

Blair County

Pennsylvania

he Areawide Comprehensive



Prepared by the Blair County
Planning Commission with assistance
from Pashek Associates, Ltd. and
Wade VanLandingham Inc.

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a pennsylvania corporation

Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair
County (Altoona MSA)
Adopted August 7, 2007



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BLAIR COUNTY GREENWAY PLAN

The Blair County Greenway Plan was developed as part of the 2005 update to the Areawide Comprehensive Plan. The Greenway Plan is largely attributed to the contributions of the Greenway Steering Committee.



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Introduction to the Areawide Comprehensive Plan

Blair County decided to embark on an update to its Comprehensive plan during 2002. At that time, the Blair County Planning Commission saw an opportunity for proactive planning. They decided to take a larger leadership role in developing policies at the County level related to land use, economic development, and improving the overall quality of life for residents. Maintaining and improving the quality of life and economic vitality are important goals the plan will address. The approach taken to create the plan, described later, is participatory in nature, involving residents from all municipalities and many interest groups. Some of the key challenges facing Blair County include:

Maintaining and improving the quality of life and economic vitality are important goals the plan will address.

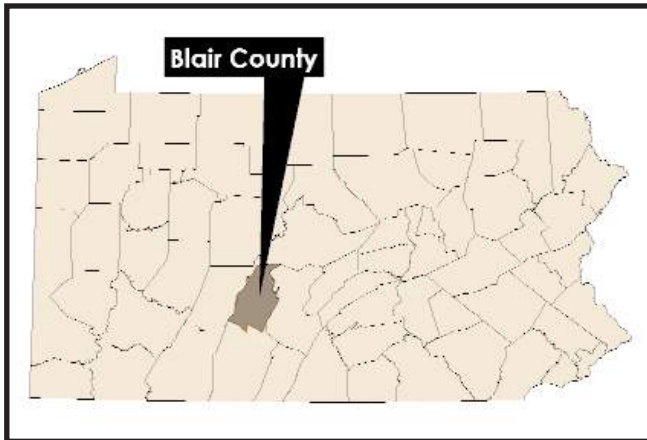
- Shifting of the population from the City of Altoona and many boroughs to suburban and rural areas;
- Retaining existing residents and drawing new residents to the region by making Blair County an attractive place to live for younger populations and future residents;
- Providing for the needs of citizens of all age groups, and in particular, the social, economic, and housing needs of the elderly;
- Preventing unnecessary development in open space and agricultural areas, while providing for the housing needs of all residents;
- Supplying opportunities for economic development and employment, while preserving natural and cultural assets, and improving the overall quality of life in the county.

To successfully address these and other issues, this county plan was developed with layers of public input, research, and discussions with a variety of stakeholders.

I. OVERVIEW OF BLAIR COUNTY

Blair County (Census 2000 pop. 129,144) is located in south-central Pennsylvania. It is bordered by Centre County to the north, Huntingdon County to the east, Bedford County to the south, Cambria County to the west, and Clearfield County to the northwest. Blair

County includes the City of Altoona (pop. 49,523), fifteen Townships, and eight Boroughs. Blair County also includes a portion of Tunnelhill Borough, which is split between the Blair County and Cambria County. The major transportation routes in Blair County include Interstate 99, which runs in a north/south direction and US Route 22 which runs east/west.



Altoona sits at the base of the Allegheny Plateau, with the Allegheny Front extending westward. The alternating ridges and valleys define the landscape and, in part, the culture and history of the county. Prior to being chartered as a county, the mountainous forestland and valleys were inhabited by the Delaware Indians. Frankstown acquired its name from being an Indian trading post. On February 26, 1846, Blair County became the fifty-ninth county in the Commonwealth. Some of the older villages were established in the mid 1700's such as Hollidaysburg - the county seat.

II. PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

At the initial steering committee meeting, the stakeholders participated in an exercise to form a consensus on the purpose of the Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County. Their input formed the mission statement below.

Mission Statement of an Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County

The purpose of the Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County is to ...

- Serve as an informational, management, and educational tool for moving Blair County and its municipalities into the 21st century

- Identify characteristics that make Blair County unique and special in order to create and maintain a sense of place
- Balance preserving natural resources with economic development opportunities in order to maintain a high quality of life
- Research and develop incentives to encourage smart development within the county and sustain the small towns and cities
- Coordinate future infrastructure improvements with land that is suitable for development
- Encourage the preservation of agricultural lands and sustain agricultural businesses
- Educate citizens and local officials about alternatives for development style and patterns that are more conducive to sustainable design
- Encourage cooperation between municipal and county government to leverage federal and state funding and make smart use of resources

III. THE PLANNING PROCESS

The county plan was prepared using a three-phase participatory planning approach, which focused on answering the following three questions:

Where are we now?

Phase I: Assessment of Existing Conditions/Background Elements

Where do we want to go?

Phase II: Creating a Vision, Goals, and Future Land Use Scenario

How do we get there?

Phase III: Developing an Action Program - Strategies & Recommendations

PHASE I - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Phase I of the process focused on gathering and researching information, as well as obtaining public input on each of the background elements. A project steering committee was designated to represent varied

Process for Creating the Areawide Comprehensive Plan

Time Frame

2003

2005

2005-2014

2015

Areawide Comprehensive Planning Process For Blair County

Here We Are!!

Where Are We Now? PHASE I ➤ Background Assessment
➤ Public Input From 7 Sub-Regions

Where Do We Want To Go? PHASE II ➤ Creating A Vision & Goals
➤ Public Workshops in 7 Sub-Regions to Develop Regional Land Use Scenarios

How Do We Get There? PHASE III ➤ Creating A Proposed Action Program
➤ Strategies and Recommendations

Detailed Municipal Comprehensive Plans
By Region (Preferred) or Municipality

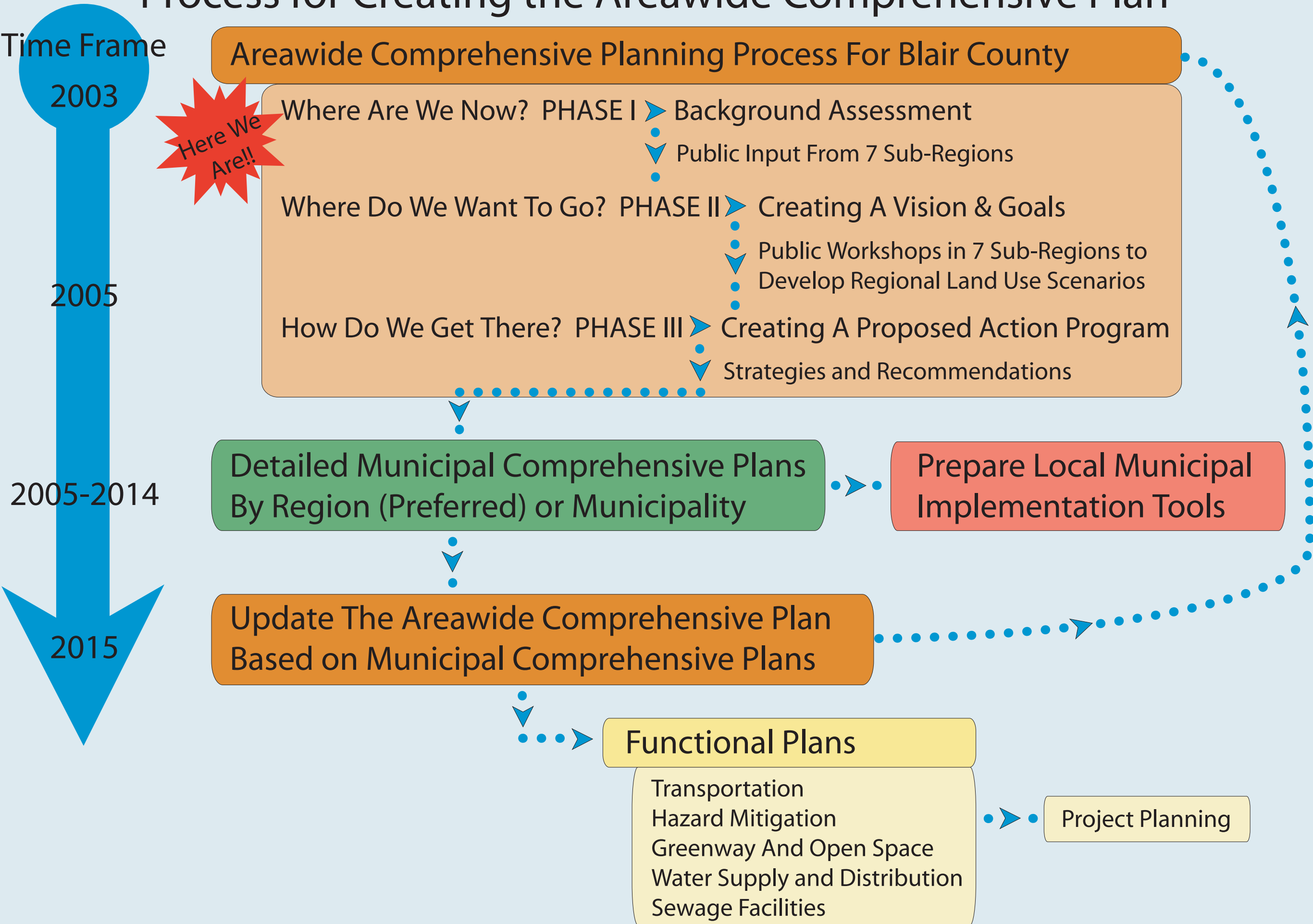
Prepare Local Municipal
Implementation Tools

Update The Areawide Comprehensive Plan
Based on Municipal Comprehensive Plans

Functional Plans

Transportation
Hazard Mitigation
Greenway And Open Space
Water Supply and Distribution
Sewage Facilities

Project Planning



interests of the public and provide input to the plan. The planning process kicked-off with a press conference and a steering committee meeting in January, 2003. At that point, background research on the existing conditions of Blair County was conducted, focusing on the following plan elements:

- Housing
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Economic Development
- Demographic Trends
- Existing Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Parks and Recreation

The county was divided into seven sub-regions roughly based on the boundaries of the school districts. The background research is organized according to the seven sub-regions.

PHASE II - WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Phase II of the process focused on developing a County Vision, goals, and proposed future land use scenarios. The vision is designed to market, motivate, and transform the plan into something to strive for in the future. Broad community development objectives have been developed to meet the needs of the future land use scenario.

PHASE III - HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Phase III of the process focuses on developing a strategic action program to implement the plan's vision and goals.

PUBLIC INPUT INTO THE PLAN

Public involvement is essential in a county planning process for various reasons. First, it helps to foster a sense of ownership and understanding of information included in the plan, and more specifically, of the plan's vision, goals, and recommendations. Second, those that live and interact in their communities understand their issues the best. By using different techniques to involve the public in a planning process, the communities are more likely to have a sound understanding and appreciation of planning issues facing the county as a whole, as well as in each sub-region. Both qualitative

and quantitative methods have been used in this process. Below is a brief summary of each public process technique used to develop the plan.

The Steering Committee

A steering committee was established at the start of the project. The committee consists of a variety of stakeholders in addition to the county Planning Commission members. Representatives from the following groups and agencies are represented:

- Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation
- Altoona-Blair County Chamber of Commerce
- Blair County Conservation District
- Allegheny Ridge Corporation
- Realtors
- Developers
- Local government officials
- School Districts
- Rails-to-Trails of Central Pennsylvania

The role of the steering committee is essential to guide the planning process, and ensure that all issues are discussed throughout the process for creating the plan. Throughout the process, the committee has sought to form consensus on the goals and policies of the county plan. The committee meetings serve as a forum for varying points of interest to react and discuss information. Information and resources are often requested from the steering committee because the committee consists of many informative stakeholders in the county.

Quality of Life Questionnaire

The purpose of the quality of life questionnaire is to seek input from a random sampling of 7000 residents and to understand their perspective about planning issues that affect the quality of life in the county. The questionnaire is a tool to survey residents about what they like and what they do not like about where they live. They were also asked to prioritize the importance of allocating public funds related to topic areas similar to the plan's elements. The results of the questionnaire provided sound quantitative and qualitative data to guide the county in developing the vision, goals, and recommendations for the plan. The results of the questionnaire are summarized at the end of Section I.

Public Input Meetings

A round of public input meetings was held during the first few months of the planning process. A public meeting was held in each of the seven sub-regions in Blair County. The purpose of the public input meetings was to provide an overview of the planning process as well as solicit input from residents. Citizens were asked to brainstorm what they like, do not like, and want to see change in the future. Prompting questions relating to each of the plan elements were provided to initiate discussion. The citizen comments were tallied and prioritized. The results of the seven public input meetings are summarized at the end of Section I.

Key person interviews

Key person interviews were conducted to gather detailed information about specific topics in the plan. Over 25 key person interviews were conducted. The information gathered was used to supplement the plan elements and helped to identify strengths and weaknesses within the county.

Focus Group Meetings

Focus Group meetings were held with specific interest groups to get feedback on a particular aspect of the plan and identify potential partnerships for implementation of the plan. Meetings focused on park and recreation facilities and improvements (including trails), community image and quality of life issues, environmental and natural resources issues, and municipal planning needs. Information collected during focus groups was used to understand the opportunities available to Blair County, as well as formulate recommendations for the plan.

Visioning/Future Land Use Public Workshops

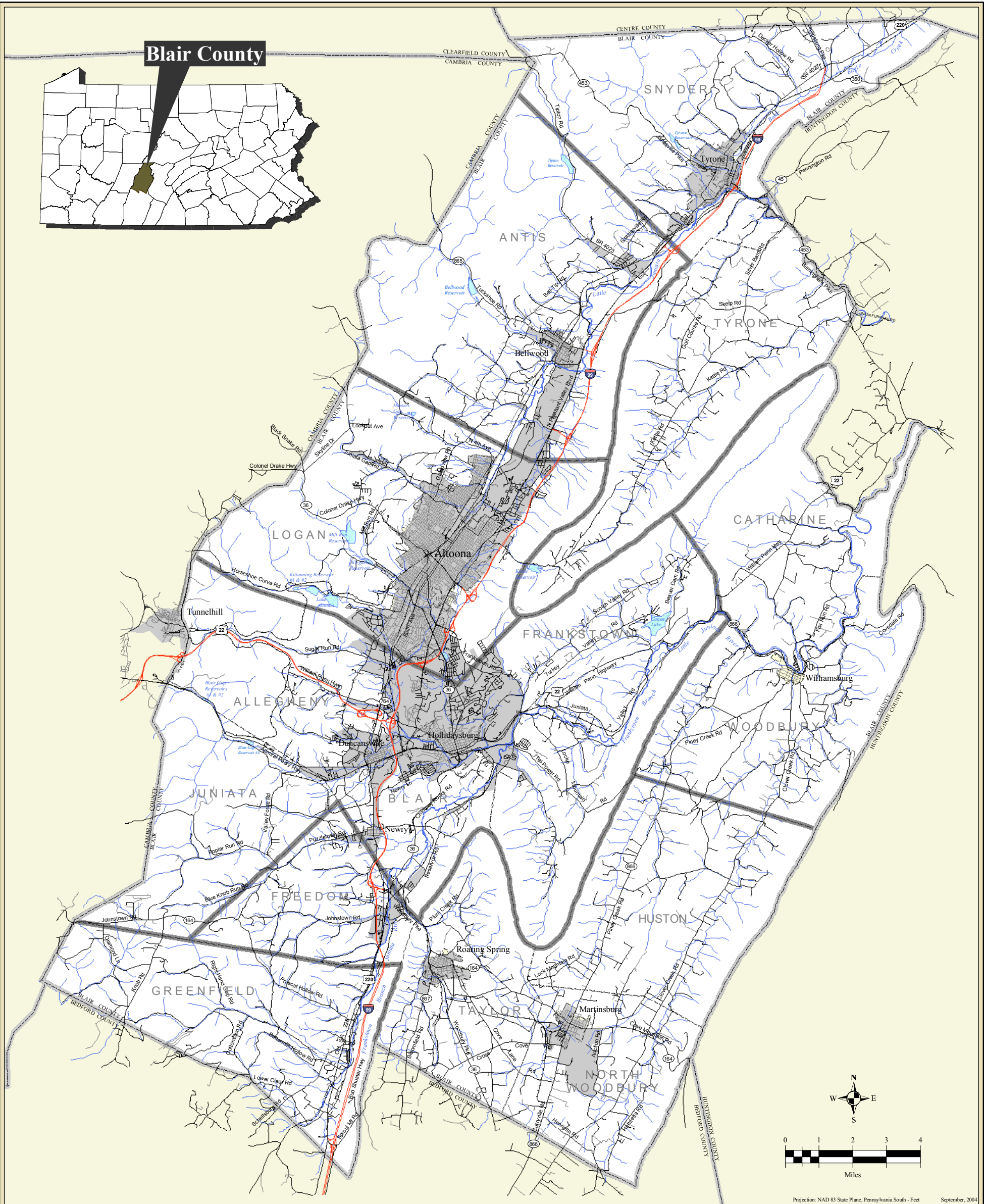
Public visioning meetings were held during Phase II of the planning process. Citizens from each of the sub-regions were invited to attend. The meetings were advertised, and invitations were sent directly to local officials as well as key stakeholders in each municipality. The visioning meetings were facilitated sessions to gather feedback on a proposed vision, goals, and a future land use scenario. The participants worked on developing a future land use map, which diagrammed areas for reinvestment, growth, and preservation. Land use types and mixes of land uses were depicted for the region as a whole. The challenge was to develop a Countywide land use map that met the needs of each

sub-region and the county as a whole. Build-out scenarios were developed to depict varying degrees of development based on existing land use patterns, growth of new development, and zoning regulations. A summary of the visioning workshop meetings is described at the end of Section II.

IV. USING THE AREAWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

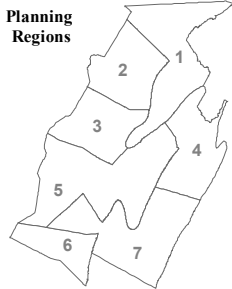
The Blair County Planning Commission will actively facilitate the implementation of the county plan through a variety of implementation tools. The toolbox includes: facilities planning, capital improvements programming, subdivision and land development ordinances, official maps, and potentially zoning ordinances, where appropriate. When municipal and multi-municipal comprehensive plans are subsequently developed they will be reviewed for consistency with the Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County. The Action Program recommends and prioritizes the tools that are most appropriate for each sub-region.

The Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County has developed strategies to achieve the vision, goals, and objectives identified by each of the seven sub-regions. A responsible and participating party, associated cost, priority, funding sources, and a column to record action, accompany each strategy. The strategies are intended to provide guidance to those that are implementing the plan. The strategies and costs will be further refined when functional plans are developed related to transportation, open space, and hazard mitigation, as well as the capital improvement programs. Capital improvement programming prioritizes tangible projects (highways, parks, housing projects) and allocates an annual budget. Through this process, the Areawide Comprehensive Plan lends itself to project planning.



