

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

**Findings**

**School Districts and the Municipalities Planning Code**  
*Section 305. The Legal Status of Comprehensive Plans Within School Districts. Following the adoption of a comprehensive plan . . . , any proposed action of the governing body of any public school district located within the municipality or county relating to the location, demolition, removal, sale or lease of any school district structure or land shall be submitted to the municipal and county planning agencies for their recommendations at least 45 days prior to the execution of such proposed action by the governing body of the school district.*

- ☞ Community facilities and services can serve as a tool, or as an unexpected trigger, to guide or stimulate community growth and development. Public sewage disposal systems can stimulate commercial and residential development.
- ☞ Public community facilities and services to serve Franklin Township residents are provided on several levels, and the provision of these facilities and services is dependent on tax dollars, whether in the form of federal and state aid, county supported programs, or locally funded facilities and services.
- ☞ Emergency services, police protection and road maintenance were ranked as most important by the respondents to the Township community survey, which is typical of rural communities.
- ☞ Recycling facilities and health care facilities ranked somewhat lower, but higher than other facilities and services.
- ☞ In terms of quality of service, fire protection and emergency medical service were ranked primarily good to excellent, while road maintenance and State Police service were ranked fair to good.
- ☞ The Township owns and maintains a municipal building, associated maintenance facility, a salt/anti-skid storage shed, and vehicles and equipment necessary for maintaining roads.
- ☞ Staffing at the Township is adequate because the Supervisors have added personnel as new programs and increased work loads have dictated.
- ☞ Office and meeting space are currently adequate, and there are no immediate plans for expansion.
- ☞ The Township’s equipment is maintained in good condition and is replaced or upgraded as necessary.



Franklin Township Building

☞ Capital expenditures anticipated:

Essential as Needed

- replace trucks and equipment
- road paving

Desirable

- implement park master plan

Deferrable

- improve/enlarge Township office

- ☞ The Townships contract for larger scale road maintenance and improvement projects, primarily major improvement projects such as paving and shoulder reconstruction.



Existing Municipal and Park Facilities, Franklin Township ([www.ftvp.com](http://www.ftvp.com))

- ☞ Recreation facilities and programs in Franklin Township are provided by the Dallas School District, sports league organizations, the Franklin Township Fire Company and the Township.
- ☞ The Township recently adopted a Master Site Plan for the park on the 13-acre Township parcel which poses two alternatives - the full development of the current Township Park and the continuation of the current park facilities with an additional park developed at another location.
- ☞ Franklin Township, along with other upper Luzerne County municipalities and all of Bradford, Sullivan and Wyoming Counties, is served by Troop P of the Pennsylvania State Police from their barracks located in Wyoming Borough and satellite stations in Laporte, Shickshinny, Towanda and Tunkhannock.
- ☞ Fire protection and basic life support service is provided by two volunteer companies, the Franklin Township Fire Department and the Franklin - Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association serve the entire Township.



Franklin Township Fire Department

Ambulance 535 (<http://fntaa.synthasite.com/>)

- ☞ Similar to other rural areas throughout the Country, finding and retaining volunteers is a critical issue. The Fire Department currently has 12 active firefighters that respond to some 60 calls each year.
- ☞ Township officials and emergency service organizations have historically maintained good working relationships and each Township has annually provided funding to support emergency services.
- ☞ Adequate emergency service will continue to be an important element of maintaining the existing quality of life in the Township. The issues should be addressed as a long term goal of the Township and area wide municipalities.
- ☞ The Township will continue to work with the volunteer organizations to maintain and improve emergency services, and will explore regional solutions for police service when the need dictates and financial resources permit.
- ☞ Recycling ranked very high in importance to Franklin Township community survey respondents, but the quality of recycling facilities was rated very low.
- ☞ Groundwater is the source for all potable water in the Township with most homes served by individual wells and the two mobile home parks served by a common water supply and distribution system.
- ☞ The primary means of sewage disposal in Franklin Township is the use of a septic tank and subsurface soil disposal of the effluent, which includes both in-ground seepage beds and elevated sand mounds.
- ☞ In recent years, more and more municipalities in the Commonwealth have begun working together on a number of issues and programs. The Back Mountain Community Partnership, which includes Dallas Borough and Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman Townships, has been focusing on regional land use issues. The Partnership will likely progress to joint purchasing and service provision.
- ☞ Franklin Township operates on an annual general fund budget of approximately \$320,000 with most revenue raised by taxes.
- ☞ Road maintenance now accounts for much of the municipal budget and this will continue to be a primary role of the Township.

