township has had the highest rate of housing growth in the last decade with 14.6% of its housing stock being built from 1990 to 2000. This is a trend seen in the region as well as the county and the state. Most of the communities in the region have approximately 50% or more of their housing stock built before 1949.



	Total Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
Black Lick Township	515	86.2	13.8
Blairsville Borough	1,631	63.0	37.0
Burrell Township	1,495	76.3	23.7
Center Township	2,024	80.6	19.4
Homer City Borough	805	70.4	29.6
Total Project Area	6,470	74.4	25.6
Armstrong Township	1,161	84.4	15.6
Brush Valley Township	695	85.6	14.4
Conemaugh Township	958	84.3	15.7
Indiana Borough	4,804	37.8	62.2
Indiana County	34,123	71.8	28.2
Pennsylvania	4,777,003	71.3	28.7

As shown by Table 6.3, the majority of homes in the project study area have access to natural gas or electric. Except for Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs, a large percentage of homes within the project area continue to rely on kerosene or fuel oil heat. Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs, however, have a large amount of homes relying on utility gas (89.6 and 90.4 percent respectively). Over 95 percent of housing units in the study area rely on gas, electricity, fuel oil, or kerosene; less than five percent rely on wood, coal or coke as the primary source of heat. Center Township has one of the highest percentages of housing units that remain dependent upon coal, coke, or wood as the primary source of heat (2.4 percent) within the project area.

		Utility	Bottled, tank,		Fuel oil,	Coal or		Solar	Other	No fue
	Total:	gas	or LP gas	Electricity	kerosene, etc.	coke	Wood	energy	fuel	used
Black Lick Township	515	41.7	8.7	10.5	34.8	0.0	3.5	0.0	0.8	0.0
Blairsville Borough	1,631	89.6	0.8	8.4	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burrell Township	1,495	28.2	3.1	14.5	50.6	1.4	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Center Township	2,024	51.9	1.5	7.4	33.3	2.3	3.4	0.0	0.2	0.0
Homer City Borough	805	90.4	2.2	3	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.0
Armstrong Township	1,161	31.1	13.0	14.2	33.9	2.2	4.0	0.0	1.5	0.0
Brush Valley Township	695	9.1	8.6	12.8	58.1	2.4	7.5	0.0	1.4	0.0
Conemaugh Township	958	37.3	6.8	4.7	46.6	0.8	2.1	0.0	1.8	0.0
Indiana Borough	4,804	74.6	1.1	22	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
Indiana County	34,123	51.7	4.7	12	25.8	1.9	2.6	0.0	0.8	0.1
Pennsylvania	4,777,003	51.3	3.0	16.5	25.5	1.4	1.6	0.0	0.4	0.2

6. Housing

Table 6.4 identifies Median Housing Value and Rent for the project area. Armstrong Township has the highest median housing value, at \$88,100, in the region. Blairsville Borough and Center Township have two of the lowest median housing values in the region (\$59,800 and \$63,000 respectively). These figures are much lower than the median value of Indiana County (\$72,700) and the State (\$97,000). The median rent in most of the region is lower than the state median rent of \$531. This suggests that there is not a high demand for rental units within the area.

	Median Housing	g Median Gross
	Value (\$)	Rent (\$)
Black Lick Township	80,100	392
Blairsville Borough	59,800	395
Burrell Township	74,700	409
Center Township	63,000	439
Homer City Borough	65,100	401
Armstrong Township	88,100	431
Brush Valley Township	70,000	473
Conemaugh Township	65,600	398
Indiana Borough	81,900	447
Indiana County	72,700	426
Pennsylvania	97,000	531

As shown in Table 6.5: Units in Structure, an overwhelming majority of the housing units in the entire project area (with the exception of Indiana Borough at 50.4 percent) and Indiana County are 1-unit, detached, compared to 55.9 percent in Pennsylvania. Black Lick Township and Center Township (78.9% and 78.2% respectively) have the highest number of 1-unit detached housing units in the region. Very few of the units are multiple unit or Boat, RV, Van, etc. There are a low number of mobile homes in the project area compared to the region as well.

	1-Unit	1-Unit		3 or 4	5 to 9	10 to 19	20 or more	Mobile	Boat, RV
	Detached	Attached	2 Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Home	Van, etc.
Black Lick Township	78.9	1.5	2.0	-	-	-	-	17.6	-
Blairsville Borough	66.3	3.6	12.5	4.3	3.4	3.3	4.1	2.0	0.4
Burrell Township	71.5	0.8	2.4	0.9	5.8	1.3	0.7	16.6	-
Center Township	78.2	2.2	3.6	3.3	2.2	0.2	-	10.0	0.3
Homer City Borough	75.5	2.3	8.1	6.3	1.2	0.7	-	6.0	-
Armstrong Township	64.2	0.6	1.3	-	-	-	0.3	33.7	-
Brush Valley Township	74.4	1.1	1	0.2	-	-	-	23.2	-
Conemaugh Township	77.2	-	-	0.7	0.9	0.4	-	20.8	-
Indiana Borough	50.4	3.3	11.1	9.2	9.2	7.4	8.9	0.5	-
Indiana County	66.9	2.3	3.9	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.7	14.6	0.1
Pennsylvania State	55.9	17.9	5.2	4.6	34	2.5	5.4	4.9	0.1

Table 6.6 displays information regarding the several subsidized housing developments operated by the Indiana County Housing Authority within the study area.

		Number of	Size of	
	Name	Units	Units	Туре
Blairsville Borough	Conemaugh Terrace	24 Units	One bedroom and efficiency	Subsidized Public Housing
	Morewood Towers	73 Units	One bedroom	Affordable housing -First story is assisted living facility (services from the assisted living facility ar available to senior residents on a fee basis as well)
Burrell	Chestnut Ridge	25 Units	Two and Three	
Township	Terrace	25 01113	bedroom	Subsidized Public Housing
	Black Lick Manor	25 Units	One bedroom	Subsidized Public Housing
Homer	Parkway	20 Units	One and Two	Affordable housing for
City	I alkway	20 01113	bedrooms	seniors only



According to the Indiana County Housing Authority there are no plans at this time to expand the subsidized housing developments within Southern Indiana County.

Conemaugh Terrace, Mackin 2003

Analysis of Existing Conditions

The housing stock within the project area is, for the most part very good and adequate for residential needs. The project area has not experienced a significant growth in the number of housing units over the last decade (5.1%).

The percentage of owner occupied homes is very high in the Black Lick (86.2%) and Center Townships (80.6%). The project area's homeownership rate is 74.4%, Indiana



Chestnut Ridge Housing, Mackin 2003

County's rate is 71.8% and the State of Pennsylvania's rate is 71.3%. As identified in public meetings, there is the opportunity to build more affordable new housing, especially in the townships where there is available land. This would further strengthen the home ownership rates in the area.

The townships and the boroughs do not have many residential similarities and each area has housing needs unique to their community. Residents view

the new housing developments planned in Center Township as a strength for the study area. The largest concern facing developers, homebuyers, and residents is the lack of community sewage collection and treatment systems. This may discourage potential developers and residents from constructing new homes in certain parts of the townships. It is recommended that the townships extend water and sewer lines to future growth areas as identified on Figure 9-10: Future Land Use Map.

Future Housing Needs

The three townships should begin to identify areas of their communities that can potentially support new residential development. Suitable land exists within the townships for future residential development. These sites should be formally designated and marketed to developers interested in pursuing residential-type housing development. In addition, a Marketing Program should be initiated that includes an attractively designed brochure. The brochure should contain, at a minimum, information about the local government in place including contact name and telephone numbers, times of operation, local tax structure, pertinent fees for relocation, utility information, school district information, emergency service providers and local real estate contact information.

Prior to developing a housing marketing program, it will be imperative that issues such as steep slopes, storm water management, and water and sewer service are addressed so that potential developers can have information readily accessible in the event a site is selected. Municipal officials need to identify locations where land is most feasible to target for infrastructure extension such as water and sewage. Locations that limit development opportunities such as steep slopes should be reserved for open space management and conservation.

6. Housing

Municipal officials in all of the communities should immediately initiate a review of existing ordinances to determine applicability to their current situation. If the ordinances are found to be lacking, the Board of Supervisors or Borough Council should enact property maintenance regulations. Any property maintenance ordinance should be available for public review at the respective municipal building, and should identify who is responsible for enforcement as well.

As housing is developed, particular attention should be paid to the percentage of the population who are aging and who may soon require specialized housing such as assisted living or institutional care. One trend in housing is a full-service retirement community. These types of communities provide housing for a range of persons, including those ablebodied persons who wish to reside in a condominium atmosphere to those who require specialized personal care. While there is an assisted living facility in Blairsville, there is no such retirement community in the project area, this type of development would fill a gap in the housing stock.

Because available land is not as abundant in Blairsville or Homer City Boroughs, officials should focus on improving and marketing the current housing stock. As identified in public meetings, the low cost of living and high quality school districts, could be used to market the housing opportunities in the area especially for young families.

The second story and above of commercial buildings in the downtown areas of Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs were identified as underutilized property during the planning process. An inventory of these properties should be conducted and a marketing brochure promoting these residential opportunities should be created. Providing living spaces in downtown Blairsville would be especially valuable due to the fact that WyoTech's enrollment is increasing and there is an additional need for rental housing for the students. Offering housing in downtown areas also aids in invigorating these areas by increasing the amount of people that will be using the stores and services located in the downtown.

Regarding new construction, municipal officials need to be aware of the Uniform Construction Code. Act 45, the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), is the legislation that governs all building codes across the Commonwealth. Under Act 45, local municipalities are mandated to adopt the UCC and determine how it will be administered and enforced. Municipalities either "opt in" and administer and enforce the UCC themselves (or, through a third-party agency) or "opt out", in which case the Department of Labor and Industry (Department of L&I) will be responsible for administration and enforcement. Although some municipalities currently have building code ordinances, unless these meet and/or exceed UCC requirements, the existing codes are null and void.

If governing bodies decide to retain local control the following options are available to administer and enforce the UCC:

- Utilize municipal employees
- Contract with a third-party agency

6. Housing

- Contract with another municipality
- Utilize an inter-governmental agreement with one or more municipalities to jointly administer a codes program
- Enter into an agreement with the Department of L&I (certain criteria exist for this option which limit the allowable structures for this alternative to apply)

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and Department of L&I are offering incentives to municipalities to choose the intergovernmental option, including funding incentives and different requirements for establishing the required UCC appeals board. Act 45 outlines the specifics relating to the appeals board, however it should be noted that eligible members must be knowledgeable about construction standards and building codes. As this requirement may place certain hardship filling the required slots on the board, municipalities may fill the position with a person who resides outside of the municipality.

Implications to municipalities that "opt in" include identifying the appropriate person to administer and enforce the UCC, provide certification and ongoing training, and establish the UCC Appeals Board. If a municipality would "opt out", non-residential construction compliance would be provided by the Department of L&I, while one and two family residential construction compliance will be the responsibility of the property owner (and completed by a certified third-party agency).

As of the summer of 2004, municipalities should have made a decision as to how the UCC was to be administered in their communities. The project area communities have all decided to "opt-in" to the UCC and the methods of enforcement are listed below.

Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships and Homer City Borough have decided to use the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development as their enforcement agency. The county planning office has employees on staff that are trained to complete the inspections required under the UCC. The county also contracts with a third party agency to provide additional inspectors as needed.

Blairsville will be hiring a third party firm to provide inspectors to enforce the UCC.

A comprehensive transportation system includes a road network capable of handling various vehicular traffic loads, public transportation that meets resident demand and provides alternative transportation methods to the community, and a method to move pedestrians or non-motorized vehicles through the community. In addition, aviation services, water transport and rail travel contribute to transportation system planning, each with its own constraints and benefits. The regional and local transportation systems are shown on Figures 7.1 and 7.2.

Since 1990, the United States Congress has enacted two pieces of legislation which dramatically affects the way long-range transportation planning is done: the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency (ISTEA) now the Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA 21). The CAAA requires planners to explore modes of travel other than personal vehicles to improve air quality and meet the population's transportation demands. ISTEA and TEA 21 require an emphasis on improving mobility and increasing the number of options available for moving people and goods. Transportation planning has to be multimodal and intermodal, in addition, transportation plans and programs must conform to fiscal and air quality requirements, and incorporate a proactive public participation process.

A. Existing Conditions

Road Classification

The capacity of a road network to safely and efficiently move people or goods to a desired destination has long ranging implications and is an important factor when making land use decisions. Accessibility to employment centers and shopping areas are among the top concerns of potential businesses and residents who are looking to relocate. In addition, the ability of local officials to provide services to residents is largely dependent upon, and influenced by, the road network in place.

According to the 2003 PennDOT Liquid Fuels Municipal Allocation report, the project area has a total of 137.8 miles of public roads.

\geqslant	Black Lick Township	24.75 miles
\triangleright	Burrell Township	41.77 miles
\triangleright	Center Township	48.37 miles
\triangleright	Blairsville Borough	14.65 miles
\triangleright	Homer City	8.26 miles

For the purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, the road network has been classified into the following categories (PennDOT, 2000, 2003).

Functional Classification System Service Characteristics: Rural Area System

<u>Interstate Highways, Other Freeways and Expressways</u> – Major highways or streets with a multilane design that serve a large volume of traffic and provide limited access facilities.

There are no roadways within the project area or within Indiana County identified under this classification.

<u>Principal Arterial</u> – Serves statewide or interstate level and all urbanized areas. Provides integrated movements without stub connections. Design of the roadway usually consists of two 12-foot lanes with 8 - 10 foot shoulders and speeds on arterials range from 40- 65 mph.

Within the project area, US Route 22, US Route 119, and PA Route 56 are classified as Principal Arterials.

<u>Minor Arterials</u> – Links cities, larger towns and other traffic generators to provide integrated interstate and inter-county service. Minor Arterials are spaced at proper intervals consistent with population density. Design of the roadway usually consists of two 12-foot lanes with 8 - 10 foot shoulders and speeds on arterials range from 40- 45 mph.

Within the project area, PA Route 286 and PA Route 56 are classified as minor arterial roadways.

<u>Major Collectors</u> – Highways or streets that link towns by distributing trips to small areas or neighborhoods. They provide for a greater amount of mobility than land access and are intended to convey traffic from medium travel distances (generally greater than one mile) and serve

motorists between local streets and arterial roads. The design of Major Collectors usually consists of two 12-foot lanes with 8 - 10 foot shoulders and designs speeds of 35 miles per hour or greater.

Within the project area, PA Route 217, PA Route 954, Market Street (S.R. 2002), Newport Road (S.R. 3009), Black Lick Road (S.R. 3013), Coal Road/Cherry Run Road (S.R. 3017), and Old Route 56 Highway West (S.R. 3056) are classified as Major Collectors.



PA Route 217 in Blairsville, Mackin 2003

<u>Minor Collectors</u> – Roads that enable moderate

quantities of traffic to move between arterial and local roads. These roadways provide for an equal amount of mobility and land access, providing access to adjacent properties. Minor collection roads are usually designed with two 12-foot lanes and 4 - 10 foot shoulders and design speeds of 30 mph.

Within the project area, Yankee Hill Road (S.R. 3001), Thompson Road (S.R. 3008), Old US Route 119 Highway South (S.R. 3035), and Fire Academy Road (S.R. 2019) are classified as Minor Collectors.

<u>Local Roads</u> – Roads with a principal function of providing direct access to adjacent properties. Local roads are intended to provide mobility within a particular neighborhood, or to one of the other road types. Local roads are usually designed to be 20 - 22 feet wide (one lane in each direction) with 2 - 8 foot shoulders and design speeds of 25 mph.

All other roadways within the project area are classified as Local Roads.

According to traffic data released in 2002 by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Annual Average Daily Traffic (ADT) numbers for roadways located within the project area are are displayed in Table 7-1. The AADT numbers are typical daily traffic volumes on a road segment for all the days in a week, over a one-year period. The volume represents total traffic in both directions.

Table 7-1					
Annual Average Daily Traffic (ADT), 2002					
ADT for highest traffic volume roadways in project area					
US Route 22	17,000				
US Route 119	13,000-17,000				
PA Route 286	6,100-7,400				
PA Route 56	2,100				
PA Route 217	2,100-9,900				
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transporta	tion, 2004				

ADT numbers for Homer City show that the US 119/PA Route 56 intersection ranges from 13,000 to 17,000 daily. Within the borough itself, the traffic numbers range from 2,100-4,700 on Indiana Street/Main Street/Old US Route 119 Highway South (S.R. 3035 and S.R. 3056) to 6,900 at the junction of Main Street/Elm Street/Ridge Avenue (S.R. 3056) and Old US Route 119 Highway South (S.R. 3035).

ADT numbers for Blairsville reveal that the borough experiences significant travel volumes on PA Route 217 (2,800-9,900 vehicles per day) and Market Street/Old Route 22 Road (S.R. 2002) (8,300-9,000 vehicles per day).

Regional Road Network

The county does not have an interstate highway or expressway system. The major roadways in the study area are US Route 22 and US Route 119 and are classified as Principal Arterial Highways. These principal arterials provide connections to major population/economic centers within the county. US Route 119 provides access from the southern portion of



US Route 119 outside of Homer City, Mackin 2003

7. Transportation

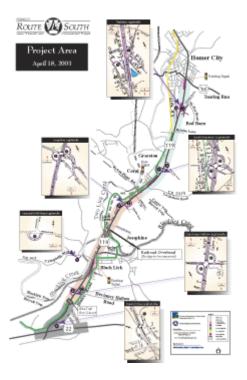
the county to the county seat of Indiana Borough and north to Jefferson County. US Route 22, running east and west, can be considered a major roadway to the project area, as it is the highest traveled throughway.

Minor arterials also play an important role in the network of roadways within the county. PA Route 56 runs east and west and connects the project area with the surrounding townships of Brush Valley and East Wheatfield.

Indiana County has one significant roadway improvement project underway. The US Route 119 Widening Project is being completed by PennDOT and involves construction of a four-lane limited access roadway from the US Route 22 interchange to Indiana Borough. The project began in the fall of 2002 and is scheduled to be completed in late summer of 2005. PennDOT has created a web site (<u>http://www.119south.com/widening/default.asp?ID=1</u>) that tracks the progress of the US Route 119 project.

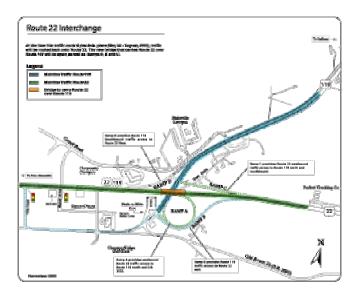
Once completed the project will include:

- ° Widening 7.1 miles of Route 119 from two lanes to four lanes
- [°] A new bike trail from the Hoodlebug Trail to a point near John P. Saylor Park in Burrell Township
- ° Nine jughandles built at various intersections along Route 119
- ° Four noise walls in Coral/Graceton, Black Lick, Homer City and Red Barn
- ° A concrete bridge over Blacklick Creek
- [°] A new traffic signal at the intersection of Route 119 and Luciousboro Road and improvements to the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Sheetz in Black Lick and at State Route 56 in Homer City



http://www.119south.com/widening/mappingW.asp?ID=1

PennDOT began the US Route 22 interchange project in August of 2001 and completed it in November of 2003. The project was an effort to reduce congestion and improve safety and efficiency of the heavily traveled roads.



http://www.119south.com/interchange/mappingI.asp?ID=2

Public Transportation

IndiGO, established in 1979, provides public transportation services to Indiana, Homer City, Graceton, Coral, Josephine, Black Lick, Blairsville, Center, Aultman, McIntyre, Coal Run, Jacksonville, Iselin, and Clarksburg.

In addition to the extensive network of fixed routes throughout the county, IndiGO offers shared ride services for a slightly higher fee. The shared ride service is a curb-to-curb service, which originates at the passenger's home and ends at their required destination. IndiGO buses are also equipped with bike racks to accommodate intermodal transportation.

There are limited trips for senior citizens to Pittsburgh for medical appointments on Tuesday and Thursday. The facility is operated from White Township and is open five days a week, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. IndiGO operates daily transit services from Indiana to Blairsville. Running several shuttles, the transit service allows residents within the project area easy access to busses with zones established along US 119, US 22, and PA Route 56. Fares are based upon established zones. IndiGO can be contacted by visiting their Website <u>www.indigobus.com</u> or by calling (724) 465-2140.

Despite the availability of public transportation, residents expressed their desire to have additional trips to locations such as Greensburg and Pittsburgh.

7. Transportation

IndiGO is currently considering additional trips for Wyotech students from the campus in Southern Indiana County to Indiana, Greensburg, Pittsburgh and other cities in the region.

Railways

The rail-freight system in Pennsylvania is well developed and with over 5,000 miles of active rail lines in the Commonwealth. Two rail companies provide freight transport within the study area, the Norfolk and Southern Railroad and the CSX Railroad.

Plans are currently proposed to purchase a section of CSX lines by Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc. If approved by the Federal Surface Transportation Board, the rail company will begin delivering coal from Rosebud Mining based in Freeport, Armstrong County to the generation plant for Reliant Energy in Homer City.

No major concerns were identified during the planning process regarding rail traffic within the project area.

Airport

While the Indiana County Airport (Jimmy Stewart Field) is not in the project area, it is the closest operating airport because the Jim Shearer airport in Burrell Township is no longer in service.

The Indiana County Airport encompasses over 200 acres located in Indiana, Pennsylvania. The facility averages approximately 70 flights per day and has approximately 40 aircraft based at the field. A breakdown of the airport usage is as follows:

- 77% local general aviation
- 19% transient general aviation
- 2% air taxi
- 1% military

One asphalt landing strip is available and is in good condition. Future improvements include extending the runway by 1,500 feet to accommodate larger aircraft.

An updated Airport Master Plan and a Purpose / Need Study have recently documented the need for the runway extension. Preliminary design work on the



Aerial view of the Indiana County Airport, <u>http://www.airnav.com/airport/IDI</u>, 2004

extension should begin in late 2004 following the successful completion of a Benefit / Cost Analysis (BCA) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the runway extension construction area. Two consultants are preparing the draft final reports for the BCA and EA.

No major concerns were identified during the planning process regarding air traffic within the project area.

Pedestrian Network

Hoodlebug Trail

The Hoodlebug Trail is a recreational / commuter trail located in the central portion of Indiana County and is maintained by the Cambria and Indiana County Trail Council and Indiana County Parks. The trail follows the abandoned Indiana Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Homer City Borough and Indiana Borough.

Currently, five miles of contiguous trail are open for use between Indiana and Homer City.

As part of the US Route 119 widening project in Burrell Township the Hoodlebug Trail is being expanded from Homer City through Burrell Township and into Blairsville to connect with the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy Trail network that extends into Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties.



Hoodlebug Trail at Homer City Floodway Park, Mackin 2003

The trail expansion project, which will follow state and

township road right of ways, is being undertaken by the Cambria and Indiana Trail Council, The Indiana County Parks Department, The Blairsville Improvement Group, Blairsville Borough, and Burrell Township and is expected to be completed by 2005.

For a map of the existing and proposed Hoodlebug Trail see Figure 7.1.

B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

The transportation network within Burrell Township, Black Lick Township, Center Township, Blairsville Borough, and Homer City Borough provides adequate movement of people, goods and services. For the most part, the road network is in good condition and provides access to all areas within the project area and the region. Two railroad companies compliment the transportation network and their facilities allow for the movement of freight into and out of the project area.

Road Network

US Route 22, US Route 119, and PA Route 217 are the major truck routes through the area. US Route 22 is a major east-west corridor in southern Indiana County. There is approximately a nine (9) mile section of US Route 22 in the study area. It travels through the northern section of Blairsville Borough and heads east toward Ebensburg. US Route 119 is a major north-south corridor in southern Indiana County. It travels through Blairsville Borough in the southern section of the county and continues north through Homer City Borough and into Indiana, Pennsylvania. PA Route 217 is a major north-south corridor in southern Indiana County. It travels from the Westmoreland County line north through Blairsville Borough and heads north to its intersection with PA Route 286.

Several issues should be addressed regarding the local road network. Concerns such as traffic congestion, speed and roadway conditions were among the top concerns of residents as identified during the public participation process. As seen during field views and through discussions with the local municipalities, there is a significant amount of truck traffic through the study area due to local industries. Some of the roadways with heavy volumes of truck traffic are PA Route 217, Market Street/Old Route 22 Road (S.R. 2002), US Route 22, US Route 119, and Black Lick Road (S.R. 3013).

Many unsignalized intersections throughout the study area were observed to have inadequate sight distance. Some of the intersections noted to have sight distance problems are as follows:

- North Walnut Street (S.R. 2003) and Ranson Avenue in Blairsville Borough
- PA Route 217 and Newport Road in Burrell Township
- Black Lick Road (S.R. 3013) and Thompson Road (S.R. 3008) in Black Lick Township
- Old Route 56 Highway West (S.R. 3056) and Johnson Road in Center Township



Black Lick Road and Thompson Road in Black Lick Township, Mackin 2003

The minimum safe stopping sight distance is defined as the

minimum distance required by a driver traveling at a given speed to stop the vehicle after an object on the roadway becomes visible to the driver. To help minimize vehicular accidents,

intersections within the study area with inadequate sight distance should be located and mitigation measures should be taken to obtain minimum stopping sight distances. Throughout the study area, the following signing issues were noted:

- Signs do not meet the minimum requirements for height and/or location;
- Warning signs do not exist at some locations that may have a hazardous roadway condition; and
- Speed limit signs do not exist in some areas.

Roadway signs are placed within the roadway right-of-way in order to provide regulations, warning, and guidance to vehicular and pedestrian traffic along roadways. Input received during the planning process indicated that people were concerned about pedestrian and vehicular conflicts. It is recommended that the municipalities locate areas where signing is insufficient and implement a replacement strategy. Municipal officials should incorporate the placement of pedestrian signing amenities such as crosswalks to further raise awareness regarding pedestrian safety.