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Planning Regions



Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| County Boundary | Lake/Reservoir | Urban Areas |
| Interstate | River/Creek/Stream | Planning Regions |
| State Route | City/Borough | |
| Local Road | Township | |
| Railroad | | |

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System

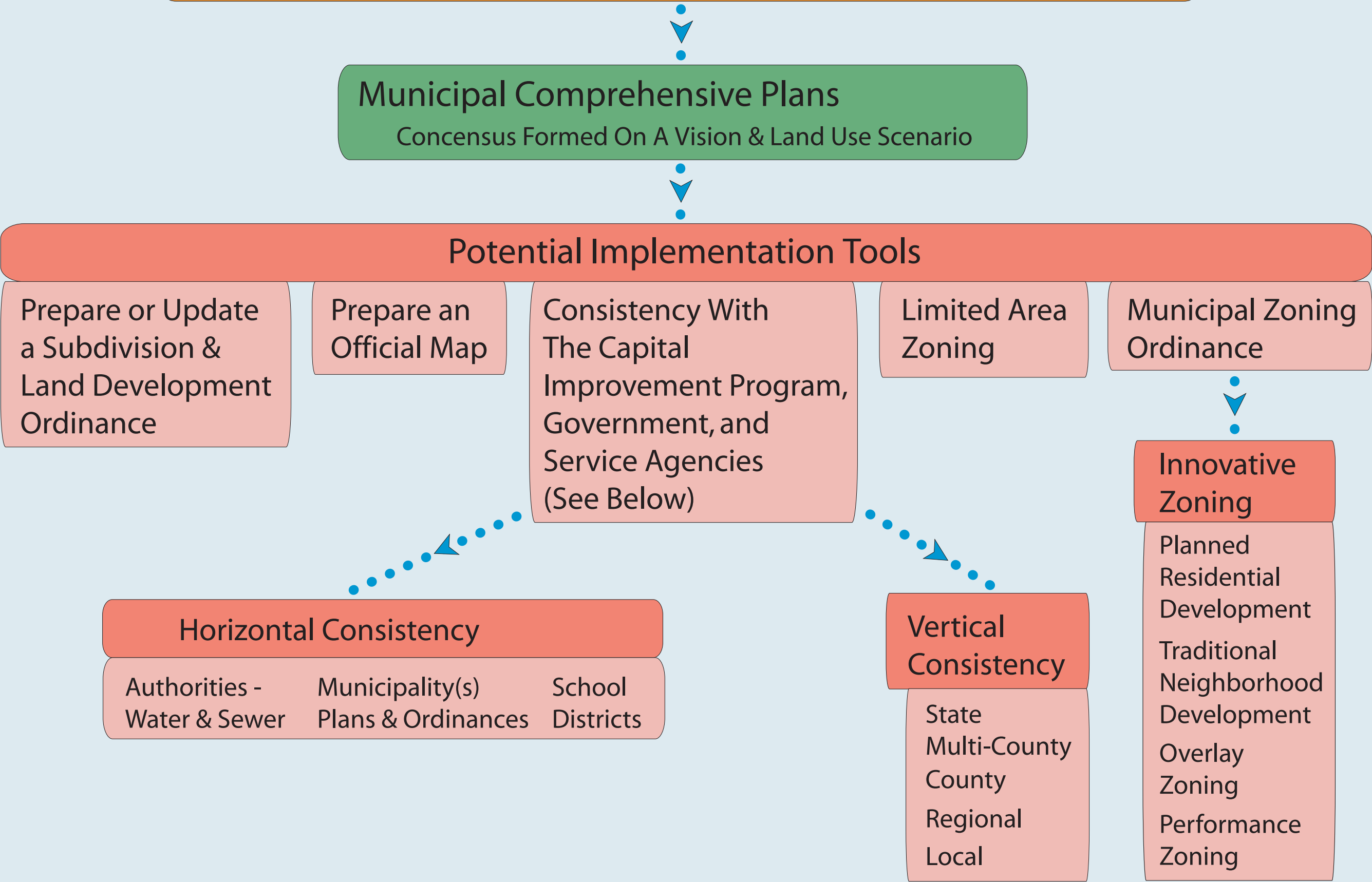
An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Planning Regions
& Urban Areas



Making The Plan A Reality: The Implementation Tools

Implementing the Areawide Comprehensive Plan For Blair County



Section 1

Where are we now?

“All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination.”

- *Earl Nightingale*



Summary of Strengths and Weaknesses

Section I of the Areawide Plan for Blair County is an inventory and assessment of the existing conditions of the county. It serves as an important beginning point for the planning process.

The main topics reviewed in this section include:

- Existing Land Use
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Prime Agriculture Land
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends
- Community Facilities
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Stormwater Management
- Solid Waste Management
- Transportation
- Housing
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Economic Development & Tourism
- Form and Function of Government

The assessment of existing conditions identify the positive aspects of Blair county that should be capitalized on in planning for the future, as well as aspects of the county that can be enhanced or improved.

Key points from the existing conditions assessment have been extracted and are listed as either a strength, weakness, opportunity, or threat. It is important to note that classification of key points by strengths and weaknesses is neither a positive nor a negative connotation, but rather it shows the positive aspects of Blair County that should be capitalized on in planning for the future, as well as aspects of the county that can be enhanced or improved.

For ease of reference, the summary of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats is organized in the following manner:

- Housing Conditions
- Economic Conditions
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Agriculture and Farmland Preservation
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Community Image and Quality of Life
- Community Facilities and Services
- Government Administration and Planning

Housing Conditions

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable Housing ▪ Low income housing assistance ▪ Well-designed urban neighborhoods with amenities (streetlights, sidewalks, alleys, parks, etc.) ▪ Low housing vacancy rate ▪ Strong, viable neighborhoods 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant, dilapidated, and poorly maintained housing • Lack of affordable market rate housing for elderly residents • Underserved areas of the County for low income housing • Housing construction has been on the high -end
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable, quality housing along I-99 corridor ▪ Explore alternatives to conventional subdivisions ▪ Housing rehabilitation ▪ Providing a range of housing types and styles for elderly and disabled residents 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New construction is more economical than rehabilitation • Sprawling residential development patterns threaten farmland and open space • Home conversions and renovations that are not consistent with the neighborhood architectural styles

Economic Conditions

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong presence of manufacturing and distribution facilities given proximity to transportation ▪ Highly trained workforce ▪ Educational facilities and training opportunities ▪ KOZ and other incentives for economic development ▪ A diverse economy since the 1950's 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant and abandoned industrial sites • Struggling main street areas with vacant storefronts • Lack of interesting job opportunities; need for higher-paying, skilled positions
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile workforce ▪ Research and education at Penn State ▪ Downtown revitalization to support small and medium-sized businesses ▪ Brownfield and site redevelopment opportunities ▪ Explore expansion into new sectors – high-tech, information technology ▪ Outdoor recreation and tourism taking advantage of natural assets 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition within Blair County municipalities and the region for jobs • Departure of young people from the County

Environment and Natural Resources

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abundance of natural resources ▪ High quality and exceptional value waterways exist in the County ▪ Unique environmental features – Arch Springs, Chimney Rocks, Roaring Springs ▪ Ecological and species diversity ▪ Cleaning-up Abandoned Mine Drainage (AM D) sites ▪ Watershed planning and community activism 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in floodplain and flood prone areas • Poor suitability of soils for on -lot systems • Little public access to the Juniata River • Presence of superfund sites and other man - made hazard areas • Potential for landslides given topography of the county
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High potential for greenway development ▪ Outdoor recreational pursuits ▪ Environmental education and community involvement ▪ Watershed and stormwater management planning ▪ Conservation planning for Agricultural Areas (CREP) ▪ Natural Heritage Inventory 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprawling development patterns consume open space and farmland • Hillside development • Malfunctioning on -lot septic systems • Nutrient contamination of groundwater from agricultural operations • Run-off from urban and industrial areas • Illegal dumping

Agriculture and Farmland Preservation

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural Security Areas (45,641 acres enrolled) ▪ 27 Conservation Easements purchased (4,307 acres) ▪ Morrisons Cove and Sinking Valley ▪ Residents value the rural character ▪ Important economic sector ▪ Proactive and educated farming community ▪ Mennonite farming community 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some nutrient contamination of groundwater from agriculture (ex. Cove Area) • Run-off from agricultural areas • Conversion of farmland and land use conflicts
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PA Farmland Preservation Program ▪ Nutrient and conservation management programs ▪ Education and awareness of importance of farming ▪ Support for farmland preservation ▪ Community supported agriculture; new markets ▪ Growing interest in new agri -business and specialty farms 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest among young people in farming • Difficulty in maintaining financially viable family farms • Residential and urban development

Historic and Cultural Resources

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rich in history and culture – many preserved sites (ex. Fort Roberdeau) ▪ 26 sites on National Historic Register ▪ The Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and Horseshoe Curve are National Historic Landmarks ▪ Variety of religious institutions ▪ There are eight (8) historic districts in Blair County that are on the National Register ▪ Hollidaysburg has a Historic District Ordinance ▪ Museums and historical societies ▪ Good access to cultural activities 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial incentives for historic preservation • Historic district ordinances perceived as overly restrictive • Scarcity of educational and cultural opportunities (ex. theater, live music) • Lack of education on value of history and why historic preservation is important
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heritage Tourism – connecting and promoting historic, cultural, and recreational assets ▪ Strong industrial heritage ▪ Proactive historic and cultural organizations in the County ▪ Education of residents on history of Blair County – interpretive sites ▪ Connecting with educational facilities to offer cultural events ▪ Emerging state programs to support historic preservation, such as the Elm Street Program 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest among people to support historic/cultural sites • Lack of resources for maintaining and improving historic/cultural sites • Alteration or demolition of historic buildings/sites

Community Image/Quality of Life

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community enhancement projects (ex. Tyrone) ▪ Strong sense of place ▪ High quality schools/education ▪ Good community services ▪ Small town character ▪ Affordable place to live ▪ Good work ethic ▪ Good place to raise a family ▪ Low crime rate 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly maintained properties and blighted areas • Transportation corridor aesthetics – poor signage and access • Vacant storefronts • Development patterns and styles (ex. strip mall) • Expressed need for more activities for youth from questionnaire • Expressed need for more shopping and grocery stores in village areas
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gateways, community enhancements ▪ Streetscape programs ▪ Community revitalization programs ▪ Market the County and its assets and quality of education ▪ Neighborhood enhancement programs to promote livability 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and drugs perceived as issues • Inconsistent and incompatible development patterns • Continued development trends (sprawl, strip - style development)

Government Administration and Planning

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All municipalities are members of Blair County Planning Commission ▪ Strong County leadership and oversight; desire to provide best services with resources available ▪ Good coordination between municipalities and school districts ▪ Coordination between BCPC and Metropolitan Planning Organization ▪ Previous multi-municipal planning efforts 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some municipalities do not have comprehensive plans • Outdated comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances in some municipalities • Perceived need for stronger land use planning • Need for improved communication among schools districts, county, and local municipalities
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-municipal planning ▪ Explore opportunities for municipal cooperation in service delivery ▪ Develop coordinated and consistent land use regulations among municipalities ▪ Increased interagency coordination and cooperation 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication between neighboring municipalities on planning and development • Weak land use regulations and plans

Park, Recreation, and Open Space

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variety of parks and recreational facilities - Canoe Creek State Park, State Game Lands, County Parks, Blue Knob, Ball Park, ▪ Parks celebrate the historic of Blair County (ex. Canal Basin Park) ▪ The Lower Trail ▪ Recreation opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, etc. ▪ Recreation and trail groups (Rails -to-Trails) 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of additional land use tools to protect open space, scenic views, ridge tops, and greenways • Inadequate outdoor recreation facilities, such as trails • Lack of programmed activities for youth and seniors
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Greenway will connect recreation, environmental preservation, heritage tourism, and revitalization efforts ▪ Development of recreation activities for youth and seniors ▪ Community interest in trail development ▪ Multi-County Greenway Plan 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack for funding for regular maintenance and improvement to park and recreation areas • Development patterns that consume open space

Community Facilities

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community facilities attract people to the region (ex. conference center) ▪ Higher educational programs and facilities (ex. Penn State Altoona) ▪ Good quality public schools ▪ Good public services throughout County (police, fire, EMS) ▪ Blair County 911 Program ▪ Blair County Airport ▪ Quality health care facilities ▪ Recycling drop-off centers 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transit options for senior citizens to access services • Lack of improved transportation and infrastructure in eastern Blair County • Limited curbside recycling areas • Garbage collection is not mandatory for all municipalities • Lack of water and sewer planning
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial benefits of shared or regionalized service for municipalities ▪ Development of natural gas, water/sewer, and transportation infrastructure to support needs ▪ Need for Capital Improvements Program 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strained municipal resources to provide for services and facilities • Moratoriums on sewer development and expansion in select areas



Existing Land Use

Introduction

An analysis of existing land use was conducted through an extensive windshield survey of parcels and their accompanying land uses in Blair County during the summer of 2002. Land use information gathered from the windshield survey was transferred on to aerial photography and digitized into a GIS database. This resulted in a Comprehensive Existing Land Use Map for Blair County.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The purpose of conducting the existing land use assessment is:

- To provide information on the existing land use patterns in the county
- To provide a summary of land use trends and characterize development types and styles in Blair County and the seven planning regions.
- To pinpoint the occurrence of existing land use issues and concerns.
- To create existing land use maps for the county and planning regions that provide an informative base for land use decision-making.

The assessment of existing land use characterizes the type of development and land use trends that exist in Blair County.

I. EXISTING LAND USE ASSESSMENT

The assessment of existing land use characterizes the type of development and land use trends that exists in the Blair County and seven Planning Regions.¹ The Existing Land Use Map on the following pages should be referenced when reviewing this section. A Countywide Existing Land Use Map is included, as well as Existing Land Use Maps for each of the planning regions. Land use types depicted on the maps include:

- Residential
- General Sales and Services (commercial uses)

1. The seven Planning Regions correspond to school districts in Blair County with the exception of Southern Tyrone Township and Tunnelhill Borough.

- Manufacturing/Wholesale (industrial uses)
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Administration/Health Care
- Construction Related Businesses
- Mining and Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Open Space.
- Vacant

Existing land use is examined within the context of the other plan elements as well; such as cultural and historic resources, in order to define the strengths and weaknesses for Blair County. The relationships between plan elements will also set the foundation for the future land use scenarios in Phase II of the planning process.

COUNTYWIDE OVERVIEW

Blair County, encompassing a land area of approximately 338,900 acres, is located in central Pennsylvania. Blair County is bordered by Centre County to the north, Huntingdon County to the east, Bedford County to the south, Cambria County to the west, and Clearfield County to the northwest.

The land cover for each land use category is listed in Table 1.1 as a percent of the total land area in the county. These figures are based on the Existing Land Use Map for Blair County.

Table 1.1

Blair County - Existing Land Use

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentage
Residential	28,298	8.36%
General Sales or Service	3,163	0.93%
Manufacturing/Wholesale	1,111	0.33%
Transportation/ Communication/Utilities	10,012	2.96%
Arts/Entertainment/ Recreation	4,669	1.38%
Education/Public Administration/Health Care	2,246	0.66%
Construction Related Business	14	0.0042%
Mining & Extraction	1,380	0.41%
Agriculture	67,638	19.98%
Forest/Game Lands	219,021	64.70%
Vacant	961	0.28%
Total	338,513	100.00%

These existing land use categories are discussed in more detail below for each planning region. A summary of the existing land use patterns for each planning region follows.

REGION 1

Region 1 includes the Borough of Tyrone (Census 2000 pop. 5,528), Snyder Township (Census 2000 pop.3,358), and Tyrone Township (Census 2000 pop. 1,800). Encompassing approximately 57,418 acres of land, Region 1 is located in the north-central part of Blair County. The major transportation corridors in Region 1 include Interstate 99, Route 220, and PA Highway 453.

This region is primarily rural and agricultural in nature. There are some pockets of industrial and commercial development in and around the Borough of Tyrone and along the Route 220 corridor. The region contains a number of unique natural features, including state game lands, wetlands, natural springs, and caves. One of its well known historic assets is Fort Roberdeau, a revolutionary war stockade that was built around the Sinking Valley mines. Tyrone Hospital is located in the region and is a significant employer for Blair and Center Counties. An Amish community is present in the agricultural area of Sinking Valley.

Agriculture, Forestland, and Environment

Agricultural land use makes up 18 % of Region 1, and forest and game lands makes up 73% of the Region. As a result, the region is predominantly rural, with pristine view sheds and open space along the mountain ridges. The topography of the region is hilly to mountainous. The Brush Mountain range borders both sides of Sinking Valley, an area rich in limestone deposits, and dominated by agriculture. Bald Eagle Mountain begins at the Borough of Tyrone.





Other natural features found in Region 1 include Tytoona Cave, the Allegheny Front, Arch Spring, the Little Juniata River, and abundant forestland.

Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 5% of the land use in Region 1. Residential areas vary in density, with some concentrations of medium density housing located in the Borough of Tyrone. Residential areas in Tyrone are characteristic of the housing stock built up around older mill sites, yet it appears to be in generally good condition. Medium density village style development also exists in Elberta and Grazierville. Neighborhood amenities such as sidewalks, street trees, and lanterns are found in some of the areas, yet the conditions vary.

Scattered residential development is located along Kettle Road and Route 220. Many people look to locate in this region due to the scenic views, proximity to State College, and rural character that enhance the quality of life. Therefore, residential development on the knobs of hillsides and along ridges with scenic vistas is on the increase throughout the region.

Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing land use types make up 1% of Region 1. As a small percentage of the land area, industry was a very significant part of the history of Tyrone and still plays a major role in the current economy. Significant businesses include: Apparel Industry Park, Gardner's Chocolates, Albemarle Chemical, and Smith Trucking. The American Eagle Paper Mill is located in Region 1 as well.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial related land uses make up 1% of Region 1. commercial intersections exist at some of the small

villages in the region near Route 220. Many small- to medium-size commercial businesses are concentrated in downtown Tyrone, where development styles and densities are characteristic of a downtown area. Downtown Tyrone has a defined main street, which has been aesthetically enhanced through recent projects.



Park and Recreation Land Use

Regional parks and neighborhood playgrounds exist in Tyrone and some of the other smaller village areas. Fort Roberdeau is a major recreational facility with many hiking and biking trails, open spaces, and recreation related programs.

Cultural and Historic Sites

There is a significant Amish community in this region, which is closely tied to the agricultural livelihoods found in Sinking Valley. Fort Roberdeau is a 47-acre nationally recognized Revolutionary War site. It contains six log cabins, a stockade, recreation fire hall, environmental education center, and restored farm houses, one of which houses a museum shop. Trails, picnicking facilities, and historic and cultural events occur at the site throughout the year.



REGION 2

Region 2 includes the Borough of Bellwood (Census 2000 pop. 2,016) and Antis Township (Census 2000 pop. 6,328). Totalling 39,376 acres, Region 2 is located in the northwestern part of the county. The major transportation corridors in Region 2 include Interstate 99, Route 220, and PA State Highway 865.



The region contains a number of industrial sites (including vacant industrial sites no longer in use) and agricultural dairy farms. Major industries include the PPG Tipton Plant and Del Grosso. Significant natural features in Region 2 include the Tipton Reservoir (although fenced off), and the Little Juniata River. Significant historic structures in the area include Bell Mansion and the Logan farm.

Agriculture, Forestland, and Environment

Agricultural land use makes up 10% of Region 2 and forestland and open space make up 78% of the land use for Region 2. The region is heavily forested in the western portion with some agricultural land use in the eastern part of the region. Most of the farms in this region are historic farms and hobby farms.

Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 7% of the region. The majority of housing is located in and around the Borough of Bellwood. There are also concentrations of

housing along North Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Bellmeade, Northern Greenwood, as well as in Tipton and Grazierville. The housing in Bellwood Borough is characteristic of village style residential development, with smaller lots, short setbacks, front porches, sidewalks, and alleys.

Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing uses make up 1% of the total land use in the region. Industrial sites are located in between the railroad and the Little Juniata River, and along North Pleasant Valley Boulevard. Businesses in the region consist of PPG Tipton Plant, New Pig Industrial Park, and Del Grossos. Manufacturing has played a significant role in the Borough of Bellwood, where steam shovels were once produced.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial related uses make up 1% of the region. Commercial retail and offices are scattered throughout the southern part of the region along North Pleasant Valley Boulevard.

Park and Recreation Uses

Park and Recreation related uses make up 1% of the region. The Del Grosso Amusement Park is a significant special use recreation facility. The Tipton Reservoir, state gamelands, and the Bells Gap Rails-to-Trails are also significant passive recreational assets within the region.