- ☞ Increased spending for additional facilities and services must be assessed in terms of the total local tax burden (township, county, and school district) and the real need and demand.
- ☞ Given the overall tax burden on Township residents and the current national economy, the Board of Supervisors intend to limit any tax increases to those required to maintain the existing level of facilities and services unless resident demand for new facilities and services is clear or additional funds are required to maintain the service.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FACILITIES AND STAFF			
<b>Township Building</b>	- 13 acres along Municipal Road, excellent condition, small office and maintenance		
<b>Maintenance Buildings</b>	- located on Township Building parcel - equipment garage part of Township Building, excellent condition - salt / anti-skid storage shed, excellent condition		
<b>Other Property</b>	- none		
<b>Meetings</b>	- Franklin Township Fire Company		
<b>Employees</b>	- Secretary/Treasurer, part-time - Road Foreman, full-time - Equipment Operator, full time - Zoning Officer, part-time - Township Solicitor, part-time	- Planning Commission Secretary, part-time - Planning Commission Solicitor, part-time - Sewage Enforcement Officer, part-time - Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, part-time - Building Inspector, part-time (contract)	
<b>Volunteer Boards</b>	- Planning Commission	- Zoning Hearing Board	- Recreation Board
<b>Vehicles &amp; Major Equipment</b>	- 2010 Ford dump truck, plow, spreader - 2080 Chevy dump truck, plow, spreader - 2006 F250 pickup truck	- 2008 Case backhoe/loader - 1991 John Deere grader - John Deere tractor	
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	- Park on Township Building parcel		
<b>Anticipated Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>Essential as Needed</b> -replace trucks and equipment -road paving	<b>Desirable</b> -implement park master plan	<b>Deferrable</b> -improve/enlarge Twp office

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES SUMMARY OF ACTIONS			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
<b>TOWNSHIP FACILITIES</b>			
1	<b>Staff</b> - As the population continues to increase over the long term and administrative functions become more complex, increased staff and office hours will be provided to meet resident needs.	Supervisors	as needed
2	<b>Road Projects</b> - Continue to contract for road maintenance and improvement projects.	Supervisors Staff	ongoing
3	<b>Council of Government (COG)</b> - Fully explore and take advantage of any opportunities to improve facilities and services offered by intermunicipal cooperation via the Back Mountain Community Partnership.	Supervisors Staff	ongoing
4	<b>Capital Budget</b> - Continue to prioritize needs and plan for road improvements, purchase of vehicles and equipment, and other large expenditures.	Supervisors Staff	ongoing

<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</b>			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
<b>RECREATION FACILITIES</b>			
5	<b><u>Park Master Site Plan</u></b> - Use the Master Site Plan as the basis for improving and developing recreation facilities and services in the Township	Recreation Board Sports Organizations Supervisors	ongoing
6	<b><u>Cooperation</u></b> - Work cooperatively to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan for recreation and open space from an area wide perspective.</li> <li>• coordinate individual municipal efforts.</li> <li>• maximize use of resources.</li> <li>• improve standing for state grants.</li> <li>• provide a broader base of support for recreation and open space planning.</li> </ul>	Recreation Board Sports Organizations School District Supervisors	long term as needed
7	<b><u>Funding Plan</u></b> - Develop a funding plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of fees assessed for residential development under the subdivision and land development ordinance.</li> <li>• solicitation of private contributions.</li> <li>• grants.</li> <li>• direct municipal contributions.</li> <li>• a special fund for land acquisition and capital improvements</li> </ul>	Recreation Board Supervisors	immediate
8	<b><u>State Assistance</u></b> - Obtain technical assistance from State agencies.	Recreation Board	ongoing
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>			
9	<b><u>Police</u></b> - Monitor the need for increased local police services and consider intermunicipal cooperation if such service is provided in the future.	Supervisors	ongoing
10	<b><u>Financial Support</u></b> - Provide financial support for emergency services.	Supervisors	ongoing
11	<b><u>Local Companies</u></b> - Work with the Franklin Township Fire Department and the Franklin-Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association to maintain adequate services and buildings and other support equipment and facilities	Supervisors Fire Company Ambulance Association	ongoing
12	<b><u>Volunteers</u></b> - Support efforts to petition the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control to set reasonable qualification and training standards for volunteer firefighter and ambulance personnel in rural areas.	Supervisors Fire Company Ambulance Association	ongoing
<b>RECYCLING</b>			
13	<b><u>Township Program</u></b> - Work with the Luzerne County Department of Solid Waste Management to evaluate options for recycling in the Township.	Supervisors	2 years

<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</b>			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
<b>ON-LOT SEWAGE DISPOSAL</b>			
14	<b>Existing Systems</b> - Continue to monitor the functioning of existing on-lot sewage disposal systems and order corrections when malfunctions occur.	SEO	ongoing
15	<b>New Systems</b> - Continue to ensure that all new on-lot systems meet DEP regulations and Township ordinance standards.		
16	<b>Management</b> - Consider an on-lot sewage system management program, particularly in areas where malfunctions are occurring or are likely to occur (e.g., poor soils, concentrated numbers of small residential lots).	Supervisors SEO	5 years
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT</b>			
17	<b>SALDO</b> - Carefully enforce the subdivision and land development ordinance, and continue to update it to ensure that roads, drainage and other community facilities are installed to standards which will result in quality, durable facilities.	Planning Commission Supervisors	ongoing