During the public participation activities, the high amount of truck traffic on some of the roads, especially Market Street and PA Route 217, were repeatedly mentioned. While the major complaint was the congestion caused by commercial vehicles traveling though the Downtown Blairsville Business District, which was verified by field views, other negative impacts mentioned were damaged roadways and the dirt and noise created by trucks that lessened the appeal of the shopping district. While a bypass would redirect the commercial vehicles around the downtown business district, the possibility exists that private vehicular traffic would also choose the alternative route thereby removing potential business from the area. It is strongly recommended that a traffic study be completed that would investigate the feasibility of alternate truck routes and their corresponding impacts. Any traffic study that is undertaken should meet specifications identified in the 1993 PennDOT manual *Publication 201*, "Engineering and Traffic Studies."

The condition of existing roads was also mentioned throughout the planning process as a concern. According to the public survey that was completed during the planning process, 24.7% of respondents would like public officials to focus on roads / parking. This tied for the second highest response on the public survey.

One way to ensure proper road maintenance is to implement a road maintenance plan. This plan would determine how each road within the municipality would be maintained (barring any road emergency). Other ways to ensure proper maintenance would be to work with neighboring municipalities to share resources in terms of money, equipment and manpower. Directing funding to maintaining existing roads before focusing on new roads is another way to improve the existing road network.

The regional planning agency, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), has been designated as the agency that determines how federal transportation funds are spent in southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC's membership includes at least two members from each county's Board of Commissioners. More information on SPC and its programs can be found on there web site at <u>www.spcregion.org</u>.

SPC produces a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) every four years. It would be very beneficial for the communities within the project area to form a committee that prioritizes the transportation projects in the area and then takes this prioritized list to the county commissioners. The commissioners would then have a clear idea what projects should be supported in order to be listed on the TIP.

In addition to the TIP, SPC produces a Long-Range Plan that is a 25-year plan. The most recent being the 2030 Long-Range Plan, which addresses three major components:

- Quality of Life and Community Development
- Economic Development
- Transportation

The Long –Range Plan is a fluid document, which changes as needed and lists the TIP projects as well as longer-term projects.

The projects within the study area that are listed on SPC's 2003-2006 TIP are shown in Table 7-2.

Table 7-2: Southern	Indiana County Projects	on the 2003-2006 TIP	
Municipality	Project Name	Description	Cost
Blairsville Borough	Blairsville Interchange		\$2,288,000
Burrell Township	SR119 South	Widen to 64 ft.	\$39,186,140
Black Lick	SR 3008/SR 3013	Intersection	\$690,000
Township	Homer City Power	improvements,	
	Plant	horizontal/vertical	
		curve flattening	
Burrell Township	Blairsville Secondary	Construct 12-mile	\$407,000
		extension of existing	
		Ghost Town Trail	
		along Blairsville	
		secondary line	
Blairsville Borough	Borough of Blairsville	The trail extension to	\$200,000
	Trail (Hoodlebug	connect Hoodlebug	
	Extension)	and Ghost Town Trail	
		to the Borough of	
		Blairsville	
Blairsville Borough	Hoodlebug Extension	The creation of a key,	\$248,000
		regional trail	
		connection designed	
		to link non-motorized,	
		multi-use trails that	
		are serving other	
		towns and regions of	
		the state	
Blairsville Borough	Hoodlebug Extension	Trail Extension	\$117,000
	North		

Public Transportation

Although public transportation services are available to the project area, residents expressed their desire to have expanded services. Among the priorities for such an expansion include the need to have trips to metro areas such as Greensburg and Pittsburgh. It is recommended that the communities address public transportation needs from a regional perspective.

One Park N Ride is located within the project area at the interchange of US 119 and US 22, in Burrell Township. During the planning process, it was discovered that residents felt that the Park N Ride facility should be promoted more to increase use. It would be wise for



Bus stop on Market Street in Blairsville, Mackin 2003

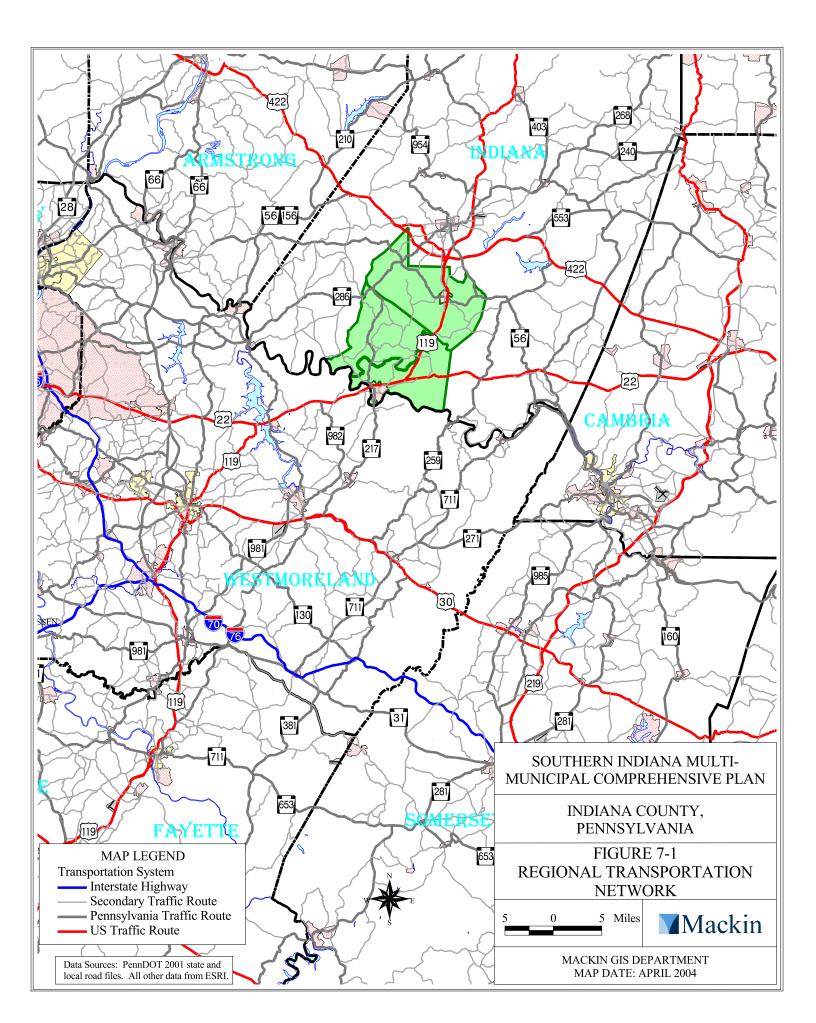
the communities to take the steps necessary to work with PennDOT to increase use of the facility.

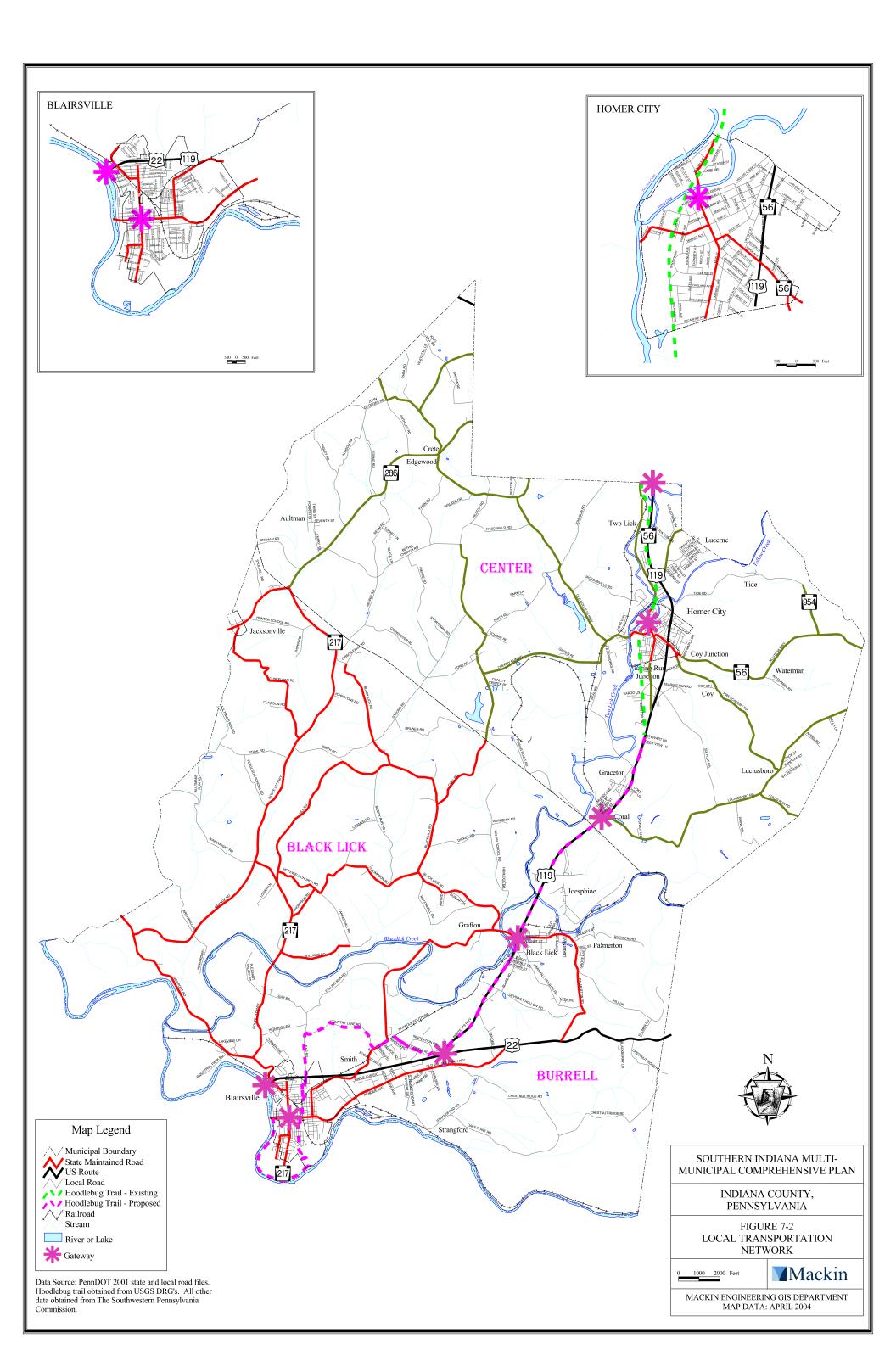
Pedestrian / Bicycle Network

One way to enhance a pedestrian network is to ensure that the sidewalks are in good condition. A sidewalk maintenance program can help the boroughs or townships prioritize sidewalk maintenance issues and ensure that the sidewalks are in good condition for pedestrians to use. It is also important to ensure that sidewalk networks are complete by providing connections especially between residential neighborhoods and schools, recreation facilities and businesses where appropriate. The Hoodlebug Trail provides an opportunity to extend pedestrian amenities for Homer City and Black Lick and Blairsville (once the extension is complete).

Requiring sidewalks as part of new subdivisions can also aid a community in providing an adequate pedestrian network.

Bicycles are also a way for pedestrians to get around their communities. Providing bicycle parking in downtown areas and destinations such as schools and recreation facilities is an important way to encourage bicycle use.





Recreation is an important factor to the quality of life of a community. This section examines the public and private parks and recreation amenities offered throughout the project area as well as the types of organizations that oversee them.

A. Existing Conditions

Blairsville Borough

T he Blairsville Board of Parks and Recreation is comprised of 9 members who have the responsibility of overseeing the recreation facilities within the borough. The borough employs three staff persons-one of whom is the director who administers the daily operations and supervises the borough staff. Their offices are in the Blairsville Community / Recreation Center. The Board of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the following parks and recreation facilities:

<u>Blairsville Community/Recreation Center</u> located at 101 North Lane in Blairsville Borough, the Community / Recreation Center is a joint effort between the borough and Blairsville School District. The Center operates hours of 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM Monday through Friday and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. The Center has a Health Center that is open to men and women 16 years of age or older and includes two weight rooms, a cardiovascular room, steam room, whirlpool, shower rooms, gym, and a senior citizens room.



Blairsville Community Center, Mackin 2003

<u>American Legion Community Park</u> – located behind the Community / Recreation Center on land originally donated to the borough from the American Legion in the 1970's. The park was built in 1994 in the borough's effort to centralize all their parks. The park has the following facilities – tennis courts, ball fields, basketball courts, golf driving range, ¼ mile track, pavilion, and playground equipment.

<u>Wyotech Park</u> – formerly known as Charley Park, is located in a floodplain from the Conemaugh River that is partially owned by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The Park contains three ball fields that are utilized by six local organizations. Blairsville High School also utilizes the ball fields located in WyoTech Park.

<u>Waterfront Park</u> – located along the Conemaugh River off of Main Street, this is a passive recreation site that consists entirely of open space. The only facility present is a boat launch available to the public.

Blairsville Borough also owns the building and tennis courts located at Blairsville High School. The borough maintains the grounds and leases the tennis courts to the high school for \$1 / year.

The Blairsville Board of Parks and Recreation also offers a variety of recreational programs including:

- Lady's Pickup Volleyball
- Men's Pickup Basketball
- Men's Pickup Volleyball
- Ski Club
- Kindergym
- Formula for Success
- Arts in the Parks
- Concert in the Park
- Ski Program
- Christmas Tree Program
- Diamond Days

Burrell Township

The Burrell Township Park Board oversees the parks and recreation facilities and programs located within Burrell Township. The road crew for the township maintains the parks. The Board is comprised of 9 members (7 appointed by the township and 2 appointed by the Blairsville Saltsburg School District) whom are appointed to four terms. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month. The following parks are located in Burrell Township:

<u>Burrell Township Park</u> – located on Park Drive in the Village of Black Lick, Burrell Township. Facilities available include a basketball court, two ball fields, a playground, and a pavilion with indoor restroom facilities. The park is located behind the township building, thus parking is available if shared with the building.

John P. Saylor Park – located on Old Indiana Road alongside Black Lick Creek. Facilities at the park include two ball fields, two gazebos, two pavilions with grills, restroom facilities, a playground (three climbers, swings, slide), a horseshoe pit and a walking trail.

<u>Pine Ridge Park</u> – an Indiana County Park located between Old Route 22 and Chestnut Ridge Road in Burrell Township



Gazebo at Saylor Park, Mackin 2003

that is maintained by the Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department. The property for Pine Ridge Park was purchased in 1966 and 1967 by Indiana County,

primarily with federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. The park is 630 acres and provides a variety of recreation amenities. Most of the park remains undeveloped and there are several miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails

throughout the park. The park is bisected by Tom's Run, which offers trout fishing through the PA Fish and Boat Commission. There are also picnic tables, grills, playgrounds, restrooms and pavilions nearby. Pine Lodge is located in the southern portion of the park and is available for group rentals for events such as reunions, meetings, weddings, receptions, and other social gatherings. The Lodge features a kitchen, restrooms, activity rooms, a deck, and two stone fireplaces. A two-acre pond is available for catch-and-release fishing. A playground is also located near the Lodge



Pine Lodge, http://www.indianacountyparks.org

(http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/pr/pr.html).

Also located in Burrell Township is the old Blairsville Swimming Pool that is now closed. The pool itself is filled in with dirt and rocks while the tennis courts and pavilion at the site remain open to the public. The Blairsville Rotary Club donated the tennis courts to the township. Ample parking is available at the site.

The Burrell Township Park Board offers a summer program that consists of supervised play and organized activities for elementary school age children. This program runs daily at the Burrell Township Park in the morning and early afternoon during the months that school is not in session.

Homer City Borough and Center Township

The Homer Center Parks and Recreation Board is a joint board in charge of overseeing the parks and recreation programs for Homer City Borough and Center Township. The three partners that formed the Board, Homer Center School District, Homer City Borough and Center Township, provide all the funding for the Board. The Board meets once a month and consists of nine members who are appointed by the School District to twoyear terms. The Board employs one paid full-time staff member, the Director of Parks and Recreation, one part-time maintenance worker from March to October and part-time summer employees to staff the pool.

The following seven parks are under the Board's jurisdiction:

<u>In-Town Park</u> – located on Wiley Street in Homer City Borough next to the Victory Baptist Church. In-Town Park is 1.8 acres and contains an all grass ball field, a tennis court, basketball court, and playground equipment. There is no dedicated parking available at the park; only on street parking, however it is located near the center of the borough and within walking distance for most residents.

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

<u>Floodway Park</u> – located near the intersection of Jacksonville Road and Station Street where Two Lick Creek meets Yellow Creek in Homer City Borough. Floodway Park is a linear park of 3.03 acres that also serves as a Trailhead for the Hoodlebug Trail. Facilities at the park include two ball fields, a large pavilion with picnic tables, playground equipment and a paved jogging course with workout stations that surrounds the park. Also located across Jacksonville Road is a



basketball court. Adequate parking is available at the park and it is located near the Homer City Historical Society.

<u>Sportsman Park</u> – located on Neal Road in Graceton, Center Township. Also known as Coral Graceton Park, Sportsman Park is the largest municipally owned park in Center Township, at approximately five acres. Facilities at the park include a ball field with bleachers, basketball court, tennis court, playground area, and a pavilion without picnic tables. Parking is available although extremely limited.

<u>Risinger Park</u> – located on Old Route 119 in Myr-Walt, Center Township. Risinger Park is approximately 2 acres and facilities present include a ball field, playground equipment (climber, tire swing, slide), basketball court, and stone benches. Signing identifying the park is present but there is no parking available at the site.

<u>Lucerne Park</u> – located along Lucerne Street in the residential area of Lucerne, Center Township. This is a neighborhood park of approximately 5 acres, most of which is a large open field. There is also a basketball court and playground area.

<u>Aultman Park</u> – located on 7th Street in Aultman, Center Township next to the Volunteer Fire Department. Aultman Park is approximately 2 acres and facilities include a basketball court, a pavilion without picnic tables, some playground equipment, and a small area of open space. Parking is shared with the VFD.

The Homer Center Parks and Recreation Board also oversees the Homer City Pool, which is located on Harrison Street in Homer City. The pool opened approximately 50 years ago and consists of a baby pool, a large pool ranging from 3 to 10 feet in depth, and a building containing shower rooms, restroom facilities, and a concession stand.

Recreational programs sponsored by the Board include the following:

- Beginners Basketball (for elementary school children)
- Tennis Classes (summers)
- Adult Morning Walk (winters)
- Recreational Adult Basketball

Volunteers from the communities run the programs and classes. There are no current plans by the Board to expand services and programs or update facilities.

Also located in Center Township is the FMC Sports Complex, a 50-acre parcel located on Booster Road in Red Barn, which is owned by Center Township and maintained by the Homer City Area Athletic Boosters Club. The FMC Sports Complex is approximately 50 acres and includes Syntron Softball Field; a baseball field; soccer field; football field with bleachers, concession stand, grand stand building, and locker rooms for players; pavilion; picnic tables; several storage buildings; and indoor restroom



FMC Complex, Mackin 2003

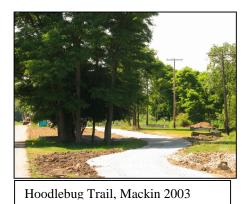
facilities. Many sports organizations utilize this complex, including Tee Ball, Little League Baseball, Junior Little League Baseball, Junior American Legion Baseball, Senior American League Baseball, Midget Football, Biddy Basketball, and Girls Elementary Basketball.

Black Lick Township

There are no municipally owned parks or recreation facilities located in Black Lick Township. There is a privately owned recreational club, the Loyalhanna Hunting Club as well as the Municipal Building, which also serves as a community center.

Regional Trail System

The Hoodlebug Trail is a recreational / commuter trail located in the central portion of Indiana County and is maintained by the Indiana County Parks Department. The trail follows the abandoned Indiana Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Homer City Borough and Indiana Borough. The Hoodlebug Trail is open year-round for non-motorized activities, including bicycling, hiking, and cross-country skiing.



The Blairsville Secondary is a trail that is

planned along a former rail corridor from the Hoodlebug Trail, near Black Lick to the intersect with the Ghost Town Trail near Dilltown.

Currently, five miles of contiguous trail are open for use between Indiana and Homer City. Eventually the trail will extend south into Blairsville. (http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/ht/ht.html).

Hoodlebug Trail

Location Indiana to Graceton in White and Center Townships, Indiana County

Trailheads Red Barn, Homer City, Indiana

Length, Surface 7 miles planned, 5.5 miles completed

Character Uncrowded, wooded, shady, slightly rolling

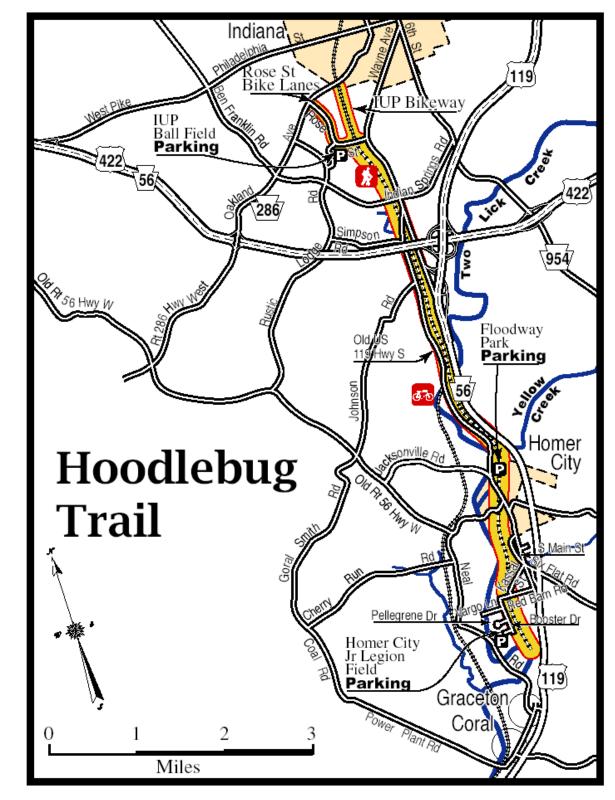
Usage restrictions No motorized vehicles

Amenities Food, lodging

Source: http://shaw-weil.org/supplement/Hoodlebug%20Trail.htm

The following is a diagram that depicts the trail's alignment:

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan



Source: http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/ht/ht.html

$8. \ Parks \ and \ Recreation$

B. Analysis of Existing Conditions

The communities of Southern Indiana County provide a variety of parks and recreational facilities. They have taken a proactive approach to ensuring that they are providing recreational amenities that fulfill their residents' needs.

Recreation Providers

Within the project area study communities, there area three Parks and Recreation Boards that oversee parks and recreation for the municipalities.

As a joint effort between Blairsville Borough and Blairsville School District, the Blairsville Board of Parks and Recreation is active in efforts to improve the recreation facilities and services offered in the borough. The Board received a DCNR grant of \$12,500 (which requires a local match) to conduct a Master Site Plan for Wyotech Park. The Board also received a Transportation Enhancements grant from Penn DOT to extend the Hoodlebug Trail into Blairsville through Wyotech Park. Indiana County manages the funding for the borough.

The Burrell Township Recreation Board works cooperatively with the Blairsville Board of Parks and Recreation. Burrell Township leases the land along the Conemaugh River where the ball fields are to Blairsville and the two boards share park maintenance equipment. The borough and the township have discussed in the past the opportunity to combine the two into one recreation board to provide joint recreation services to both Blairsville and Burrell.

Homer Center Parks and Recreation Board is already a joint board to oversee parks and recreation services in Homer City Borough and Center Township. There are no plans to upgrade or improve the existing facilities or develop new recreation opportunities in either municipality.

Within the project area, Black Lick Township is the only community without a Parks and Recreation Board or a municipally owned park. Black Lick Township should look to enter into an agreement with a neighboring parks and recreation board so that its residents can utilize neighboring facilities and realize recreational opportunities in the future.

Facilities

Recreation sites were evaluated using the Parks and Recreation Assessment Tool shown in Appendix II. Each site was observed, using the assessment tool, through field views conducted during the planning process. Recreation sites and equipment were then rated as being in good, fair or poor condition (sites in poor condition should be examined by municipal officials who can then place these sites on a priority list for state and federal funding for repair or replacement of equipment). The following analysis reflects the information gathered during field views and from the responses received during the public participation process.

Blairsville Borough

<u>Blairsville Community / Recreation Center</u> – The Community / Recreation Center offers a variety of programs to area residents. The building, though old, is adequate to meet current needs.

<u>American Legion Community Park</u> – The American Legion Community Park is located near the center of Blairsville and is in good condition. There is however no signage present that indicates the park's name, location, or hours. It is recommended that the borough install a sign along the main road to identify the park. Planned improvements include the construction of a skateboard park at this site.

<u>Wyotech Park</u> – Currently this park is mainly open space with the exception of the three ball fields. The borough has a DCNR grant to complete a master site plan for Wyotech Park. Initial planned improvements include improving the existing three ball fields, developing a parking lot near Morewood Avenue, installing dugouts and bleachers at the fields, constructing restroom facilities and a pavilion with picnic tables near the Little League Girls Softball Field. When the Hoodlebug Trail is extended, it will parallel the river in the park and the borough would like to construct a canoe ramp to allow boaters to access the river at the park. This site plan has been expanded to include all of the borough leased property along the Conemaugh River.

<u>Waterfront Park</u> – As a passive recreation site, the park is open space with a public boat launch. Boaters in the region use this boat launch heavily. Future plans include the potential to develop this park as a Trailhead for the Hoodlebug Trail, once the extension is complete. There is also potential to develop this park as a Trailhead for the potential bicycle route along Campbell Street.

Burrell Township

<u>Burrell Township Park</u> – This facility is somewhat outdated and the township should look to update the facilities. The basketball court is in need of repair and the swings should be replaced. The township should also install a sign indicating the park's location and hours.

<u>John P. Saylor Park</u> – Saylor Park is a large park with a variety of facilities. The park is in need of general repair and maintenance, which would greatly improve the aesthetics of the facility. This is an important site as well due to its location at the junction of the future Hoodlebug Trail extension and the future Blairsville Secondary connection to the Ghost Town Trail. The ability of this park to meet the needs of trail users should be considered as well in terms of restrooms, adequate pavilions, benches, bike parking, etc. <u>Pine Ridge Park</u> – As an Indiana County Park, all maintenance, improvements and plans are dependent upon the Indiana County Parks.