Cultural and Historic Sites

Bell Mansion is a significant historical site located in the Region 2. The structure was renovated with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and is now used as a senior center.



REGION 3

Region 3 includes the City of Altoona (Census 2000 pop. 49,523) and Logan Township (Census 2000 pop. 11,925). Encompassing 34,973 acres, Region 3 is located in west-central Blair County with Antis Township and Bellwood Borough to the north and Allegheny Township, Duncansville Borough, and Hollidaysburg Borough to the south. The major transportation corridors in Region 3 include Interstate 99, Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Plank Road, PA Highway 36, and Frankstown Road.



Region 3 is the most urban and populated area in Blair County consisting of the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Altoona was originally established as the western terminus of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pennsylvania Rail Shops served as the primary maintenance facility for the railroad. Logan Township contains lower density residential development on the edge of Altoona and extending outward. However, the Township is heavily forested along the western edge of the county on the Allegheny Front.

Agriculture, Forest, and Environmental Features

Forestland makes up nearly 61.4% of the land in Region 3. Given that Altoona is a very urbanized city, little if any forestland is found within the City. Therefore, all the forestland in Region 3 is found in the eastern and western part of Logan Township along the Allegheny Front.

Agricultural land use makes up just over 2% of the land use in Region 3. There is very little farmland in Region 3 compared to the other planning regions. Limited agricultural land use is found along Grandview Road at the northern edge of the Logan Township.

Region 3 contains a number of reservoirs including Kittanning #1 and 2, Mill Run, Homer's Gap, Allegheny, and Lake Altoona.

There are two active coal surface mining sites in Logan Township located along the Allegheny Front. The sites are owned and operated by the Cooney Bros., Inc. The two sites were actively mining coal as of April of 2004. Mining and extraction consumes 1.55% of the land in region 3.

Residential Land Use

Residential land use makes up 17.8% of Region 3, with most housing concentrated in Altoona. Over 50% of the land in Altoona is residential, which is the largest land use in the City. The City's design is a traditional grid pattern with higher density single-family and multi-family neighborhoods. Neighborhood characteristics include sidewalks, street lighting, alleyways, on-street parking, and small parks. Neighborhood amenities and a mix of uses around downtown Altoona cater to walkable neighborhoods.

Residential areas on the outskirts of Altoona in Logan Township tend to be more suburban in nature with lower density housing and a deviation from the traditional grid pattern found in Altoona. Suburban-style developments are located along Frankstown Road, Mill Run Road, Route 36, Juniata Gap Road, Grandview Road, and North Pleasant Valley Boulevard in Logan Township.

Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing land uses make up 0.39% of the land use in Region 3. However, within Altoona, industrial/manufacturing uses consume 1.7% of the land in the City. Industrial uses are adjacent to the railroad rights-of-way and interspersed with commercial development along the major transportation corridors in the region.

Commercial Land Use

2.6% of the land in Region 3 is in commercial (sales and services) land uses. However, most of this is concentrated in Altoona where over 6.5% of the land is used for shops and businesses. This includes both the main downtown shopping and office district in Altoona,

which consists primarily of smaller, locally-owned businesses. Also included in this category are the larger, regional commercial centers located along Plank Road and the fringe areas of Altoona.

Park and Recreation Use

Park and recreation uses make up 1.3% of the land in Region 3. Park and recreational facilities range from smaller, neighborhood parks to two County Parks including Brush Run County Park and Valley View County Park. The Blair County Ball Park (home of the Altoona Curve) and Lakemont Amusement Park are popular special use facilities located closely together in the region. Other community parks in the City of Altoona include Memorial Park, Fairview Park, Prospect Park, Mansion Park, Westfall Park, and Greenwood Park.

Cultural and Historic Sites

Altoona has the greatest concentration of cultural and historic sites in the county with four designated historic districts, the Baker Mansion, Allegheny Furnace, Mishler Theater, and several museums, including the Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum.

In addition, 7.7% of the land in the City is used for public facilities such as places of worship, hospitals, government buildings, schools, and libraries. The Penn State Altoona Campus is also located in Region 3.

REGION 4

Region 4 includes Williamsburg Borough (Census 2000 pop.1,345), Catharine Township (Census 2000 pop. 758), and Woodbury Township (Census 2000 pop. 1,637). It is the least populated region of Blair County. Region 4 is located in east-central Blair County. The



main transportation corridors in Region 4 include Highway 866, Piney Creek Road, and Clover Creek Road and US 22.

The region is primarily rural in nature, containing farms, forestland, and open space. Significant historic, natural, and recreational features include State Game Lands, the Lower Trail, Royer Mansion, and the Mount Etna Furnace. The Frankstown Branch of the Little Juniata travels along the municipal border between Woodbury and Catherine Townships, until veering east into Huntingdon County.

Agriculture, Forest, and Environmental Features

Agricultural land makes up 30% of the region. Forested land and open space make up 66% of the region. The region lies between the following mountain ranges: Brush, Canoe, Short, Lock and Tussey Mountains. The agricultural valley in between includes land and soils which are suitable for agriculture. There is a strong sense of community in this region, which is tied to the agricultural livelihoods of the people.

Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 3% of the region. The largest concentration of housing is in the Borough of Williamsburg. Some of the older housing stock appears to be deteriorating. Housing in Williamsburg is characteristic of village style development with on street parking, street trees, and sidewalks. The town has a strong sense of community connected with the history and agricultural character of the area. In the region, there is a cluster of old, high-end victorian cottages, many used for vacation and summer homes.

Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing land uses make up less than 0.5 % of the region. Industry is limited in this region. Currently, a couple of industrial sites exist near the town of Williamsburg.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial land uses make up less than 0.5% of the region. There is limited commercial land uses within this region. Some small businesses exist along a couple of the key transportation corridors, including Piney

Branch Road and Clover Creek Road, most being in Williamsburg Borough.

Park and Recreation Uses

Park and recreation related uses make up less than 0.5% of the region. The region is known for its passive recreational trails and State Game Lands. The trail head for the 11-mile Lower Trail is located in Williamsburg. Other trail heads in region four are located in Alfarata, Ganister, and Mt Etna. The trail continues into Huntingdon County. Neighborhood parks are also found in the Borough of Williamsburg.



Cultural and Historic Sites

Two well known historical homes exist within the region. Royer Mansion was restored and is now used as an office for the Game Lands Commission. The Mount Etna Furnace and historic Mount Etna home and barn are also located in the region. Many historic and cultural sites can be viewed from the Lower Trail which follows the old canal route. Historic sites include the cottages at Point View, Mt. Etna, and the remnants of the Mainline Canal.



REGION 5

Region 5 contains a number of smaller urban centers and village-like boroughs of Hollidaysburg (Census 2000 pop. 5,368), Duncansville (Census 2000 pop. 1,238), Newry (Census 2000 pop. 245), and Tunnelhill (Census 2000 pop. 409). The suburban townships in Region 5 include Blair (Census 2000 pop. 4,587), Allegheny (Census 2000 pop. 6,965), Frankstown (Census 2000 pop. 7,694), and Juniata (Census 2000 pop. 1,115). All of them have experienced suburban style development during the past several decades. Encompassing 78,330 acres, Region 5 is located in the central part of Blair County. The major transportation corridors include Interstate 99, Route 220, Route 22, PA Highway 764 -- Old Route 220, PA Highway 36, and Frankstown Road.



Hollidaysburg was the western terminal of the PA Main Line Canal and the eastern connection point of the Allegheny Portage Railroad and Main Line Canal. Hollidaysburg now serves as the Blair County seat. Key features in the region include Canoe Lake, Chimney Rocks, the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Blair County Courthouse, Blair County Convention Center, and the Frankstown Branch of the Little Juniata River.

Agriculture, Forest, and Environment

Agricultural land makes up 12% of the region. Forested land and open space makes up 68% of the region. The Frankstown Branch of the Little Juniata River cuts through the eastern portion of the region. The Allegheny Ridge, Lock, Loop, and Short Mountains creates a scenic vistas in the region. Canoe Lake at Canoe Creek State Park is a cherished environmental feature.



Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 11% of Region 5. Hollidaysburg and Duncansville serve as the urban node for the region with a defined historic downtown and medium density neighborhoods laid out in a traditional grid pattern. Commercial and residential mixed-use areas include sidewalks, mature street trees, lanterns, alleys, and on-street parking. There is a defined and enhanced downtown main street that serves as the focal point for the region. The municipalities of Frankstown Township and Allegheny Township have been seeing and increase in suburban housing development during the past decade. High end suburban housing exists along the scenic corridor of Scotch Valley. Older and new housing developments are also present in areas of Duncansville, near Route 22 and Highway 764.



Industrial and Manufacturing Land Uses

Industrial and manufacturing land uses make up 1% of the region. There is not a large presence of industry. Industrial sites are located along the Highway 764 and the Route 22 corridors. The Hollidaysburg car shops were once used for the Pennsylvania Railroad to build freight cars. The shops are now vacant and no longer in operation. Industrial activity in Region 5 includes mail processing centers and iron furnaces.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial related land uses make up approximately 1.5% of Region 5. The major commercial areas in the region are along Route 22, Highway 764, Plank Road, 3rd Avenue - Duncansville, Route 36 - Logan Boulevard, Frankstown Road, and Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg. Plank Road contains regional commercial businesses such as Walmart and Target, offices, hotels, and restaurants. It is the primary arterial that connects Hollidaysburg with Altoona. Other major commercial arterial include Logan Boulevard and Frankstown Road. Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg hosts many institutional buildings associated with the county government, as well as small to medium scale offices, boutiques, shops, and restaurants.



Park and Recreation Uses

Community and neighborhood playgrounds exist throughout Region 5. Canoe Lake State Park, Canal Basin Park, and Chimney Rocks are significant recreational resources for Region 5. Canoe Creek State Park includes 958 acres including a lake and panoramic vistas. The 155-acre lake provides year-round fishing and summer swimming and boating opportunities. The area is known for a diversified wild habitat, including bats. Residential communities are close by which offers evening opportunities for picnicking and hiking. Modern cabins exist near the lake, which can be rented for one week periods during the summers. Winter activities include cross country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, and sledding. Chimney Rocks is well known for the scenic views of Hollidaysburg and rural Blair County. Chimney Rocks park contains picnicking areas and passive walking trails. The Lower Trail also extends into Region 4 and has access points in Canoe Creek State Park and Flowing Springs.

Cultural and Historic Sites

The Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site is a nationally significant site in the region. The Allegheny Portage railroad consisted of ten incline planes between Hollidaysburg and Johnstown on which canal boats were hauled over the Allegheny Mountains. Hollidaysburg has a designated historic district and the local ordinances seek to preserve the historic architectural character of the town. Other significant historic and cultural sites include the John Blair House, and the Meadows intersection -- a crossroads that has been a landmark for years.



REGION 6

Greenfield Township (Census 2000 pop. 3,904) is the only municipality in Region 6. Region 6, with 23,300 acres of land, is located in southwestern Blair County. The major transportation corridors in the region include Interstate 99 and Old Route 220, which runs parallel to I-99.

Due to the proximity and access to Interstate 99, a number of industrial and distribution warehouse sites are located in the region. Significant features of the region include the Blue Knob Ski Resort and a number of historic barns and grist mills.

Agriculture, Forest Land, and Environment

Forested land makes up 62% of the region. Agricultural land makes up 18% of the region. Therefore, Region 6 is predominantly rural with some development clustered around Claysburg and the Route 220 corridor. Farming structures highlight the scenic rural feel of the area. Blue Knob Ski resort takes advantage of the mountainous terrain along the western side of the region. Dunning mountain frames the east.

Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 7% of the region. Many houses are characteristic of the farming homesteads. There are clusters of housing near the Route 220 corridor and near Claysburg.



Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing land uses make up 1% of the region. There are significant sized industrial sites in this region compared to the other regions. Many of the sites are located near the Route 220 corridor, which provides easy access for trucks to major highway networks. Industries include News Printing Corporation, William Ward Industrial Park, Sheetz Distribution Center, and the Brickyard Mill.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial related land uses make up 1 % of the region. There are not many significant commercial areas located in the region. Those that do exist are small- to medium-sized businesses scattered along the Old Route 220 corridor.

Park and Recreation Uses

Blue Knob Ski Resort is one of the most significant recreational related tourism asset in the county. The resort makes up 8% of this region (roughly 1800 acres of land). The ski resort is a destination for people throughout western Pennsylvania.



Cultural and Historic Sites

The older villages in the area are characteristic of historic farming towns with many of the original structures still intact. The region also has many historic farming structures including barns and silos scattered throughout the landscape.

REGION 7

Region 7, also known as the Spring Cove area, includes the Boroughs of Martinsburg (Census 2000 pop. 2,236) and Roaring Spring (Census 2000 pop. 2,418), and the Townships of Freedom (Census 2000 pop. 3,261), Taylor (Census 2000 pop. 2,239), North Woodbury (Census 2000 pop. 2,276), and Huston (Census 2000 pop. 1,262). This region is known for the small family farms and agricultural livelihoods and recently has experienced low density residential development. Significant features include the Roaring Spring Rail Station, the natural spring for which Roaring Springs is named, and diverse Mennonite farming communities. The region consists of approximately 63,170 acres.

Agriculture, Forest Land, and Environment

Forested land and open space makes up 47% of the region. Agricultural land makes up 42% of the region. Farming has a strong presence in this region's history and community. The flat land and good soils in the valley create suitable conditions for farming. Farms in this area are family owned and operated, many by the the Mennonite communities. However, there has been some infiltration of large scale farms in recent years. Farming is not as prevalent in Freedom Township, which has a steeper terrain than the rest of the region. Also, Roaring Springs is known for its natural spring, a valued environmental asset.



Residential Land Use

Residential land uses make up 8% of the region. Residential development is clustered in Roaring Springs, Martinsburg, and around Puzzletown Road, Interstate 99, and Route 220 in Freedom Township. Within Roaring Springs and Martinsburg, the housing is characteristic of older village style development with grid street patterns and of a medium density. Scattered rural residential development is located along some of the minor arterial road, including Puzzletown Road, Woodbury Pike, Bloomfield Road, and near Route 220.



Industrial and Manufacturing Land Use

Industrial and manufacturing related land uses make up approximately 1% of the region. Roaring Spring contains a number of manufacturing and industrial facilities including Appleton Paper, the Blank Book Company, Roaring Spring Bottled Water, and the New Enterprise Stone and Lime Company Quarry, a significant mining site on Woodbury Pike. The Blair County Airport is also located in this region as well as the Cove Shoe Factory.

Commercial Land Use

Commercial related land uses make up 1% of the region. Most of the commercial related uses are located along the Route 220 corridor in Freedom Township and the PA Highway 164, and the Route 36 corridor. Commercial uses are also found in Roaring Springs and Martinsburg Boroughs.

Park and Recreation Uses

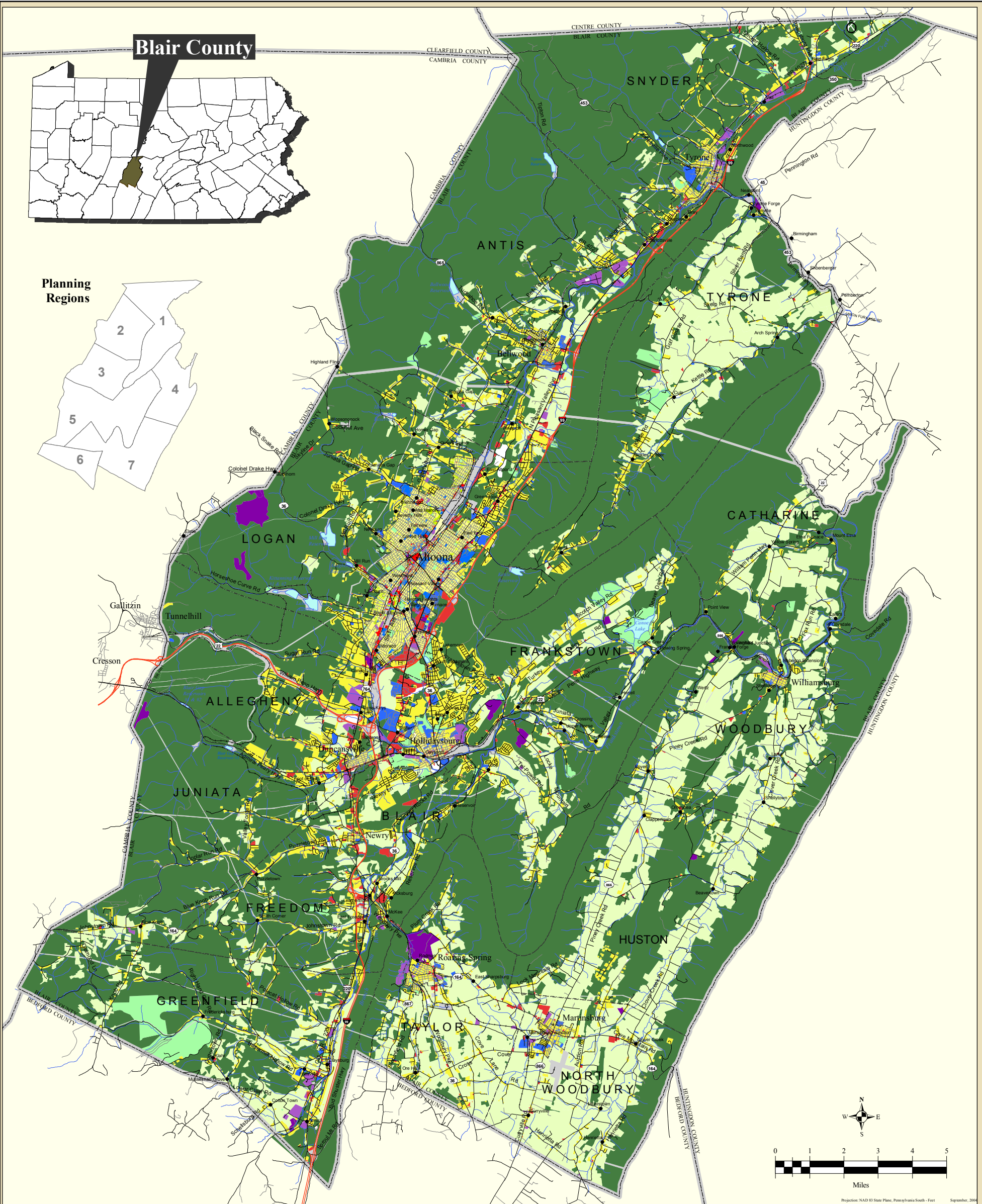
Park and recreation related uses make up approximately 1.5% of the region. Most of these uses consist of neighborhood and community parks in Roaring Springs and Martinsburg.

Cultural and Historic Sites

The agricultural community is a significant historic and cultural asset of this region. The Roaring Springs Bottled Water Factory, which takes its water from the natural springs, is a well-known site in the region. The factory gives tours of its facilities and the springs themselves are picturesque. The Mennonite and Old Order Mennonite are also present and evident through daily living activities within the region. Many family ties exist in the area, which are evident in the community events and family gatherings.