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Findings and Planning Implications**

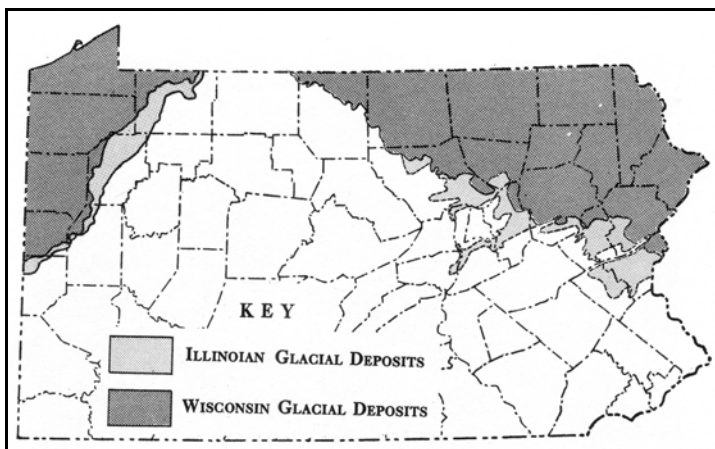
Franklin Township lies in the Glaciated Low Plateau Section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province, a land classification based on geologic formations and landscape characteristics.

**Glaciated Low Plateau Section**  
*Includes an area of diversified topography in northeastern Pennsylvania. The topography consists of rounded hills and broad to narrow valleys all of which have been modified by glacial erosion and deposition. Swamps and peat bogs are common in the eastern part of the Section. The Section reflects the interplay between bedrock of various types, mainly sandstones and siltstones, and glacial erosion and deposition. The more erosion-resistant rocks form the hills, while the less erosion-resistant rocks occur in the valleys. Glacial deposits, mainly glacial till or sand and gravel, may occur anywhere, but are found mainly in the valley bottoms and margins.*  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/map13/13glps.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/map13/13glps.aspx)

- ☛ Most of Franklin Township falls below the steep slope threshold, and steep slopes in the Township are not significant in terms of limiting overall development.
- ☛ Although development on steep slopes is technically feasible, development costs increase dramatically as the slope increases, and the environmental concerns also escalate.
- ☛ Bedrock geology and glacial geology are key factors affecting the natural environment and development pattern of the Township by providing the base for the formation of soils.
- ☛ Franklin Township as a whole is underlain by shale, claystone, siltstone, sandstone and conglomerates of the Devonian Age which are some 350 to 400 million years old.
- ☛ The glaciation affecting Franklin Township has had considerable effect on the soils and groundwater water supply by depositing varying depths of overburden on the underlying rock formations.

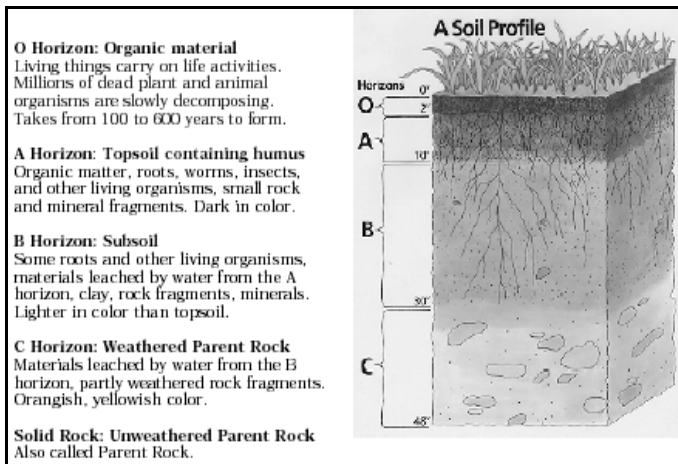
☛ Groundwater is the sole source of water supply in the Townships with most of the supply pumped from deep wells.

☛ Based on recharge rates and water use, the overall supply of groundwater in Franklin Township should be adequate to sustain development and meet the needs of the foreseeable future. However, groundwater availability is a regional issue and adequate supply is not a valid reason for postponing or avoiding action to ensure continued adequate supply.



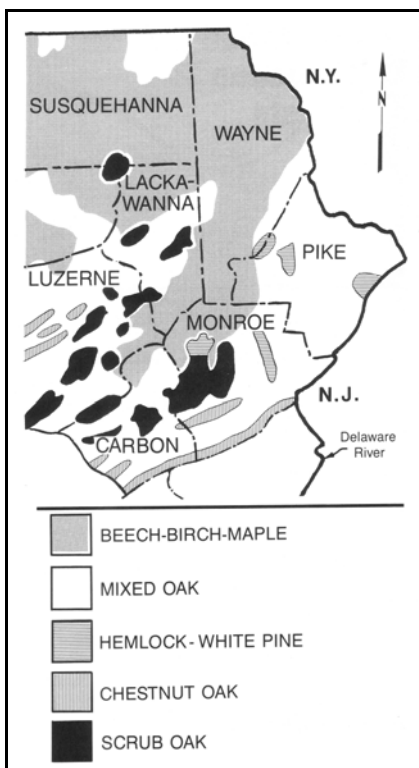
Glacial Deposits in Pennsylvania (Source: *Pennsylvania and the Ice Age*, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1962.)

