



East Pennsboro Township Comprehensive Plan

Introduction

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Introduction

Visioning is the process that focuses on what a community wants to become within a specified timeframe, whether 5, 10, 15 or 20 years in the future. The visioning process characterizes the Township's perspective on community development and focuses the development of goals and objectives to address local issues.

The community development goals and objective presented in this chapter are based on those of the Township's previous comprehensive plan and the issues and conclusions discussed in the Chapter 3. They have been reviewed, revised and amended under the following headings:

The Township as a livable community – where residents find safe, pleasant housing and neighborhoods, convenient, quality health and educational services, diverse recreation and leisure services, and a demonstrated appreciation for local heritage and culture.

The physical development of the Township – where a wide range of uses can fit into the existing community pattern and into the natural environment without significant unplanned impact to roadways, sensitive resources, and overall community activity

The Township’s community facilities provision of and services – where residents and businesses are served by effective and efficient public safety personnel, public utilities and municipal administration.

The economic vitality of the Township – where businesses thrive, providing employment opportunities and services to residents.

These four headings comprise the vision of East Pennsboro Township. Goals and objectives for each headings are listed here, followed by the corresponding action plans in Chapter 5.

Livable Community Goals

Health and Educational Services

Goal: Develop and support public and private mechanisms to provide health and educational services that adequately meet the needs of community members.

Objectives:

- Support the provision of modern health care through land use planning and zoning.
- Work with the school district to provide quality educational facilities and services.
- Support the provision of institutions of continuing and higher education in the Township.
- Support enhanced library facilities and services, according to need and funding.

Housing and Neighborhoods

Goal: Promote comfortable, safe, and affordable housing that meets the physical and psychological needs of community members and promote vibrant neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Eliminate and prevent conditions that contribute to and perpetuate blight in residential areas.
- Encourage redevelopment that is compatible with neighborhood character.
- Encourage a variety of housing designs, types, and values to meet the residential needs of all segments of the Township’s present and future population.

Recreation

Goal: Provide the facilities and programs needed to fulfill the recreational needs of Township residents.

Objectives:

- Maintain and expand the high quality facilities that exist in the Township.
- Maintain the high-caliber recreational and leisure programs offered by the Township.
- Ensure the existing high quality standards are maintained for the life of the park and recreation system.
- Ensure that the balance that exists today between administrative resources and programs and facilities is maintained proportionately as the system grows.
- Cooperate with adjacent municipalities, county and state agencies, and other public/ private groups in their efforts to provide area-wide recreation opportunities.

Culture and Heritage

Goal: Promote local heritage and cultural facilities and events.

Objectives:

- Preserve and integrate the Township's significant historic and natural landmarks with the contemporary community.
- Cooperate with adjacent municipalities, county and state agencies, and other public/ private groups in efforts to provide area-wide cultural opportunities.

Physical Development Goals***Land Use***

Goal: Provide a guiding pattern of compatible land uses that is responsive to the needs and desires of the citizens and to the opportunities and limitations of both natural and man-made environments.

Objectives:

- Sustain integrated land use environments for the villages of Enola, Summerdale, and West Fairview.
- Sustain functional environments for each major land use, such as residential, commercial, and industrial, by reserving appropriate areas for their development, expansion and redevelopment needs.
- Facilitate continued development and redevelopment of the US 11/ 15 corridor.
- Facilitate compatible development of adjoining uses and with the natural environment.
- Provide for the active use of natural resources, such as agriculture, forestry, and mineral extraction, regulating their operations for the protection of the natural environment.

- Maintain and enforce effective land use standards that minimize conflicts between land uses within the Township and contiguous land in adjacent municipalities.
- Coordinate and interrelate local planning with the plans of adjacent municipalities, the county, region, and state.

Transportation

Goal: Develop and maintain a community-wide circulation system that provides for the safe, convenient, efficient movement of people and goods within and through the Township through transportation and land use planning.

Objectives:

- Continue street and intersection upgrading and maintenance programs, prioritizing activities by need.
- Adopt and enforce access management principles for arterials and major collectors, including but not limited to US 11/ 15, Wertzville Road, Valley Road, and East Penn Drive.
- Encourage bicycling and walking as alternatives to motor vehicle transportation through the provision of bicycle-pedestrian facilities and promotional activities.
- Provide for reconstruction and maintenance of sidewalks along appropriate streets, especially along routes traveled by school children and local shoppers.
- Encourage the establishment and use of increased public transportation and associated facilities, e.g. park-n-ride sites throughout the Township.
- Provide standards and requirements for the design, construction, maintenance and improvements of roads and alleys, parking and loading areas, and curbing that serve community goals for access to facilities and services.

Natural Environment

Goal: Protect and enhance environmental quality throughout the community.

Objectives:

- Preserve open space along water courses and other areas that may be unsuitable for development through restrictive zoning measures and a program of land acquisition.
- Maintain and enforce ordinances that prevent or mitigate the impact of disturbance or development on environmental quality.
- Adopt and enforce ordinances that conserve the forested condition of Blue Mountain, riparian areas, and other groundwater recharge areas.
- Protect existing vegetation.
- Integrate vegetation with new development.
- Maintain and enforce ordinances, and support higher governmental programs in areas, such as sanitation, air and water pollution, floodplain and stormwater management, and solid waste disposal.

Energy

Goal: Encourage public and private actions that will conserve energy resources, and encourage the use of renewable energy resources.

Objectives:

- Maintain and implement policies to reduce the use of nonrenewable energy in the heating, cooling, and operation of buildings and the maintenance of Township property.
- Seek to increase public awareness and education on energy conservation.
- Maintain and implement policies to reduce energy consumption in the transportation sector.

Community Facilities and Services Goals

Public facilities and services

Goal: Provide a complete and adequate system of public facilities and services that is responsive to the needs of the Township's residents and businesses.

Objectives:

- Maintain an adequate level of police, fire, and ambulance services commensurate with population and business needs.
- Provide for adequate public sewerage and water services in appropriate areas of the Township.
- Provide and maintain an effective stormwater management system throughout the Township.
- Provide and maintain effective solid waste collection and recycling programs for residents.
- Assure satisfactory Township government by providing adequate administrative and maintenance personnel and adequate equipment to meet local government needs.

Homeland Protection

Goal: Promote protection of public infrastructure and preparedness for emergency management.

Objectives:

- Continue to promote security of public and quasi-public infrastructure, including water supply and treatment, wastewater treatment, and energy supply.
- Improve communications among Township, County, State, and Federal entities and neighborhood groups.
- Support the development and training of local volunteer responders to emergency and incident sites.

Economic Sustainability Goal

Goal: Promote a diversified economic base that can provide adequate employment opportunities, satisfy the needs of commercial goods and business services, and support the fiscal responsibilities of the Township.

Objectives:

- Encourage the continued vitality of the Township's existing industrial/ commercial employers and service providers.
- Guide business and industrial uses to locations along street corridors capable of handling or of being improved to accommodate anticipated traffic flow.
- Encourage the use of high quality site development and construction practices for commercial, office, and industrial areas.
- Promote high quality maintenance of non-residential properties.
- Promote redevelopment of existing commercial properties, also known as brownfields.
- Continue to pursue dialogue with Norfolk-Southern Railway Company in regards to future development of the Enola Rail Yard.
- Maintain and enforce ordinances that reasonably regulate the use and operation of home businesses.