Map

Existing Land Use Maps for County and Planning Regions



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Legend

- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Land Use Classifications

- Residential
- General Sales or Service
- Manufacturing/Wholesale
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Admin/Health Care

- Construction Related Business
- Mining & Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



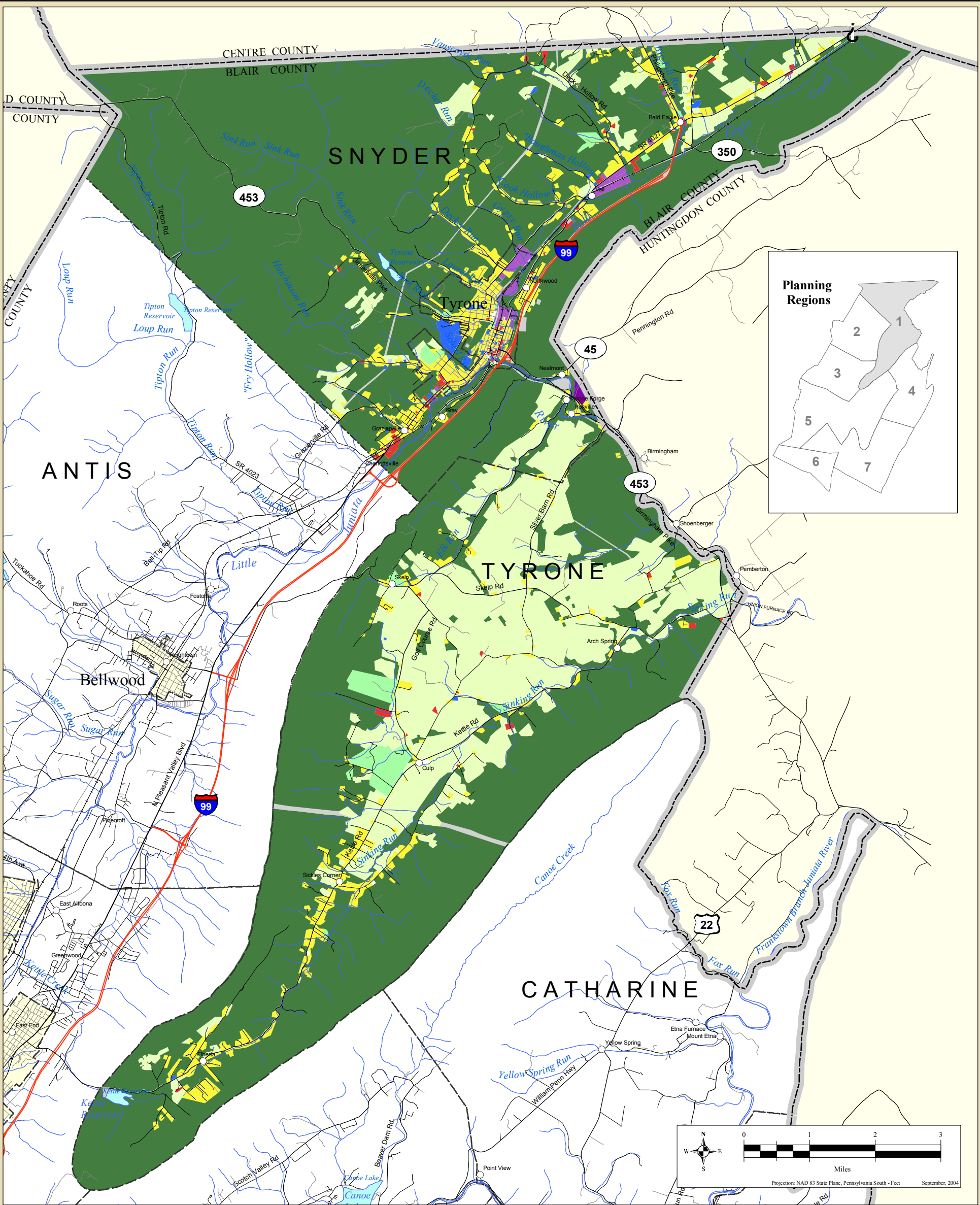
Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602-6409
Phone: (814) 940-5978
Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

**Existing
Land Use**





Legend

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- Place
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- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



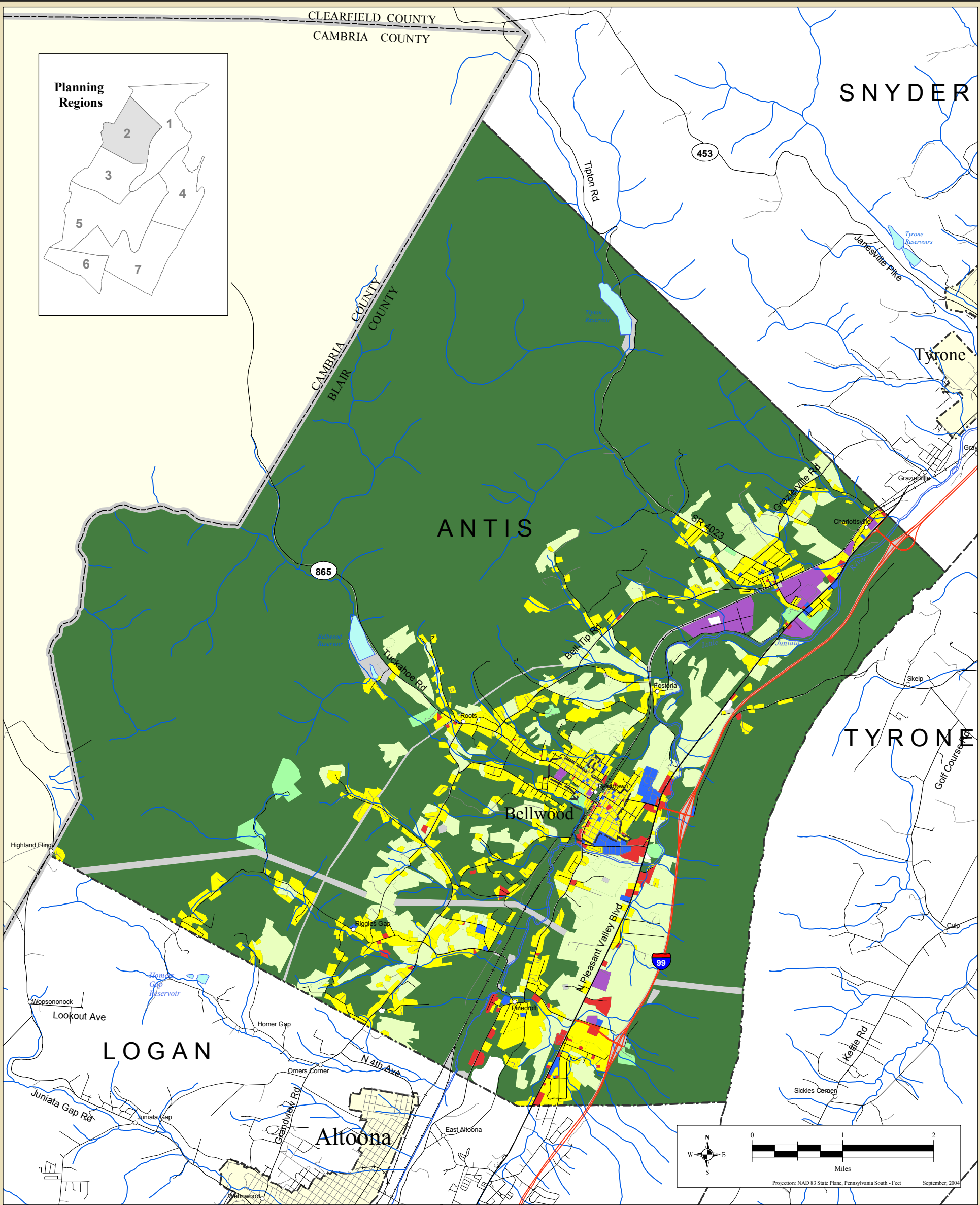
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Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
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Blair County, Pennsylvania

Region 1
Existing Land Use





Legend

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- Township
- Place
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BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



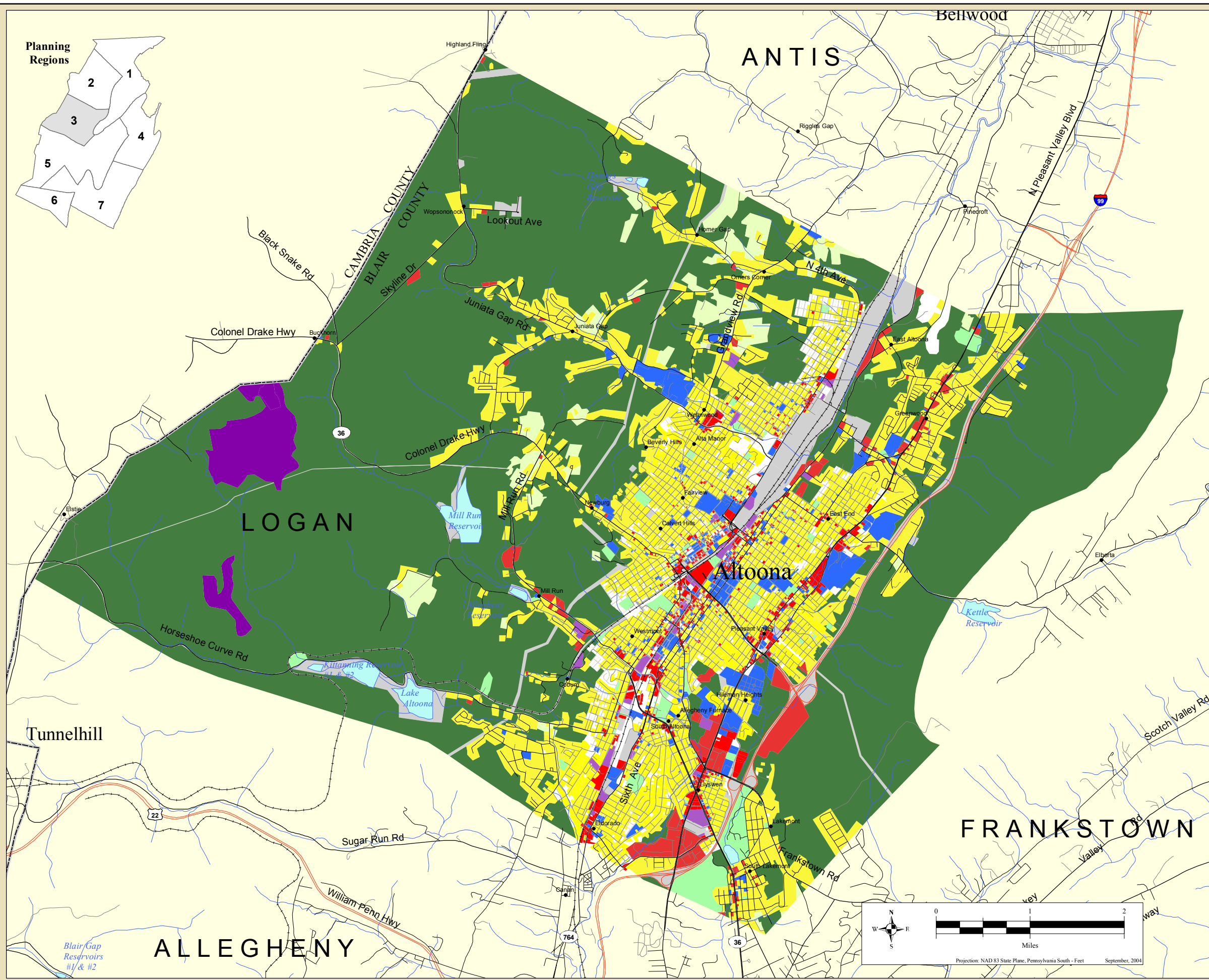
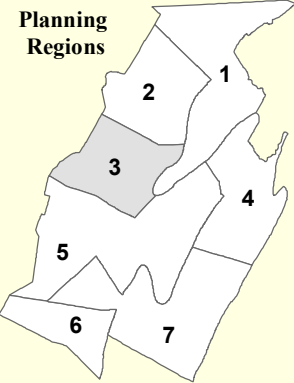
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TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

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Region 2
Existing Land Use





An Areawide Comprehensive Plan

for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Phone: (814) 940-5978
Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission (Altoona
landuse information provided by the City
of Altoona)

Legend

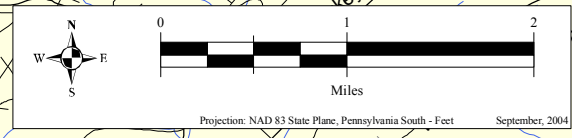
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- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

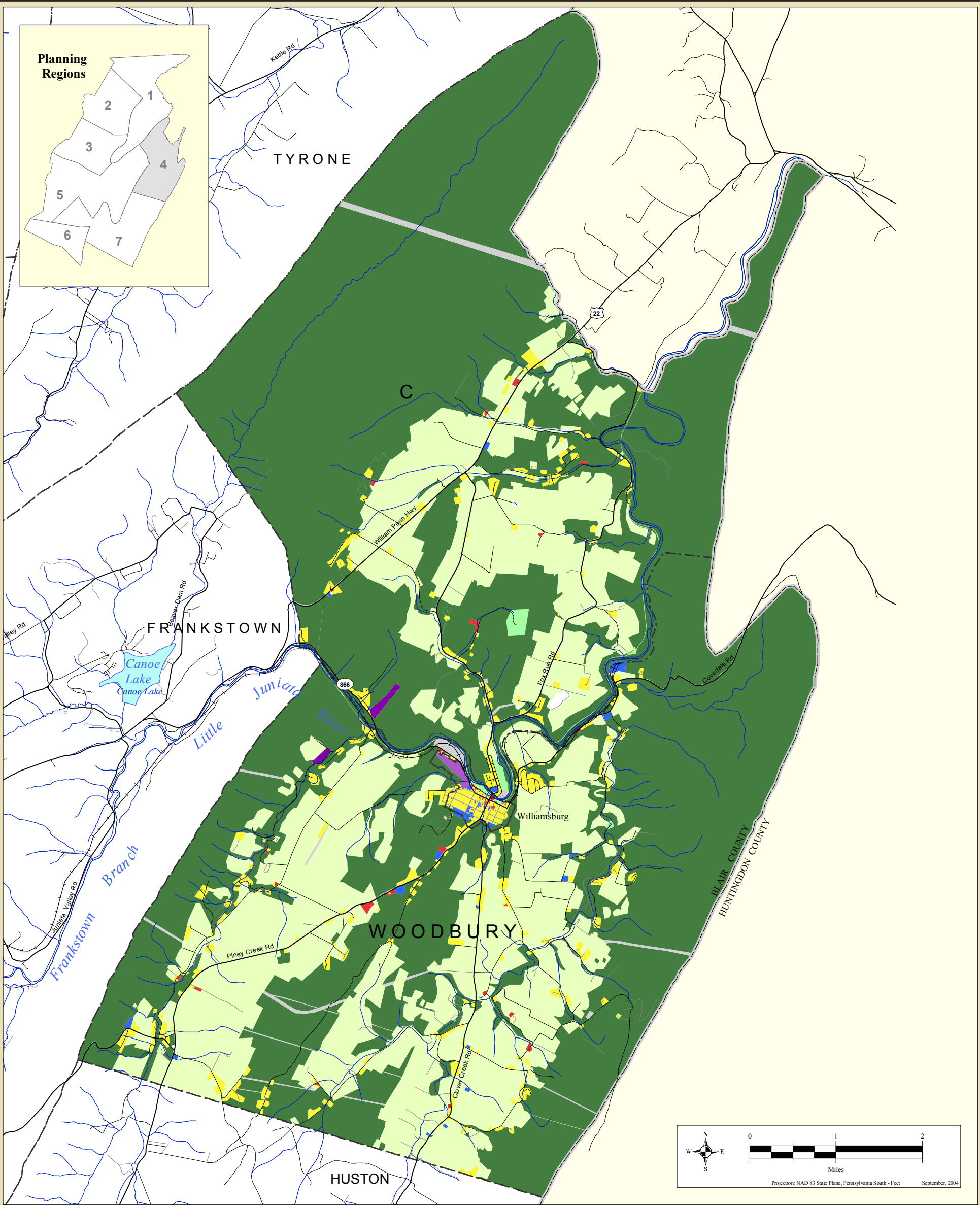
Land Use Classifications

- Residential
- General Sales or Service
- Manufacturing/Wholesale
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Admin/Health Care
- Construction Related Business
- Mining & Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant



Region 3 Existing Land Use





Legend

- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Land Use Classifications

- Residential
- General Sales or Service
- Manufacturing/Wholesale
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- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Admin/Health Care

- Construction Related Business
- Mining & Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Region 4
Existing Land Use



An Areawide Comprehensive Plan

for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Altoona, PA 16602-6409

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Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

Legend

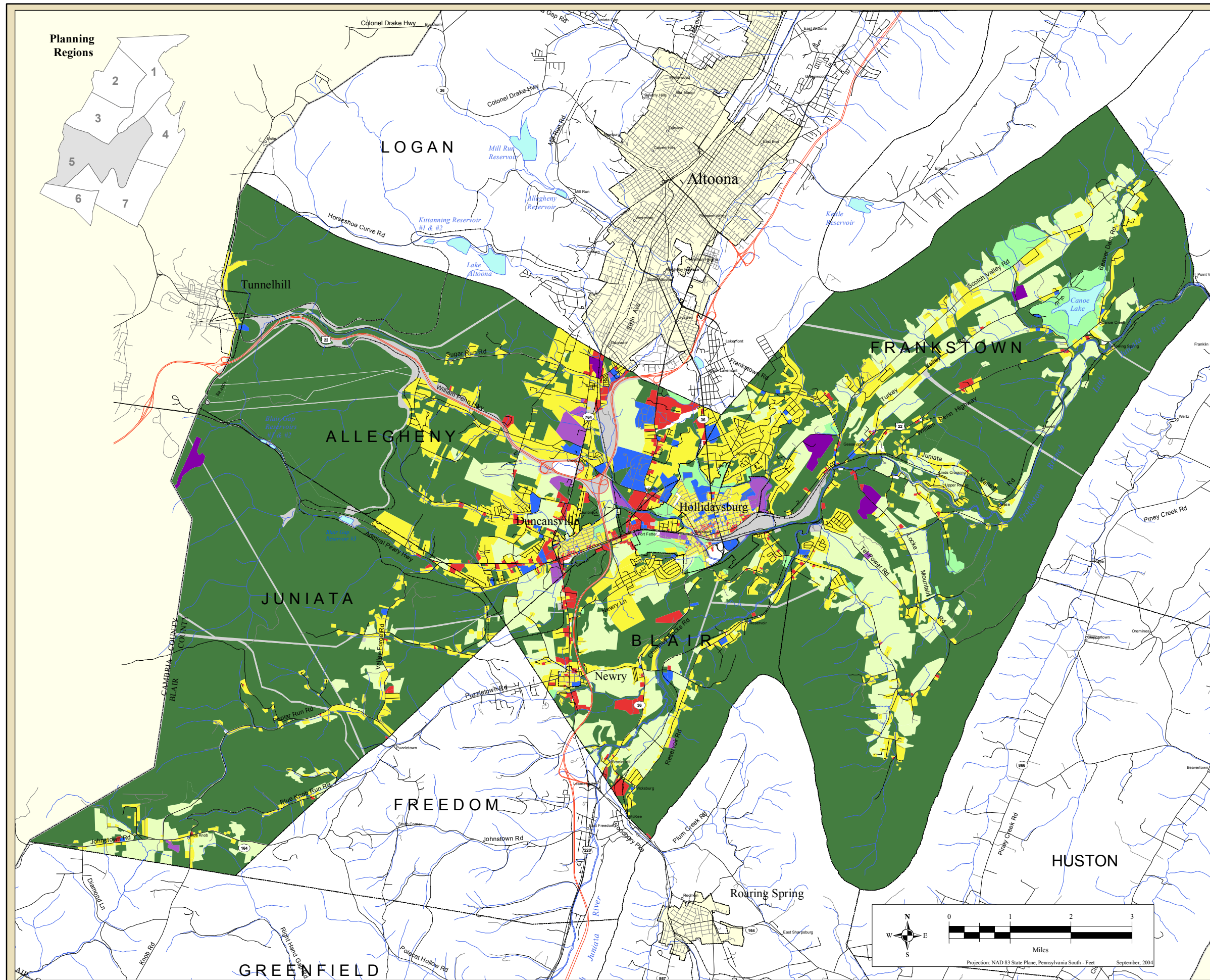
- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Land Use Classifications