- ☛ No significant groundwater contamination problems have been reported in the Townships, but quality protection is important.
- ☛ Proper siting, design, installation and maintenance of on-site disposal systems and water supply wells, and groundwater quality, should continue to be a municipal concern and proper land use controls must be applied to protect groundwater recharge areas.
- ☛ Soil conditions, along with slope and underlying geology, pose severe limitations to septic absorption throughout the Townships. Poorly renovated effluent from existing sewage systems on poor soils poses a threat to the quality of surface waters and groundwater supplies.



Source: <http://home.earthlink.net/~pdf2krech/SoilProfile.pdf>

- ☞ The soil formation process resulted in stoniness in many areas and the presence of a fragipan or hardpan that inhibits the downward movement of water. These cemented soil layers can impede the downward movement of water and create a seasonal high water table below the soil surface. This creates the shallow groundwater which carries nutrients from on-lot disposal systems to surface waters.
- ☞ Limitations for septic absorption, aging and poorly maintained on-lot sewage systems on poor soils, and the lack of sufficient ground for on-lot septic replacement threaten to contaminate soil and groundwater and lakes and streams.



Five Major Forest Types (*The Poconos, An Illustrated Natural History Guide*, Oplinger, C. S. And Halma, R., Rutgers, 1988, p. 44)

- ☞ The soil limitations in many areas with older on-lot systems document the potential for malfunctions.
- ☞ Long-term maintenance of on-lot sewage systems is critical.
- ☞ A significant proportion of the Township is comprised of prime agricultural soils which should be preserved for agriculture.
- ☞ Problems associated with soil erosion and sedimentation are exacerbated by development of steep slopes and removal of vegetative cover.
- ☞ Much of Franklin Township remains forested, primarily those areas which were not suitable for agriculture, such as hilltops, stony areas, and steep slopes.
- ☞ The predominate forest type in the Township is mixed oak, with areas of the hemlock-white pine and beech-birch-maple forest types.
- ☞ Wetlands are an integral part of the environment and provide such benefits as groundwater recharge, stormwater control, surface water quality improvement and habitat for unique plant and animal species
- ☞ The Township contains relatively limited areas of wetlands.
- ☞ State and federal regulations protect wetlands but do not require a buffer around wetlands. Local municipalities can include wetland protection in zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances to augment federal wetland regulations.
- ☞ Franklin Township lies in the Middle Susquehanna section of the Susquehanna River Basin which drains to the Chesapeake Bay which has long been a focus of restoration. Locally, the Township is comprised of seven small watersheds: Abrahams Creek, Cider Run, Dymond Creek, Leonard Creek, Sutton Creek and Whitelock Creek.



Franklin Township Wetland

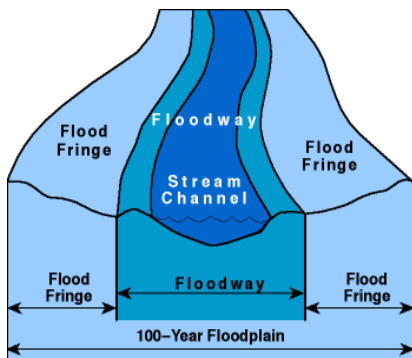


**The Chesapeake Bay Program** is a unique regional partnership that has led and directed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. The Chesapeake Bay Program partners include the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; the Environmental Protection Agency, representing the federal government; and participating citizen advisory groups. (www.chesapeakebay.net)

- ☞ The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection classifies all of the streams in the Township as cold water fisheries, except the headwaters of Lake Catalpa which are classified as high quality, cold water fisheries.
- ☞ Surface water quality in Franklin Township remains generally good, but can be affected by point and non-point pollution. Non-point pollutant sources include soil erosion resulting in stream sedimentation and on-lot sewage disposal systems, and point sources include direct stream discharges of sewage effluent and stormwater.

☞ Maintaining good water quality is critical to the quality of life in the Township and region and beyond to Chesapeake Bay. Good quality streams and well-conserved watersheds are a good measure of overall environmental quality.

☞ Continued updating and enforcement of on-lot sewage disposal, stormwater and soil erosion control and other water quality regulations is critical.



Floodplain Cross Section

☞ The 100-year floodplain identified by FEMA in the Township is minimal and is largely confined to narrow corridors along Sutton Creek and its tributaries.