<u>Old Blairsville Swimming Pool</u> – This is a recreation site that is in poor condition. The pool has been closed since 1999 and is currently filled with dirt and rocks. The township should make a decision regarding the future of this site and plans to either remove the facilities present or refurbish them. The tennis courts and pavilion are in need of severe maintenance.

Homer City Borough and Center Township

<u>In-Town Park</u> – In-Town Park is a nice facility located in a residential area of Homer City Borough. The tennis and basketball court are in excellent condition and the ball fields are in good condition. The borough should look to replace the playground equipment in the park, as it is old and should be updated.

<u>Floodway Park</u> –As a Trailhead for the Hoodlebug Trail, Floodway Park is an important site to not only residents of Homer City, but also in the region. The ball fields and basketball court are in fair condition, with minor maintenance needs such as weeding and resurfacing. There is a wooden work out course that surrounds the park that has parts missing or broken and should either be replaced or removed. The borough should focus attention on this park, as it is an attraction within the region.

<u>Sportsman Park</u> – This park is in good condition overall, although Center Township should look to replace the playground equipment. The ball fields and courts present only need general maintenance and minor repairs.

<u>Risinger Park</u> – The facilities in Risinger Park are somewhat old and in need of maintenance and repair. Playground equipment is old, wooden and should be replaced. The basketball court is also in need of resurfacing.

<u>Syntron Softball Field</u> – The field appears to be in fair to good condition with minor maintenance needs.

<u>Lucerne Park</u> – This recreation site is a nice neighborhood park that is primarily used by residents in the immediate area. Although the open field is well maintained, attention should be given to the basketball court that is located downhill from the road. There are no pathways through the grass that lead to the court and the surface of the court needs to be repaved.

<u>Aultman Park</u> – Aultman is a small neighborhood park that is in need of severe maintenance. Playground equipment is in poor condition and should be replaced; the basketball court has drainage problems; the pavilion has no tables, needs a fresh coat of paint, and the roof needs to be repaired; and fencing is rusted and bowed.

<u>Homer City Pool</u> – The pool has been in operation for over 50 years and improvements have been made in the last year. The renovations were made possible from a \$40,000 state grant along with matching funds from Homer City Borough, Homer Center School District and Center Township. The monies allowed for the replacement of the filtration system, remodeling the restrooms, placing new stucco on the building, as well as replacing the refrigerator and freezer in the concession stand.

Indiana County Park, Recreation and Open Space plan

At the time of adoption of the Southern Indiana County Comprehensive Plan, the Indiana County Park, Recreation and Open Space plan was in the final stages. The five project area communities should be aware of any recommendations contained in the Indiana County Park, Recreation and Open Space plan, particularly with respect to Pine Ridge Park because it is located within Burrell Township.

T he Land Use section is a culmination of the previous elements of this comprehensive plan. It provides the existing land use data and identifies how land should be allocated in the future based on community input.

This section is the cornerstone from which municipal officials will make decisions regarding future development. Several important issues will have long-range implications and have been incorporated into the land use plan recommendations and future land use map. Specifically, this issue of how to maintain the desirable residential small town character in the boroughs and the rural atmosphere in the townships is addressed. Another issue is how to preserve the geographic and environmental characteristics while developing the future transportation and recreation facilities and services recommendations.

A. Existing Conditions

T he existing land use of the five municipalities in the study area presents an interesting study of the natural constraints presented by topography and those created by limited infrastructure in the townships. The two boroughs have a well-developed residential section with a mix of housing that includes single and multi-family dwellings. The townships on the other hand, consist of scattered residential areas primarily made up of single-family dwellings. Commercial corridors are established along the main streets in Blairsville and Homer City as well as US Routes 22 and 119, which run through Burrell and Center Townships. The industrial uses throughout the study include light industrial parks, a power generating plant, factories and mining operations.

Land use for this study was divided into the following categories and can be found on Figure 9-1:

- Agricultural: Includes land being used predominantly for agricultural purposes –the commercial production and preparation for market of crops, livestock and livestock products and the production, harvesting and preparation for market or use of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural, and aquacultural crops and commodities.
- Agricultural / Residential: Farm land that also has a dwelling unit.
- Commercial: Included in this category are areas that contain retail shopping, automotive, financial, professional, governmental and miscellaneous recreational and service activities to which the



Southern Indiana County Farm, Mackin 2003



Homer City BiLo Foods, Mackin 2003

9. Land Use and Natural Resources

public requires direct and frequent access.

- Community Facilities: This classification is defined as any building or structure owned or operated by a governmental agency or nonprofit community service provider to grant a service to the public. Included in this category are municipal offices, fire departments, ambulance providers, police departments, post offices, and churches.
- Heavy Industrial: Included in this category are uses such as factories, mills, and transportation companies.
- Light Industrial: This category includes dwellings or sites that are involved in such activities as construction, car demolition, and earth moving or excavation.
- Mixed Use: This category includes parcels that are used for more than one purpose. Most commonly, buildings that have commercial space on the first floor and residential or office space on the upper floors.
- Open Space: Open space is defined as unimproved land.
- Recreation: Land currently used for passive or active recreation purposes and open to the public. This includes private and publicly owned parks and recreation lands that may include swimming facilities, skate parks, playgrounds, ball fields, etc. or passive recreation facilities such as trails and picnic areas.
- Residential Multi-Family: This category includes dwellings inhabited by more than one family (apartments, town homes, duplexes).
- Residential Single-Family: This category includes all dwellings used for single-family residential purposes.



Church within the study area, Mackin 2003



Homer City Power Plant, Mackin 2003



Blairsville Store Fronts, Mackin 2003



Floodway Park, Mackin 2003



Blairsville Housing, Mackin 2003

Special: This designation is used for Chestnut Ridge in Burrell Township. Chestnut Ridge is a special land use designation because it includes a golf course, housing, open space and a restaurant.

• Transportation: land that is primarily used for the movement of people, goods and services within a community. This includes all roadways, alleyways, parking areas, railroads, canals, airport facilities, and other multi-modal facilities.



Chestnut Ridge, Mackin 2003

The project area covers a total of 58,839 acres. As shown in Table 9-1, the majority of this land is categorized as open space.

Table 9-1, Land Use	
Agriculture / Agriculture	25.5%
with Residential	
Commercial	1.0%
Community Facility	1.0%
Industrial	2.4%
Mixed Use	0.2%
Open Space	49.9%
Recreation	2.4%
Residential	14.1%
Low Density	
Residential	0.2%
High to Medium Density	
Special	0.7%
Transportation	*
* Negligible amount	

Methods of Land Use Control

A community has various tools to control how land can be used. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gives such authority to local governments so that officials can "protect the public health, safety and welfare" (DCED, 1999, p. 1). Municipal officials apply these tools to achieve the community development goals of their community and fulfill the goals of the comprehensive plan. Such regulation is essential to maintain the orderly and timely growth of a municipality. Land use controls include zoning ordinances as well as subdivision and land development ordinances (SALDO).

A zoning ordinance establishes regulations regarding the use of land and the intensity of development that may occur on a particular parcel or parcels. A SALDO contains requirements for the creation of new lots or changes in property lines and ensures that the new roads, water and sewer lines and drainage systems are constructed to municipal standards. Currently, Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs do have an adopted zoning ordinance and a subdivision and land development ordinance.

Blairsville currently has the following ten zoning districts:

- Single Family Residential-1
- Single Family Residential-2
- Two Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Commercial and Residential
- Retail Business and Commercial
- General Business and Commercial
- Manufacturing
- Special
- Public and Semi-Public

Homer City currently has the following five zoning districts:

- General Commercial
- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Industrial
- Flood Plain

The current zoning map for Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs can be found on Figures 9-2a and 9-2b respectively. The Townships of Black Lick, Burrell and Center do not currently have either an adopted zoning ordinance or a subdivision and land development ordinance.

The five municipalities that share this plan are connected and linked together by their geographic location, their history, and their natural resources. The history of this region is steeped in its natural resources, and the communities have relied on the surrounding land, rich in coal, to exist and prosper. Factories, plants and mines are scattered about the landscape leaving a reminder of the history of the region.

The preservation of the environmental features of an area is an important step in the development of a future land use plan. Due to the large amount of environmentally sensitive lands in each of the townships (especially in Black Lick and Center Townships) that remain undeveloped, it is essential to identify the natural features and the methods used to protect and conserve them.

Topography and Steep Slopes

Wide ridges separated by broad valleys and rolling hills with narrow, relatively shallow valleys characterizes much of this section of Western Pennsylvania. The topographic relief, or slope of the region, ranges from 2,160 ft on the highest hilltop on Chestnut Ridge to approximately 900 feet along Black Lick Creek.

Slopes greater than 25% are located throughout the study corridor. They are primarily located along the shores of Two Lick Creek in Center Township, Black Lick Township,

and Burrell Township; along the shores of Blacklick Creek in Burrell Township and Black Lick Township; larger areas scattered in Burrell Township; and small areas throughout the entire project area. Refer to Figure 9-3 for steep slope locations (SPC, 2003).

Geology

Pennsylvania is divided into numerous physiographic provinces. A province is defined as a region in which all parts are similar in geologic structure, climate, relief, and have a unified geomorphic history. The study area is primarily located in the Pittsburgh Low Plateau Section of the Appalachian Plateau Province; however, a small area in the eastern portion of the study area is located in the Allegheny Mountain Section of the Appalachian Plateau Province. This province covers much of western and southwestern Pennsylvania including all of Westmoreland, Armstrong, and Indiana Counties and most of the numerous other counties within the region.

The majority of the project area has topography of smooth to irregular, undulating surfaces; narrow, relatively shallow valleys; and strip mines and reclaimed land. The eastern portion has more wide ridges separated by broad valleys and ridge elevations decreasing toward the north.

The geological formations underlying the study area province can be broken into two periods: Pennsylvanian and Mississippian. Each of these periods represents a different time period in the Earth's geologic history. The specific rock groups and their locations are identified in the following table (Table 9-2) (PADER, 1980):

PERIOD	FORMATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Pennsylvanian	Monongahela Group	Cyclic sequences of limestone, shale, sandstone, and coal; commercial coals present; base is at bottom of Pittsburgh coal.	A north-south linear swath west of Black Lick Creek that extends from southern Center Township to eastern and southeastern Black Lick Township and through Blairsville.
Pennsylvanian	Casselman Formation	Cyclic sequences of shale, siltstone, sandstone, red beds, thin, impure limestone, and thin, nonpersistent coal; red beds are associated with landslides; base is at top of Ames limestone.	Most of the project area west of Black Lick Creek; extends from the northern boundary of Center Township through Blairsville to the southern and western boundaries of Black Lick Township.
Pennsylvanian	Glenshaw Formation	Cyclic sequences of shale, sandstone, red beds, and think limestone and coal; includes four marine limestone or shale horizons; red beds are involved in landslides; base is at top of Upper Freeport coal.	A linear swath along both banks of Black Lick Creek; scattered patcher in Homer City and eastern Burrell Township south of Black Lick Creek.
Pennsylvanian	Allegheny Group	Cyclic sequences of sandstone, shale, limestone, clay, and coal; includes valuable clay deposits and Vanport Limestone; commercially valuable Freeport, Kittanning, and Brookville- Clarion coals present; base is at bottom of Brookville-Clarion coal.	Scattered patches in the project are east of Black Lick Creek in Center Township and Burrell Township.
Pennsylvanian	Pottsville Group	Predominantly gray sandstone and conglomerate; also contains thin beds of shale, claystone, limestone, and coal; includes Olean and Sharon conglomerates of northwestern Pennsylvania; thin marine limestones present in Beaver, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties; minable coals and commercially valuable high-alumina clays present locally.	Scattered patches in the project are east of Black Lick Creek in Center Township and Burrell Township.
Mississippian	Mauch Chunk Formation	Grayish-red shale, siltstone, sandstone, and some conglomerate; some local nonred zones. Includes Loyalhanna Member (crossbedded, sandy limestone) at base in south-central and southwestern Pennsylvania; also includes Greenbrier. Along Allegheny Front from Blair County to Sullivan County, Loyalhanna Member is greenish-gray, calcareous, crossbedded sandstone.	Scattered patches in the project are east of Black Lick Creek in Center Township and Burrell Township.
Mississippian	Burgoon Sandstone	Buff, medium-grained, crossbedded sandstone; in places, contains conglomerate at base; contains plant fossils; equivalent to Pocono Formation of Valley and Ridge province.	Scattered patches in the project are east of Black Lick Creek in Center Township and Burrell Township.

Table 9-2 Southern Indiana County Description of Local Geology

Mine Subsidence

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) defines mine subsidence as the movements of the ground surface as a result of the collapse or failure of underground mine workings. In active underground mining methods, subsidence can occur concurrently with the mining operation in a predictable manner; however, in abandoned mines, it is virtually impossible to predict if and when subsidence would occur.

Figures 9-4 to 9-8, prepared by the PADEP – Mine Subsidence Section, indicate undermined areas in the five study area municipalities. For both Blairsville and Homer City, the majority of the downtown area does not appear to have been undermined. In addition, Burrell Township appears to have only a few scattered undermined areas. However, most of the eastern part of Black Lick Township appears to have been deep mined. And, most of Center Township has been mined at some point in history. According to the PADEP, if a site or area has been undermined, there is always potential for mine subsidence. Currently, no methods exist to accurately predict the probability of an area to subside. More general information regarding mine subsidence, including information on mine subsidence insurance, is available on the PADEP Mine Subsidence Internet site (www.pamsi.org).

<u>Soils</u>

Soil is produced through the interaction of five natural forces: climate, plant and animal life, parent material, topographic relief, and time. The degree and influence of each of these factors differ from place to place and influence characteristics of the soil.

General knowledge of the soil associations within an area is useful for planning. These associations can provide background information for determining suitable land uses for land tracts. In addition, this information is useful for watershed management, forestland management, and community development.

Areas of prime agricultural land exist within the five municipalities within the study area. The definition of "prime agricultural land" in Pennsylvania, according to *Executive Order* 2003-2 signed in 2003, is as follows:

- a. in active agricultural use (not including growing timber);
- b. lands devoted to active agricultural use the preceding three years; and
- c. fall into at least one of the categories of land State agencies shall provide protection to "prime agricultural land" under this Executive Order based upon the following levels of priority:
 - 1. Preserved Farmland (Highest Priority)
 - 2. Farmland in Agricultural Security Areas (Second Highest Priority)
 - 3. Farmland enrolled in *Act 319 of 1974, As Amended (Clean and Green)* or *Act 515 of 1996, As Amended* (Third Highest Priority)

ri se n or n e

- 4. Farmland Planned for Agriculture Use and Subject to Effective Agricultural Zoning (Fourth Highest Priority)
- 5. Land Capability Classes I, II, III, and IV Farmland and Unique Farmland (Fifth Highest Priority)

As identified in Figure 9-3 (SPC, 2003), prime agricultural soils exist in scattered pockets throughout the project area. Two more dense regions lie in Burrell Township, one area on the north shore of the Conemaugh River and another area in the eastern section of the township.

Table 9-3 describes the six different soil associations found in the project area (US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, 1968):

Table 9- 3 Southern Indiana County Soil Classifications						
SOIL Association	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS	LOCATION			
Gilpin-Wharton- Upshur	Medium-textured and moderately fine textured soils on broad, gentle uplands; on gently sloping and moderately sloping benches; on moderately sloping to moderately steep hills; and on narrow, rolling hilltops	Moderate to severe limitations for residential development; problems include ineffective septic tank systems, wet basements, and unstable foundations	Northwestern portion of the project area including most of Center Township			
Gilpin-Wharton- Cavode	Medium-textured soils on moderately sloping to moderately steep valley slopes and broad, gently sloping hilltops and benches	Moderate to severe limitations for residential development; problems include soils too shallow for septic tank systems and seasonal high water table	Western area of the project area including most of Black Lick Township and the southern portion of Center Township north and south of Black Lick Creek			
Gilpin-Clymer- Wharton	Medium-textured soils on broad, gently sloping and moderately sloping uplands	Slight or moderate limitations for residential development; problems include ineffective septic tank systems and potentially unstable foundations	Northeastern section of the project area in Center Township			
Gilpin- Westmoreland- Guernsey	Medium-textured soils on moderately sloping to moderately steep valley slopes, gently sloping benches, and rolling hills	Moderate to severe limitations for residential development; problems include ineffective septic tank systems, wet basements, and unstable foundations	Linear swath on both the right downstream bank and left downstream bank of the Black Lick Creek and Two Lick Creek; includes Homer City and Blairsville			
Dekalb-Clymer- Cookport	Medium-textured and moderately coarse textured soils on steep valley slopes, on ridges, and on broad, gently rolling ridgetops	Clymer soils have slight or moderate limitations for residential development; Dekalb soils have severe limitations because they are shallow; Cookport soils have severe limitations because of a high water table	Eastern portion of the project area, including Center Township and Burrell Township			

<u>Streams</u>

T 11

The major landscape feature for water resource studies is the watershed boundary. Figure 9-9 displays the watersheds within the project area. A watershed is defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake, or groundwater. Because watersheds are defined by natural hydrology, they represent the most logical basis for managing water resources. The resource becomes the focal point, and managers are able to gain a more complete understanding of overall conditions in an area and the stressors,

which affect those conditions. This entails a strategy that crosses municipal boundaries and requires a great deal of coordination, cooperation, and communication within and between municipalities sharing the same watershed.

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. Watersheds are delineated based on topography and ridgelines. Every stream has an individual watershed. Large watersheds such as the Conemaugh River can be divided into smaller watersheds, such as the Black Lick Creek or Two Lick Creek watershed. If an unnamed tributary (UNT) flows directly into the Conemaugh River, then it is part of the Conemaugh River watershed. If an UNT flows into Black Lick Creek, then it is part of the Black Lick Creek watershed. Therefore, the UNTs located on the mapping are all a part of the larger Conemaugh River watershed.

Table 9-4 lists the general characteristics of the larger watersheds in the project area (US Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1989):

Stream Name	River Mile	Municipality	Drainage Area (mi ²)	PADEP Classification*
Conemaugh River	27.10	Black Lick, Blairsville, Burrell	1,373	WWF
Two Lick Creek	10.72	Black Lick, Center, Homer City	192	TSF
Black Lick Creek	16.44	Black Lick, Burrell, Center	418	TSF
Yellow Creek	6.53	Center, Homer City	66.3	TSF

Table 9-4: Southern Indiana County Watershed Information

* As designated by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards; TSF = Trout Stocked Fishery; WWF = Warm Water Fishery



Photo 9-1 Conemaugh River

The **Conemaugh River** originates in Johnstown, Cambria County and flows northwest for approximately 50 miles until it is joined by the Loyalhanna River to form the Kiskiminetas River (Photo 9-1). The Conemaugh River flows through Black Lick Township, Burrell Township, and adjacent to the Borough of Blairsville. It has been classified by the PADEP in the Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards as a Warm Water Fishery (WWF), meaning that this river provides for the maintenance and propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna, which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

The Conemaugh River has been historically plagued by acid mine drainage (AMD). Mining that occurred between the late 1800's to the mid 1940's left refuse coal material along the river and unregulated abandonment of the mines left many streams in the area polluted with AMD (Photo 9-2).



Photo 9-2 Acid Mine Drainage Pollution in Unnamed Tributary to the Conemaugh River

Abandoned, or acid in this case, mine drainage (AMD) is metal-rich and typically highly acidic water that comes mainly from abandoned coal mines. It is the main source of non-point source (NPS) pollution in surface water in this area. Many serious problems arise from AMD, including contaminated drinking water, plant and animal growth and reproductive problems, and corrosion of infrastructure. AMD is both a severe ecological and economical problem.

A coalition of grass-roots groups and local resource agencies formed the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) to restore and promote the Upper

Conemaugh watershed, and although the projects undertaken by this group have occurred upstream of the project area, these improvements have positively impacted the health of the river within the project area (SCRIP, 2003).

A field view was conducted to review the general stream conditions of the Conemaugh River. Streambed condition was not evaluated due to the large size of the stream. However, the condition of the riparian zone was assessed. The streambank surfaces are covered by vegetation (some native and some invasive – invasive species are discussed in the <u>Ecological Habitat</u> section of this plan), indicating sufficient riparian buffer to protect from streambank erosion. Riparian buffers, areas of vegetation on and near the shore of a body of water, are extremely important to the stability of the ecosystem for numerous reasons. Riparian buffers function to slow the rate of streambank erosion, reduce the



Photo 9-3 Conemaugh River Lake

sediment and pollution that enters the stream from the surrounding uplands, and provide cover and habitat for many plants and wildlife.

Little evidence of litter or trash was identified along the field viewed sections of this stream. Efforts should be made to minimize impacts and conserve this valley and buffer area if development should occur near this stream.

The Conemaugh River Lake (Photo 9-3) is located in the southwestern portion of the study area in both Black Lick Township and the Borough of Blairsville. The reservoir is

owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) maintains the lands adjacent to the lake for wildlife habitat.

Because of damage from AMD in the area, it was once thought that the Conemaugh River Lake would never support life again. However, because of stricter environmental regulations and AMD abatement projects in the watershed, the lake is supporting a viable fish population once again. Largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, perch, and bullhead species have been found in the lake (USACOE, 2003).

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will be constructing a 10acre wetland next to the Conemaugh River Lake along Blacklick Creek to mitigate for impacts from the State Route 119 South Improvement Project. The Conemaugh Habitat Improvement Club will be implementing habitat improvement projects to enhance this mitigation wetland (Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment, 2003).



Photo 9- 4 Blacklick Creek from Campbells Mill Bridge

Blacklick Creek originates in Cambria County and flows west for approximately 35 miles where it enters the Conemaugh River at the Burrell Township/Derry Township boundary (Photo 9-4). It flows through three municipalities in the project area: Black Lick Township, Burrell Township, and Center Township. The PADEP has classified this stream as a Trout Stocked Fishery (TSF), which means that this stream provides for the maintenance of stocked trout from February 15 to July 31 and maintenance of propagation of fish species and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a warm water habitat.

This stream, like so many others in this area, has also been severely degraded as a result of AMD (Photo 9-5). However, through Federal 319 Nonpoint Source grants (USEPA) and Growing Greener Watershed grants (PADEP), the watershed has been showing signs



Photo 9- 5 Evidence of Acid Mine Drainage in Black Lick Creek

of improvement. Three water treatment sites along Black Lick Creek are either operational or in the process of becoming operational to treat the AMD polluted water (SCRIP, 2003).

A field view was conducted to review the general stream conditions of Black Lick Creek. Streambed condition was not evaluated due to the large size of the stream. However, the condition of the riparian zone was assessed. The streambank surfaces are covered by vegetation (some native and some invasive – invasive

species will be discussed later in the <u>Ecological Habitat</u> section of this plan), indicating sufficient riparian buffer to protect the streambank erosion.

Little evidence of litter or trash was identified along the field viewed sections of this stream. Efforts should be made to minimize impacts and conserve this valley and buffer area if development should occur adjacent to this stream.

Two Lick Creek is the third largest watershed in the project area with a drainage area of 192 square miles (Photo 9-6). The headwaters begin in Indiana County near the small town of Clymer and flow south for approximately 20 miles where it enters Black Lick Creek near the town of Black Lick. The PADEP has classified this stream as a TSF.



Photo 9- 6 Two Lick Creek near Coral-Graceton area

Because of the extensive mining that occurred in this area, Two Lick has also been impacted by AMD. However, because of the ongoing projects in the Black Lick watershed, six miles of Two Lick Creek is now supporting reproducing trout populations, and the Two Lick Reservoir (located north of the project area), which supplies the nearby town of Indiana with its drinking water, now supports Walleye and Bass populations.

A field view was conducted to review the general stream conditions of Two Lick Creek. Streambed condition was not evaluated due to

the size of the stream. However, the condition of the riparian zone was assessed. The streambank surfaces are covered by vegetation (some native and some invasive – invasive species will be discussed later in the <u>Ecological Habitat</u> section of this plan), indicating sufficient riparian buffer to protect the streambank erosion. Little evidence of litter or trash was identified along the field viewed sections of this stream. Efforts should be made to minimize impacts and conserve this valley and buffer area if development should occur adjacent to this stream.



Photo 9-7 Yellow Creek in Homer City

Yellow Creek originates in Yellow Creek State Park and flows southwest for approximately 10 miles where it empties into Two Lick Creek (Photo 9-7). The PADEP has classified this stream as a TSF. Yellow Creek is also designated as "Approved Trout Waters" by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), meaning that it meets criteria qualifying it to be stocked with trout by the PFBC. These waters are closed to all fishing from March 1 to the opening day of trout season. As with most of the streams in the project area, Yellow Creek has also felt the effects of AMD. The Yellow Creek Stream Restoration Project, undertaken by the Black Lick Creek Watershed Association, has been restoring life to this historically polluted stream utilizing passive treatment wetlands systems.

A field view was conducted to review the general stream conditions of Yellow Creek. Streambed condition was not evaluated due to the large size of the stream. However, the condition of the riparian zone was assessed. The streambank surfaces are covered by vegetation (some native and some invasive – invasive species will be discussed later in the <u>Ecological Habitat</u> section of this plan), indicating sufficient riparian buffer to protect the streambank erosion. Little evidence of litter or trash was identified along the field viewed sections of this stream. Efforts should be made to minimize impacts and conserve this valley and buffer area if development should occur adjacent to this stream.



Photo 9-8 Cherry Run – Poor Riparian Zone and Evidence of Erosion

Several other small streams in the project area were field viewed and similar conditions were noted for each. Typically, the smaller streams in areas of development have degraded riparian buffer zones (Photo 9-8). Because of the lack of vegetation in the riparian area, many of these streams experience excessive sedimentation. Sedimentation, a form of NPS pollution, may result from stream bank agricultural runoff, construction site encroachments, stream bank erosion, and sewage effluent. An excess of sediments can cause severe damage to aquatic ecosystems. Stream channels accumulate sediments

resulting in an increased potential for flood events, which in turn creates an increase in stream bank erosion. Sediments can also result in increased turbidity or cloudiness of the waterway. Damage to aquatic life is also a result of sedimentation, including destruction of habitats, smothering of plant life, and clogging of gills on fish. Water treatment plants can also be affected by this accumulation through a reduction in storage capacity, a decrease in water quality, and blockage of pipes in the system.