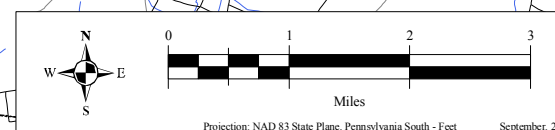
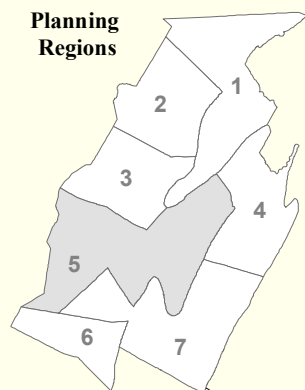
- Residential
- General Sales or Service
- Manufacturing/Wholesale
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Admin/Health Care
- Construction Related Business
- Mining & Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant
- civ_div



**Region 5
Existing Land Use**



Planning Regions



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Blair County, Pennsylvania

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

Legend

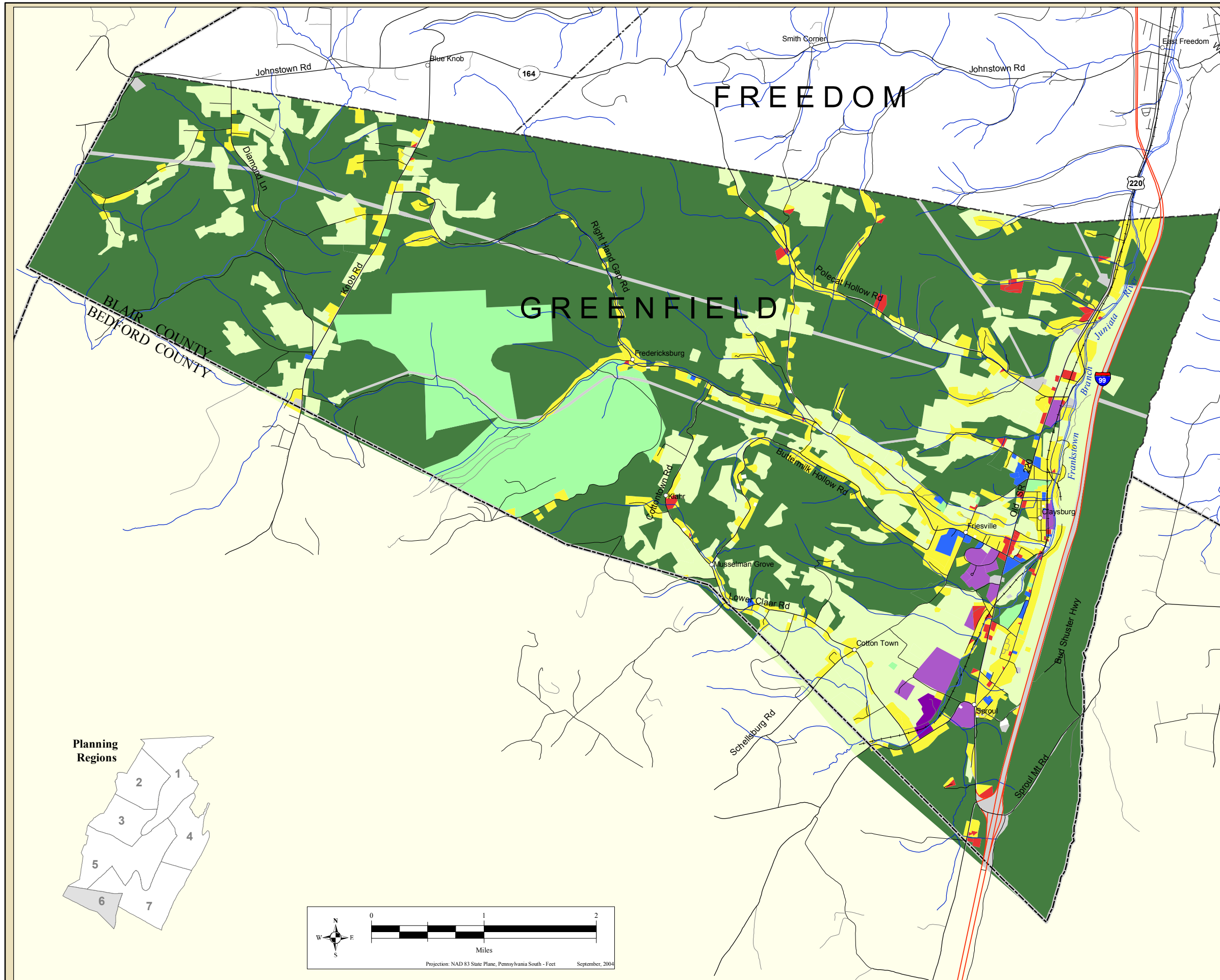
- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
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- River/Creek/Stream

Land Use Classifications

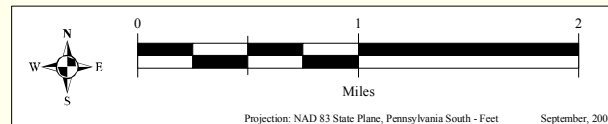
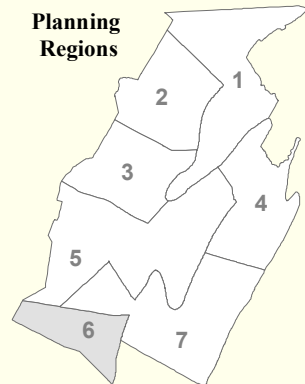
- Residential
- General Sales or Service
- Manufacturing/Wholesale
- Transportation/Communication/Utilities
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- Education/Public Admin/Health Care
- Construction Related Business
- Mining & Extraction
- Agriculture
- Forest/Game Lands
- Vacant

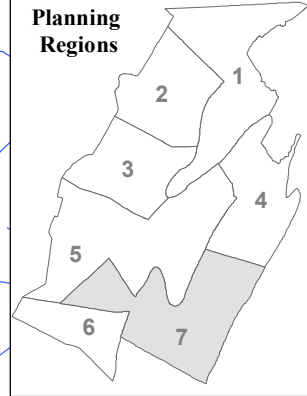
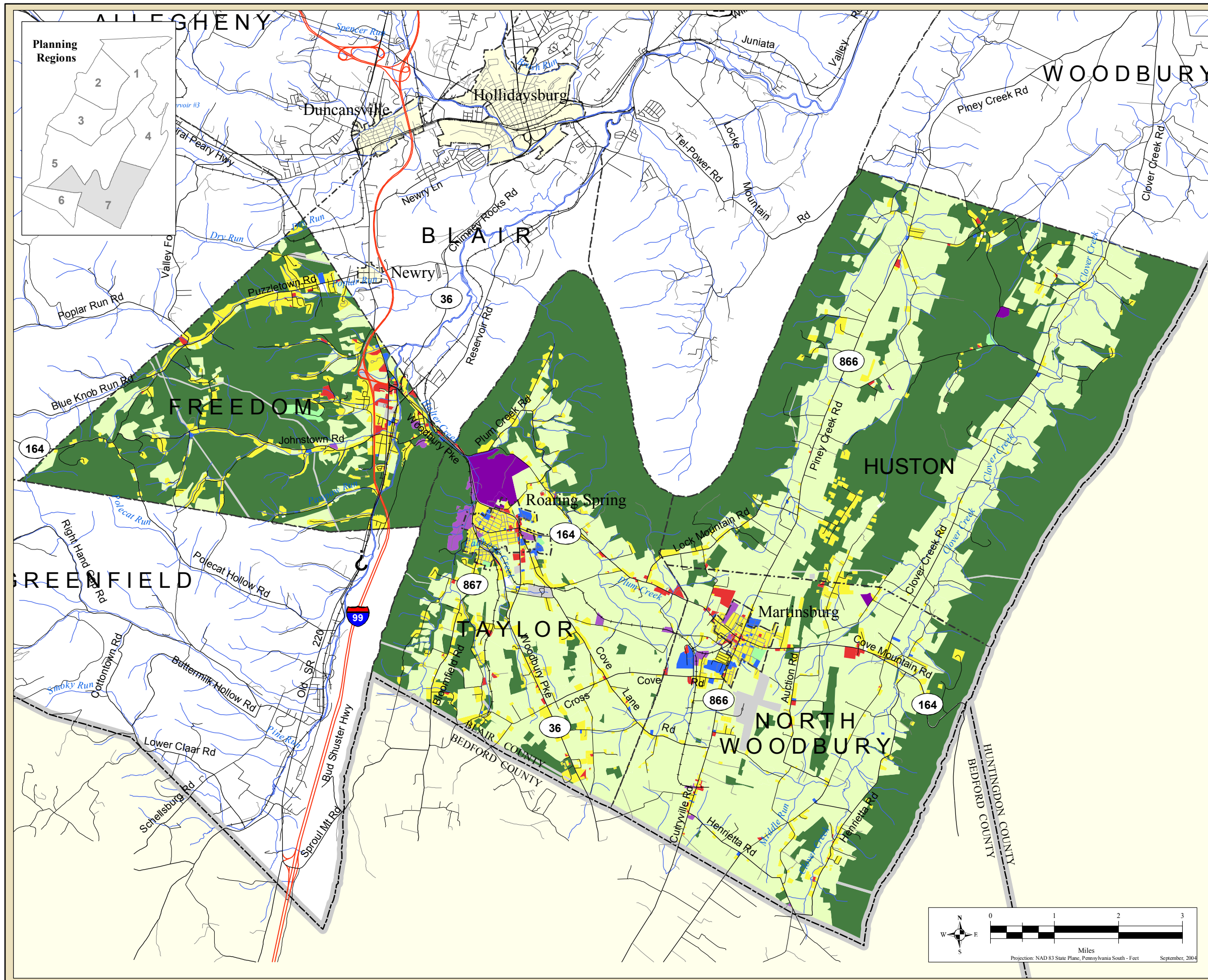


Region 6 Existing Land Use



Planning Regions

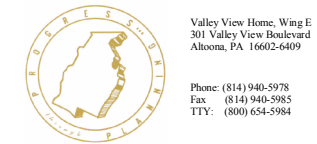




An Areawide Comprehensive Plan

for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Land Use - Blair County Planning Commission

Legend

- County Boundary
 - City/Borough
 - Township
 - Place
 - Interstate
 - State Route
 - Local Road
 - Railroad
 - Lake/Reservoir
 - River/Creek/Stream
- Land Use Classifications
- Residential
 - General Sales or Service
 - Manufacturing/Wholesale
 - Transportation/Communication/Utilities
 - Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
 - Education/Public Admin/Health Care
 - Construction Related Business
 - Mining & Extraction
 - Agriculture
 - Forest/Game Lands
 - Vacant



Region 7 Existing Land Use



Cultural and Historic Resources

Introduction

Blair County is rich in cultural and historic resources and has retained many of the historic sites that shaped the region. Preserving and protecting Blair County's history and culture is essential to the quality of life in the county and celebrating its cultural heritage.

As a point of reference, a “cultural resource” consists of historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts, and other physical evidence of human activities considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons.

The following section is organized according to the following topics:

Blair County is rich in cultural and historic resources and has retained many of the sites that shaped the region

- History of Blair County
- Buildings
- Historic Districts
- Industrial Heritage
- Unique Natural Features with Historic Significance
- Museums and Cultural Centers
- Key Organizations

The Historic, Cultural, and Unique Features Map identifies sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Blair County and additional sites with significant historic and cultural meaning. There are twenty-five (25) sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Blair County as shown on Table 1.2. There are 46 sites that have been deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as shown in Table 1.3.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The following text highlights key structures, sites, districts, and centers that contribute to Blair County's history and culture. Cultural and historic resources will be examined within the context of the other plan elements, such as parks and recreation, to identify existing and potential opportunities for future protection and enhancement of Blair County's historic and cultural assets.

I. HISTORY OF BLAIR COUNTY

The county was first visited by settlers in the 1740's. The first settlers in Blair County established themselves in the valleys, well away from the major Indian trails so as to avoid attack. At the time, an Indian trading post was established along the Kittanning Trail in an area now known as Frankstown. This was the region's first true form of economic development. The Kittanning trail was used as a route by the Indians to travel from the Susquehanna River to the Allegheny River. The popular trail traveled through parts of Cumberland, Perry, Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, and Armstrong Counties until it reached the town of Kittanning, the largest of the towns along the route.

By the 1840's, Hollidaysburg, Williamsburg, Martinsburg, Newry, East Freedom, and Claysburg had joined Frankstown as early centers of trade in Blair County. Hollidaysburg, in particular, grew rapidly through the 1830's due to the establishment of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. Hollidaysburg served as the connection point for the transfer of goods between the Mainline Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad. The Mainline Canal and Allegheny Portage Railroad connected industry and commerce from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Today, this site symbolizes western expansion over the Allegheny Mountains.

Blair County was formally established as a county in 1846 and named after John Blair, a farmer, businessman, and state legislator that lobbied for the establishment of the county. The development of Blair County is tied to natural resource industries and the development and expansion of transportation systems that enabled commerce in those industries. Agriculture, timber, iron, coal, lead, and zinc are among the natural resources that enabled small communities in Blair County to prosper in the early years.

Frankstown, Hollidaysburg, Martinsburg, Newry, East Freedom, and Claysburg were early centers of agriculture, transportation, iron mining, and smelting. Mills, blacksmith shops, iron foundries, tanneries, iron furnaces, and refractories are found throughout the county and represent the early stages of Blair County's development. The county is also home to Amish and Mennonite farming communities that established themselves in Sinking Valley and Morrisons Cove.

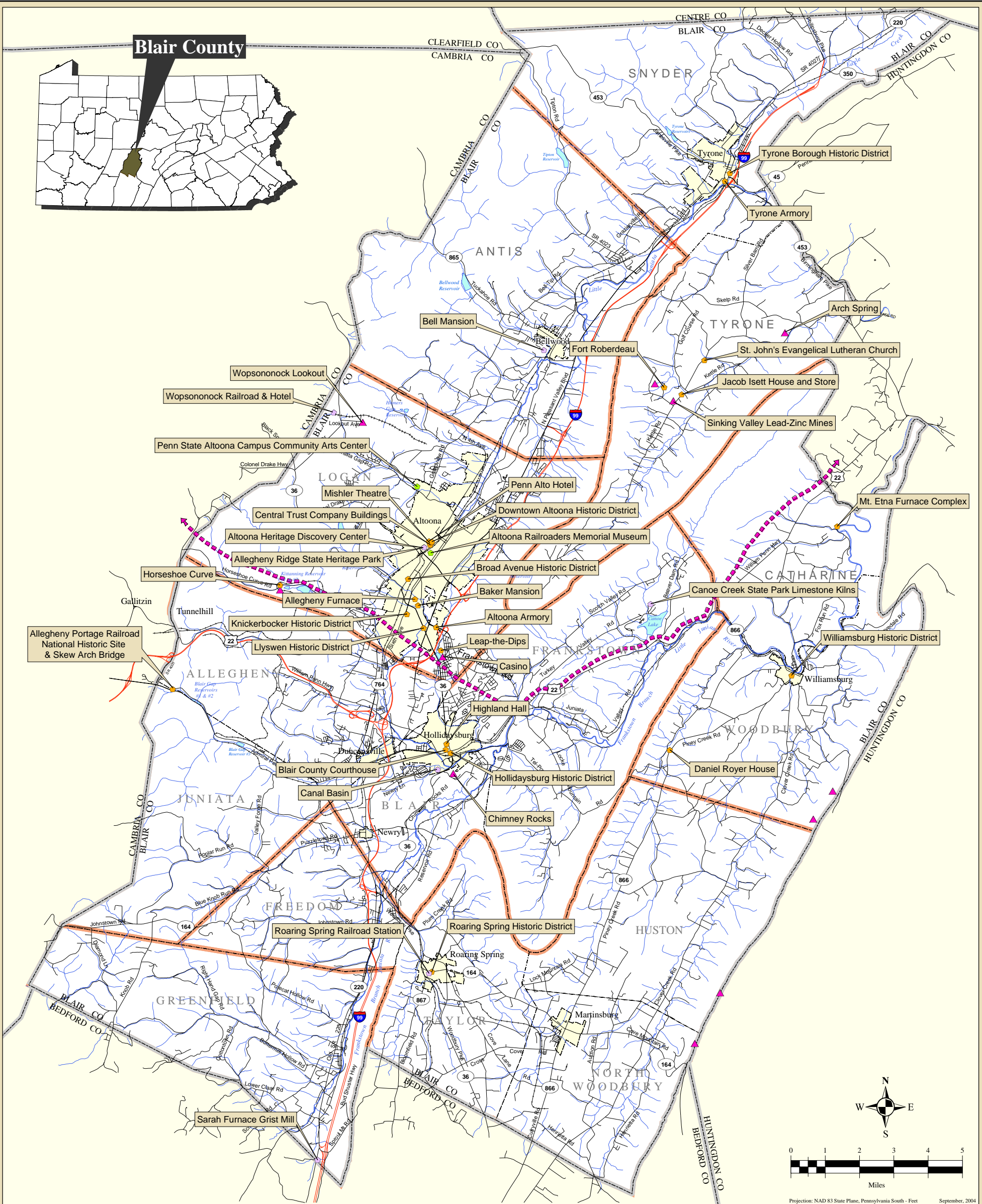
The first furnace for iron production was the furnace in Mount Etna, established in 1805. During the next fifty years, iron furnaces became a strong economic engine for the county. By 1855, the County had fourteen furnaces, twelve forges, one rolling mill and seven foundries. The availability of the natural resources of iron, limestone and wood for charcoal fueled the iron industry, but overcoming the physical challenge that the Allegheny Mountains presented to transportation stimulated other, longer lasting economic activities.

Transporting goods from the canal in Hollidaysburg over the mountains of the Allegheny front resulted in the construction of one of the greatest engineering feats of the day. Inclined planes were built to haul canal barges up the steep mountain slopes to be connected to a portage railroad ending in Johnstown. By 1850 the inclined plane was rendered obsolete when an innovative mountainside rail passage, called the Horseshoe Curve was built. This engineering feat created the gradual grade for the construction of a major rail corridor. Trains could now directly carry goods and passengers over the Mountains.

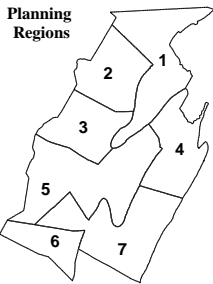
The local iron industry declined with the development of larger and more efficient methods of production in Johnstown and Pittsburgh. The invention of the Bessemer process, the use of coal for fuel, the availability of ore from the Great Lakes region, and the growth of the railroad to expedite the transportation of materials closed the local iron industry.

Altoona, and Tyrone to a lesser extent, blossomed around the Pennsylvania Railroad Middle Division. Altoona was incorporated as Blair county's only city in 1868. The initial necessity of fueling and repairing trains to traverse the Allegheny Mountains expanded through the next 100 years into a major steam locomotive and rail car design, production and repair facility. Internationally known for establishing engineering and industrial standards through its testing facilities, the Pennsylvania Railroad supported training and education for the skilled trades. The resulting pool of generations of skilled craftsmen and mechanics helped develop a strong manufacturing economic base in the County.

The growth of the automobile industry, the interstate highway system, truck transportation, and the replacement of steam engines with diesel electric locomotives resulted in diminishing the role the railroad



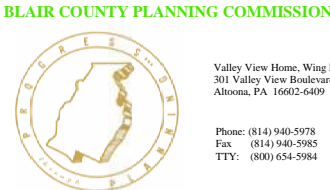
Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004



Legend

- County Boundary
- City/Borough
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- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

- Planning Region Boundary
- Historic Registry
- Other Historic Feature
- Cultural Feature
- Unique Features
- Historic Kittanning Trail



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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
School Districts-PASDA
Community Facilities-Various Sources (See Text)

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County, Pennsylvania

Historic, Cultural & Unique Features Map



plays in the local economy. The railroad mainline and diesel electric locomotive repair facilities currently play a smaller role in the more widely diversified Blair County economy.