☞ Development in floodplain in the Township is also very minimal when compared to many communities, and damage from floods has been infrequent.

☞ Franklin Township floodplain regulations comply with the state and federal minimum by allowing elevated dwellings and floodproofed nonresidential structures.

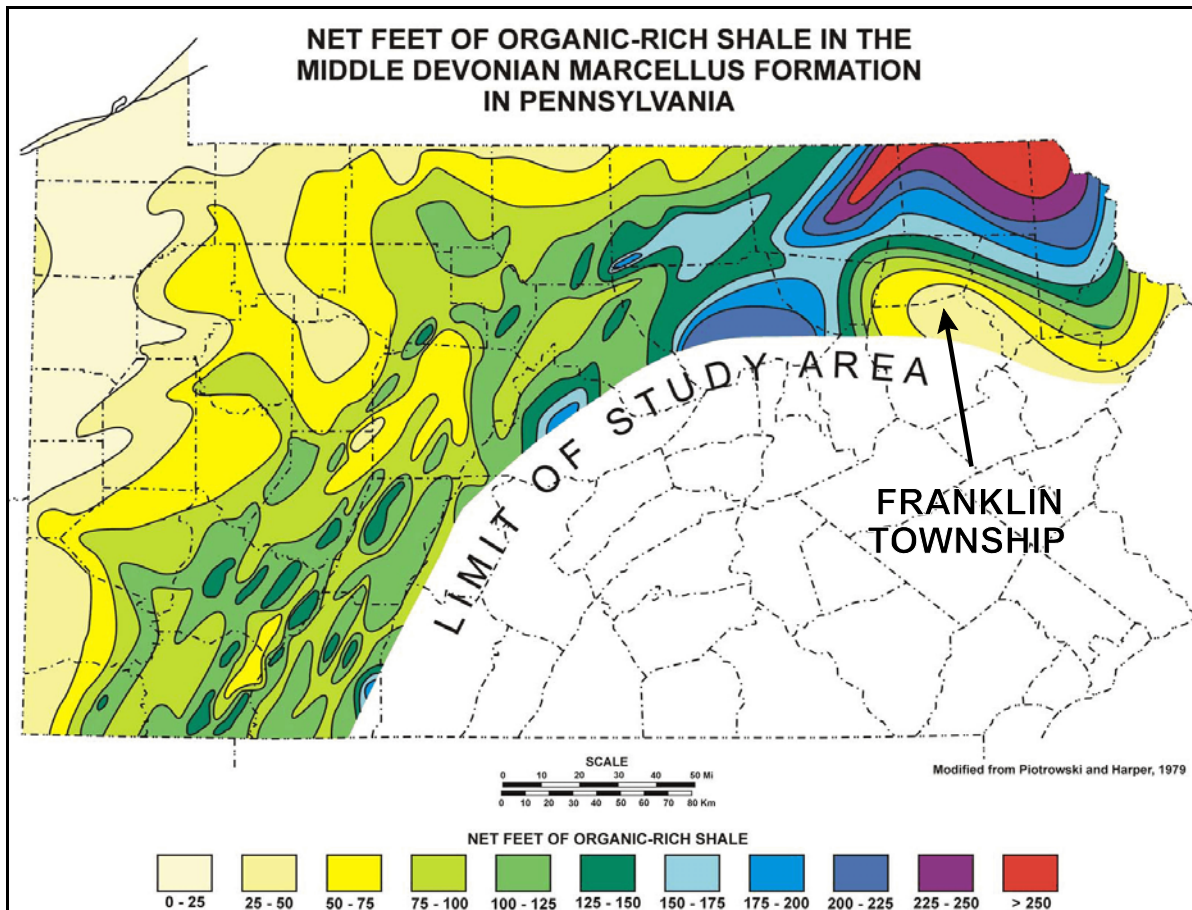
☞ The 2006 *Luzerne County Natural Areas Inventory*, identified two areas in Franklin Township – about half of Perrin’s Marsh and the upper extreme of Abrahams Creek Wetlands.

☞ The Township recognizes the historical and continuing importance of forestry enterprises to the local economy and quality of life, and encourages forestry activities throughout the Township provided such operations are conducted in accord with sound forest management practices and environmental regulations.

☞ A number of natural gas companies have leased thousands of acres in the Back Mountain Area. If exploratory wells are successful, natural gas extraction may become a part of the landscape.

☞ The thickness of the shale and its productivity varies throughout the deposit and Franklin Township is at the lower end of the spectrum.

☞ The Township recognizes the need to provide for *the reasonable development of minerals* in the Township while at the same time ensuring that such operations are conducted in appropriate locations and in accord with sound mining practices and environmental regulations.