Aultman Run, which flows through Black Lick Township, has been and will be undergoing assessments and improvements in the near future. Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment (AWARE) recently released a watershed assessment entitled "Water Quality and Riparian Health Watershed Assessment for the Aultman Watershed, Indiana County, Pennsylvania." The results of this assessment indicated that the Aultman Run watershed is in poor condition due to past mining activities and a poor riparian buffer. Suggestions for project, actions, and planning efforts for the watershed's water and biological resources, waste management, and recreational enhancement are included in this plan. This plan should be consulted during the planning process for Black Lick Township. Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution is the greatest source of water quality degradation within the United States because it is difficult to measure and highly variable. These are sources that cannot be traced to a specific point of discharge or origin. NPS pollution is typically the result of adjacent land uses including storm water runoff, sedimentation, abandoned mine drainage, and lack of vegetated stream banks. Some sort of NPS pollution impacts many of the streams in the project area and specific sources are identified and addressed throughout this section of this plan.

Point source pollution, also known as end of the pipe discharge, occurs when the pollutant involved can be traced to one definable source. Typically these pollutants include industrial discharges and sewage discharges. Since there are areas without sewer service within these municipalities, there is a possibility that point source pollution affects the streams in the area.

Stream bank fencing is a simple way for landowners, including farmers, to improve water quality in the streams on their property and in other areas downstream in their watershed. It provides many benefits to both the landowner and the environment. These benefits include:

- a. Stabilizes stream banks and reduces soil erosion
- b. Improves water quality
- c. Improves fish and wildlife habitat
- d. Protects any herds by reducing livestock's contact with water-borne bacteria and reducing the risk of foot and leg injuries that may occur as the livestock go in and out of the stream

To address pollution in local streams from dust and sediment from local roadways, Pennsylvania instituted their "Dirt and Gravel Road Pollution Prevention Program [Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code (§9106)]" in 1997. This program was initiated to help communities fund "environmentally sound" methods of maintaining unpaved roadways that have been identified as sources of dust and sediment pollution. Center Township has completed a project on Graham Road and has plans to undertake several more in the upcoming years. Black Lick Township also has plans to participate in this program in the future.

A joint water obstruction and encroachment permit should be sought from the PADEP for any and all stream crossings to minimize streambank erosion, excess sediment deposition, and degradation of instream habitat. The PADEP, US Army Corps of Engineers, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Indiana County Conservation District will review this permit. By following the proper permitting procedures, minimal impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat would occur.

Floodplains

The one hundred and five hundred-year floodplains are generally narrow and restricted by the steep slopes that border some of the corridor. Still, there are areas at great risk for flooding at locations adjacent to the Conemaugh River, Two Lick Creek, Black Lick Creek, and Yellow Creek. Flood prone areas are shown on Figure 9-9.

Flood management and insurance rates are coordinated through the National Flood Insurance Program. This program, which was established by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, was an effort to reduce the damage and hazards associated with flood events. To accomplish these goals, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducts routine flood insurance studies, which investigate the severity and existence of flood hazards throughout the country. The results of these studies are then used to develop risk data that can be applied during land use planning and floodplain development.

In addition to the flood hazard data provided by FEMA, the National Weather Service (NWS) operates river forecast points at several locations along the river. River flood stage information is available through recorded messages, the NWS Internet site (<u>www.nws.noaa.gov\er\pitt</u>), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) also maintains copies of FEMA studies and related flood hazard investigations. This information as well as other flood hazard assistance is available through the ACOE, Pittsburgh District Office.

Wetlands

Figure 9-9 displays the wetlands in the project area. Wetlands can be defined as transitional layers between terrestrial and aquatic environments where the water table often exists at or near the surface, or the land is inundated by water (Photo 9-9) (Cowardin, Carter, Golet, LaRoe, 1979). As such, wetlands frequently exhibit a combination of physical and biological characteristics of each system. Three factors are recognized as criteria for wetland classification: the presence of hydric soils; inundation or saturated conditions during part of the growing season;



Photo 9-9 Wetland adjacent to Weir Run

and a dominance of water-loving vegetation (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). Wetlands perform many valuable functions for a community, such as water retention, sediment trapping, toxic material retention, flood flow alteration, and wildlife and aquatic habitat.

Over 50 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands are located within the study area (US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service). The Conemaugh River itself

is designated as a lacustrine wetland (Photo 9-1). Lacustrine wetlands can occur in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel, lack trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% aerial coverage.

Ecological habitats



Photo 9-10 Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum)



Photo 9-11 Multiflora rose bush (Rosa multiflora)



Photo 9- 12 Common reed grass (Phragmites australis)

Both municipalities fall within the Great American Hardwood Forest – Appalachian Region. Large forested areas provide the backbone that link habitats and allow plant and animal populations to shift and move across sizable portions of the landscape.

In addition to large forested tracts being essential to wildlife habitats, riparian buffers are crucial to the quality of a stream. A riparian forest buffer is defined as an area of trees, usually accompanied by a scrub/brush component and other vegetation that is adjacent to a body of water. Many of these buffers have been eliminated from streams and rivers in the region.

Invasive vegetation can take over an ecological habitat and destroy the natural habitats. Any plant growing where it is not wanted and having objectionable characteristics, such as aggressive growth, or noxious properties that cause allergic reactions or poisoning are considered as invasive vegetation. The introduction of these invasive species dates back to the earliest arrivals of explorers and settlers to the region. Their ships were carriers of a wide variety of seeds and invasive animals. Seeds were present in hay bales, natural packaging, and in food products.

When invasive species become established in forestlands, on stream banks, or in wetlands, they tend to suffocate out native vegetation. This leads to the reduction of the biological diversity of the area; decrease in wildlife habitat or the area, and in some situations, the degradation of water quality and reduction of the recreational value of an area.

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan



Photo 9- 13 Garlic mustard (Alliara petiolata)



Photo 9- 14 Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)

Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum), multiflora rose bush (Rosa multiflora), common reed grass (Phragmites australis), and garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) thrive in disturbed situations and in edge areas where sunlight is abundant and competition form woody plants is low (Photos 9-10 to 9-13). Japanese knotweed is most prevalent along riverbanks and riparian zones. Once established, it forms large monospecific stands, which displace all native vegetation. These stands, which are extremely persistent, have been found to be virtually impossible to eradicate. Japanese knotweed has been identified along most of the streams in the project area.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), probably more aggressive than Japanese knotweed, adapts readily to natural and disturbed wetlands (Photo 9-14). It forms dense, homogenous stands that restrict native wetland plant species.

Several types of protected habitat areas exist within this project area. The State Game Lands (SGL) system was established in 1920 by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to ensure wild animals always have food and shelter. This system currently contains about

300 separate tracts comprising a total of about 1.4 million acres (PGC, 2003). Each SGL has an individual management plan designed to improve wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities. Hunters, anglers, hikers, birdwatchers and other wildlife enthusiasts are welcome on State Game Lands. Camping, removal of plants, swimming, travel by motorized vehicle, and removal of fish or wildlife, except during open season, is strictly prohibited on SGLs.

Two SGLs exist within the five municipalities under study in this plan. SGL 276, approximately 3,940 acres, is located along the eastern portion of Center Township and Burrell Township, and SGL 153, approximately 2,930 acres in size, is located in the southern portion of Burrell Township and extends south into Westmoreland County.

Another type of protected habitat area exists near the project area. An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site that is recognized globally for its bird conservation value. The National Audobon Society administers this program in the United States and these areas are monitored by volunteer efforts. IBAs were established to promote habitat

conservation by focusing attention on ways to avoid habitat fragmentation, suburban sprawl, and overbrowsing by deer. The Yellow Creek State Park IBA is located approximately 20 miles east of the project area. This IBA is approximately 3,140 acres in size and provides nesting areas for Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).

Air Quality

Air pollution is the nation's largest environmental health risk. Two hundred million tons of toxic emissions pollute the air in the United States each year. Much of this pollution is created by human influences, such as industry, power plants, cars, and trucks. Since air pollution is not confined to a specific area, it affects everyone.

This project is in the Southwest Pennsylvania Regional area, but is not located within one of the 13 PADEP's designated air basins (PADEP, 2003). The Air Quality Index (AQI) for PADEP Southwest Region, which reports on levels of five major air pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide daily, was below 50 when this plan was prepared, signifying the highest rating (good) on PADEP's website. Numerous sources of air pollution including ozone (O₃), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), methane, and fine particulates could affect this area. While each source is produced by different conditions, the burning of fossil fuels, automobile emissions, industries, and power plants are the primary producers of air pollution.

The Homer City Generating Station, owned by Midwest Generation – Edison International, is located southwest of the Borough of Homer City in Center Township. This station, one of the largest coal-fired power plants in the world, supplies energy to customers in Pennsylvania, Jersey, and Maryland Power Pool. Between 1999 and 2001, Midwest Generation made a large investment to install state-of-the-art pollution controls to its three coal burners. According to Midwest Generation, their Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions are "well below current state and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits" (Midwest Generation, 2003).

B Anaylysis of Existing Conditions

Land Use

The municipalities in the Southern Indiana County project region include areas that have considerable development along with opportunities for new development due to the presence of vast amounts of undeveloped or vacant land.

Through the public participation process, residents, business owners and community leaders identified areas that they considered to be strengths and weaknesses of their communities along with areas that provided opportunities for or were perceived threats to future development. Common themes arose as to what the residents of all five municipalities desire for the future of their communities. Most important to the residents of Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships is the wish to maintain the rural atmosphere while encouraging development. Similarly the small town feeling in both boroughs is considered a strength. The losses of farmland and open space as well as the amount of heavy truck traffic using local roadways are viewed as threats to the future of the communities.

Residents of the study area expressed their opinion that trails, agriculture, streams and woodlands are positive images for their community. They also share common views on what they would like to eliminate from their communities, including dumping, junkyards and acid mine drainage.

Pennsylvania Growing Smarter and Growing Greener principles guide municipalities who wish to promote sound land use practices. Such efforts include promoting a mix of land uses and providing a range of housing opportunities in order to attract new residents. Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships may gain the most from implementing these principles because the strategies encourage infill development and conservation design in subdivision, which would protect the desired rural atmosphere.

Figure 9-10 displays the future land use map that has been created based on field views, public involvement efforts, and reviews by the municipals' officials to ensure that the areas targeted for future development are consistent with the overall goals of the comprehensive plan. These targeted growth areas are also consistent with the Water Supply Plan for Indiana County as well as future infrastructure plans for Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships. The land use classifications identified for the future land use maps are as follows:

Agricultural

This category includes lands that are appropriate for continued agricultural use based on soil suitability, a history of farm use, tract size, ownership patterns, location, and surrounding uses.

The protection of viable farmland is especially important to the Black Lick and Center Townships as is evidenced by the creation of agricultural security areas. As stated

earlier, over 25% of land in the project area is currently being used for agricultural activities.

With the presence of commercial and residential development in Burrell Township, there is less land available for farming and related activities.

Single Family Residential

These areas are characterized by single-family homes and planned residential developments that contain less than 4 dwelling units per gross acre and which may utilize lot clustering (or similar techniques) to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Burrell and Center Townships are experiencing housing growth. Areas surrounding the towns of Black Lick, Josephine, and the Smith Plan in Burrell Township, as well as the land surrounding the coal patch towns in Center Township, have been identified as areas suitable for residential development.

Black Lick Township has not experienced a significant growth in housing, which is due in part to the large agricultural security parcels as well as the lack of public water and sewer in the township (only one small portion in the northwest portion of the township currently has public water and sewer). The area surrounding the existing infrastructure in the town of Jacksonville has been identified as suitable for residential development.

Multi-Family Residential

These areas have been designated for small lot single-family homes or town homes, duplexes, triplexes, apartment and condominium developments and mobile home parks that contain 4 to 15 dwelling units per acre. In addition, other developments in this category may include institutional buildings such as educational uses and assisted living facilities.

Offering a variety of choices for future residential development was a desire expressed by current residents. Public input gathered during the process indicated there is a need for additional condominiums and town homes within the project area. Land use regulations should incorporate appropriate standards and occasions where multi-family housing may be permitted in more upscale residential areas. Expanding the sewage and water infrastructure in the townships will be the first step that must be taken by municipal officials if they desire to attract new housing development.

Areas that can support higher density residential development are located in Blairsville near the Conemaugh River from Quarry Street to Penn Street and along PA Route 22 across from Dean's Diner.

Highway Commercial

Land in this category includes high intensity commercial uses such as big-box retail, large department stores, strip malls, and financial institutions that are combined in the same land area with light industrial uses such as an office park, manufacturing and minor assembly facilities.

This category is intended to provide a wide variety of retail shopping and miscellaneous recreational and service activities generally serving the immediate area. Future regional commercial uses should be targeted for mixed-use developments located along major roads and highways.

Areas identified for highway commercial development include sections of the PA Routes 22 and 119, which can support a mix of commercial and residential uses.

Mixed Use

This category includes a mix of commercial, office and residential uses. Mixed-use development is intended to provide retail space on the first floor of buildings and residential or office space on the upper floors in established downtowns.

The downtown areas of both Blairsville (Walnut and Market Streets) and Homer City (Main Street) have been identified as suitable for mixed-use development.

Light Industrial

This category is for the development of lands to be used by industries that have high standards of performance and do not create nuisances. These types of developments can locate in areas convenient to high-density residential areas and are in close proximity to business uses.

There are numerous areas within the project area that can support light industrial uses. The Corporate Campus in Burrell Township as well as the Serrel Industrial Park in Blairsville, have a light industrial designation. Other areas include the land surrounding the vacant Jim Shearer South Airport in Burrell Township as well as the following areas in Blairsville, the land off of PA Route 22 near Dixon Street and a strip of land in the northwest section of the borough near the railroad corridor off of Walnut Street. The current industrial area off of St. Clair Street where FMC Technologies is located in Homer City was also identified as light industrial.

Heavy Industrial

Land to be used for manufacturing (and related) activities should be located in an environment where the effects of undesirable characteristics such as odor, dust, and noise upon surrounding residential and/or commercial areas are reduced.

Industrial development should be limited to existing locations and to the areas that can support intense uses and have the available infrastructure in place. Restricting development to these areas will protect the rural character of the municipalities, which was identified as one of the qualities of life enjoyed by the residents.

With the presence of the Homer City Generating Station, Center Township has land already being used for heavy industry. Therefore, the areas along Power Plant Road are designated as heavy industrial uses.

In Homer City, the area bounded by Railroad Avenue and Two Lick Creek has a heavy industrial designation as well.

Open Space

This land classification includes undeveloped areas (i.e. forests, farmlands, open fields, floodplains, wetlands, scenic views, recreational areas, and historic sites) that may have important ecological functions or contain natural resources / cultural resources that are worthy of conservation and protection.

Many areas, especially in flood plains as well as game lands, throughout Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships received this dedication. Small portions of Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs have been designated for open space as well. Because the boroughs are primarily built-out, areas designated as open space are not as abundant as those found in the townships. Open space is an important and integral part of the preservation of the rural atmosphere that characterizes this region.

Recreation

Land uses in this category include private and publicly owned parks and recreation lands for active or passive recreation activities / facilities.

The Conemaugh River was identified as one of the strengths of the project area – in regards to recreation potential. As stated earlier, the land along the river is located in a flood plain and therefore limits the opportunities for development. Therefore the communities should capitalize on the natural and scenic resources provided by the river's presence.

In Center Township, land along Tide Road and Yellow Creek is designated for recreation. The portion of land at the end of Church Street near Sara Street in Homer City has the potential to be a small neighborhood park as well.

<u>Special</u>

This category includes planned residential areas that incorporate mixed uses of residential and recreation and may include resort communities and golf course residential communities.

Chestnut Ridge in Burrell Township falls into this category.

The project area includes five communities that have varying degrees of development opportunities. Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs are, for the most part, "built out", meaning that there is very little undeveloped or vacant land available for development. Black Lick and Center Townships are primarily residential communities with small pockets of commercial and / or industrial uses. Burrell Township is an area that is growing significantly in terms of light industrial and commercial activity along the PA Route 22 and 119 corridors.

Future development in Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs should be primarily limited to reuse of structures and / or infill development. Infill Development is the adaptive reuse of existing land, which basically means taking an existing building or site and converting it to a new use. Vacant buildings or lots can be reused to better benefit the community. Reuse or infill development can include housing, commercial or passive recreation sites.

Black Lick and Center Townships offer the most opportunities for new development. Both municipalities have undeveloped land that would support residential development. In addition, both communities have land that would be adequately suited for recreational facilities as well as a mixed-use commercial or industrial development. The township supervisors in these two municipalities should focus efforts on areas that already have infrastructure in place such as roads, sewer and water or on areas that can be easily connected to existing infrastructure systems (see Figure 4-1).

As mentioned earlier, Burrell Township is already experiencing a large amount of growth in the commercial and industrial sectors. This growth is happening in part because of the road improvement projects to PA Routes 22 and 119. In order to ensure that any future development occur in an orderly and timely fashion, the township supervisors should investigate the possibility of creating a zoning ordinance. Because development occurring in Burrell Township also affects surrounding municipalities, working with the other communities in the study area to create a joint zoning ordinance would only serve to strengthen the land use development throughout the whole study area.

Residential development continues to be a desire and need expressed by current residents throughout the planning process. The project area lacks a good supply of multi-family housing. Public input gathered during the planning phase indicated there is a need for additional apartments and town homes within the project area. Land use regulations should incorporate appropriate standards to encourage additional multi-family housing in more upscale residential areas. Expanding the sewage and water infrastructure throughout the townships will be the first step that must be taken by municipal officials if they desire to attract new housing development.

The availability of development along the Conemaugh River remains limited as most of the riverfront is in the floodplain. Input received through public meetings and surveys indicated the need for increased recreation and public space.

Commercial development should be concentrated along PA Routes 22 and 119 as well as Market Street in Blairsville and Main Street in Homer City and aesthetic improvements should be made to improve appearances of these areas in the project area communities. Blairsville is in the process of creating special guidelines for the facades in their Market Street Corridor. Similar processes should be investigated by Homer City for Main Street and Burrell and Center Townships for the Routes 22 and 119 corridors.

Industrial development should be limited to existing locations in the project area. Intense uses such as transportation companies, mills and factories do not lend well to contributing

to a quality of life prized in residential areas. Restricting development to these areas will protect the small town atmosphere so prized by residents. Light industrial activity (such as the Corporate Campus and the Serrel Industrial Park) is more conducive to mixing with residential and commercial activities.

Various tools are available to municipalities who want to ensure that growth and development occur in an orderly fashion. Multi-municipal ordinances, such as zoning and subdivision and land development, would assist the communities of Southern Indiana County in planning on a regional level to ensure that land uses are allocated appropriately throughout the region. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that municipalities enacting their own zoning ordinance must provide for every land use within its boundaries. By joining with neighboring communities to implement joint or multi-municipal ordinances, municipalities can create a region that corresponds more closely to the nature of the commercial and residential markets in which they are located and the larger regional patterns of natural resources (Coughlin, Denworth, Keene, Rogers and Brown 1993).

A tool within zoning ordinances, that can help to ensure orderly growth and a high quality of life for residents, is the village zoning district. The district has the following characteristics (Coughlin, et al., 1993):

- The village should have some central destinations (i.e. shops, churches, public buildings) that residents will frequent
- The above destinations should be within walking distance of village residents (maximum walking distance is usually considered to be a radius of 1,200 to 1,500 feet)
- A greenbelt that is at least twice the acreage of the built-up area should be surrounding the village district

The village district recommendations should be developed in accordance with Article VII-A (Traditional Neighborhood Development) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. As found in "Planning Beyond Boundaries – A Multi-municipal Planning and Implementation Manual for Pennsylvania Municipalities (10,000 Friend of Pennsylvania), the Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) is characterized by:

- Compact Pattern of Uses
- Mixed Uses
- Shallow Setbacks
- Narrower Streets
- On-street Parking
- Integrated Street Network
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian Oriented
- Neighborhood Emphasis

The MPC (through Acts 67 and 68 of 2000) has been amended to include a definition of TND's which is stated as "an area of land developed for a compatible mixture of residential units for various income levels and nonresidential commercial and workplace uses, including some structures that provide for a mix of uses with the same building. Residences, shops, offices, workplaces, public buildings, and parks are interwoven with the neighborhood so that all are within relatively close proximity to each other. Traditional Neighborhood Development is relatively compact, limited in size and oriented toward pedestrian activity. It has an identifiable center and a discernable edge. The center of the neighborhood is in the form of a public park, commons, plaza, square, or prominent intersection of two or more major streets. Generally, there is a hierarchy of streets laid out in a rectilinear or grid pattern or interconnecting streets and blocks that provided multiple routes from origins to destinations and are appropriately designed to serve the needs of pedestrians and vehicles equally."

The TND ordinance must follow the requirements established in Article VII-A of the MPC and take into account:

- Purposes
- Objectives
- Overlay zone provisions for greenfield sites
- Infill or extension provisions for existing places like boroughs or villages
- Comprehensive Plan relationships
- Standards
- Conditions
- Staging
- Manual of written and graphic design guidelines

The location(s) for a TND should be intended for a developed downtown that wishes to minimize traffic congestion, suburban sprawl, infrastructure costs and impacts to the environment. The central core should be easily linked to the surrounding community through pedestrian pathways and multimodal transportation improvements. Another zoning tool that is designed to manage growth and protect quality of life is the overlay zone. An overlay zoning district implies that for a specific area within a municipality, because of some unique characteristic of that area, more than one zoning district regulates development. The base zoning district establishes the basic regulations and the overlay district enforces more strict development regulations such as setbacks, design guidelines, signage, buffers etc (Land Use in Pennsylvania, 2000).

Within the study area communities an interchange overlay zone would be beneficial for the area around the PA Routes 119 and 22 interchange in Burrell Township. Since development is already occurring in this area, Burrell Township should enact a zoning ordinance to help ensure that future growth is compatible with the intended uses established in the future land use map. The development of a multi-municipal zoning ordinance with all five communities in the study area (especially with Burrell Township and Blairsville Borough) is highly recommended. Once a zoning ordinance is in place, then tools such as village districts and overlay zones can be implemented as well.

Topography and Steep Slopes

Slopes are extremely significant when determining the extent and type of development to be planned. Land along the river and streams with very little slope is usually determined to be floodplain, lacking good drainage and poor soils. Land with slopes in excess of 25 percent begins to cause serious problems for development. Valley sides are usually moderately steep except on the upper reaches of streams where the side slopes are fairly gentle.

Steep slope regulations prevent buildings and structures from being built on areas identified as having a slope above 25%. The intent of such regulations is to prevent injury or financial loss and to maintain adequate foliage cover on hillsides and preserve open space.

Soils and Geology

When looking at land available for future development, soils are important in determining the suitability of a site for on-lot sewage disposal systems, development opportunities, and areas of high agricultural productivity. Soils usually vary throughout a given profile and are rarely uniform throughout a site. It should be noted that soil testing to determine the soil permeability, bearing capacity, and drainage should be conducted on every development site.

The type of the soils and geology of a region have a large impact on the suitability of a site or area for development. Soils determine the ability of a site to absorb and filter the effluent from septic systems, the suitability for the construction of foundations or other types of structures, the cost of building roads, and the appropriate type of landscaping. Soil surveys should be checked for suitability with every development project, whether residential, commercial, or industrial in nature.

Streams

Water quality monitoring will help to identify the quantity and degree of pollutants and begin to focus on clean up efforts where needed most. Development along streams can result in major impacts to the water resources of the region. Riparian buffers should be maintained and replanted where feasible and reasonable. The removal of riparian buffers results in adverse affects on water quality, wildlife and aquatic habitat, stream bank stabilization, and aesthetics of the waterway.

Most of the streams in the project area are impacted by AMD because of the extensive underground mining that occurred in the past. Treatment for AMD pollution is a growing research area. Methods currently exist to treat AMD-impacted waters, including active and passive treatment systems. For a more detailed explanation of treatment systems, refer to http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/bamr/amd.html. Because the project area has many streams, spring seeps, and rivers affected by AMD pollution, it is possible to incorporate development limitations or open space conservation surrounding

these impacted areas for future AMD treatment. However, because of the numerous sites affected, it is recommended that an inventory of AMD sites be developed, following with a prioritization of these sites with the most significant impacts to the project area. Once this is completed, land development constraints could be implemented surrounding the highest priority areas to preserve land for the installation of future AMD treatment systems.

For most of the smaller streams in the project area, the riparian buffers appear to be in good condition. Where riparian buffers do not exist or need improvement, a minimum buffer area (a minimum of five feet) adjacent to all project area streams should be planned for in future land use mapping to minimize water pollution.

Some of the rivers have invasive species crowding the stream banks. Implementation of strategies to eliminate or reduce the populations of these species should be considered.

<u>Floodplains</u>

Whenever development occurs in close proximity of a stream, the developer must be aware of the designated floodplain. Buildings and other structures proposed within the floodplain should be either elevated or flood-proofed to or above the elevation of the floodplain. FEMA floodplain mapping should always be consulted prior to approving any development within the region. The communities should also adhere to any floodplain or stormwater management plans or reports completed for their municipality.

Floodplain overlay districts are a land development method that restricts development within areas that are designated as flood prone areas. A floodplain is defined as any land adjoining a river or stream that has or may be expected to be inundated by floodwaters in a 100-year frequency flood. Regional approaches are encouraged when addressing watershed flood plain planning as watershed boundaries cross municipal boundaries. Sections 604, 605 and 609 of the MPC address floodplain management and zoning. Flood plains should be classified as a separate zoning district. This classification regulates, restricts or prohibits certain uses within the flood plain.

Wetlands

River wetlands perform several functions including the retention and gradual release of floodwaters and bank stabilization. Wetlands slow flooding by limiting the movement of water through the wetland, increasing retention time, and allowing water to infiltrate into the soil. When floodwaters recede, these wetlands function to gradually release stored water back into the river. Along with forested and riparian corridors, the root systems associated with herbaceous and scrub/shrub wetland vegetation anchors the otherwise unstable alluvial soils of the riverbank.