II. BUILDINGS

Many historic sites are buildings that have been preserved over time. In Blair County, these structures include schools, homes, armories, churches, stores, and government buildings. There are numerous examples in Blair County, including:

- Blair County Courthouse (Hollidaysburg, Region 5)
- Baker Mansion (Altoona, Region 3)
- Central Trust Company Buildings (Altoona, Region 3)
- Daniel Royer House (Woodbury Township, Region 4)
- Highland Hall (Hollidaysburg, Region 5)
- Mishler Theater (Altoona, Region 3)
- Penn Alto Hotel (Altoona, Region 3)
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Tyrone Township, Region 1)
- The Dick Schoolhouse (North Woodbury Township, Region 7)
- Jaffa Mosque (Altoona, Region 3)
- Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (Altoona, Region 3)



The Historic American Building Survey, Historic American Engineering Record (HABS HAER) documents drawings, photographs, and written history of important architectural, engineering, and industrial sites throughout the United States. Included in the HABS HAER archives, is documentation of 100 historic districts, buildings, churches, and houses in Blair County. The HABS HAER American Building Survey for Blair County is located in the Appendix.

III. HISTORIC DISTRICTS

There are eight (8) historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Blair County. They include:

- Downtown Altoona (Region 3)
- Broad Avenue (Altoona, Region 3)
- Knickerbocker (Altoona, Region 3)
- Llyswen (Altoona, Region 3)
- Hollidaysburg (Region 5)
- Roaring Spring (Region 7)
- Tyrone Borough (Region 1)
- Williamsburg (Region 4)

Four of the historic districts are located in the City of Altoona. The downtown historic district contains hotels, theaters, banks, department stores, offices, and government buildings that served the original business and commercial district of Altoona. The remaining three districts are more residential in nature. The Broad Avenue District was one of the most desirable places to live in Altoona in the late 1800's. The Knickerbocker is a Philadelphia-style rowhouse complex that housed people who worked in the Pennsylvania Railroad Car Shops. The suburban district on the south side of the city, known as the Llyswen District is recognized for the "cottage" style individualistic homes that are found south of Logan Boulevard. This district, the first streetcar suburb in Altoona, stands in sharp contrast to the strip-mall development that borders the neighborhood on Plank Road.

Of the other four historic districts in the County, Hollidaysburg is perhaps the best known. Serving as the County Seat, in the mid- to late-1800's, Hollidaysburg emerged as a market town for the shipping terminal and transfer point of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. The Borough has taken efforts to preserve canal era architectural styles and the resulting quaint atmosphere with the adoption of the Hollidaysburg Historic District Ordinance. Canal Basin Park in Hollidaysburg commemorates life along the canal.

IV. INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

The City of Altoona and towns in Blair County have been heavily influenced by the transportation systems that enabled their development and the industries that

supported the expansion of these systems. The hand-in-hand development of industry and transportation systems spurred commerce, economic development, and growth. The remnants of the industry and transportation systems that shaped present day Blair County constitute the industrial heritage of the area. The most notable industrial heritage sites in the County include:

“No one who lives in Altoona needs to be told that it is the railroad city. Altoona did not just happen; it did not grow up from a cross-roads village started by chance as did so many other American cities and towns. The railroad did not come to it; the railroad built it.”
- Altoona Tribune, 1916

Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site (Hollidaysburg to Johnstown)

The Allegheny Portage Railroad was the first railroad constructed over the Allegheny Mountains. It consisted of an inclined plane railroad and operated between 1834-1854. The railroad played a critical role in opening the interior of the United States to trade and settlement.

Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site is located approximately 12 miles west of Altoona. It is a National Historic park site covering 1249 acres in Cambria and the western edge of Blair County. The site is managed by the National Park Service. Features of the park include the Summit Level Visitor Center, the historic Lemon House, Engine House #6 Exhibit Shelter, the Skew Arch Bridge, and picnic areas and hiking trails.

Horseshoe Curve and the Pennsylvania Railroad (Logan Township, Region 3)

Horseshoe Curve is a symbol of the Pennsylvania Railroad's western expansion over the Alleghenies. Completed in 1854, the railroad raises 85 feet per mile in the 12 miles between Altoona and Gallitzin up and around the Horseshoe Curve. The expansion of the Pennsylvania Railroad over the Allegheny Mountains is considered an engineering feat that is commemorated at

the Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark. Today, a park and visitor's center provide tours and interpretation of the site.



Canoe Creek State Park and Limestone Kilns (Frankstown, Region 5)

Coal-fired kilns at Canoe Creek were used to burn limestone to be used for steel and iron manufacturing. Canoe Creek is located on a high-quality vein of limestone that was once used to supply the kilns.

Other significant industrial heritage sites include:

- Allegheny Furnace (Altoona, Region 3)
- Altoona Rail Shops (Altoona, Region 3)
- Altoona Armory (Altoona, Region 3)
- Mt. Etna Furnace (Catherine Township, Region 4)
- Sarah Furnace Grist Mill (Greenfield Township, Region 6)
- Tyrone Armory (Tyrone Borough, Region 1)
- Roaring Springs Train Station (Region 7)

V. SIGNIFICANT UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES AND SITES

Blair County contains a number of unique features and sites that are historically significant in the County. They include:

Arch Spring and the Jacob Isett House/Store (Tyrone Township, Region 1)

Arch Spring holds significance in the history of the Juniata Valley industry and commerce. The Jacob Isett House and Store, a distinguished stone mansion built in 1805, is located in close proximity to the spring.

Sinking Valley Lead-Zinc Mines and Fort Roberdeau

(Tyrone Township, Region 1)

Fort Roberdeau was built around the Sinking Valley Lead-Zinc Mines in Tyrone Township. The Fort protected miners working to supply the Revolutionary War with ammunition. The Fort was reconstructed in 1976 on 47 acres of land owned by the Blair County, and is the site of yearly commemorative reenactment of the Revolutionary War.



Other unique natural features in Blair County include:

Chimney Rocks

(Frankstown Township, Region 5)

Three limestone pillars atop the ridge overlooking Hollidaysburg have been the historic vantage point for viewing the Hollidaysburg area.

The Celestine Locality

(Antis Township, Region 2)

This outcrop contains irregular layers of Celestine in hard calcareous shale of the Tonoloway Formation (Silurian age). This locality is where the mineral was first discovered, named, and described."

Wopsononock Lookout

(Logan Township, Region 3)

An overlook providing a view of the Allegheny Front to the east, which was used in the early 1950's by radio stations.

VI. MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS

There are several museums and cultural centers in Altoona dedicated to providing outreach and education on Blair County and Western Pennsylvania history. They include:

Altoona Heritage Discovery Center (Region 3)

Located in Altoona, the Heritage Discovery Center is an alternative event venue which is a certified historic rehabilitation building at 1421 12th Avenue. The Center is to be an interpretative and exhibit facility to showcase the Allegheny Heritage region.

Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum (Region 3)

Located in Altoona, the museum is located on the former Pennsylvania Railroad Shop complex at 1300 Ninth Avenue. The Museum exhibits and interprets the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad and its significance to the development of Altoona.

Penn State - Altoona, Community Arts Center

(Region 3)

Located on the Penn State Altoona campus, the Community Arts Center is a venue for music, art, theater, and dance.



Source: Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum

Other museums in Blair County include:

- Baker Mansion
- Fort Roberdeau
- Tyrone's Rail Station Museum
- Horseshoe Curve Museum

VII. KEY ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations are working to preserve and promote the historic and cultural resources in Blair County, including:

Allegheny Ridge Corporation

Located at 1421-27 Twelfth Avenue in Altoona, the Allegheny Ridge Corporation is a private, non-profit corporation which develops, interprets and restores the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area in central/western Pennsylvania.

Blair County Historical Society

Located in the historic Baker Mansion at 3419 Oak Lane in Altoona, the Blair County Historical Society works to preserve, promote, and interpret the history of Blair County, Pennsylvania.

Westsylvania Heritage Corporation and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission

Located at 105 Zee Plaza in Hollidaysburg, Westsylvania helps people explore their roots in American heritage and participate in heritage preservation in the “Westsylvania Region,” an area consisting of West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania, and eastern Kentucky and Ohio.

Maps

Cultural and Historic Resources Map

Appendix

1. Historic American Building Survey, Historic American Engineering Record (HABS HAER)

Sources

Blair County Commissioners. History of Blair County.

Fitzsimons, Gray (ed.). Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites. Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, America's Industrial Heritage Project, National Park Service, 1990.

Fritz, Davie and Clemensen, A. Berle. Pennsylvania Main Line Canal: Juniata and Western Divisions. America's Industrial Heritage Project, United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1992.

Paige, John C. A Special History Study: Pennsylvania Railroad Shops and Works, Altoona, Pennsylvania. America's Industrial Heritage Project, United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1989.

Wallace, Kim (ed.). Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, America's Industrial Heritage Project, National Park Service, 1990.

Table 1.2 National Historic Register Listings for Blair County

Name	Location	Address	Date Listed
Allegheny Furnace	Altoona	3400 Crescent Rd.	9/6/1991
Altoona Armory	Altoona	327 Frankstown Rd., Logan Township	5/9/1991
Baker Mansion	Altoona	3500 Baker Blvd.	6/5/1975
Broad Avenue Historic District	Altoona	Along Broad Ave., from 23rd to 31st Sts.	7/25/2002
Central Trust Company Buildings	Altoona	1210-1218 11th Ave.	11/1/1984
Downtown Altoona Historic District	Altoona	Bounded by 11th Ave., 11th St., 15th Ave. and 13th St., also 700--1000 Lexington and 900--1000 Howard Aves.	7/24/1992
Horseshoe Curve*	Altoona	5 mi. West of Altoona on PA 193	11/13/1966
Knickerbocker Historic District	Altoona	4th, 5th and 6th Aves., Burgoon Rd., 40th and 41sts.	2/20/2002
Leap-the-Dips	Altoona	700 Park Ave.	3/15/1991
Llyswen Historic District	Altoona	Coleridge, Logan, Aldrich bounded by Mill Run and Ward	7/25/2002
Mishler Theatre	Altoona	1208 12th Ave.	4/11/1973
Penn Alto Hotel	Altoona	12th St. and 13th Ave.	5/5/1989
Etna Furnace	Catherine Township	North of Williamsburg, Catharine Township	4/11/1973
Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site*	Hollidaysburg to Johnstown	U.S. 22	10/15/1966
Blair County Courthouse	Hollidaysburg Borough	423 Allegheny St.	6/17/1976
Highland Hall	Hollidaysburg Borough	517 Walnut St.	9/13/1978
Hollidaysburg Borough Historic District	Hollidaysburg Borough	Bounded by Spruce, Bella, Blair, and Juniata Sts.	12/26/1985
Roaring Spring Historic District	Roaring Spring Borough	Bounded by Barley, Lower, Walnut, Roosevelt, California, Hickory, Fairview, Sugar and N. Main Sts.	3/3/1995
Tyrone Armory	Tyrone Borough	956 S. Logan Ave.	12/22/1989
Tyrone Borough Historic District	Tyrone Borough	Bounded by W. 14th St., Logan Ave., Bald Eagle Ave., the Little Juniata R., W. 8th St. and Jefferson Ave.	1/21/1993
Fort Roberdeau	Tyrone Township	W of Culp off U.S. 220	5/29/1974
Isett, Jacob, House and Store	Tyrone Township	PA 1013, .3 mi. South of jct. with PA 1015	3/28/1997
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Tyrone Township	NE of Culp	9/18/1978
Williamsburg Historic District	Williamsburg Borough	Approximately 30 square blocks centered around Second and High Sts.	5/12/1995
Royer, Daniel, House	Woodbury Township	5 mi. SW of Williamsburg on PA 866	11/3/1975

Source: National Register of Historic Places

* National Historic Landmark

Table 1.3 National Historic Register - Eligible Sites

Historic Name	Location	Address	Date
Broad Ave. Extension School	Allegheny Township		9/6/1995
Pressler House	Allegheny Township	Plank Rd. West Side, 0. 4 mile No. of S.R. 22	9/17/1998
Sunbrook Farm	Allegheny Township	2 Jennifer Rd.	11/23/1992
Gospel Hill	Altoona City	1000-1006 Green Ave. 1001-05 Chestnut St.	9/23/1991
name unknown	Altoona City	1009 Chestnut St.	11/8/1990
name unknown	Altoona City	1501-1503 15th Ave.	5/7/1991
name unknown	Altoona City	1937-1941 W Chestnut Ave.	8/6/1990
Altoona U.S. Post Office	Altoona City	3400 Crescent Rd. at Rte. 36 Near Union Rd., Altoona	5/5/1983
Boyer Candy Company	Altoona City	3500 Baker Blvd.	6/13/1994
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmens	Altoona City	Broad St.	6/19/1996
First Evangelical Lutheran Church	Altoona City	1210-1218 11th Ave. Buildings	10/23/1995
Pa. Railroad: Altoona Works: Master	Altoona City	4th, 5th, 6th Aves., 39th-41st Sts.	
Theodore Roosevelt Junior High	Altoona City	12th & 13th Ave., Altoona	7/29/1987
Bell, Edward, Farm	Antis Township	S.R. 4018 West of Business Rte. 220	8/26/2003
Bell, Martin, Farm	Antis Township	West side S.R. 4019 at S.R. 4018	8/26/2003
Forsht Farm	Blair Township	500 Forsht Dr.	11/21/2002
Cottage Rundschau	Catharine Township	Off SR-866	12/28/1982
Stewart Farm	Catharine Township	U.S. 22 at Yellow Spring	4/8/1992
Brua Farm	Frankstown Township	West Loop Rd.	5/5/2001
Frankstown Township School	Frankstown Township	S.R. 0022 & S.R. 1011	11/30/1993
Knab, David, Property	Frankstown Township		1/3/1996
Stiffler Store	Frankstown Township	S.R. 0022 & S.R. 2022	11/30/1993
Wombacher House	Frankstown Township	S.R. 0022	4/14/1994
Woodcock Farm	Frankstown Township	North side of S.R. 0022	4/8/1992
Decker House	Freedom Township	Northwest Corner Cedar & Irwin	11/15/1993
Gap Furnace Office & Store	Freedom Township	South Side S.R. 0036	11/15/1993
Sarah Furnace Grist Mill	Greenfield Township	1 mile South of Sproulon Old	2/24/1993
Gaysport Historic District	Hollidaysburg Borough		4/6/1988
Jackson, Thomas, House	Hollidaysburg Borough	316 Newry St.	11/3/1993
Reiser, Andrew, House	Hollidaysburg Borough	101 Canal St.	8/11/1994
Baker, J. Calvin & Thelma L., Farmstead	Huston Township	S.R. 2011, 1.3 Miles South of	11/14/1994
Martinsburg Historic District	Martinsburg Borough	Martinsburg	7/31/1996
Bald Eagle Furnace Historic District	Snyder Township	Intersection of Rte. 220 & SR 1019	9/1/1993
name unknown	Tyrone Borough	1001-1007 Pennsylvania Ave.	4/14/1987
Wilson, George, C., Jr., House	Tyrone Borough	863 Washington Ave.	4/7/1988
name unknown	Tyrone Borough	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
name unknown	Tyrone Borough	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
Arch Springs Bridge	Tyrone Township	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
Espy Property	Tyrone Township	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
Hostler Property	Tyrone Township	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
Shoenberger, Albert C., Property	Tyrone Township	T-732	3/14/1988
Sinking Valley Historic District	Tyrone Township		4/2/1996
Wolfe Property	Tyrone Township	S.R. 1013	4/2/1996
Neff House	Woodbury Township	401 High St.	7/31/1996
Northern Morrisons Cove	Woodbury Township	Mostly Rd. 2	7/31/1996

Source: Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission



Prime Agricultural Lands

Introduction

Agriculture plays a significant role in parts of Blair County. Small to medium-sized, family-owned dairy farms are the common type of agriculture operation found in the county. These farms contribute to the local economy and rural character in many parts of the county. Some communities also have strong cultural ties with farming, as is the case with the Mennonite community in Morrisons Cove.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Farming and forestry are vital to the preservation of rural resource areas. Identifying prime agricultural lands is the first step toward understanding what agricultural resources exist and the importance of agriculture to Blair County. This will, in turn, ensure that a sound plan for agricultural preservation is carried forward. It is also important to examine prime agricultural lands and agricultural land use in the context of the other plan elements and the vision for Blair County when developing the Action Program in Phase III of the plan.

This section identifies the location of prime agricultural land and farmland of statewide and local importance in comparison to existing agricultural land uses for the seven planning regions. Agricultural preservation programs and relevant organizations in Blair County are identified and discussed as well.

I. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Agriculture Map indicates the location of prime farmland, and farmland of state and local importance, as well as designate agriculture security areas. The following definitions are useful in understanding the delineation of farming soils:

Prime farmland

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses. (USDA, 1998)

Identifying prime agricultural lands is the first step toward understanding what agricultural resources exist and the importance of agriculture to Blair County

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Land other than prime farmland which has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops.

Farmland of Local Importance

Land other than prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance that is either currently producing crops, or that has the capability of production. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity.

Prime agricultural soils are a limited resource to Blair County, having been created from a series of geologic events dating back to the Paleozoic Era that shaped the landscape of Blair county. During the Paleozoic era layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale were deposited in what is now Blair county. Due to uplifting and folding in the earth's crust, the area east of the Allegheny Front (including Blair County) went through a series of folding and faulting with erosion creating the ridges and highly fertile valleys that is evident in the County today. The result of this geologic pattern is that the more resistant rock layers of sandstone and quartzite formed the mountainous areas of the county, while the eroded limestone and shale formed the valley floors, creating highly fertile soils needed for farming. Areas dominated by soils formed in material from limestone, calcareous shale, and sandstone make up 27% of Blair County, and prime agricultural soils make up only 15% of soils in Blair county. Soils of this type are found predominantly in Sinking Valley, Morrisons Cove, and Canoe Valley.

As would be expected, prime farmland is found in the flatter parts of Blair County. The main agricultural areas of the county stretch from Williamsburg in the northeast to Martinsburg in the southeast. Sinking Valley is a significant agricultural area. The greatest concentrations of prime farmland are in Taylor Township, North Woodbury Township, Huston Township, Woodbury Township, Catherine Township, and Tyrone Township. Prime farmland is also located along the Frankstown Branch of the Little Juniata River.

The following is an overview of agriculture for each planning region:

REGION 1

Region 1 includes Tyrone Township, Tyrone Borough, and Snyder Township. Prime agricultural land is found throughout Sinking Valley in Tyrone Township. Very little prime agricultural land is found in Snyder Township, where farmland of local importance is more dominant in the eastern part of the Township. Agricultural land use is predominant throughout Sinking Valley.

REGION 2

Antis Township and Bellwood Borough in Region 2 have limited prime agricultural land, located mainly along the Little Juniata River. Farmland of statewide and local importance is found throughout the central portion of this planning region. Agricultural land uses are scattered around Bellwood Borough and along Old Route 220.