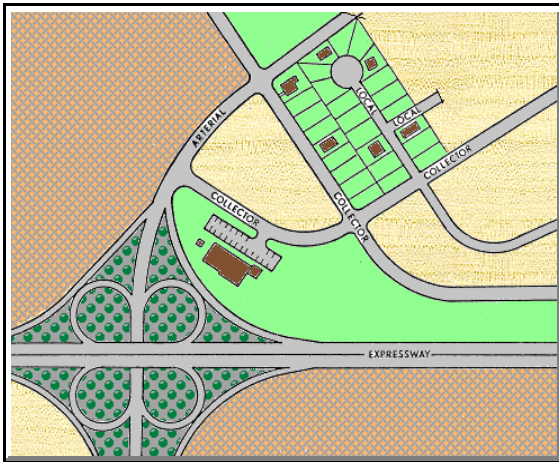
NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY OF ACTIONS			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
1	<b>Steep Slopes</b> - Review steep slope standards and consider standards to limit development of very steep slopes.	Planning Commission Supervisors Zoning Officer	1 year part of zoning
2	<b>Soils</b> - Consider standards to limit soil removal, limit building on wet soils and exclude wet soil areas from lot area calculations.		
3	<b>Forest and Vegetation</b> - Apply standards to limit clearing prior to development application approval and promote open space preservation.		
4	<b>Wetlands</b> - Require wetland identification prior to development and apply wetland preservation standards including buffers.		
5	<b>Forestry</b> - Allow forestry as a principal permitted use in all zoning districts and provide ample opportunity for the location and development of <i>value added</i> enterprises that use the plentiful forest resources available in the Township.		

<b>NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</b>			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
6	<b><u>Mineral Extraction</u></b> - To the extent possible under the terms of the Municipalities Planning Code, direct mineral extraction operations to suitable areas where impacts will be minimized. Adopt standards to ensure that mineral extraction is controlled to the greatest extent possible within the limitations of the Planning Code and evolving case law.	Planning Commission Supervisors Zoning Officer	1 year part of zoning
7	<b><u>Dark Skies</u></b> - Consider comprehensive lighting standards and updates as needed.		
8	<b><u>Stormwater Management</u></b> - Update Township stormwater requirements in the SALDO to be consistent with the County Stormwater Management Plan and DEP requirements	Planning Commission Supervisors	1 year
9	<b><u>Groundwater Protection Program</u></b> - Consider the appointment of a groundwater protection committee and update performance standards related to groundwater conservation and protection: zoning, sewage, stormwater, and well construction.	Planning Commission Supervisors Committee	2 to 3 years
10	<b><u>Well Ordinance</u></b> - Consider the adoption of a well ordinance because there is no state regulation for the construction of private wells.	Planning Commission Supervisors	2 years
11	<b><u>Surface Waters</u></b> - Apply surface water quality protection standards and direct development to areas with adequate sewage disposal facilities.	Planning Commission Supervisors	ongoing
12	<b><u>Floodplain</u></b> - Continue to apply floodplain regulations.	Planning Commission Supervisors Zoning Officer	ongoing

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Findings and Planning Implications**

☞ A sound transportation system includes adequate and well-maintained roads, available public transportation, safe and convenient pedestrian access, and bicycle routes. However, few small, less populated communities with limited budgets are able to achieve this ideal level of service.



Highway Functional Classification

☞ Local municipalities must evaluate transportation needs, set priorities, and garner all available resources to make improvements.

☞ While the Township has no direct access to I-81, the development pattern of Luzerne County and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania has evolved in large part to the access provided by this expressway that connects to other interstate highways and the entire Nation.

☞ Arterial highways provide connection between commercial and population centers in the region and roads from the Township connect to several of arterials in nearby communities, all state highways – Route 309, Route 92 and Route 11.

☞ Collector roads carry traffic from local streets to arterials and in Franklin Township include Eighth Avenue, Orange Road, Village Road, Louise Road, Mount Olivet Road, Bodle Road and Demunds Road.

☞ All other public roads in the Township not classified as collectors are considered local roads which provide connection of residential properties and communities and less populated areas to collectors.

☞ Traffic volume is not an issue in the Township in terms of congestion and level-of-service. Level-of-service, a measure of a traffic flow, is satisfactory for current volumes of traffic and is expected to remain satisfactory for many years.

☞ Franklin Township owns and maintains 15.96 miles of roads, PennDOT owns 11.18 miles, and Luzerne County owns 6.96 miles.

☞ Land use management tools must consider the capacity of roads, directing commercial and higher density development to areas served by roads capable of carrying increased traffic and the trucks necessary to serve commercial establishments.

☞ The Township Supervisors have identified routine maintenance, re-paving as necessary, improving shoulders and drainage as important on Township roads, with no plans for widening or reducing steep grades.

☞ The paving of gravel roads is also not planned because of the cost. In addition to the surface cost, sub-base preparation, drainage facilities, shoulders and bituminous base course requirements drive the cost well above affordability.