These ponds serve several functions: water retention, sediment trapping, toxic material retention, flood flow alteration, and wildlife and aquatic habitat. Due to increased development in the region, wetlands are being impacted and loss of habitat and functions

is resulting. Efforts should be made to preserve and maintain these systems for future benefits.

Ecological Habitats

Numerous areas, including both public and private lands, could be forged into dedicated areas through a variety of landowner agreements, easements, special programs (like the PGC Public access and safety zone programs) or a combination of methods. Ultimately, areas set aside now will be the exemplary natural areas of the future, and if planned well and of sufficient size, will become premier areas for biodiversity protection within the region.

Forest lands, stream valleys, and other natural areas will continue to be lost to development if no steps are taken to preserve them. Preserving and enhancing the ecological integrity of the region lies within the ability and commitment of the local governments, public and private agencies, citizens groups, and landowners to agree on specific conservation goals and work together to see them accomplished.

Riparian buffers, areas of vegetation that are maintained along the shore of a water body to protect stream water quality and stabilize stream channels and banks, are essential to good water quality and aquatic habitats. These areas of tree buffers surrounding bodies of water should be preserved or replanted where feasible. Riparian buffers provide additional benefits to landowners and the larger community by:

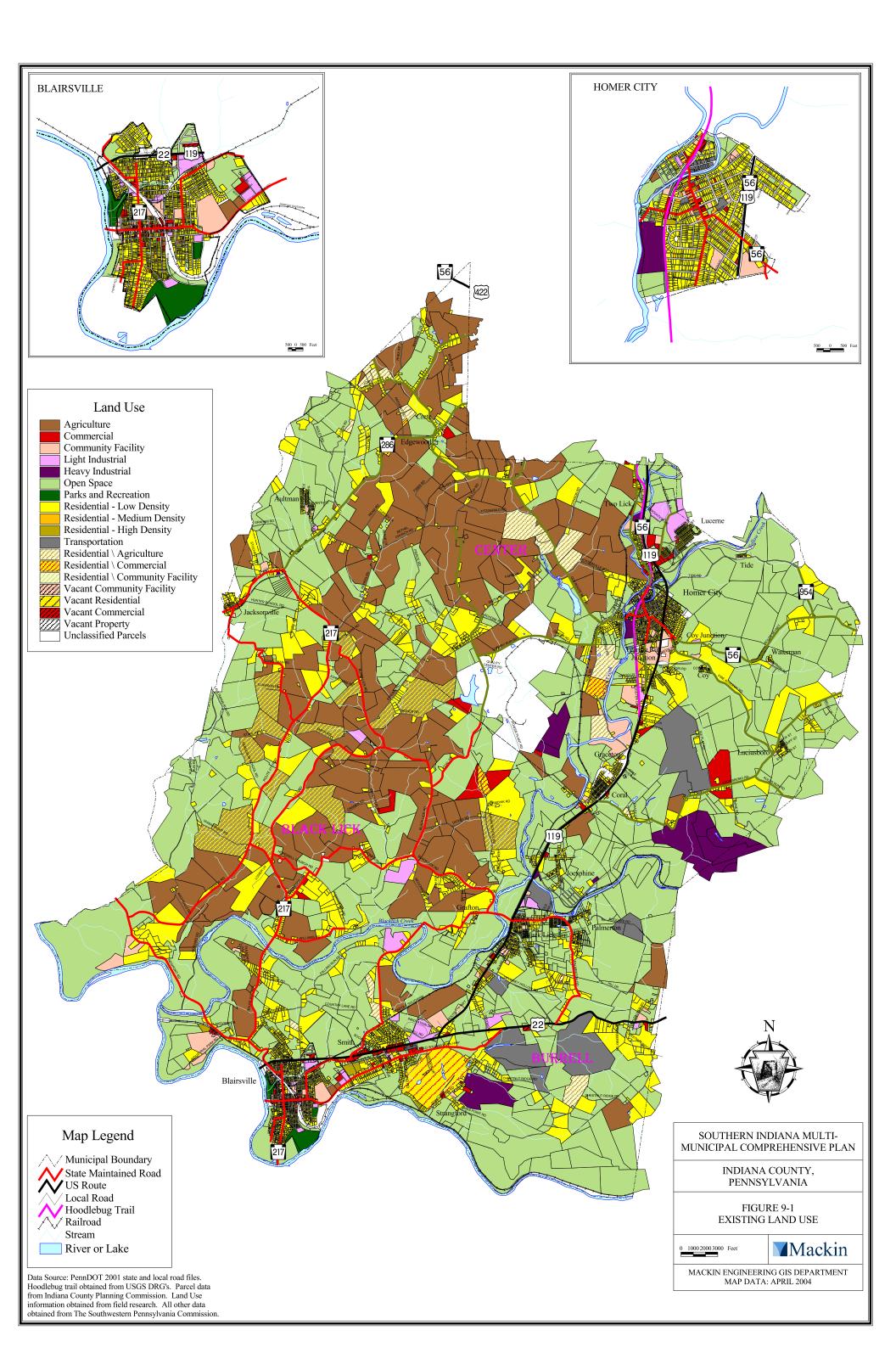
- * Safeguarding water supplies by protecting groundwater recharge areas
- * Providing flood control
- * Providing stormwater management potential natural vegetation provides a basis for innovative stormwater management systems. Stormwater flows from retention basins can be directed to, and allowed to flow through forested buffers to reduce nutrient and sediment loads.
- * Improving the health of cities, boroughs, and townships by improving water and air quality.
- * Stimulating economic opportunities such as by providing valuable open space, which may increase land values and, therefore, the tax base.
- * Providing some federal tax incentives to landowners (depending on a landowner's financial situation) willing and able to place some of their lands under conservation easements.
- * Cost savings by reducing grounds maintenance.
- * Providing recreation opportunities, and associated economic benefits for recreation-related businesses.
- * Providing educational and research opportunities for local schools and colleges.
- * Providing windbreak, shade, and visual buffer.

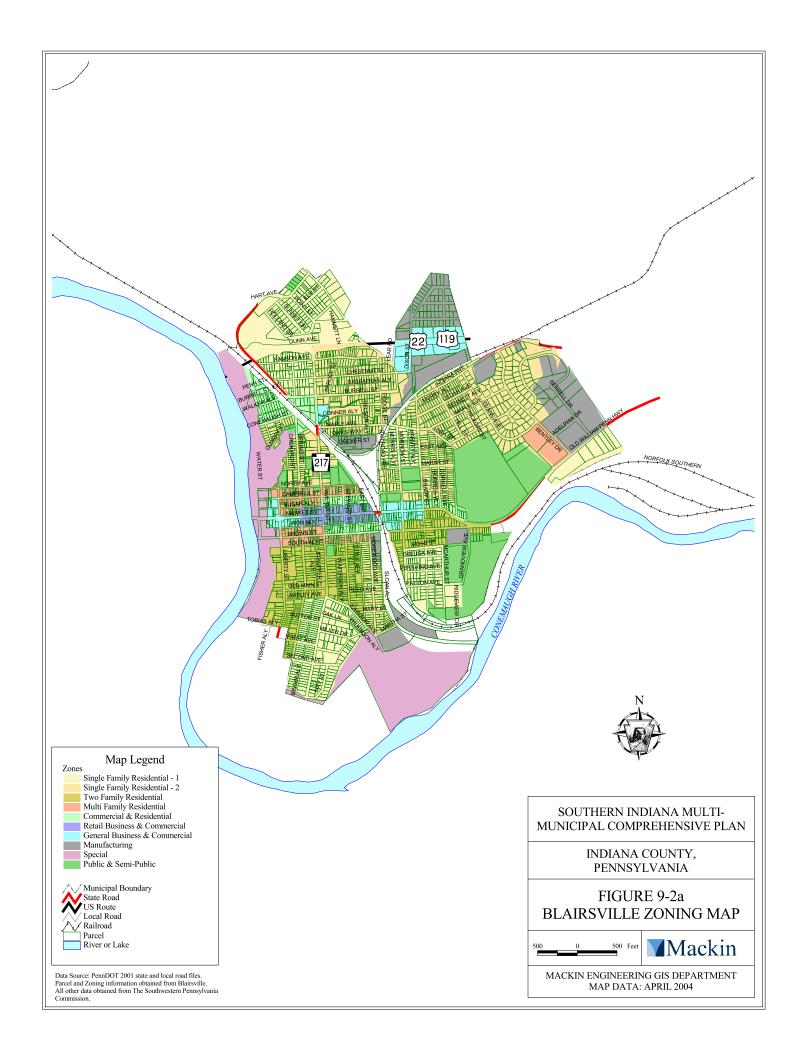
Air Quality

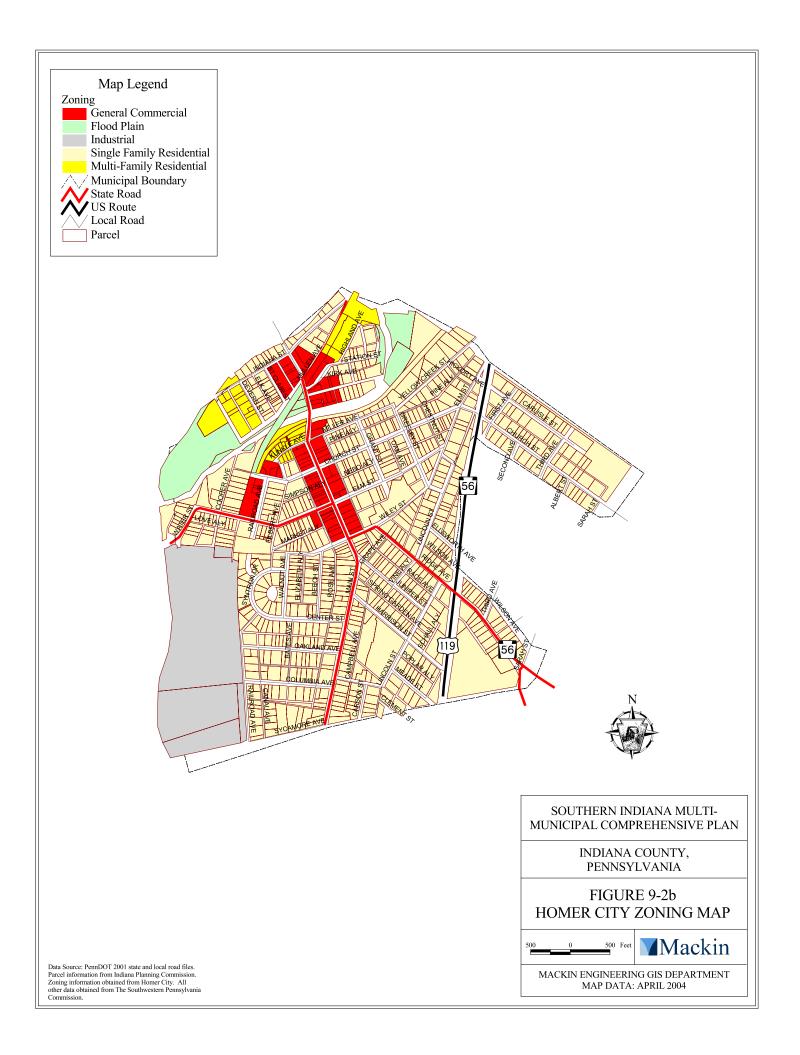
A local producer of air pollution, particularly fine particulates, is residential open burning. Fine particulates are extremely small dust particulates that float in the air. These particles can cause health problems from coughing and eye irritation to damaging lungs, kidneys and the liver.

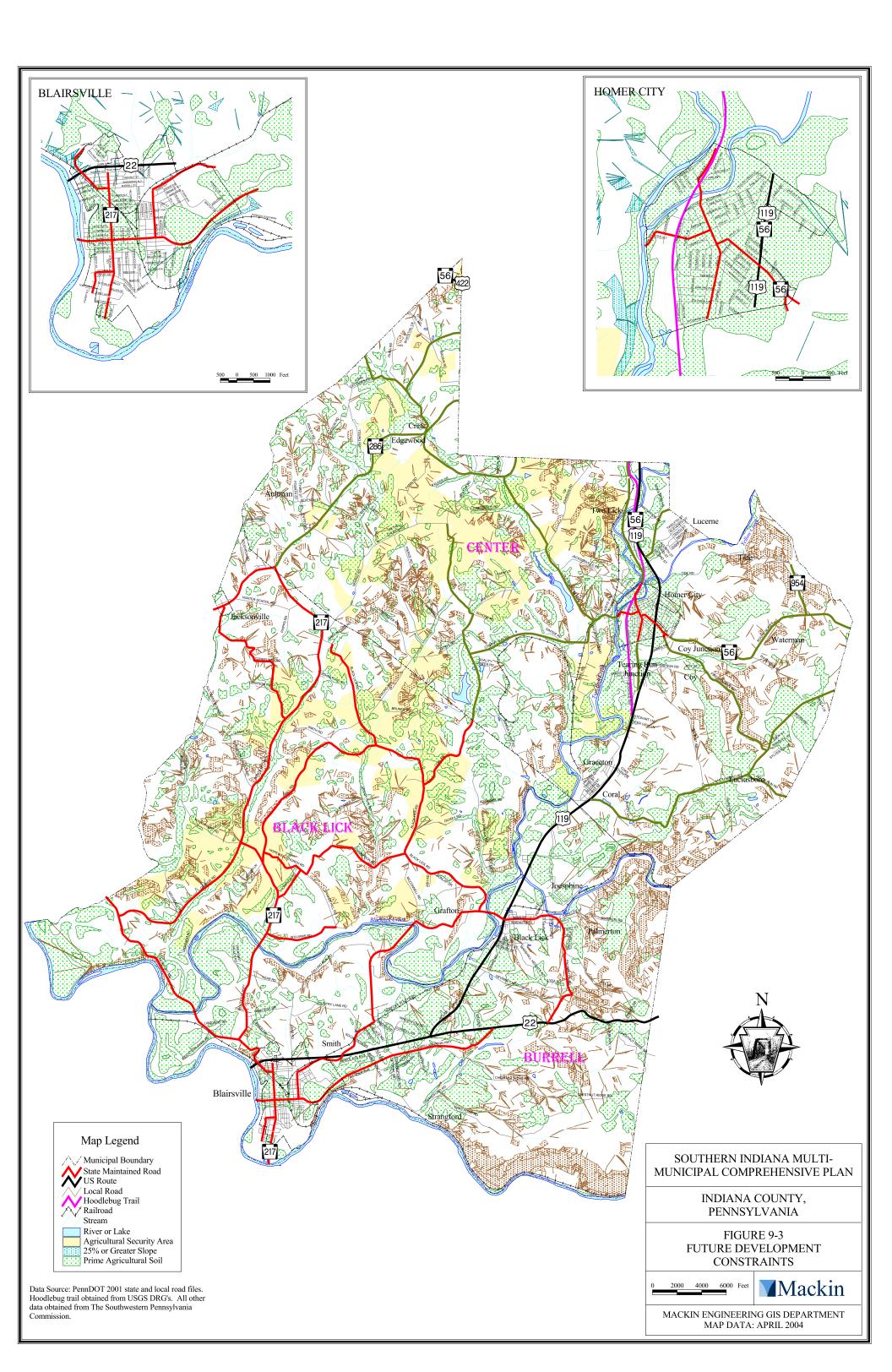
It is not uncommon across the Commonwealth to find burn barrels in back yards. This technique has been used for decades to reduce the waste in landfills and is legal under the Air Quality regulations. Open burning is allowed on the property of private residences where not more than two families are living. However, the waste can not include demolition waste, home insulation, shingles, treated wood, paint, painted or stained objects, tires, mattresses, box springs, metal, insulted rubber coated copper wire, television sets or appliances, automobiles or parts, and batteries. These items must be disposed of according to the solid-waste regulations.

Other issues related to open burning are left up to the municipal officials. The municipality, under state law, has the right to enact an ordinance with requirements that are equal to or more stringent that state regulations. In today's society, burning should be minimal. Most waste can be recycled or a commercial hauler can dispose of it properly.