REGION 3

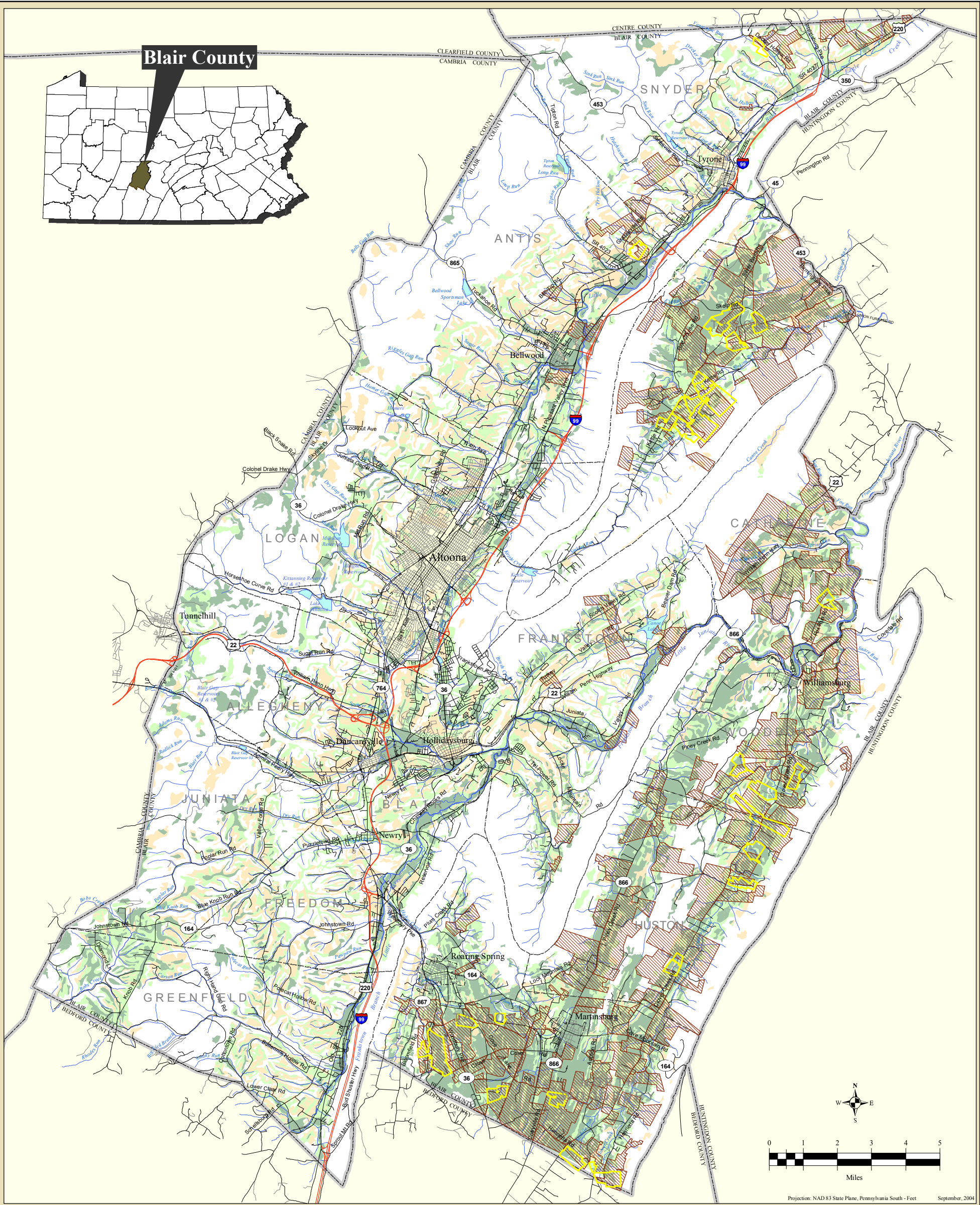
Region 3 includes the City of Altoona and Logan Township. There are very few areas of prime agricultural land in this region. Those that do exist are located to the west and northeast of Altoona. There are a few pockets of agricultural land use where prime agricultural lands are found along Mill Run Road, Route 36, and north of Altoona along Grandview Road.

REGION 4

Region 4, including Catherine Township, Woodbury Township, and Williamsburg Borough is an area with significant concentrations of prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance. Agricultural land uses mirror the location of prime farmland located along the valley between Lock Mountain to the west and Tussey Mountain to the east, as well as in the central portion of Catherine Township west of the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata. Prime farmland is also found along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River.

REGION 5

Prime agricultural land in Region 5 follows along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River through Blair and Frankstown Townships. Some prime agricultural land is located between Hollidaysburg and Duncansville



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Planning
Regions



- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Legend

- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Agricultural Security Areas
- Preserved Farmland
- farms with conservation easements

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Soils-USDA Digital Soil Survey
Prime and Important Soils-Blair County Conservation District
Ag Security Areas-Blair County Conservation District

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Agriculture



and in the western part of Allegheny and Juniata Townships. Farmland of statewide and local importance is found throughout the remainder of the Region. Likewise, the majority of agricultural land use is found in Blair and Frankstown Townships.

REGION 6

Prime agricultural land is located in the the far eastern and far western sections of Region 6. Farmland of statewide and local importance are also concentrated in the east and west with Blue Knob falling in between. Agricultural land use also follows this general pattern.

REGION 7

Prime agricultural land is found throughout the Townships in Region 7 with the exception of Freedom Township. Freedom Township is similar in farmland make-up and land use to Region 5 to the north and Region 6 to the south. The remainder of Region 7 includes Roaring Springs, Taylor Township, North Woodbury Township, Martinsburg, and Huston. Taylor Township, Huston Township, and North Woodbury Townships, also known as Morrison's Cove, is home to a significant farming community with agricultural land use throughout. The pattern of prime farmland and agricultural land use in Huston Township is similar to that of Woodbury Township (Region 4) to the north with two strips of farmland that follow along Piney Creek Road and Clover Creek Road. "The Barrens" lie between these strips.

II. AGRICULTURE TRENDS

The United States conducts a Census of Agriculture every five years. The most recent Census was completed in 2002. In 2002, the Census of Agriculture changed its methodology of data collection. The 1997 data presented below is normalized to the 2002 methodology for comparison purposes. The 1987 and 1992 data reported below is based on the prior methodology employed by the Census, and therefore is difficult to compare to the 1997 and 2002 data. However, the figures for 1987 and 1992 are provided for informational purposes.

Table 1.4 shows changes in the number of farms and land in farms in Blair County from 1987 to 2002. From 1997 to 2002, the number of farms decreased from 532 to 504 farms. Likewise, total land in farms decreased by just over 4,000 acres. The average size of farms has

remained relatively unchanged from 1997 to 2002, increasing by just two acres over the time period from 168 to 170 acres.

Table 1.4 Blair County Agriculture Trends, 1987 - 2002

	1987	1992	1997	2002
# of Farms	489	415	532	504
Land in Farms (acres)	86,691	76,466	89,285	85,087
Avg Farm Size (acres)	177	184	168	170

Source: United States Census of Agriculture

Table 1.5 is a summary of the number of farms by size. The greatest number of farms fall in the 50 to 179 acre category. The table shows that the number of farms in the County generally decreased from 1997 to 2002 in every category (except the 1-9 acre and > 1,000 acre category).

Table 1.5 Blair County - Farms by Size

	1987	1992	1997	2002
1 to 9 acres	54	30	44	57
10 to 49 acres	58	45	101	99
50 to 179 acres	204	197	242	217
180 to 499	142	118	102	97
500 to 999	27	20	37	28
1,000 acres or	4	5	6	6
Total	489	415	532	504

Source: United States Census of Agriculture

Table 1.6 is a breakdown of the market value of agricultural products sold from Blair County farms. Livestock very clearly dominates in market value over cropland for Blair County, a reflection the significance of dairy farming in Blair County. While the market value of livestock increased from 1997 to 2002, the market value of cropland decreased. Therefore, the total increase in market value over the time period, 51.5 million in 1997 to 63.3 million in 2002, is attributed to the market value of livestock.

Table 1.6 Blair County - Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

Year	Market Value of Crops (\$)	Market Value of Livestock (\$)	Total Market Value (\$)
1987	4,571,000	28,637,000	33,208,000
1992	4,897,000	36,806,000	41,703,000
1997	7,753,000	43,834,000	51,587,000
2002	5,980,000	57,373,000	63,353,000

III. AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Farmland preservation programs are being implemented at the state, county, and local level, to maintain agriculture as a viable industry in Pennsylvania, and preserve the rural way of life throughout the state. Farmland preservation programs that are being implemented in Pennsylvania and Blair County are described in more detail below.

AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS

The Agricultural Security Area (ASA) is a voluntary program administered by a local governing body. To participate, landowners must submit a petition to their governing body to enroll in the Agricultural Security Area program. A minimum of 250 acres is required among all participating landowners. To be eligible for the program, the land included must currently be used for or be capable of being used for agricultural production. As part of an ASA, farmers are protected from nuisance complaints and local ordinances that would unreasonably restrict farming practices, as well as farmland condemnation. Agricultural Security Areas are reviewed once every seven years, at which time landowners have the option of opting out of the program.

There are nine (9) Agricultural Security Areas in Blair County, with a total enrollment of 286 landowners and 45,641 acres of land (about 50% of the total agricultural land in the County). The Agriculture Map indicates the location of all farmland that is enrolled in the Agricultural Security Areas program. Table 1.7 below show the breakdown in the number of farms and total farmland enrolled in ASA programs for each Township. Tyrone Township has the greatest number of farmer

Table 1.7 Agriculture Security Areas

Township	Enacted	# of Farmers	Total Acres
Antis	10/04/94	21	2,095.80
Catherine	11/11/91	22	4,001.38
Frankstown	02/05/02	9	2,023.81
Huston	07/21/91	40	7,306.65
North Woodbury	07/06/92	58	7,616.90
Snyder	12/01/93	18	1,951.53
Taylor	06/20/91	33	4,028.45
Tyrone	09/01/92	69	14,104.09
Woodbury	04/22/91	16	3,512.35
Total		286	46,640.96

Source: Blair County Conservation District

participants (69 farmers) and the greatest amount of land enrolled (14,104 acres) of all the Townships, followed by North Woodbury and Huston Townships.

Table 1.8 aggregates ASA enrollment by planning region. Region 7 (including Taylor, North Woodbury, and Huston Townships) has the greatest ASA enrollment as a region with 131 farmers and 18,952 acres of land, followed by Region 1 (Snyder and Tyrone Townships) with 87 farmers and 16,055 acres of land. This is somewhat expected, given the high level of agricultural land use in the two Regions.

Table 1.8 Agriculture Security Area Enrollment by Planning Region

Region	# of Farmers	Total Acres
Region 1	87	16,055.62
Region 2	21	2,095.80
Region 3	0	0
Region 4	38	7,513.73
Region 5	9	2,023.81
Region 6	0	0
Region 7	131	18,952.00

Source: Blair County Conservation District

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was established to prevent the loss of farmland to development and other non-agricultural uses. The program is administered by a State Preservation Board in cooperation with county agricultural land preservation boards. The program enables states, counties, and local governments to purchase conservation easements from local farmers. This enables the property to be preserved as productive agricultural land for future agricultural use, and prohibits the landowner from selling the property for development. However, the property can be sold for agricultural use and the easement stays with the property if it is sold in this manner.

To be considered for the program, the applicant must meet specific criteria regarding the quality of the farmland to be protected, stewardship practices, and the likelihood of conversion and development of the land. The sale of development rights provides farmers with capital for continued operations and maintenance of their farms. To qualify for an easement, a farm must be a minimum of 50 acres and part of an existing Agricultural Security Area. Funding for this program is

provided by the State, yet each County must provide matching funds to qualify.

Blair County participates in the Conservation Easement Purchase Program. As of April of 2004 Blair County has purchased a total of 27 conservation easements totaling 4,307 acres. Generally, the County purchases 2-3 conservation easement each year. Table 1.9 provides a breakdown of the conservations easements, the dates purchased, and the location of the easement. Table 1.10 provides a breakdown of the number of easements by planning region.

Table 1.9 Blair County Conservation Easements

Township	# of Easements	Total Acres
Antis	1	102.97
Catherine	1	112.72
Huston	4	372.38
Hust./Wood.	1	281.98
N. Woodbury	3	497.93
Snyder	1	75.63
Taylor	4	649.00
Tyrone	9	1538.53
Woodbury	3	406.43
Total	27 Easements	4037.39

Source: Blair County Conservation District

Table 1.10 Planning Region Conservation Easements

Region	# of Easements	Total Acres
Region 1	10	1613.98
Region 2	1	102.97
Region 3	0	0
Region 4	4	519.15
Region 5	0	0
Region 6	0	0
Region 7	11	1519.31
Region 4 and 7	1	281.98
Total	27	4037.39

Source: Blair County Conservation District

Tyrone Township has the greatest number of conservation easements and land area (9 easements for approx. 1,538 acres) compared to other municipalities in the County. Likewise, Planning Region 1 and 7 have the greatest number of acres in conservation easement (approx. 1,614 and 1,519 acres, respectively) compared to the other planning regions.

The average easement price in Blair County is \$795/acre and prices range from \$700/acre to \$1,996/acre. As of April of 2004, an additional 7,800 acres are under easement consideration.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Blair County participates in the Conservation Reserve Enhance Program (CREP). The CREP is a joint state and federal program that addresses the environmental effects of agricultural production. The objective of CREP is to improve water quality, erosion control, and wildlife habitat in specific watersheds.

It is a voluntary program that encourages farmers to enroll in contracts of ten to fifteen years to remove land from agricultural production and covert the land to buffer practices with native grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees, wetlands, and other covers.

The CREP program in Pennsylvania focuses on counties in the Lower Susquehanna, Potomac, and Chesapeake Bay river basins. Recently, a CREP was designated for the Ohio River Basin in western Pennsylvania. The program in Blair County became effective on September 1, 2003. To date there have been four to five contracts signed in Blair County, and an additional fifteen (15) to twenty (20) interested landowners are on a waiting list for contract development. The landowners in Blair County have utilized the program for planting of warm season grasses and buffer area enhancement. CREP participants are eligible for payments from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for conservation practices in the program. These include both one-time payments (signing and and practice payments). In addition, landowners receive an annual rental payment through the life of the contract. The national average payment is \$43/acre/year, yet this varies depending on local land values. The Commonwealth also provides technical and financial assistance to enrolled landowners.

CLEAN AND GREEN

The Clean and Green Program is a state program that preserves farmland and open space by taxing land according to the use of the land, rather than the market value. This eases a landowner's local tax burden by

lowering a farm's assessed value. A minimum of ten acres is required to qualify, and the farm must generate at least \$2,000 in annual income. Qualifying farmland uses include agricultural production, an agricultural reserve, and open space. Parcels less than 10 acres, and capable of producing \$2000 annually from the sale of agricultural products, are eligible for the agriculture use designation.

This program appears to be having a positive effect in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania where development pressure on small farms is heavy and little open space remains. In areas with large amounts of open space, as more gentleman farms or homeowners with small tracts of land are accepted into the program, the local tax base can be significantly reduced. This may limit the ability of the local governing body to maintain a reasonable level of public services.

Blair County does not participate in the Clean and Green Program.

IV. KEY ISSUES

Several organizations that are involved in supporting agriculture in Blair County were interviewed to assess the key issues with respect to agriculture in Blair County today. The following key issues were identified by the stakeholders:

- Maintaining economically viable family farms into the future, especially given the current dairy market.
- Working in partnerships with farmers to prevent nutrient contamination of Blair County waterways from agricultural operations and manure spreading. This is a particularly relevant issue in Morrison Cove where the quality of Martinsburg's water supply is threatened by nutrient contamination. Farmers are required to submit nutrient management plans for all farms with more than 1,000 animals or for farms with more than 2.5 head/acre.
- Successfully mitigating land use conflicts between farmers and adjoining land uses through open communication, collaboration, and local land use tools
- Working with farmers on a voluntary basis to develop nutrient management plans and conservation plans in order to protect riparian areas from livestock grazing and prevent erosion and sedimentation of streambanks and waterways.

V. KEY ORGANIZATIONS

The following are key organization and committees work to support agriculture and farmland preservation in Blair County:

Blair County Conservation District

Located at 1407 Blair Street in Hollidaysburg, the Blair County Conservation District works to protect, preserve, and enhance Blair County's natural resources through technical assistance and educational guidance.

Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

Located at 1407 Blair Street in Hollidaysburg, the Blair County Agriculture Preservation Board works to preserve farmland in Blair County. The Board guides the implementation of the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program and the purchase of farmland conservation easements in the County.

Penn State Cooperative Extension

The College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University has an Extension program. Their regional office is located in the same building as the Blair County Planning Commission offering many opportunities for communication and coordination. The Extension office promotes educational outreach to communities in Pennsylvania to maintain a competitive and environmentally sound food and fiber system in the Commonwealth.

Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is part of the United State Department of Agriculture. The program is administered by local regional councils. The local councils deliver coordinated resource conservation and rural development assistance throughout rural America. The purpose of the program is to promote the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, to improve the level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and quality of life in all communities. The Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council is located in Bedford, PA and works in Blair County.

Southern Alleghenies Conservancy

Located in Bedford, PA, the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy is a regionally based non profit

organization that assists local organizations throughout the Southern Alleghenies region to carry out resource conservation activities which are first suggested by local communities. The Conservancy also acts as a land trust organization and accepts donations of property which owners wish to see preserved.

Agriculture Today and Tomorrow Committee

This committee consists of resource and agricultural related organizations and farmers working to address agricultural issues of concern in the southern Alleghenies region and Blair County.

Maps

Existing Land Use Map
Agriculture Map

Appendices

Prime Farmland for Blair County

Sources

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Annual Summary (1999)
Blair County Conservation District
United States Department of Agriculture



Environment and Natural Resources

Introduction

This section provides an overview of the environmental conditions in the county and outlines the location of environmentally sensitive lands and features. It is important to understand the extent and location of these environmental features, in order to identify limitations to development, avoid severe environmental impacts, and prevent property loss or damage. Information on environmental resources should be used to guide growth to areas that are suitable for development, in order to protect important natural areas.

Given that environmental resources follow natural, rather than school district or political boundaries, this section is organized according to environmental features. However, the location and significance of each natural feature are noted with respect to the planning regions.

The first part of this section is an overview of natural and mineral resources, including:

- Woodlands
- Soils
- Mineral Resources
- Steep Slopes
- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Unique Natural Areas
- Wildlife Corridors
- Natural Diversity Inventory
- Hazard Areas (natural and man-made)

The second part of this section examines water resources in Blair County.

The Environmental Features Map and Mineral Resources Map indicate the occurrence of environmental features discussed in this section. It should be referenced when reviewing this plan element.

Information on environmental resources should be used to guide growth to areas that are suitable for development in order to protect important natural areas.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The natural environment contributes to the economic vitality, environmental health, and quality of life of a community. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, stream valleys, watersheds, and floodplains are found throughout Blair County. They contribute to the scenic beauty of the region and support important ecological functions. Therefore, the identification of the primary natural resources in the seven regions is critical when developing the vision, goals, and future land use scenario, specifically to identify those areas targeted for development and conservation.

I. NATURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES

WOODLANDS

Woodlands and forest make up a significant portion of the undeveloped land in the County and are found in every planning region. The series of mountain ridges in the western, central, and far eastern parts of the County contain significant areas of contiguous forestland.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (1989), just over 64% (216,500 acres) of Blair County is forested. The dominant forest zone in Blair County is the Appalachian Oak Forest. Forest types in order of abundance in Blair County include oak/hickory, northern hardwoods, oak/pine, and white/red pine.

There are no designated national or state forests in Blair County. Forested lands, with the exception of the State Game Lands consisting of 54,474 acres, are primarily privately owned. Logging and timbering are common in Blair County. As a result, the majority of forestland is considered secondary growth forest that has replaced the original old growth forest.