PUBLIC ROAD MILEAGE		
Franklin Township Roads		
Name	T - #	Miles
Coon Road	669	1.19
Lewis Road	670	1.63
Valley Road	689	0.86
Ridge Road	693	0.63
Race Road	697	0.65
Cummings Road	699	1.17
Mill Hill Road	709	0.02
Jake Moore Road	768	0.93
Sickler Road	778	0.33
Municipal Road	782	0.99
Flat Rock Road	784	0.85
Brace Road	802	1.42
Village Road	810	0.79
Lockville Road	823	1.46
Cider Run Road	824	0.62
Maria	825	0.09
Abbey Lane	827	0.14
Farm View Drive	828	0.20
Hill Drive	829	0.28
Crown Drive	830	0.35
Pine Drive	831	0.46
Natures Way		0.70
Switzer Road		0.10
Gresh Road		0.10
<b>Township Total</b>	<b>15.96</b>	
<b>Penn DOT Total</b>	<b>11.18</b>	
<b>Luzerne County Total</b>	<b>6.96</b>	
<b>Public Road Total</b>	<b>34.10</b>	

- ☞ The primary concerns on state roads include correction of dangerous intersections, surface restoration, increasing volumes of traffic, speed limit enforcement, adequate maintenance, and improved signs for hazards and traffic control.
- ☞ Franklin Township own no bridges. The bridges on public roads in Franklin Township are owned either by Luzerne County or PennDOT, with the County owning all six bridges on Township Roads. All are in relatively good condition and are adequate for the amount and types of traffic carried, including bridges with posted weight limits.
- ☞ The Township’s Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance includes standards to ensure adequate roads and other facilities for new development.
- ☞ The Franklin Township policy is to not accept any new development road unless the road clearly serves a general public purpose other than providing access to homes in the residential subdivision.
- ☞ Area residents rely on regional airports in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey for major commercial carrier service.
- ☞ Given the regional nature of airport and railroad development and required support, no specific action is planned by the Township with regard to air and rail service.
- ☞ The Luzerne County Transportation Authority provides public bus service in the County but no routes serve the Township. The closest connection is in Wyoming Borough.

<b>TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</b>			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
<b>LOCAL ROADS</b>			
1	<b>Maintenance</b> - Focus on the maintenance and improvement of existing local municipal roads with no plans for paving gravel roads, major realignment or widening projects.	Supervisors Staff	ongoing
2	<b>Innovation</b> - Monitor the effectiveness of new materials and practices and use such innovations to best advantage.		
3	<b>Equipment Inventory</b> - Maintain an up-to-date inventory of road maintenance equipment as a means of planning for replacement and inclusion the capital improvements program.	Supervisors Staff	immediate
4	<b>Road Inventory</b> - Complete and update annually a detailed Township road inventory and evaluation to identify needs and develop an improvements schedule and to identify potential capital projects.		
5	<b>Weight Limits</b> - Begin the process required to study, post weight limits and bond Township roads.	Supervisors Staff Engineer	1 year

<b>TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</b>			
#	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
<b>LOCAL ORDINANCES</b>			
6	<b>Road Standards</b> - Maintain an up-to-date road ordinance and subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO) setting standards for construction of roads and establishing procedures for dedication to the public.	Planning Commission Supervisors Engineer	1 year
7	<b>Dedication</b> - Consider public dedication would only if the road provides connection between existing public roads and therefore clearly serves the general public.	Supervisors	ongoing
8	<b>Occupancy Permits</b> - Maintain an up-to-date road occupancy ordinance setting standards for driveway access to Township roads and for stormwater and utility improvements within the road right-of-way and require the issuance of a highway occupancy permit by the Township for any access or drainage work along Township roads.	Supervisors Engineer	1 year
9	<b>Subdivision Roads</b> - Review road construction standards to ensure adequacy for public safety and eliminate excessive requirements to minimize the consumption of resources for construction and long term maintenance.	Planning Commission Supervisors Engineer	1 year
10	<b>Parking and Loading</b> - Review and update zoning standards for parking and loading areas to ensure safe and adequate parking facilities.	Planning Commission Supervisors	1 year
<b>OFFICIAL MAP</b>			
11	<b>Official Map</b> - Consider an Official Map to identify and reserve land needed for road and intersection improvements and connections.	Planning Commission Supervisors Engineer	2 years
<b>STATE AND COUNTY ROADS</b>			
12	<b>Advisory Board</b> - Participate in the PennDOT Customer Advisory Board to communicate concerns to PennDOT.	Supervisors	ongoing
13	<b>Planning</b> - Continue to work with the Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the County Public Works Department and PennDOT officials to discuss highway improvement needs and prioritize and promote specific improvement projects.		
14	<b>Improvements</b> - Work with local legislators, the MPO, the County Public Works Department and PennDOT to schedule studies to identify improvements to correct identified road and intersection deficiencies		
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION</b>			
15	<b>Park and Ride</b> - Encourage the establishment of a ride-share (car pool) system and provide for park and ride areas in certain zoning districts to facilitate commuting to work outside the Township.	Planning Commission Supervisors	1 year
16	<b>Planning</b> - Recognize the potential future need for public transportation and plan accordingly (e.g., locate residential development along main roads where transit stops are most likely to be located).		