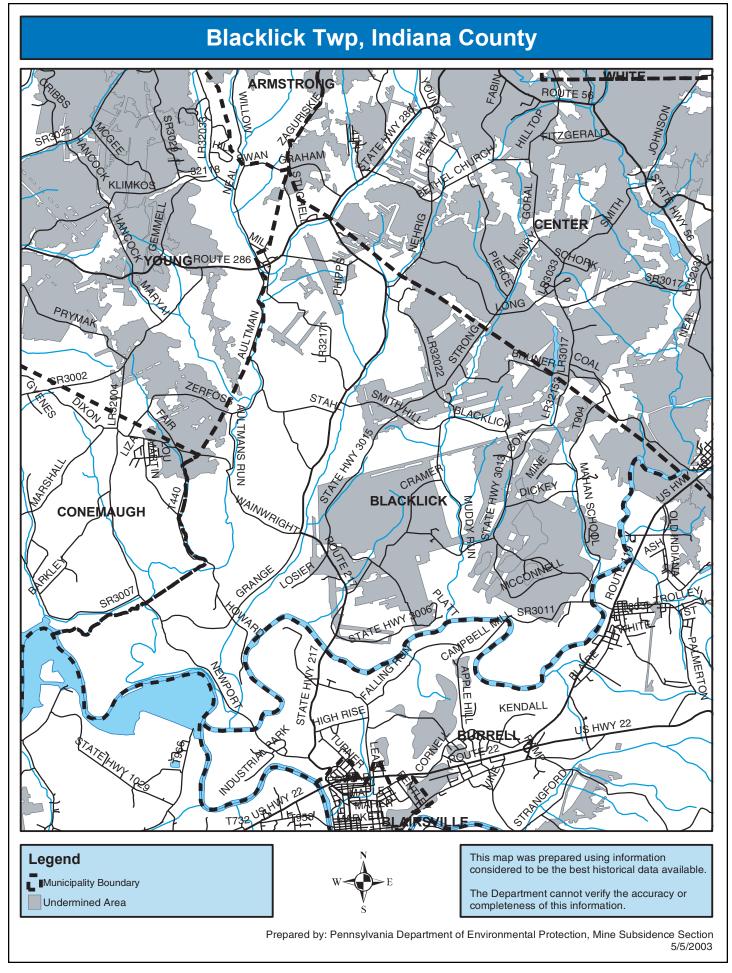


Figure 9-4 Blacklick Township Undermined Areas

Blairsville Boro, Indiana County

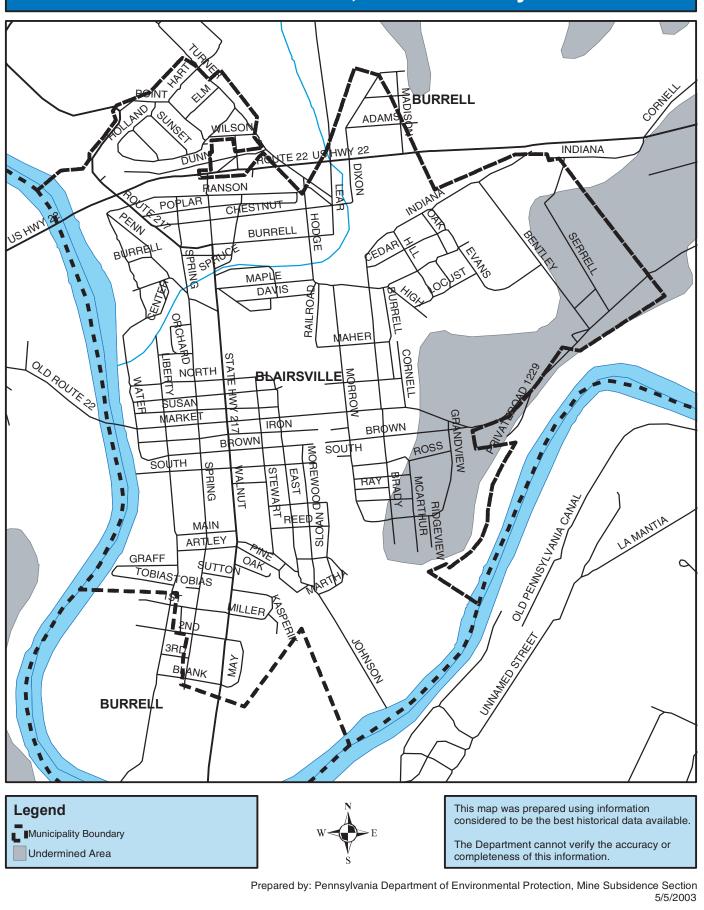


Figure 9-5 Blairsville Borough Undermined Areas

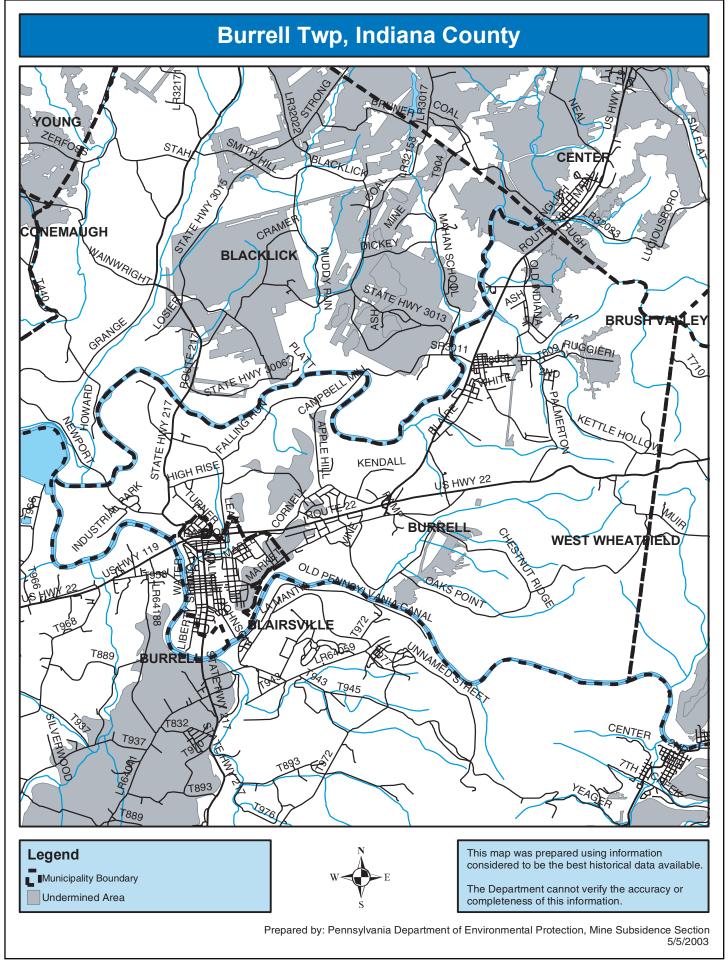


Figure 9-6 BurrellTownship Undermined Areas

Center Twp, Indiana County

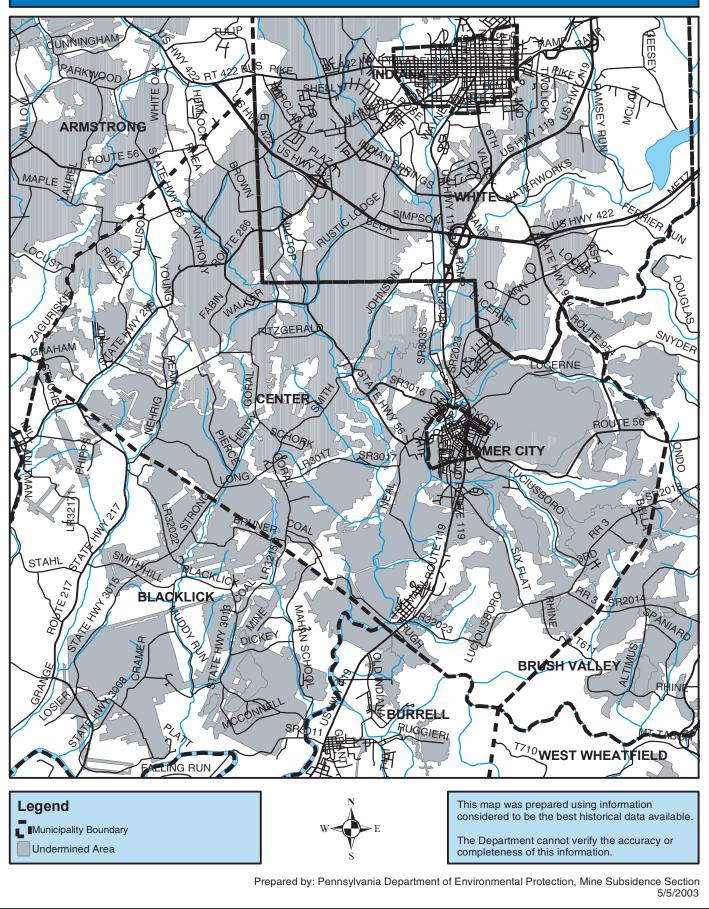


Figure 9-7 Center Township Undermined Areas

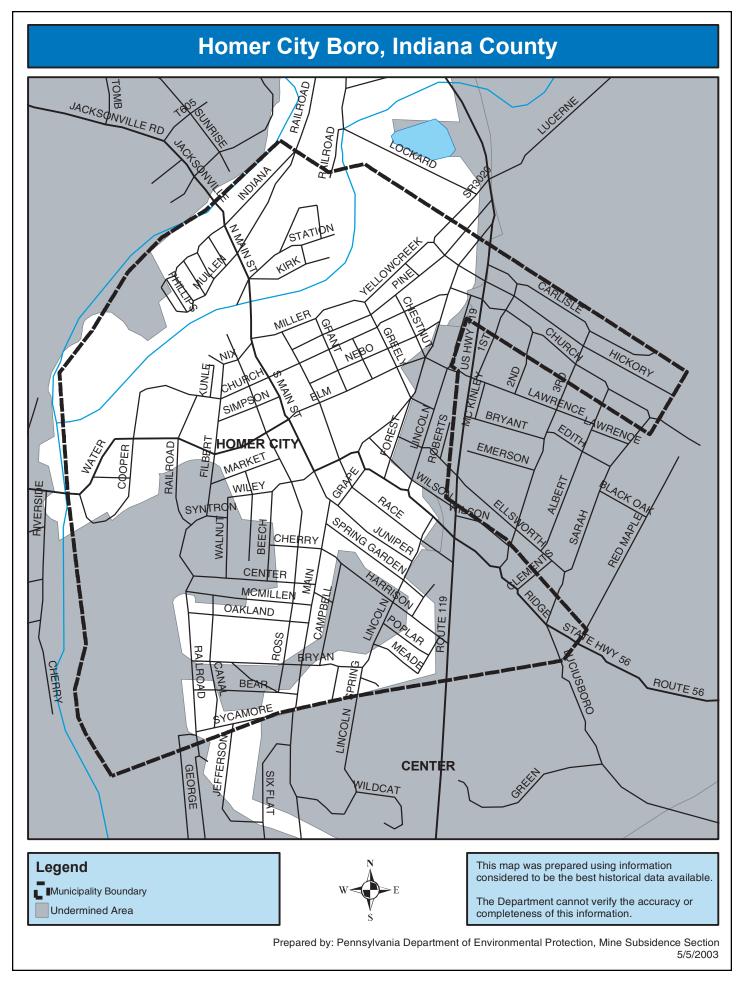
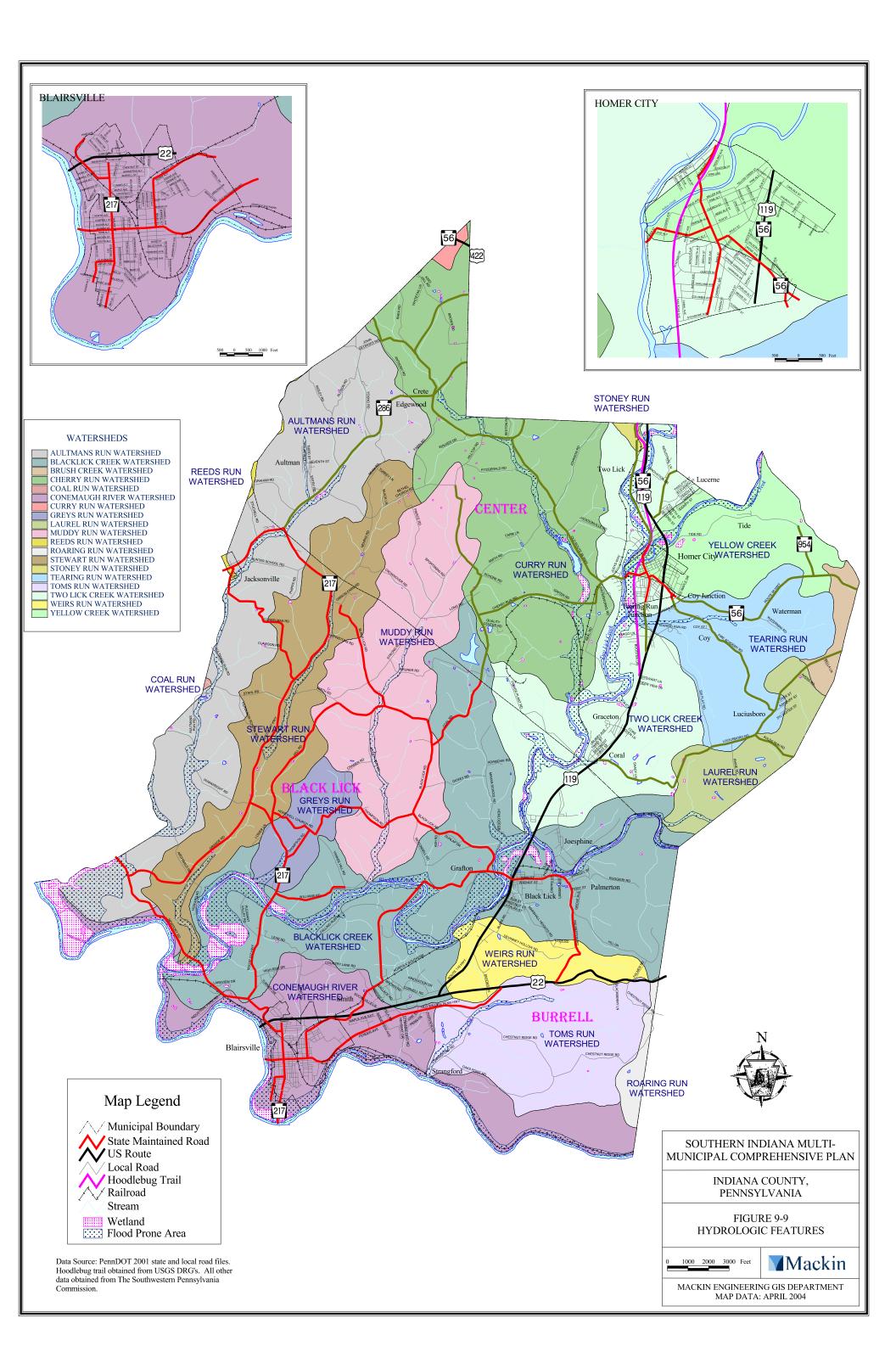
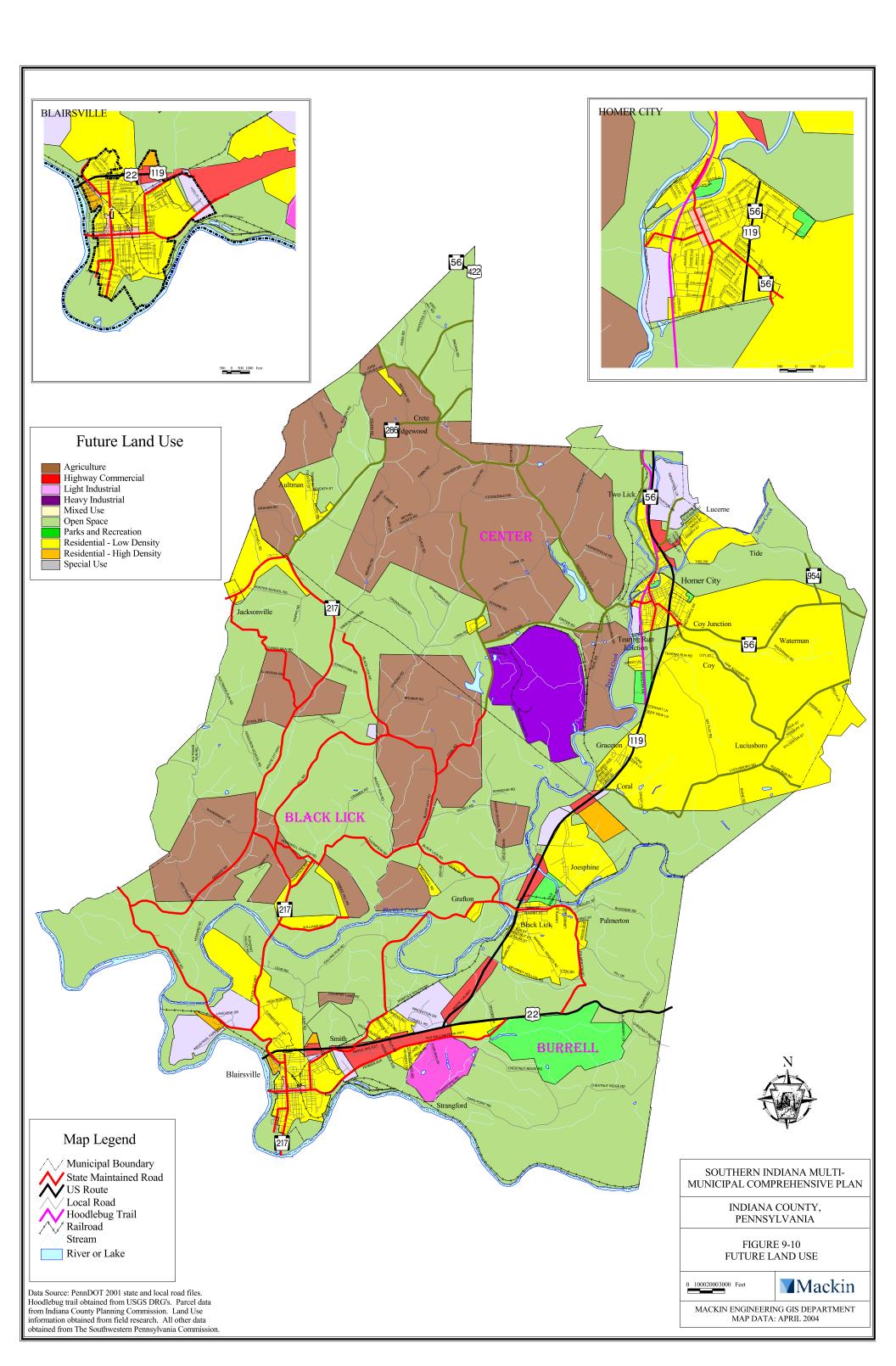


Figure 9-8 Homer City Borough Undermined Areas





10. Plan Coordination

A. Interrelationship Statement

It is the purpose of the comprehensive plan to ensure that the development of a community, or communities, is orderly and consistent with the identified goals of the plan. In order to function properly, the plan must serve as an overriding guide for future development process. As each element of the comprehensive plan is interrelated, substantial changes to any of the elements will have an impact and effect on all the others within the community and region.

The plan elements were developed in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) and the scope of work issued by the county. Recommendations for each of the elements, that are reflective of the overall goals of the comprehensive plan, were prepared. After an analysis and review of existing conditions within the boroughs and townships, specific goals were developed to provide for new development opportunities while protecting natural resources and preserving historic and cultural areas.

Specific needs for community services were based on an analysis of the demographic features and trends as well as the results from various public participation efforts. These recommendations were developed to promote and improve the available facilities and services within Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough, as well as those services offered on a countywide basis. As stated in the MPC, future infrastructure improvements will be completed concurrently as new lands are planned for development.

The recommendations for the movement of people and goods (transportation) identified specific issues and integrated regional plans in order to meet the goals that have been identified within the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan. Deficiencies and future projects should be incorporated into the county's planning efforts so that they can be included in PennDOT's planning process and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's regional transportation plan

The recommendations addressing recreational needs in the communities were made with the understanding that future improvements will coincide with the existing and planned regional and county projects.

Previous planning documents and studies were thoroughly reviewed and considered when identifying existing needs and when developing recommendations. These plans and ordinances included the Blairsville Zoning Ordinance, the Homer City Zoning Ordinance and Indiana County Water Management Plan.

10. Plan Coordination

B. Contiguous Municipalities Statement

As per Article III, Section 301 (5) of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), a statement has been prepared indicating the relationship of the existing and proposed development of Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough to existing and proposed plans of adjacent municipalities and to the objectives of the region as a whole.

The Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was developed in concert with county and regional plans. Meetings were held with the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development to ensure that the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan was prepared in accordance with the goals and objectives found in the Water Supply Plan for Indiana County and the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan.

The plan was developed with respect to surrounding land uses of the adjoining communities. It is the belief of the Black Lick Township, Burrell Township and Center Township Boards of Supervisors, the Blairsville Borough and Homer City Borough Councils and the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee that the goals and objectives of this plan are in concert with those of adjacent municipalities within Indiana County. The plan was submitted to each of the adjacent municipalities, Blairsville Saltsburg School District, Homer Center School District and the Indiana County Department of Planning and Development. There were no objections by these entities to the recommendations stated in this plan, and the plan is to be adopted by resolution as required by the MPC.

The Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan promotes the concepts of regional planning and intergovernmental cooperation. It is the belief of the Black Lick Township, Burrell Township and Center Township Boards of Supervisors, the Blairsville Borough and Homer City Borough Councils and the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee that the goals and recommendations of the plan will not have an adverse affect on other municipalities within the study area or those that are contiguous to the study area municipalities.

$10. \ P {\rm lan} \ Coordination$

C. Public Participation

A comprehensive plan is an expression of a community's desired future and one that reflects the ideas of its residents during the planning process. To achieve active participation by the residents within the project area, Mackin worked closely with the Steering Committee to develop a strategy that would address the unique aspects of the region and the five study area communities. The Steering Committee included elected officials and residents with each member providing their expertise to focus the public involvement effort towards achieving the highest level of participation. Since the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan was being developed during the same time, public involvement results from the County's public meetings in the region that included Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough were integrated into public input gained through this process.

The information gleaned from the various exercises, surveys, focus groups and interviews contributed to the development of the plan's goals and objectives and corresponding recommendations. The goals and objectives were then brought back to the public who participated in an exercise to prioritize the goals and objectives. The following discussion provides a synopsis of the public participation methods used during the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan development. Supporting documentation can be found in the appendices.

Public Meetings

Three public meetings were held during the development of the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, one in Center Township, one in Blairsville Borough and one in Homer City Borough. The first public meeting was held at the beginning of the project and served to introduce the project and conduct a brainstorming exercise to identify the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the region. Thirty-Seven (37) community residents, including the Steering Committee, attended the public meeting held on July 22, 2003 at the Coral-Graceton Fire Hall. The results of the SWOT exercise can be found in Appendix II.a.

The second public meeting was held in an open house format on January 13, 2004. There were twenty (20) community residents, including the Steering Committee, in attendance. Meeting participants were asked to complete three activities. The first was a Community Imaging Exercise (CIE) designed to rank images of existing land uses and services within each of the five project communities and from outside of the region. Presented through PowerPoint, this exercise relies on the first impression evoked by a photograph. Participants were asked to rate (on a scale of 1-5) whether they strongly agree or strongly disagree with statements regarding the images. To develop the presentation, Mackin took over 200 pictures of current conditions and typical land uses present in each of the communities. The CIE utilized sixty-seven (67) of these images. The results from the exercise can be found in Appendix II.b.

10. Plan Coordination

The public was also asked to participate in a goals prioritization exercise where attendees were asked to rank their top three goals in each plan element. The following formula was used to calculate the average weighted score for each goal.

- The number of 1st priority votes multiplied by 3
 The number of 2nd priority votes multiplied by 2
 The number of 3rd priority votes multiplied by 1

- 4. Add lines 1-3 together and divide by 3
- 5. Take the result of line four and divide by the total number of votes and multiply by 100.

The results of this exercise can be found in Appendix II.c.

The priority goals and strategies that can be used to achieve these goals are located in Appendix I.a.

The final task was a mapping exercise. Attendees were asked to look at three maps of the project area and identify development areas, conservation areas, and areas of concern on each corresponding map. The results from this exercise were used in developing the future land use map as well as recommendations for the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan.

The third and final public meeting was held on April 29, 2004. Twelve (12) community residents including the Steering Committee were in attendance. At this meeting Mackin presented a summary of the findings and conclusions of the plan, a summary of the public participation, and the goals, objectives and strategies for each plan element. A comment sheet was also provided at the public meetings for residents to provide any comments on the findings, conclusions, or recommendations, to be returned to Mackin. There were no comment sheets returned.

Youth-in-Planning: Blairsville Saltsburg School District & Homer Center School District

The project area for the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan includes two school districts - Blairsville Saltsburg School District and Homer Center School District. Believing that the participation of the youth of a community is very important to the comprehensive planning process, Mackin contacted both districts to request their cooperation to elicit the input of students who live in the project area communities.

Surveys were distributed to students from Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough who attend Blairsville High School and Homer Center Sr. High School. Students from grades 10, 11 and 12 participated in a survey designed to teach them about land use planning and gain valuable insight into what aspects of their community the students thought most important. A total of 273 (151 from the Blairsville School District and 122 from the Homer Center School

$10. \ P {\rm lan} \ Coordination$

District) students from the project area participated in the survey and the results can be found in Appendix II.d.

Stakeholder/Key Person Interviews

One-on-one interviews, either in person or via telephone, were conducted to supplement the public participation process. Over 60 interviews and surveys were conducted with community residents, business leaders, civic members, religious leaders and other key persons. Interviews consisted of a series of questions focused on the present conditions of the project area, the strengths and weaknesses of the area and the desired future. Overall, the response was supportive of the comprehensive plan process. The results from the interviews also contributed to the development of the plan's goals and objectives.

A community survey was also distributed to residents at the first public meeting, to attendees of community fairs throughout the project area, as well as members of various groups throughout the project area as a way to reach more people in Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough. Sixty-four surveys were returned. The public survey that was distributed can be found in Appendix II.e., and a summary of the public survey results can be found in Appendix II.f.

10. Plan Coordination

D. Capital Improvements Program

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) provides a schedule for the future provision of public capital improvements for various projects identified in this plan. Capital improvements have been identified as major, one-time expenditures by the governing body to provide for such things as public buildings, transportation improvements, sewer and water facilities, purchase of land or streetscape improvements. The projects identified for the CIP are typically financed by a debt service repaid over many years primarily from tax revenues.

The CIP is, in and of itself, a planning process that should be reviewed annually. Members of the Black Lick Township, Burrell Township and Center Township Board of Supervisors and the Blairsville Borough and Homer City Borough Councils should have a defined financial policy that identifies the current level of debt, taxation issues, potential user and service fees, and grants and other funding sources for identified projects. The CIP should accomplish the following objectives:

- Provide a tool for which future improvement projects are to be measured
- Improve the scheduling of public improvements
- Provide assistance for future financial planning
- Provide assistance in maintaining proper debt management

The CIP identified in this plan should be used as a guide for incorporating projects into the municipality's Capital Improvement Program (a five-year program) that is updated annually. The projects should follow the "General Conditions and Assumptions" and "Capital Improvement Project Justification" of the Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough's Capital Improvement Program as they are considered for inclusion of municipal expenditures.

To initiate a comprehensive CIP, Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough officials should begin the following process:

- 1) Inventory existing public facilities and equipment. This includes buildings, parks and recreation areas, public works vehicles and equipment, streets and alleys, signage system, parking facilities and equipment, and water and sewer management systems. The CIP inventory should describe each element in relation to its history, present condition, usage placed upon the element and the estimated year for replacement or expansion.
- 2) Conduct a Financial Analysis of Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Boroughs' ability to fulfill the CIP by collecting financial data for the previous 5-10 years. Project (over the next 5-10 years) what financial data will become relevant, needed or even obsolete. Complete a calculation of capital outlays required to complete

$10. \ P {\rm lan} \ Coordination$

needed projects. Discuss how the capital outlay may affect Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Boroughs' tax rates.

- 3) Select and prioritize projects by evaluating the project design, need and cost. Once the projects have been listed according to priority, Black Lick Township, Blairsville Borough, Burrell Township, Center Township and Homer City Borough should begin to establish a funding plan.
- 4) Once the CIP is developed, the Blairsville Borough and Homer City Boroughs' Planning Commissioners should thoroughly review the plan and hold a public hearing to receive residents' comments. Once this is complete, the municipalities should formally adopt the CIP by resolution.
- 5) Ongoing monitoring of the CIP should be completed annually to assure successful implementation.

Based upon the recommendations in the Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan, the following projects have been identified to be included in this Capital Improvement Program (partners and responsible parties are identified in the Implementation Strategy section).

Project	Estimated Cost
Develop a Housing Marketing Brochure to promote housing opportunities in downtown areas	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Enact a multi-municipal zoning ordinances to	\$25,000 to \$40,000
reflect the recommendations of the comprehensive plan	
Enact a multi-municipal subdivision and land	\$25,000 to \$40,000
development ordinance	
Develop a Traffic Impact Study to determine	\$10,000 to \$15,000
the feasibility of using alternate routes for	
PA Route 217, Market Street (S.R. 2002) and	
Main Street (S.R. 3035)	
Public Water and Sewer Expansion	Costs dependent upon scope of
	project.
	Storage Tank Costs N/A
Gateway Development	\$5,000 to\$15,000 per gateway
Conduct a regional police force study	\$10,000 to \$20,000
Build an outdoor amphitheater in Blairsville	\$200,000 to \$300,000



Appendix I

Implementation Plan

Appendix I. a.

Priority Goals and Strategies



Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

Appendix I.b.

Funding Sources



Appendix II

Public Participation



Appendix II.a.

First Public Meeting SWOT Results

Transportation - Priority Goal Statements

- Support ongoing transportation projects to improve connections and access to major regional highway systems and access to public transportation to metro areas
- Support / encourage all forms of intermodal transportation
- Encourage the expansion and improvement to the Indiana County airport to attract new businesses and economic development

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Trails (Hoodlebug and West	No public transportation to	Provide a park and ride	Heavy truck traffic in
Penn)	cities, metro areas, or public	facility at the Route 119 /	downtown Blairsville
	parks and recreation	22 interchange	and all communities
Good location – accessible to	Route 56 (in Center Twp)	Provide public	
cities	needs to be improved	transportation to public	
		parks and recreation	
	Center Twp. Road	Complete Route 422 W	
	maintenance needs	bypass from Kittanning	
	improvement		
	Road damage	Bring back railroads	
	No signage on route 119 S	Maintain county airport-	
	and Route 22 for Blairsville	improve or expand	
	and trails	_	
	Bridge across Conemaugh	Support trail connections	
	(need money to complete)		

Community / Public Facilities and Services - Priority Goal statements

- Conduct a study to determine the benefits of regionalizing the police force, parks / recreation department, etc.
- Expand sewage and water systems to the areas that presently do not have them
- Investigate more funding sources to provide more / better municipal services and utilize resources at hand (i.e. IUP students, etc.)

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Good water system /	Need to expand sewer	Study the possibility of	Homeland security
management	system in all communities	developing a regional police	issues due to power
		force (two boroughs have police	plant and water
		and the three townships do not)	
Good fire protection	No recycling in Blairsville	Increase funding in all	Dumping problems
		communities	
Great school system	Center Twp address heavy	Utilize IUP students as interns	Fly ash from power
	trash deposits	for recreation supervision and	plant stacks can ruin
		other areas	cars
		Regionalize the park / recreation	
		system	

Economic Development – Priority Goal Statements

- Find ways to keep our youth in the area by providing opportunities for good jobs and technical training
- Support existing businesses and employers ensure that local businesses are provided assistance before attracting new ones
- Continue improving the major highway corridors (i.e. Routes 22, 119, 422, and 286)

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Good labor pool	Lack of industry	Population with work ethic	DEP rules and regulations-protection laws may inhibit economic development opportunities
Improved highway access	Lack of high-tech infrastructure	Economic development based on recreation	Traffic congestion, lack of access management
Existing infrastructure	Deep mining safety (mine subsidence is a danger to homes)	Family values-pride in hometown	Strict building code
Proximity to Educational Facilities	Need more highway access to Pittsburgh	Land availability	State puts responsibility on locals
Land Availability	Labor pool and an aging population	Region is gateway to county	
	Fear of change or status quo		

Recreation, Open Space, Greenways – Priority Goal Statements

- Continue efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities
- Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs
- Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
YMCA in Blairsville	Regional access	A lot of open space that has recreational potential - open space in general	Funding cuts (i.e. development, maintenance)
Trail system	Lack of skate park, BMX track, alternative sports facilities	Grand vision of a regional trail system	Vandalism, need police
Ball fields in the Homer City/Center Twp. Area	Lack of public swimming pool in Blairsville	Bird watching	Uncontrolled growth/sprawl
Game Lands, ACOE lands	Lack of venues for concerts, live entertainment, cultural activities, etc.	Strong youth athletic leagues	Bureaucratic rules, conflicts limiting rec. opportunities
Waterways, canoeing, kayaking		Available waterways, improving the quality	ATV's
Golf course access			

Physical / Natural Environment and Historic Resources - Priority Goal Statements

- Promote tourism through historic resources found in these communities
- Promote tourism through natural resources found in these communities
- Preserve farm land

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Watershed organizations currently cleaning streams	Streams need additional clean-up	Bring people in to use waterways (swimming, boating, fishing, etc.)	Coke ovens aren't being maintained or utilized for tourists
One of the few existing coke ovens	No coordination and promotion with the historic societies	Tourism opportunity - because of strong historic resources (coke oven, historic museums, etc.)	Losing farmland through new development
Two historic museums	Agricultural preservation is weak	Bed and Breakfasts to participate in historic activities (big tourism opportunity)	
Agricultural development	Brownfields need to be cleaned (runoff into streams)		
Agricultural security areas			

Housing - Priority Goal Statements

- Attract industry and business to bring homeowners and families into the communities
- Identify new rehab programs for structures occupied by elderly and low-income homeowners
- Need infrastructure in place to support new and existing housing

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Good road system	Not enough affordable housing	Opportunity for property maintenance codes in some communities	Not enough infrastructure to support new housing developments
Affordable housing stock	Not a lot of new housing development	Provide public information about homeowner programs (for low-income and elderly)	
Small town feeling could attract home buyers	Need industry to bring homeowners in	Provide more controlled multi- family homes	
Housing prices are low	Need better managed recreation to support home owner interests		
Good school system			
New housing development in Center Township (off Rte. 119)			

Land Use – Priority Goal Statements

- Implement land use regulations to ensure orderly growth in the future and protect individual investments
- Make investments in water / sewer lines to promote growth and development in areas determined to be adequately prepared to handle the additional population and traffic
- Promote the present quality of life (open space, agricultural lands, scenic waterways and woodlands) to capture tourism dollars from visitors to the region

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
New highway will help to attract new growth / development	Power plant is bad for environment	Protect individual investments through land use regulations and zoning	New highways have negative impact on property / business during construction
Power plant is good for jobs	No mid-level housing even temporary	A lot of options (open space / shopping, etc.)	Negative land uses (landfills, junk yards and strip mines)
Good streams & woodlands for fishing and hunting	Lack of heavy industry and industrial parks	Boroughs can place uses where they need to be located with less impacts	Unusable property due to mining
Good balance between the agriculture, open space and development = good quality of life	Limited good water wells		
Public water and sewage			
Abundant natural resources			



Appendix II. b.

Second Public Meeting CIE Results

Appendices



Appendices

Lowest Ranking Images

6

7

8

9













Appendix II. c.