**FINDINGS: HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**Benefits of Historic Preservation**

*Since the 1970s, mounting evidence has shown that historic preservation can be a powerful community and economic development strategy. Evidence includes statistics compiled from annual surveys conducted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and statewide Main Street programs, state-level tourism and economic impact studies, and studies that have analyzed the impact of specific actions such as historic designation, tax credits, and revolving loan funds. Among the findings:*

- *Creation of local historic districts stabilizes, and often increases residential and commercial property values.*
- *Increases in property values in historic districts are typically greater than increases in the community at large.*
- *Historic building rehabilitation, which is more labor intensive and requires greater specialization and higher skill levels, creates more jobs and results in more local business than does new construction.*
- *Heritage tourism provides substantial economic benefits. Tourists drawn by a community's (or region's) historic character typically stay longer and spend more during their visit than other tourists.*
- *Historic rehabilitation encourages additional neighborhood investment and produces a high return for municipal dollars spent.*
- *Use of a city or town's existing, historic building stock can support growth management policies by increasing the supply of centrally located housing.*

Source: *Planning Commissioners Journal*, No. 52, Fall 2003, p. 4.

- ☞ The historic resources in Franklin Township are key components of the rural-working landscape and the character of the community.
- ☞ According to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), no individual structures in the Township are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Three bridges have been nominated but were determined to be ineligible.
- ☞ Many of the older homes and buildings and historic sites in Franklin Township, along with the landscape itself, add to the historic fabric. Some of these buildings and structures may also be eligible for listing on the National Register.
- ☞ The lack of nationally designated historic resources in Franklin Township does not mean that it does not have a rich history.
- ☞ Historic resources of local significance are those that have not been nominated for the National Register, but are still meaningful and important to the community's heritage.
- ☞ A local historic register would be an important first step in securing the resources for the future.
- ☞ Although site and sign design guidelines would not be mandatory outside of a historic district listed on the National Register they can encourage commercial establishments and signs to be consistent with the community's heritage.

**Planning Policies for Historic Resources** - The following policies are intended to preserve and promote this important and unique past which can also serve as an invaluable asset for the local tourism economy:

- Continue the identification of historic sites (nationally and locally significant) and pursue National Register listing.
- Promote public education to raise awareness of local history and historic resources.
- Promote preservation of historic buildings and structures during the land development process.
- Preserve historic buildings by incorporation in commercial areas as commercial uses.
- Preserve historic sites by promotion as recreational or tourist destinations.
- Pursue technical assistance and funding for historic resource identification and preservation.

<b>SUMMARY OF ACTIONS: HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
1	<b>Historical Society</b> - Encourage and support the organization of a local historical society to promote the benefits of historic preservation and document and preserve local history and historical artifacts.	Planning Commission Supervisors Residents	ongoing
2	<b>Outreach</b> - Conduct a public outreach program, perhaps through a newsletter and the Township's web site, to provide educational materials on the Township's history and historic resources.	Historical Society	when formed
3	<b>Data Maintenance</b> - Create a system for efficient storage, mapping, and retrieval of historic resource data and maintain a historic resources database.	Historical Society	3 years
4	<b>Local Register</b> - Develop a local historic register program aimed at identifying properties eligible for state and national recognition, and encourage and support efforts to list and preserve such properties on the National Register.		
5	<b>Technical Assistance</b> - Seek technical assistance from historic preservation organizations, such as the PHMC and Preservation Pennsylvania for inventorying and documenting resources and nominating resources for the National Register.		
6	<b>Funding</b> - Seek funding from organizations such as the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, PHMC, and DCNR, and from programs such as the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.		
7	<b>Design Guidelines</b> - Prepare and adopt design guidelines for commercial, industrial, and institutional development to encourage the most efficient use of commercial land and development consistent with historic character.	Planning Commission Historical Society Business Committee	2 years
8	<p><b>Ordinances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider adopting a historic resource protection ordinance to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit demolition by neglect.</li> <li>• Facilitate the adaptive re-use of historic resources.</li> <li>• Provide incentives for rehabilitation of historic resources</li> <li>• Require review of demolition, alteration, erection, reconstruction, and restoration of historic resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Allow home occupations in all zoning districts as a means of encouraging productive use of historic structures which tend to be larger and more difficult to maintain.</li> <li>• Incorporate the preservation of historic resources in conservation design for residential and commercial development.</li> </ul>	Planning Commission Supervisors	2 years
			ongoing
			1 year
9	<b>NPS Certified Program</b> - Consider participation in the Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Program of the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Historic Preservation.	Historical Society	3 years