2nd Public Meeting Goal Prioritization Results

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE
Work with County and State organizations to find	-	-		votes	beone
ways to					
keep youth in the area by providing opportunities					
for good jobs and technical training	8	7	1	16	15.7
Support existing businesses and employers - ensure that					
local businesses are provided assistance before					
attracting new ones	9	2	3	14	13.7
Improve the technology of the area	7	2	3	12	11.2
Market the region as a gateway into Indiana County.	2	9	1	12	10.0
Market the region as a destination for travelers	2	2	4	8	5.6
Identify the locations where potential underground mine					
subsidence could hinder future economic					
development initiatives	3	1	2	6	5.2
Maintain/ improve the major highway corridors (i.e.					
Routes					
22, 119, 217 and 286) within the project study area	1	4	1	6	4.8
Promote the positive aspects (work ethic, family					
values, etc.)					
of the available workforce			5	5	2.0
Promote the bed and breakfast industry		0	4	4	1.6
Promote the bed and breakfast industry		0	4	4	1.6
Promote the bed and breakfast industry	Priority	-			
		Priority	Priority	Total	WEIGHTED
Recreation and Open Space	Priority 1	-			WEIGHTED
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved	1	Priority 2	Priority	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities		Priority	Priority	Total	WEIGHTED
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of	1 6	Priority 2 5	Priority 3	Total Votes 11	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area	1	Priority 2	Priority	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the	1 6 4	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region	1 6	Priority 2 5	Priority 3	Total Votes 11	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of	1 6 4	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania	1 6 4	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the	1 6 4 6	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes 11 11 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities	1 6 4	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the	1 6 4 6 3	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3	Total Votes 11 11 7 8	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system	1 6 4 6	Priority 2 5 4	Priority 3	Total Votes 11 11 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3 5 2	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future	1 6 4 6 3	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3	Total Votes 11 11 7 8	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs Promote existing recreational resources (YMCA,	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3 5 2	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs Promote existing recreational resources (YMCA, State Game Lands, ACOE Lands, trail system, etc.)	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3 5 2 5	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9 6.1
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs Promote existing recreational resources (YMCA, State Game Lands, ACOE Lands, trail system, etc.) within the five communities	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1	Priority 3 3 5 2	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs Promote existing recreational resources (YMCA, State Game Lands, ACOE Lands, trail system, etc.) within the five communities	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1 4	Priority 3 3 5 2 5	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7 7	WEIGHTED SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9 6.1
Recreation and Open Space Increase efforts aimed at getting the youth involved in recreational activities Continue the protection and enhancement of waterways within the study area Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents and visitors to the region Take advantage of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students to assist with recreation programs in the communities Develop local trails that will eventually tie into the regional trail system Ensure that sufficient funding is in place for future recreation facilities / programs Promote existing recreational resources (YMCA, State Game Lands, ACOE Lands, trail system, etc.) within the five communities	1 6 4 6 3 1	Priority 2 5 4 1 4	Priority 3 3 5 2 5	Total Votes 11 11 7 8 8 7 7	WEIGHTEI SCORE 17.0 13.9 12.1 8.5 7.9 6.1

Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

	1				i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
	D • •4	D· ·	D· ·	T ()	
Natural Resources	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTEI SCORE
Protect important natural features and resources					
within the region	9	2	2	13	24.4
Utilize the historic resources in the study area to promote tourism	3	5	1	9	14.8
Provide continued support (funding and volunteers) for the organizations helping to maintain the natural resources in the communities	2	4	4	10	13.3
Promote tourism through natural resources found in these communities	1	2	4	7	8.1
Maintain scenic views that area an important part of the rural character of the region	1	1	2	4	5.2
Preserve active and viable farmland	2			2	0.0
					1
	Priority	Priority	Priority		WEIGHTEI
Community Facilities	1	2	3	Votes	SCORE
Conduct a study to determine the benefits of					
regionalizing municipal services	10	4	2	16	27.2
Identify more funding sources to provide more / better municipal services for current and future residents					
and utilize resources at hand (i.e. IUP students, etc.)	4	7	6	17	21.8
and utilize resources at hand (i.e. IUP students, etc.) Expand sewer and water systems to the areas that presently do not have them and are within a reasonable location of existing facilities for growth and development	4	7	6	17	21.8
Expand sewer and water systems to the areas that presently do not have them and are within a reasonable location of existing facilities for growth					

	Priority	Prioritv	Prioritv	Total	WEIGHTED
Transportation	1	2	3	Votes	
Divert the heavy truck traffic away from downtowns	8	1	1	10	15.8
Investigate the possibility of redirecting truck traffic around Blairsville and Homer City Boroughs to foster the economic sustainability of the commercial corridors in those communities	3	5	6	14	14.6
Develop a comprehensive pedestrian network that will help to alleviate traffic congestion by providing alternative methods to access residential, recreational, business and institutional sections of the study area communities	3	3	5	11	11.7
Determine the support (and need) to provide public transportation within the study area and to metro areas surrounding the study area (i.e. Indiana, Greensburg and Pittsburgh)	4	2		6	9.4
Support transportation projects that improve connections and access to major regional highway systems	2	3		5	7.0
Provide roadway improvements along the major transportation corridors to reduce travel times	2			2	3.5
Encourage the expansion and improvement to the Indiana County airport to attract new businesses and economic development	1		3	4	3.5
Address deficient intersections (i.e. inadequate sight distance, physical constraints)	1	1		2	2.9
Promote the development and utilization of multi- modal and alternative transportation		2	1	3	2.9
Upgrade substandard roadway signing to PennDOT and MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, published by the Federal Highway Administration, December 2000) Standards				0	0.0

2 6 7 1 2	3 1 2 9 4	Votes 10 10 9 11 6	SCORE 18.7 16.0 10.7 10.0 6.0
7	2 9	10 9 11	16.0 10.7 10.0
7	2 9	10 9 11	16.0 10.7 10.0
7	2 9	10 9 11	16.0 10.7 10.0
7	9	9	10.7
7	9	9	10.7
7	9	9	10.7
1	9	11	10.7
1	9	11	10.0
-			
-			
-			
-	4	6	6.0
-	4	6	6.0
-	4	6	6.0
2			
2			
2			
—		3	4.7
		1	2.0
Priority	Priority	Total	WEIGHTED
2	3	Votes	SCORE
4	5	18	25.2
	-		
7	3	1/	18.2
	5		15.7
5		10	13.7
			1
•]	2	2 3 4 5 7 3	4 5 18 7 3 14

Housing	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Total Votes	WEIGHTED SCORE
Attract industry and business that will help to bring new homeowners and families into the communities in the study area	10	2	1	13	15.0
Utilize the upper floors of commercial buildings in the downtowns for living spaces to help promote walkable communities		5	3	15	14.5
Promote the safe and affordable housing stock available in the region to younger families and first time homebuyers		1	4	6	3.8
Implement property maintenance codes in the communities that presently do not have them		1	7	12	9.0
Identify new rehabilitation programs for structures occupied by elderly and low-income homeowners		6	5	11	7.3
Encourage residential developers to construct alternate types of housing that appeal to a wide variety of residents.		5		8	8.1
Encourage home builders to construct more affordable housing for middle income residents		5	1	8	7.3
Encourage conservation design for future subdivisions		3		5	5.1



Southern Indiana County Cooperative Communities Comprehensive Plan

Appendix II. d.

Student Survey Results

Surveys were distributed to all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders at Blairsville High School and Homer-Center Jr./Sr. High School. There were 272 surveys returned. Some highlights from the surveys are listed below (these will also be included in the Community Facilities section of the comp plan).

A. Blairsville High School

- Top four community strengths
 - Businesses
 - Recreation / Parks
 - Friendly People
 - Small Town / Safe Atmosphere

B. Homer Center High School

Top four community strengths

- Recreation / Parks / Sports
- Commercial Activity
- Small Town / Safe Atmosphere
- Friendly People

The overwhelming weakness in both schools was the lack of activities for teenagers and the overwhelming wish of these students is for more activities or things for them to do in their neighborhood. Appendix II. e.

Public Survey

1.	I live in: Blacklick Township Burrell Township Homer City Borough Other, please list	Center Township
2.	Age: 18 or Under 19 65 or Over	-2526-64
	Sex: Male Female	
4.	Education: High school diploma Masters/Doctorate	Bachelor's degree Other
5.	The housing stock in my com Agree Somewhat Disagree	munity is in good condition and well maintained: Somewhat Agree Disagree
6.		nmunity is in good condition and well maintained: Somewhat Agree Disagree
7.	Blairsville Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree	Agree
8.	<i>The appearance of Blacklick</i> Agree Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree
	<i>The appearance of Burrell To</i> Agree Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree
10	. <i>The appearance of Center T</i> Agree Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree
11	2+ times a week 1 - 2 times a month	

12. I visit Blairsville for: (select as many as applicable)

____Shopping

___Dining

- ____Professional Services (attorneys, consultants, doctors, dentists, Banking etc.)
- Personal Services (salons, barber shop, dry cleaning, shop repair, travel agency, etc.)
- ____Non-profit or government agency services
- ____Education (college, training, etc.)
- ____Employment (site of work location)
- ____Special Events
- ___Other____

13. I visit Homer City for: (select as many as applicable)

____Shopping

___Dining

- Professional Services (attorneys, consultants, doctors, dentists, Banking etc.)
- ____Personal Services (salons, barber shop, dry cleaning, shop repair, travel agency, etc.)
- ____Non-profit or government agency services
- ____Education (college, training, etc.)
- ____Employment (site of work location)
- ____Special Events
- ___Other____

14. I go to areas outside of Homer City or Blairsville for: (select as many as applicable)

____Shopping

___Dining

- ____Professional Services (attorneys, consultants, doctors, dentists, Banking etc.)
- Personal Services (salons, barber shop, dry cleaning, shop repair, travel agency, etc.)
- ____Non-profit or government agency services
- ____Education (college, training, etc.)
- ____Employment (site of work location)
- ____Special Events
- ___Other___

15. The things I like MOST about my community are: (Check no more than 3)

____ Small town Character

- ____ Location
- ____ Availability of Recreation
- ____ Availability of Jobs
- ____ Appearance
- ____ Road network
- ___ Community Services
- ____ Housing
- ____ Special Events
- ____ Other _____
- 16. The things I like LEAST about my community are: (Check no more than 3) ____ Small town Character
 - ____ Location
 - ____ Availability of Recreation
 - ____ Availability of Jobs
 - ____ Appearance
 - ____ Road network

- ____ Community Services
- ____ Housing
- ____ Special Events
- Other
- 17. I would like to see more of the following types of development in my community: (Check no *more than 2*)
 - ____ Retail (small shops)
 - ____ Retail (big-box retail)
 - ____ Restaurants
 - ____ Industrial
 - ____ Offices
 - ____ Single-family Homes
 - ____ Apartments
 - ____ Town homes
 - ____ None
 - ____ Other _____
- 18. The elected officials of my community should focus on: (Check no more than 2)
 - ____ Recreation / parks / open space
 - ____ Schools
 - ____ Water / Sewage systems
 - ____ Residential Housing
 - ____ Senior Housing
 - ____ Public safety services
 - ____ Roads / parking
 - ____ Traffic Control
 - ____ Crime
 - ____ Property Maintenance
 - ____ Business park/employment center development
 - ____ Reuse or redevelopment of vacant industrial sites
 - ____ Other _____
- 19. The most important transportation issue is: (Check 1)
 - ____ The need for more roads
 - ____ Better maintenance of existing roads
 - ____ Better winter maintenance of roads
 - _____ Building more pedestrian & bicycle facilities
 - ____ Increased public transportation services
 - ____ Other _____

20. I am willing to support land use regulations to encourage new development:

- ____ Agree ____Somewhat Agree
- ____ Somewhat Disagree ____ Disagree
- 21. I am willing to support building codes that encourage property maintenance and new development:
 - ____Agree ____Somewhat Agree ____Somewhat Agree ____Disagree
- 22. Please list any concerns or issues you feel are important regarding the future of your community:

Appendix II. f.

Public Survey Results

Q1. Place of Residence

- 1.3% Black Lick Township
- 5.2% Blairsville
- 1.3% Burrell Township
- 42.9% Center Township
- 37.7% Homer City
- 9.1% Other

Q2. Age

- 1.3% 18 or under
- 2.6% 19-25
- 51.9% 26-64
- 40.3% 65+

Q3. Sex

- 31.2% Male
- 67.5% Female

Q4. Education

- 66.2% High School
- 9.1% Bachelor's
- 6.5% Graduate
- 10.4% Other

Q5. Housing stock is in good condition

- 31.2% Agree
- 44.2% Somewhat Agree
- 10.4% Somewhat Disagree
- 3.9% Disagree

Q6. The road network is in good condition

- 28.6% Agree
- 31.2% Somewhat Agree
- 13.0% Somewhat Disagree
- 19.5% Disagree

Q7a. The appearance of Blairsville's business district is appealing

- 3.9% Agree
- 37.7% Somewhat Agree
- 11.7% Somewhat Disagree
- 5.2% Disagree

APPENDICES

Q7b. The appearance of Homer City's business district is appealing

- 6.5% Agree
- 42.9% Somewhat Agree
- 24.7% Somewhat Disagree
- 13.0% Disagree

Q8. The appearance of Black Lick is appealing

- 3.9% Agree
- 29.9% Somewhat Agree
- 19.5% Somewhat Disagree
- 13.0% Disagree

Q9. The appearance of Burrell is appealing

- 2.6% Agree
- 44.2% Somewhat Agree
- 14.3% Somewhat Disagree
- 6.5% Disagree

Q10. The appearance of Center is appealing

- 10.4% Agree
- 54.5% Somewhat Agree
- 11.7% Somewhat Disagree
- 3.9% Disagree

Q11a. I visit Blairsville's business District

- 10.4% Once / Day
- 10.4% Once / Week
- 6.5% 2 or more times a week
- 14.3% 1-2 times a month
- 27.3% Less than 1 time a month

Q11b. I visit Homer City's business District

- 45.5% Once / Day
- 14.3% Once / Week
- 20.8% 2 or more times a week
- 9.1% 1-2 times a month
- 7.8% Less than 1 time a month

Q12. I visit Blairsville for

- 23.4% Shopping
- 36.4% Dining
- 35.1% Professional services

- 15.6% Personal services
- 7.8% Non-profit or government agency services
- 0.0% Education
- 6.5% Employment
- 22.1% Special Events
- 6.5% Other

Q13. I visit Homer City for

- 66.2% Shopping
- 31.2% Dining
- 45.5% Professional services
- 29.9% Personal services
- 10.4% Non-profit or government agency services
- 1.3% Education
- 14.3% Employment
- 37.7% Special Events
- 10.4% Other

Q14. I visit places outside of Blairsville and Homer city for

- 85.7% Shopping
- 80.5% Dining
- 74.0% Professional services
- 48.1% Personal services
- 23.4% Non-profit or government agency services
- 14.3% Education
- 23.4% Employment
- 39.0% Special Events
- 6.5% Other

Q15. The thing I like most about my community is

- 80.5% Small Town Character
- 59.7% Location
- 15.6% Special Events
- 14.3% Appearance
- 13.0% Roads
- 9.1% Recreation
- 6.5% Community Services
- 5.2% Housing
- 2.6% Other
- 1.3% Jobs

Q16. The thing I like least about my community is

- 63.6% Jobs
- 26.0% Recreation

- 24.7% Appearance
- 22.0% Roads
- 19.5% Community Services
- 16.9% Housing
- 10.4% Special Events
- 3.9% Small Town Character
- 3.9% Other
- 2.6% Location

Q17. I would like to see the following development in my community

- 67.5% Restaurants
- 67.5% Small retail
- 26.0% Industrial
- 16.9% Offices
- 16.9% Apartments
- 14.3% Big box retail
- 13.0% Town homes
- 13.0% Single-family residential
- 3.9% None
- 3.9% Other

Q18. Public officials should focus on

- 28.6% Recreation
- 24.7% Schools
- 24.7% Roads / parking
- 22.1% Water / sewer
- 23.4% Senior housing
- 16.9% Property maintenance
- 14.3% Crime
- 13.0% Business park / employment center
- 11.7% Reuse / redevelopment of vacant industrial sites
- 10.4% Residential homes
- 9.1% Public safety
- 7.8% Traffic
- 7.8% Other

Q19. The most important transportation issue is

- 42.9% Better maintenance of existing roads
- 20.8% Public transportation
- 13.0% Better winter maintenance
- 10.4% More roads
- 11.7% More pedestrian and bike facilities
- 1.3% Other

APPENDICES

Q20. I would support land use regulations that encourage new development

- 37.7% Agree
- 39.0% Somewhat agree
- 1.3% Disagree
- 7.8% Somewhat disagree

Q21. I would support building codes that encourage property maintenance and new development

- 44.2% Agree
- 28.6% Somewhat agree
- 2.6% Disagree
- 10.4% Somewhat disagree

Appendix III

Parks and Recreation Assessment Tool

	Recreation Assessment			
Site/Facility Name		_	Date	
Address				
Parking	A			
	Available	yes	no	
	# of spaces			
	Good condition (Surface needs regular routine maintenance)	yes	no	
	Fair condition (spot repairs are needed)	yes	no	
	Poor condition (Several areas in need of major	-		
	repair)	yes	no	
Accessibility				
····· ,	Handicapped accessible	yes	no	
	Visible from main road or housing area	yes	no	
	Signage is present indicating location and hours	1/00	20	
	Tiouis	yes	no	
Equipment		24.		14
	Good condition (needs regular routine	1/00	20	
	maintenance) Fair condition (Equipment usable but minor	yes	no	
	repairs are needed)	yes	no	
	Poor condition (Equipment is in need of major	-		
	repair - missing elements of equipment)	yes	no	
Courts				
	Good condition (needs regular routine			
	maintenance)	yes	no	
	Fair condition (minor repairs are needed -	1/00		
	patching, stripping) Poor condition (Surface is in need extensive	yes	no	
	repair/resurfacing - potholes/cracks are			
	present)	yes	no	

Appendix IV

References

REFERENCES

- Audubon Pennsylvania. (2003). <u>Pennsylvania's Important Bird Area Program</u> [Brochure].
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office *Executive Order No. 2003-2*: <u>Agricultural Land Preservation Policy</u>. March 20, 2003.
- Congressman John Murtha, PA-12. (2003). Major Streams of the 12th District of PA. Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://house.gov/murtha/district/rivers.html</u>
- Coughlin, Robert E, AICP, Denworth, Joanne R., Esq., Keen, John C., Esq., Rogers, John W., Brown, Robert F., Jr. (1993, September). <u>Guiding Growth: Building Better Communities and Protecting our Countryside.</u> Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Environmental Council.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. (1979). <u>Classification of</u> <u>Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States.</u> Washington, D.C.: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- A Guide to Developing a Community Tree Preservation Ordinance (n.d.). Retrieved April 5, 2004, from <u>http://www.mnstac.org/RFC/preservationguide.htm</u>.
- History of Homer City. (n.d.). Retrieved August 13, 2003, from <u>http://www.homercity.com/history.htm</u>.
- Governor's Center for Local Government Services. (1997). <u>Intergovernmental</u> <u>Cooperation Handbook</u>. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.
- Governor's Center for Local Government Services. (2000, January). <u>Land Use in</u> <u>Pennsylvania: Practice and Tools An Inventory (1st ed.)</u>. Produced by McCormick Taylor and Associates.
- Midwest Generation Edison International. (2003). Homer City Generating Station. Retrieved November 2003 from http://www.edison.com/files/2003_factsheet_homercity.pdf
- Moving Heritage Tourism Forward in Pennsylvania. (2001, May). Prepared for The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and The Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Code, Title 25, § 93-1-9 (1971)

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (2003). Phsyiographic Provinces of Pennsylvania. Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/maps/map13.pdf</u>.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. (2003). Air Quality Index Reports Retrieved November 2003 from http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/aqm/aqi.html
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. (1980). <u>Geologic Map of</u> <u>Pennsylvania [Map]</u>. Harrisburg, PA: Author.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. (2003). <u>Mine Subsidence</u>. Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://www.pamsi.org</u>

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Mine Subsidence Section. (2003). <u>Undermined Areas [Maps].</u>

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. (2003). <u>Approved Trout Waters</u>. Retrieved November 20003 from <u>http://www.fish.state.pa.us.html</u>

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. (2003). Special Regulation Areas. Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://www.fish.state.pa.us.html</u>

- Pennsylvania Game Commission. (2003). <u>State Game Lands Maps.</u> Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/land/maps/southwest.asp</u>
- Ross, Chauncey. (1993, June 3). Coal towns once dominated the area. *The Indiana Gazette*.
- Skelly and Loy. (2003). <u>Water Quality and Riparian Health Watershed Assessment for</u> the Aultman Watershed, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Stewart, J.T. (1913). *History of Indiana County, PA* (Vol. I). Chicago, IL: JH Beers and Company.

- Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project. (2003). <u>Conemaugh River</u>. Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://ctcnet.net/scrip/conemaugh.html</u>
- United States Army Corps of Engineers. (2003). <u>Conemaugh River Lake.</u> Retrieved November 2003 from <u>http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/conemaug.html</u>
- United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. (1968). <u>Soil Survey</u> of Indiana County. Washington, DC: National Cooperative Soil Survey.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. (2003). National Wetlands

Inventory [Map]. Retrieved November 2003 from http://www.nwi.fws.gov/mapper_tool.html

- United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. (1993). <u>Blairsville 7.5</u> <u>Minute Series Topographic Quadrangle [Map]</u>. Denver, CO: Author.
- United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. (1993). <u>Bolivar 7.5 Minute</u> <u>Series Topographic Quadrangle [Map]</u>. Denver, CO: Author.
- United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. (1993). <u>Indiana 7.5 Minute</u> <u>Series Topographic Quadrangle [Map]</u>. Denver, CO: Author.
- United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. (1993). <u>McIntyre 7.5</u> <u>Minute Series Topographic Quadrangle [Map]</u>. Denver, CO: Author.
- United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. (1989). <u>Pennsylvania</u> <u>Gazetteer of Streams</u>. DEP#456-11/89.

		Historic and Community Character	icter
Preserve and promote the cultural and historic aspects	ts of the region		
Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Conduct an inventory of historic resources and identify those suitable for heritage tourism efforts	Municipal officials	Blairsville Historical Society, Homer City Historical Society, Indiana County Tourist Bureau	Department of Community and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Travel Council
Create a historic overlay district around clusters of historically significant sites and structures	Municipal officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
Provide zoning bonuses for the preservation of historic sites and structures	Municipal officials	N/A	NA
Conduct studies of historically significant sites and structures	Municipal officials	Blairsville Historical Society, Homer City Historical Society	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Obtain funding for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties	Municipal officials	Blairsville and, Homer City Historical Societies, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development,	
Provide information to individuals interested in obtaining tax credits for historic preservation activities	Municipal officials	N/A	
Acquire preservation or façade easements on historic properties	Municipal officials, Blairsville and Homer City Historical Societies	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	
Partner with the Blairsville and Homer City Historical Societies to create programs highlighting the areas' history	Municipal officials	Blairsville and Homer City Historical Societies	N/A
Instill a sense of pride within the communities			
Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Create a Business Improvement District as identified in downtown Homer City Borough.	Homer City Borough	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Pennsylvania Downtown Center, DCED
Complete a streetscape study within the Homer City Business District	Homer City Borough	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Pennsylvania Downtown Center, DCED
Implement design guidelines in Blairsville's business district as identified in the 2004 Blairsville Improvement Plan	Blairsville Borough	Local businesses, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce	Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)
Implement a Weed and Seed Program	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Blairsville Police Dept., State Police Dept.	Pennsylvania's Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Establish gateways at vehicular and pedestrian entry points as identified on Figure 7-2	Municipal Officials	PennDOT, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Southern Indiana Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Local Social and Service Groups, Western PA Conservancy, Community Revitalization (DCED), Sustainable Development Challenge Grants (US Environmental Protection Agency), Special Economic Development and Adjustment Assistance Grants (US Dept. of Commerce)
Establish a shade tree ordinance within the project area	Municipal Officials	Blairsville Improvement Group	DCNR

Priority Goals and Strategies

		Community and Public Facilities	lities
Identify the benefits of regionalizing services			
Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Conduct a regional police force study	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Implement a regional recycling program	Municipal Officials	Regional Recycling Organizations and Companies	Section 902 and 904 Grants (PA Department of Environmental Protection)
Form a committee of all the volunteer fire chiefs in the area	Volunteer Fire Departments	Municipal Officials, Indiana County's Fire Chiefs Association	N/A
Establish library services within Homer City Borough to	Homer City Borough	Blairsville Library, Burrell Township Library	Pennsylvania Humanities Council
serve the surrounding region	Council		
Establish a regional planning commission to provide	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Governor's Center for Local Government Services
oversight for the five communities in the project area			
Increase the availability of public water and sewer facilities in the project area	ver facilities in the proje	ect area	
Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Extend public sewer to future growth areas as identified in Figure 9-10	Municipal Officials	Local sewer providers	Small Water Systems Consolidation Construction Grant Program (DEP, Stormwater Planning and Management (DEP), Growing Greener (DEP/DCNR), PENNVEST, Verification for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators (DEP),
Extend public water to future growth areas as identified in Figure 9-10		Local water providers	Water and Waste Disposal Grants and Loans Programs (USDA), Small Water Systems Regionalization Grant Program (DEP), Formation of Water Authorities Grant Program (DEP), Act 339 Sewage Treatment Plant Operation Grants (DEP)
Black Lick and Center Townships need to complete Act 537 plans immediately	Black Lick and Center Township Supervisors	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	
Burrell Township should update Act 537 plan to reflect current development trends	Burrell Township Supervisors		
Identify methods and resources to enhance municipal services	iicipal services		
Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
A contract should be established with a professional grant writer to apply for funding projects within the study area	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	DCED
Establish an intern program with local colleges and universities	Municipal Officials	Indiana University of Pennsylvania and other local colleges and universities	Municipal Budgets

Responsible Agency Potential Partners a IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development 2 Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks Department 113 Responsible Agency IndiGO Development, PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development 113 Responsible Agency IndiGO Development, PennDOT 114 Borough Responsible Agency Potential Partners Indico District 10-0, SPC, the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Receasion Ad Municipal Officials Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT Ad Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Receasion Add Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT		the ctudy area and	to regional nonulation contare	
state Responsible Agency Potential Partners Building norms the project area IndiGO Nuncipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and beyologment. PernDOT District 10-0. S Route 119 and US Route 22 Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and beyologment. PernDOT District 10-0. S Route 119 and US Route 22 Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and beyologment. PernDOT District 10-0. Indig sources to build shelters IndiGO Nuncipal Officials. Potential Partners Resolution stops Responsible Agency Potential Partners Potential Partners Resolution stops Responsible Agency Potential Partners Potential Partners Resolution stops Responsible Agency Potential Partners Potential Partners Resolution project (SR Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT Resolution projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT Resolution projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT Resolution projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT <		lle study affea allu		
Indicident by and US Route 119 and US Route 122 Municipal Officials, Bevelopment, PermDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Office of Planning and IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT s Route 119 and US Route 22 Municipal Officials, IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT s Route 119 and US Route IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT s Responsible Agency Responsible Agency Potential Partners s Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT R Dot Dificials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT R Dot Dificials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT R Dot District 10-0, SPC, the Indiana County Partners Indiana County Officials R Dot District 10-0, Local Government Academy Indiana County Officials R District 10-0, Local Government Academy Indiana County Officials R District 10-0, Local Government Academy Indiana County Dates and Development, PermDOT R District 10-0, South R District 10-0, Local Government Academy Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT R District 10-0, South R District 10-0, District 10-0,	Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Skoure 19 and US Roure 22 Municipal Officials ading sources to build shelters IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. afisville and Homer City Borough Evelopment. PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks Department. afisville and Homer City Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT District 10-0, SPC, the Indiana County PPP afisville and Homer City Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afisville and Homer City Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afisville and Homer City Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afisville and Main Street (SR Amnicipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afis for adds Amnicipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afing the construction new Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afing the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afing the construction of new Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. PennDOT afing the construction of new	stablish regular service to the City of Pittsburgh from the project area vestigate the feasibility of establishing additional bus routes within the idy area antify new locations for safe public transportation stops	IndiGO	Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0	Agility program (PennDOT), Transportation Equity Act/TEA (PennDOT), DCED, Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (Bureau of Air Quality / PA DEP)
IndiGO Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development. airsville and Homer City Borough EvenDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks Department sirsville and Homer City Borough Responsible Agency Povelopment, PernDOT statisty of utilizing atternate Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT statisty of utilizing atternate Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT statisty of utilizing atternate Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT state Responsible Agency Potential Partners Potential Partners statist to abare resources Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT statist to ob. Potential Partners Potential Partners Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT stating the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT stating the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT statil gene construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT st	arket the park and ride facility at the US Route 119 and US Route 22 terchange	Municipal Officials		
Indicol PermDOT District 10-0. Indiana County Parks Department eitsville and Homer City Boroughs PermDOT District 10-0. SPC, the Indiana County PPP state stability of utilizing alternate Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT site 2002) and Main Street (SR Responsible Agency Potential Partners Potential Partners site county office of Planning and Development, PermDOT District 10-0, SPC, the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT site county before funding new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT timp traffic volume areas and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT right traffic volume areas and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT sign the construction of new Responsible Agency Potential Partners minicipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PermDOT sign the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Parks and Recreation eugling the construction of new Responsible Agency Potential Partners min real Protential Partners minicipal Offi	entify traditional and non-traditional funding sources to build shelters designated public transportation stops	IndiGO	Municipal Officials, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	
airsville and Homer City Boroughs airsville and Homer City Boroughs Responsible Agency Re	tegrate public transit stops at trailheads	IndiGO	PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks Department	
statistical state Responsible Agency Potential Partners feasibility of utilizing alternate Borough Officials Indiana County PPP stand Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT stand Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT stand Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PemDOT state Responsible Agency Indiana County Of	edirect truck traffic around Blairsville and Homer City	Boroughs		
feasibility of utilizing alternate Borough Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT SR 2002) and Main Street (SR Borough Officials Indiana County PPP String roads Responsible Agency Potential Partners alm Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT alm Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT alm Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT alm Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etcol Responsible Agency Potential Partners rian network within the study area Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etgip traffic volume areas and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etgip the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etgip the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etgip the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, P	Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
ting roads Potential Partners alian Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT anicipalities to share resources Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etwork before funding new Municipal Officials District 10-0, Local Government Academy etwork before funding new Potential Partners Potential Partners rian network within the study Potential Partners Potential Partners sign traffic volume areas and Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT eging the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT edivision and land Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT edivision and land Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT ann Responsible Agency District 10-0 District 10-0 edivision and land Indiana County Office of Planning and Recreation Indiana ann Responsible Agency District 10-0 Indiana ann Responsible Agency District	omplete a traffic study to determine the feasibility of utilizing alternate utes for PA Route 217, Market Street (SR 2002) and Main Street (SR 35)	Borough Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0, SPC, the Indiana County PPP	Agility Program (PennDOT), Transportation Equity Act/TEA, DCED, Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (Bureau of Air Quality/PA DEP)
state Responsible Agency Potential Partners Iam Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT inicipalities to share resources Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT etwork before funding new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT rian network within the study Responsible Agency Potential Partners rian network within the study Responsible Agency Potential Partners rian network within the study Responsible Agency Potential Partners rian network within the study Responsible Agency Potential Partners endition and land Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT edivision and land Municipal Officials Indiana County Parks and Recreation edivision and land Neuroic Ital groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, and oldebug Trail odlebug Trail County Parks and Recreation first trail organizations Detential Partnert future County Parks and Recreation for trail organizations Detential Partners <t< td=""><td>uprove the maintenance of existing roads</td><td>_</td><td></td><td></td></t<>	uprove the maintenance of existing roads	_		
Image:	Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
micipalities to share resources District 10-0, Local Government Academy etwork before funding new Easton District 10-0, Local Government Academy rian network within the study area Responsible Agency Dotential Partners is that fit colume areas and signe the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT ging the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT am Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT am Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT am Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT an Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Home - Center School Districts, Indiana odlebug Trail County Parks and Recreation Department EmbOT Indiana k through trails, shared use Department, Iocal trail organizations Municipal Offices ortation projects are on the Southwestern PennSol Istin Iocal trail organizations Department Potential Partners ocal transportation projects Municipal Officials Potential Partners Munici	plement a regional road maintenance plan	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT	Agility Program (PennDOT), Transportation Equity Act/TEA, DCED, Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Progra
rian network within the study area rian network within the study area shigh traffic volume areas and whicipal Officials Potential Partners high traffic volume areas and duricipal Officials Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT ging the construction of new Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT am minicipal Officials District 10-0 District 10-0 am am county Parks and Recreation Department PennDOT and land Dotentil groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, udlebug Trail Dotentil groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, latand use an County Parks and Recreation Department PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation odlebug Trail Dotentils, shared use Department, local trail organizations ortation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transportation projects Municipal Officials socal transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP	ork cooperatively with neighboring municipalities to share resources rect funding to improve existing road network before funding new		District 10-0, Local Government Academy	(Bureau of Air Quality/PA DEP) N/A
\$\$\$ figh traffic volume areas and high traffic volume areas and miging the construction of new division and land Responsible Agency Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0rging the construction of new division and landMunicipal Officials District 10-0Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0am trail / greenway along the odlebug TrailIndiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0trail / greenway along the trail / greenway along the odlebug TrailIocal trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer - Center School Districts, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department, local trail organizationsk through trails, shared usePennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department, local trail organizationsortation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transp ocal transportation projectsPotential PartnerssMunicipal OfficialsIndiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP	evelop a comprehensive pedestrian network within the s	tudy area		
high traffic volume areas and municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT ging the construction of new division and land District 10-0 -division and land District 10-0 am Include trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer - Center School Districts, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department k through trails, shared use PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department ortation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transportation projects Municipal Officials social transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT	Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
aging the construction of new -division and land am -division and land am trail / greenway along the odlebug Trail odlebug Trail county Parks and Recreation Department County Parks and Recreation Department K through trails, shared use Department, local trail organizations Outation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transportation projects Municipal Officials Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP	entify locations where pedestrians cross high traffic volume areas and ovide marked crossings and signage	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT District 10-0	Agility Program (PennDOT), Transportation Equity Act/TEA (PennDOT), DCED, PennDOT's Home Town Streets Program
and trail Decentation Decal trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer -Center School Districts, Indiana DecNR odlebug Trail Dendebug Trail	stend the pedestrian network by encouraging the construction of new dewalks in residential areas through sub-division and land velopment requirements			Agility Program (PennDOT), Transportation Equity Act/TEA (PennDOT), DCED, Alternative Fuels Incentive Program (Bureau of Air Quality/PA DEP), DCED Elm Streets Program, PennDOT's Safe Routes to Schools Program
k through trails, shared use PennDoT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Operation Department, local trail organizations ortation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transportation Improvement Progristical stransportation projects Municipal Officials ocal transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP N/A	vestigate the feasibility of developing a trail / greenway along the nemangh River that connects to the Hoodlebug Trail		local trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer –Center School Districts, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department	DCNR
ortation projects are on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Transportation Improvement Progra ocal transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP N/A	evelop a comprehensive bicycle network through trails, shared use		PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department local trail or sanizations	
Responsible Agency Potential Partners ocal transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP N/A	nsure that local priority transportation projects are on t	he Southwestern Po	annsylvania Commission's long-range plan and the Tran	sportation Improvement Program and PennDOT's 12-year plan
ocal transportation projects Municipal Officials Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP PPP	Strategies	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources / Technical Assistance
	orm a regional partnership to prioritize local transportation projects ovide prioritized list to Indiana County	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PPP PPP	N/A

Enhance the local economic base			
Strategies	Responsible	Potential	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Continue to support the Blairsville Improvement Group	Blairsville Borough Officials		Local funds
Create a downtown business association for Homer City	Homer City Borough Officials	Blairsville Improvement Group	Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Establish a Southern Indiana County Chamber of Commerce as an affiliate of the larger county Chamber of Commerce	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Blairsville Improvement Group	
Identify programs and funding that support start-up businesses and the expansion of existing businesses	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, ICDC	Opportunity Grant Program, New Communities/Main Street Program (DCED)
Create a multi-municipal Enterprise Zone within the project area	Homer City Borough Officials		Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Attract industries that will capitalize on the existing labor pool	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Indiana County Development	
Conduct a cluster analysis to attract businesses and industry that compliment		Corporation, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce	
Market the region as a gateway into Indiana County			
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Develop public / private partnerships	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Indiana County Tourist Bureau, CEO	Governor's Center for Local Government Services, CDBG, National Main Street Program
Conduct a corridor study along PA Route 22 and PA Route 119 within Southern Indiana County that will create an identity for this catavay.	Municipal Officials	PennDOT, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Southwestern	Transportation Equity Act/TEA (PennDOT)
Develop heritage tourism to spur economic development			
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Identify and catalog tourist attractions within the study area	Municipal Officials	Blairsville and Homer City Historical Societies, Indiana County Tourist Bureau	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Develop a marketing scheme for the identified tourist attractions	Municipal Officials	Blairsville Improvement Group, Blairsville and Homer City Historical Societies, Indiana County Tourist Bureau	
Retain youth in the area			
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Develop work training and shadowing programs Conduct a survey aimed to identifying youth retention opportunities	Municipal Officials	Blairsville High School, Homer Center High School, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, CareerLink	Local Funds

Rec	Recreation, Open Space and Greenways	
reational activities		
Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Municipal Officials	Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer – Center School Districts	N/A
for	Local businesses, Blairsville/ Saltsburg and Homer-Center School Districts	DCNR, DCED
ve use Local Parks and Recreation boards	Indiana County Visitors Bureau	
ts and visitors to the region		
Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Municipal parks and recreation departments	Indiana County Parks Department, Local Government Academy	DCED, DCNR, CDBG
Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	
	local trail groups, surrounding municipalities, local sports groups, Blairsville / Saltsburg and Homer –Center School Districts, Indiana County Parks and Recreation Department	PennDOT (Transportation Enhancement Funds)
	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, Indiana County Parks Department	DCED
Blairsville Borough Officials		

Increase efforts aimed at getting youth involved in recreat

Strategy

Develop a youth advisory group Develop public / private partnerships to provide recreational programs for school age children Create a regional parks and recreation website that allows for interactive us **Provide adequate parks and open space for the residents a**

Strategy

Conduct annual evaluations for all facilities and equipment Implement Open Space / Conservation Design ordinance for all new subdivisions Develop a regional trail system Develop a maintenance plan for all parks in the study area

Identify regional recreation needs and gaps in service Conduct a feasibility study for a skate park / BMX track Build an outdoor amphitheater in Blairsville Hire a regional parks program director

	•	Natural, Cultural and Environmental Resources	esources
Provide continued support (funding and volunteers) fo) for the organizations	or the organizations helping to maintain the natural resources in the communities	ities
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Develop community-based, watershed-oriented, environmental organizations within the study area Conduct a watershed assessment for watersheds within the project area municipalities	Municipal Officials	Local Watershed groups, DEP, DCED	Growing Greener (DEP), Source Water Protection Grant Program (DEP), Non-Point Source Pollution Control (DPE), Stream Improvement Program (DEP), Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program, Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship Program (DEP)
Identify local unpaved roadways that serve as a source of dust and sediment pollution and implement a maintenance plan		Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, PennDOT	DCNR
Protect important natural features and resources with	ithin the region		
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Enact a Steep Slope Ordinance to restrict development	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	DCED
Develop a water quality monitoring program for waterways within the study area and compile a comprehensive database Encourage the preservation of the ecological and visual quality of the rivers and streams within the study area by planting or enhancing a vegetative barrier along the river and stream edges where feasible Develop a newsletter to educate property owners along the river about the imperior of the river and stream edges		Local environmental groups	Growing Greener (DEP), Source Water Protection Grant Program (DEP), Non-Point Source Pollution Control (DPE), Stream Improvement Program (DEP), Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program, Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship Program (DEP)
about the importance of riparian burrers as well as including provisions in the zoning ordinances to maintain existing riparian buffers			
Initiate educational programs on floods and floodplain development as well as wetlands, which include "flood emergency response" education materials and flood awareness seminar for residents and recreational river users	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Municipal Budgets, CDBG
Initiate volunteer efforts for trash removal or land stewardship program to clean and preserve the natural environment Establish a task force, comprised of community stakeholders, local business owners, municipal leaders, watershed groups, and interested citizens, to develop a balance of riverfront development and conservation		Community residents and businesses, Indiana Chamber of Commerce	Local Businesses and Private Sponsorships/Donations
Adopt a riverfront development ordinance that would include requirements to allow flexibility in site planning while ensuring that new development would function well with existing uses	Municipal officials, local watershed groups	Local Planning Commissions, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Governor's Center for Local Government Services (DCED), Local Government Academy, Sustainable Pittsburgh
Conduct an Acid Mine Drainage inventory of impaired watercourses and prioritize these sites according to the most significant impact in project area. Utilize information for future land use planning to allow for conservation of land to implement treatment strategies.	Local watershed groups, municipal officials	PA DEP, Local environmental groups, mine operators	PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, Mine Operators Bond Forfeiture Program, Re-mining Operator's Assistance Program (ROAD), Landowner Reclamation Program, EPA Section 104(b)(3) Grants (Clean Water Act), EPA Section 319 Grants (Non-point Source Pollution), Natural Resources Conservation Service PL-566 Grants, Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)

		I and Use	
Ensure future growth and development occurs in an or	n orderly fashion and	rderly fashion and achieves the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan	e Plan
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
 Enact a multi-municipal zoning ordinance to include all five municipalities Enact a multi-municipal subdivision and land development ordinance Include a village zoning district to protect the community character of established areas Enact plans / ordinances that are in accordance with the goals and recommendations established by the adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan Require that zoning staffs and zoning hearing boards attend annual training sessions 	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	The World Class Communities Program, DCED's Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP), Local Government Academy
Identify areas suitable for and determine the level of interest in establishing additional Agricultural Security Areas			PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Farmland Protection
Create an interchange overlay zone around the Route 119 and 22 interchange that would apply to all property and uses within a one-mile radius of the center of the interchange that mandates compatible uses		Indiana County Office of Planning and Development and PennDOT	DCED
Limit the negative impacts of undesirable land uses and other factors that compromise the desired quality of life	and other factors tha	t compromise the desired quality of life	
Strategy	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners	Funding Sources/ Technical Assistance
Locate uses such as cell towers, adult uses, junk yards, landfills, strip mines, etc. in appropriate areas (away from housing and commercial activity) Require buffers / screening to lessen impacts of undesirable land uses to the surrounding community Incorporate performance standards into current and proposed zoning ordinances Implement property maintenance codes in Black Lick, Burrell and Center Townships	Municipal Officials	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	NA DCED

Grant	Contact Information	Description and Eligibility
Act 101 Host Municipality Independent Review of Waste Permits	Tom Woy at 717-787-7381	This ongoing program is available to municipalities in which landfills are being proposed.
CareerLink	300 Indian Springs Road Indiana, PA 15701 724-471-7220 dalbish@state.pa.us www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us	To provide a self service system in which interested individuals have access to employment, education and training resources
Community Development Block Grant Program	Indiana County Office of Planning and Development	Federal program, locally administered. Communities must meet a standard of 51% low to moderate-income levels.
Department of Community and Economic Development-Community Revitalization Grant Program	DCED Costumer Service-1-800-379-7448	Grants and technical assistance
Department of Community and Economic Development-Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP)	DCED Costumer Service-1-800-379-7448	Creation of regional fire service areas, fire service associations or multi-municipal fire company or ambulance mergers or consolidations.
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)	Rivers Conservation Program Division of Conservation Partnerships 717-787-2316 www.dcnr.state.pa.us/ rivers/riverhome.htm	Funding and technical assistance to river support groups and municipalities for planning, implementation, acquisition and development
EMS Operating Funds (EMSOF)	Division of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Health 717-787-8740	
Environmental Protection Agency Superfund	Superfund Hotline (800-424-9346)	A federal agency that provides reimbursement program for emergency services that respond to Haz-Mat incidents.
Federal Property Reimbursement Program	United States Fire Administration, Emmitsburg, MD 1-800-238-3358	Assists local emergency organizations to determine if they are eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred while providing services on federal property
Federal Surplus Property Program 1-800-235-1555	Federal Surplus Property Program	
Governor's Center for Local Government Services	1-888-223-6837	Technical assistance and funding
Technical Assistance	PSAB Nicole Faraguna 1-800-232-7722 X 44	PA State Association of Boroughs Offers various support services and publications regarding grants and loans.
International Society of Arboriculture	http://www.isa-arbor.org	Information to assist with landscaping/tree plantings
Local Government Capital Projects Loan Program	Sharon Grau at 1-888-223-6837 or email sgrau@state.pa.us	Provides low-interest loans for the equipment and facility needs for small local governments. Local governments with populations of 12,000 or less
PA Humanities Council	1-800-462-0442/ www.pahumanities.org	Grants to host exhibitions or events encouraging programs on Pennsylvania traditions
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources PO Box 8475 Harrisburg, PA 17105 717-787-7672	The Community Conservation Partnerships Program is a combination of several funding sources and grant programs: the Commonwealth's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93), the Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act (Growing Greener), and Act 68 Snowmobile and ATV Trails Fund. The Program also includes federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails component of the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-first Century (TEA-21).

Funding and Technical Sources

Grant	Contact Information	Description and Eligibility
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA	Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant ProgramBureau of Air Quality717-772-3429	Grant program to fund alternative fuel oriented items
	Growing Greener: Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act 1-877-PAGREEN or www.dep.state.us	Funding to clean up abandoned mines, restore watersheds, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems
	Watershed Restoration Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation 1-717-783-2267	Technical assistance for development of rehabilitation plan for watershed problems related to mine land impacts
	Source Water Protection Grant Program Bureau of Watershed Management 717-787-5259	Grants for the start-up and development of local, voluntary source water protection programs
	Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Bureau of Watershed Management 717-787-5259	Funding for projects that restore or protect impaired waters through education, monitoring or practices to control or reduce nonpoint sources of pollution
	Stream Improvement Program Bureau of Waterways Engineering 717-787-3411	State provided design and construction projects to eliminate imminent threats due to flooding and stream bank erosion
	Stormwater Management Program Bureau of Watershed Management 717-772-5661	Grants and technical assistance for planning and implementing stormwater control
	Wetlands Replacement Program Bureau of Watershed Management 717-787-6827	Funding and technical assistance for the restoration of wetlands
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)	717-783-6798 www.penn-vest.state.pa.us	Provides low interest loans for the design and engineering of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects
	Terri Dickow, training coordinator, PA Association of Boroughs, at 1-800-232-7722 or email tdickow @boroughs.org	Provides low-interest loans and grants for new construction or for improvements to publicly or privately owned drinking water or sewage treatment facilities. Pennvest can also fund municipally owned stormwater management systems.
Regional Police Assistance Grant Program	Dale Frye at 1-888-223-6837 or email dalfrye@state.pa.us	Provides grants for a period of up to three years for the start-up of consolidated police departments. Any two or more municipalities that regionalize
Rural Community Fire Protection	DCNR: Bureau of Forestry Fire Protection 717-787-2925	
Section 902 Grants	PA DEP Regional Planning and Recycling CoordinatorsMercer County Solid Waste Authority @ Mercer County Regional Planning Commission	Grants for recycling program implementation. Funding is also available to all municipalities and counties for a wide spectrum of equipment, containers, and educational outreach.
Section 904 Recycling Performance Grants	PA DEP Regional Planning and Recycling Coordinators	Grants are awarded to provide incentives to counties and municipalities, awarding more money for more successful recycling programs.
Shared Municipal Services	Fred Redding at 1-888-223-6837 or email fredding@state.pa.us	Provides grant funds to promote cooperation among municipalities, Two or more local governments or Councils of Governments (COG's).
	Program Code Enforcement Initiative Grants Governor's Center for Local Government Services at 1-888-223-6837	To assist local governments or COG's, for the purpose of undertaking programs of inter- municipal cooperation, to defray the initial admin expenses.

	Contact Information	Description and Eligibility
	State Surplus Property Program	Used equipment available to local governments and volunteer fire companies
	Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit 1-800-201-3231 www.phmc.state.pa.us	Tax program that encourages private investment in rehabilitating historic properties
	Community Preservation Program 1-800-201-3231	Technical assistance with the designation of historic districts
	Auditor General's Office 717-787-1308	
	State Fire Commissioner's Office 1-800-670-3473	Finance new and used equipment and structures for ambulance and fire companies
	John Dawes 814-669-4847	Match funding for the preservation and restoration of water resources and watersheds
	734 15th St NW, Suite 900	Technical Assistance, Funding and Education Opportunities to support economic developmen
	Washington DC 2005 202-223-7800 Fax 202-223-4745	activities
	1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.	
	Washington, DC 20036 202-588-6219	
	202-588-6219	
	Fax: 202-588-6050 Email: mainstreet@nthn.org	
	28 West 25th St., 8th Floor New York, NY 10010 212-228-0246 Fax: 212-228- 0376www.downtowndevelopment.com	
	120 Wall Street New York, NY 10005 212-558-5300 Fax: 212-344-5332	
	1250 H. Street, NW 10th Floor Washington D.C. USA 20005 202-393-6801Fax: 202-393-6869	
	400 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC 20202 800-872-5327	The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is providing about \$36 billion this year to states and school districts, primarily through formula-based grant programs, to improve elementary and secondary schools and meet the special needs of students. ED is providing about \$2.5 billion to
	Fax: 202-401-0689	help strengthen teaching and learning in colleges and other postsecondary institutions and about \$3.3 billion to support rehabilitation, research and development, statistics, and assessment.
	100 Bureau Drive, Stop 3460 Gaithersburg, MD 20899-3460. 301-975-6478	NIST funds industrial and academic research in a variety of ways. Our Advanced Technology Program co-funds high-risk, high-payoff projects with industry. The Small Business Innovation Research Program funds R&D proposals from small businesses. We also offer other grants to encourage work in specific fields: precision measurement, fire research, and materials science. Grants/awards supporting research at industry, academic, and other institutions are available on a competitive basis through several different Institute offices. For general information on
		NIST grants programs, contact Joyce Brigham, (301) 9/5-6329.
tion,	I echnology Opportunities Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, HCHB, Room 4096, Washington, DC 20230; or hand-delivered to Technology Opportunities Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, HCHB, Room 1874, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.	As an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, N1IA is the Executive Branch's principal voice on domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues. NTIA works to spur innovation, encourage competition, help create jobs and support policies that provide consumers with more choices and better quality telecommunications products and services at lower prices. TOP supports this mission through funding demonstrations of new telecommunications and information technology applications for the provision of "educational health care, or public information" in the Nation's public and non-profit sectors.

Grant	State Surplus Property Program 717-787-4083	The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission	Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Associations	Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (2% loan program)	Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program	International Economic Development Council	The National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation	Downtown Research & Development Center	The National Urban League, Inc.	International Downtown Association	Department of Education	National Institute of Standards and Technology	National Telecommunications and Information Administratio US Dept of Commerce
	State S 717-78	The Po	Volun	Volun	Weste	Intern	The N Histor	Down	The N	Intern	US De	Nation	Nation US De

Grant	Contact Information	Description and Eligibility
Local Government Academy	800 Allegheny Avenue, Suite 402 Pittsburgh, PA 15233 41-237-3171 Fax: 41237-3139	Serving all of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Local Government Academy's purpose is to promote excellence in government by providing educational opportunities to assist public officials, employees, and citizens in effectively meeting the needs of their communities. To develop in elected officials the skills needed for effective leadership and responsible policy making To develop in public employees the skills needed for professional management, supervision, and the efficient and effective delivery of public services To promote, wherever possible, the concepts and methods of intergovernmental cooperation including resource sharing and coordinated planning The Academy seeks to achieve these objectives by working with elected officials, public employees, educational institutions and government agencies in the design and delivery of its educational programs
Western Pennsylvania Field Institute	304 Forbes Ave, 2nd floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-255-0564	The Western Pennsylvania Field Institute is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to making the outdoor recreation community a vibrant centerpiece of this region.
PennDOT District 10-0	PA Department of Transportation Engineering District 10-0 2550 Oakland Avenue Indiana, PA 15701 724-357-2800	