SOILS

Soil characteristics, such as slope, percolation, and drainage, aid in understanding a particular area's suitability for development. Information on general soil types are provided by soil surveys. Soil surveys evaluate the behavior of a type of soil under alternative uses, its

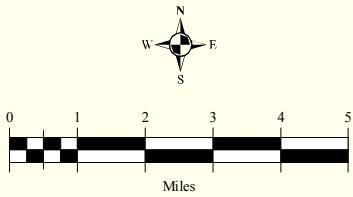
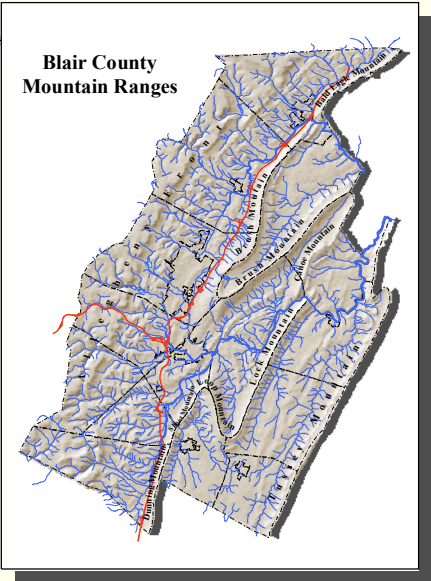
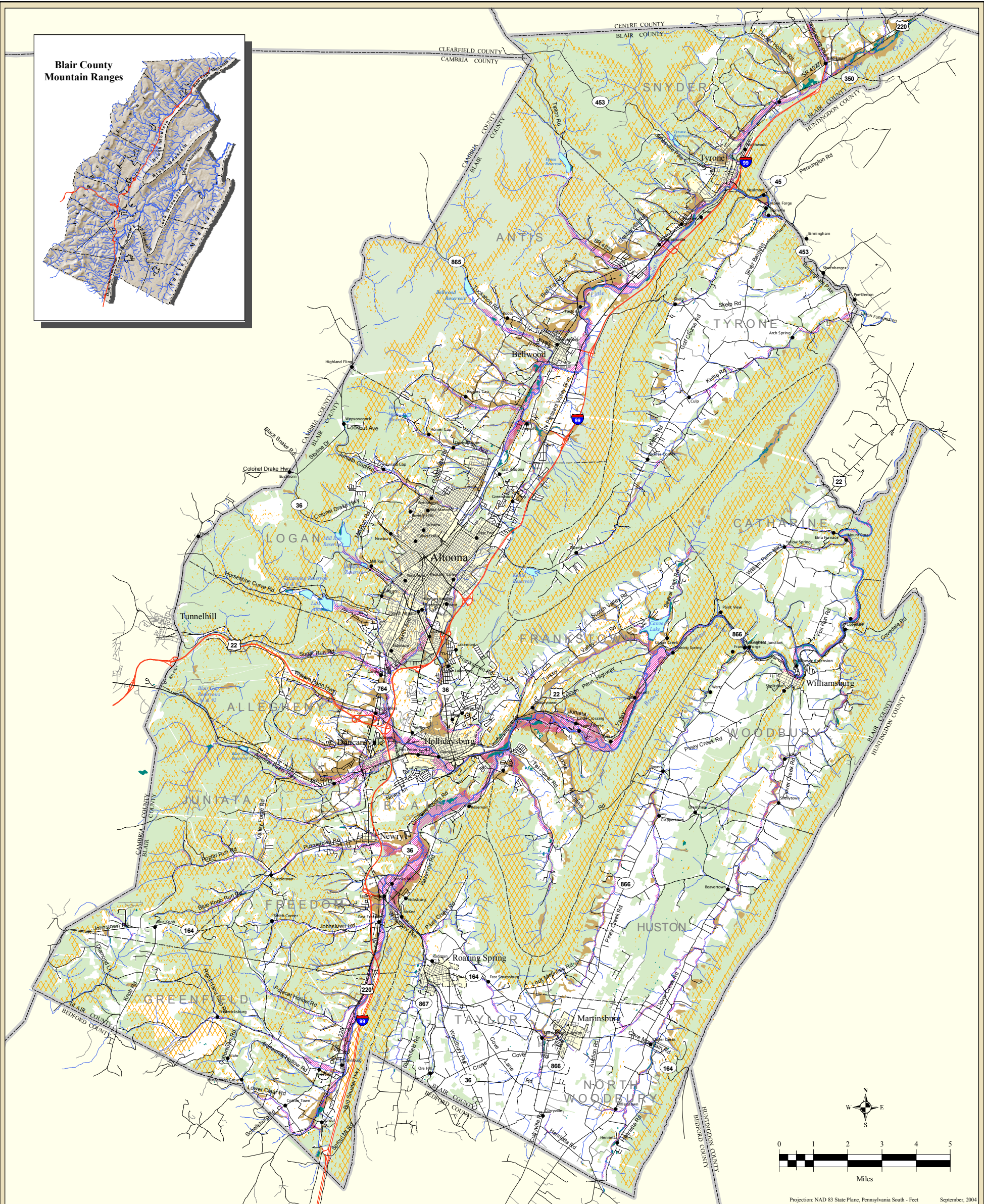
potential for erosion, ground water contamination, and suitability and productivity for cultivated crops, trees, and grasses. The general soil associations found in the planning area are based on The Soil Survey for Blair County. There are eight general soil associations in Blair County. Table 1.11 identifies the soil associations, their locations, uses, and limitations.

Blair County falls in the Valley and Ridge physiographic province and the Appalachian Plateau physiographic province. The Valley and Ridge province covers the majority of the County, forming a series of parallel valley and ridges across the County in a northeast-southwest orientation. The Appalachian Plateau, which includes the western third of the County, is characterized by rounded ridges and knobs, and dissected stream valleys that make up the Allegheny Front.

The elevation of Blair County ranges from 720 feet where the Juniata River crosses into Huntington County (Region 1) to Schaefer Head at 2,950 feet above sea level (Greenfield Township, Region 6).

Key soil characteristics include:

- Soils formed from material derived from material from sandstone/quartzite and sandstone/shale make up approximately 40% of the County. These include the Laidig-Hazleton-Buchanan Association and the Laidig-Hazleton-Clymer Association. Bald Eagle, Brush, Canoe, Lock, Loop, and Dunning Mountains are dominated by the Laidig-Hazleton-Buchanan association. The Appalachian Plateau province is dominated by soils in the Laidig-Hazleton-Clymer association.
- Areas dominated by soils formed in shale and from shale/sandstone make up approximately 29% of the County. They include the Berks-Brinkerton-Weikert Association and the Leck Kill-Meckesville-Albrights Association. The base of the Allegheny Front is dominated by soils in the Leck Kill-Meckesville-Albright Association.
- Areas dominated by soils formed in material from limestone, calcareous shale, and sandstone make up 27% of the County. This includes the Hubbsburg Murrill-Opequon Association, the Edom-Opequon Morrison Association, and the



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Legend



- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

- 100 Year Floodplain
- Wetlands
- Hydric Soils
- Steep Slopes (>25%)
- Forested Areas

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



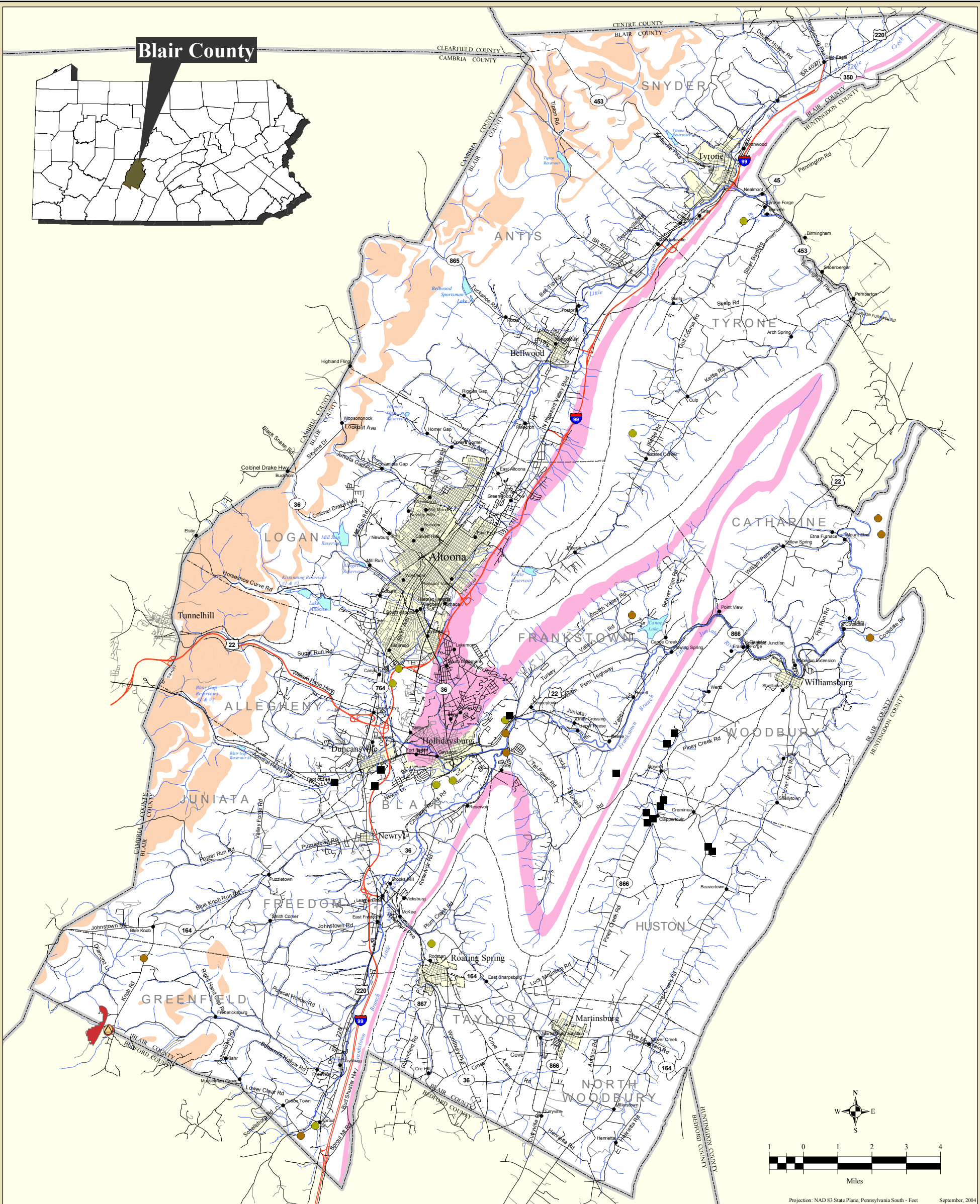
Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
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Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Floodplains-FEMA Q3 flood data
Steep Slopes-interpreted from USGS National Elevation Dataset
Soils-USDA Digital Soil Survey
Prime and Important Soils-Blair County Conservation District
Wetlands-US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory
Forested Areas-Existing Land Use

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

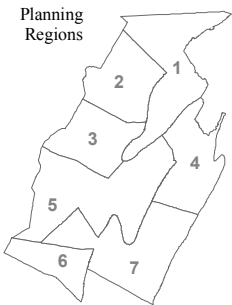
**Environmental
Features**





Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Planning Regions



Legend

- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Mineral Resources

- Coal Bearing Strata
- Iron Ore Bearing Strata
- Oil/Gas Field
- Mining & Extraction Area
- Oil/Gas Well

- Lead
- Zinc
- Limestone quarry
- Sandstone quarry
- Clay or shale quarry

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology/ERRI Networked Streams (PASHEK)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Mineral Resources/Pennsylvania Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Oil/Gas Data - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources
Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey
Mining Extraction Areas/Existing Land Use
Quarries - Blair County Comprehensive Plan 1967

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Mineral
Resources



Morrison Association. These areas include Sinking Valley, Canoe Valley, and Morrisons Cove.

- Areas dominated by soils from alluvial materials make up 4% of the County and include the Basher Monongahela-Purdy Association. This includes the floodplain and flood terrace areas surrounding the Little Juniata and the Frankstown Branch.

Hydric Soils

It is important to note the occurrence of hydric soils in a natural resource inventory. These soils can indicate land that is susceptible to flooding and poor drainage, which can affect the suitability of land for development. Hydric soils may also indicate the presence of wetlands. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the definition of hydric soils is, "a soil that forms under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part." Hydric soils include soils developed under sufficiently wet conditions to support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

The Natural Resources Map indicates the location of hydric soils in Blair County based on information from the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey. Hydric soils are found adjacent to the floodplain areas along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River and along the Little Juniata River.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Deposits of limestone, sandstone, shale, clay, and coal are the main mineral resources found in Blair County. Isolated deposits of iron, lead, zinc, barite, and natural gas are also found throughout the County.

The underlying bedrock material in Blair County includes sandstone, limestone, and shale. Due to weathering patterns and erosion rates, the ridges are underlain primarily by sandstone, while the valleys are underlain by limestone and shale.

Extraction and use of mineral resources contributed to the development of Blair County. The isolated lead and zinc deposits in Sinking Valley (Region 1) were extracted at Fort Roberdeau at one time, and limited

deposits of iron were once extracted for the iron and steel industry. In addition, surface-mining and deep-mining of coal took place along the Allegheny Front beginning in the 1800's. While coal mining has decreased in Blair County, some mining of coal continues today with two active sites located in Logan Township. Current day resource extraction is also focused on limestone, sandstone, shale, and dolomite.

Table 1.12 identifies the companies in Blair County currently engaged in soil and mineral extraction and quarrying.

STEEP SLOPES

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

The Environmental Features Map shows those areas where slopes exceed 25%, based on information from the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Surveys. Slopes in excess of 25% are found throughout the county, particularly along the Allegheny Front in the western third of the county and the following mountains:

- Dunning Mountain (Region 6 and 7)
- Short Mountain (Region 5 and 7)
- Loop Mountain (Region 5 and 7)
- Lock Mountain (Region 4, 5, and 7)
- Brush Mountain (Region 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Bald Eagle Mountain (Region 1)
- Canoe Mountain (Region 1 and 4)
- Tussey Mountain (Region 4 and 7)

WETLANDS

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at, or near the surface of the soil all year, or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season (U.S. EPA). They generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas that are characteristically wet. Wetlands have been shown to provide a range of ecological, economic, and

recreational benefits. Due to their natural sponging and filtering capabilities, wetlands provide important flood control and water quality functions. They also support unique habitats and a diverse range of plant and animal species.

Wetlands Serve Important Ecologic and Social Functions:

- Maintain water quality
- Support aquatic productivity
- Serve as habitat for fish, birds, & other wildlife
- Control flooding & erosion
- Recharge groundwater
- Provide recreational and educational opportunities
- Serve as a source of energy
- Filter stormwater run-off and act as a natural catchment basin

Wetlands and streams in Blair County flow into the Juniata River, the largest tributary of the Susquehanna River, which ultimately drains into the Chesapeake Bay. Therefore, the loss or degradation of wetlands in Blair County has a regional ecological impact and negatively affects the health of the watershed and Chesapeake Bay.

The Environmental Features Map show the location of wetland in the County, based on information from the United State Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). It should be noted that the NWI is a country-wide database of wetlands, but it is by no means exhaustive. Therefore, site assessments should be conducted to determine the presence of wetlands before a development proposal proceeds.

As is common in Pennsylvania, wetlands in Blair County are located along streams and rivers, including the Frankstown Branch, the Little Juniata, and Bald Eagle Creek. There are no major wetland areas in Blair County, but rather, smaller areas that coincide with the 100-year floodplain and the sides of ridges. Despite the fact that these areas appear isolated, they are hydrologically and biologically connected to surrounding waters and upland habitats.

In 2000, the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center conducted a 2-year pilot study to determine the

condition of wetlands in the Upper Juniata River watershed. The study determined, using site level assessments, that nearly 50% of the wetlands in the watershed are in poor condition due to runoff from adjacent urban and suburban areas, presence of exotic species, and sedimentation. The Cooperative Wetlands Center has identified at least one wetland of exceptional value in Blair County, located at the intersection of Rest Road and Route 220 in Pinecroft, Antis Township (Region 2). The wetland is of exceptional value because provides cool, clean water to support a brown trout fishery at the headwaters of Sandy Run, a tributary to the Little Juniata River. It is also unique in that it occupies a limestone valley between two ridges and is fed by a number of springs. It may be the only example of this type of wetland in Blair County. Threats to the wetland include commercial and residential development along both Sabbath Rest Road and Route 220. Although this surrounding development has contributed to the degradation of the wetland near the edges, the core area appears to be intact. For this reason, efforts should be made to maintain the viability and high quality of this wetland through buffering and other protective measures.

Additional information on wetlands, their importance and presence in western Pennsylvania is provided in the Appendix.

FLOODPLAINS

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

The Natural Resources Map identifies those areas in the 100-year floodplain based on information from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). The 100-year floodplain is found along the two major rivers in Blair County: the Little Juniata River and the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. Historical flooding problem areas include Mill Run (Region 3), the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River near

Frankstown at Lind's Crossing and Williamsburg Borough (Region 4 and 5), and the Little Juniata River near Bellwood Borough (Region 2) and Tyrone Borough (Region 1).

Flood Control Projects

The following flood control projects have been initiated in Blair County:

- Tyrone Local Flood Protection Project (Tyrone Borough, Region 1): Initiated in the 1970's with assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Tyrone Metropolitan Multi-Agency Development Project (TMMADP) is a program designed to address flooding problems along the Little Juniata River in Tyrone Borough. Flood control measures include an earthen dam, diversion tunnel, and pressure conduit.
- Spring Run Channel Improvement Project (Altoona, Region 3): A project to address flooding along Spring Run including channel improvements, streambank stabilization, and rock deflectors.

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS

The following unique natural features exist in Blair County:

Arch Springs

(Tyrone Township, Region 1)

A large sinking spring that flows into a collapsed cave, which forms a natural arch over the spring. This is the eighth largest spring in Pennsylvania.

Roaring Springs

(Roaring Springs, Region 7)

A natural spring with which the Borough of Roaring Spring shares its name. The spring water is now piped to supply bottled water for the Roaring Springs Premium Water Company.

Celestine Locality

(Antis Township, Region 2)

An outcrop of irregular layers of the mineral Celestine in hard calcareous shale. This location is where the Celestine mineral was first discovered and named.

Chimney Rocks

(Frankstown Township, Region 5)

Chimney Rocks are vertical formations of Silurian Tonoloway Limestone that form in a series of three chimneys, for which they are named.



Horseshoe Curve

(Logan Township, Region 3)

In addition to its historic significance, Horseshoe Curve is environmentally significant as an example of exposed Late Paleozoic rocks, composed primarily of shale and sandstone, extending 45,000 feet. Horseshoe Curve is part of the Allegheny Front and is the route by which the Pennsylvania Railroad travels around the mountain.



Sinking Valley Lead - Zinc Mines

(Tyrone Township, Region 1)

An isolated deposit of lead-zinc that was once extracted and used to produce ammunition at Fort Roberdeau for the Revolutionary War.

CAVES

The 1972 report, *The Caves of Blair County*, notes that there are more than 90 caves and cavelets in the county ranging from ten to thirty feet in length. Three

significant caves to note include Blue Hole Cave #1 (Region 7), Gromiller Cave (Region 5), and Tytoona Cave (Region 1).



Tytoona Cave (Region 1)

Tytoona Cave is the best known cave in Blair County and a significant cave in Pennsylvania. Located just south of the Borough of Tyrone, the cave is preserved on the 6.8 acre Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve, owned by the National Speleological Society (NSS). The cave itself is located on a branch of Sinking Run with the entrance in the bottom of a large wooded sinkhole. The downstream portion of the cave exits at Arch Spring. However, Arch Spring is not part of the Nature Preserve. The total passage of the cave is 3,740 feet, including a few large dry rooms and several submerged passages which are only navigable by divers. The first 1000 feet of passage can be easily explored, offering recreational and educational opportunities. The property is open to the general public for recreational and educational pursuits, however cave diving is prohibited to the general public. The cave is managed by a Preserve Management Committee for the National Speleological Society.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT AREAS

Several natural areas in Blair County have been recognized for supporting significant bird and mammal habitats. There are four designated Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Blair County, based on criteria developed by the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey. They include the Canoe Creek Watershed (15,259 acres), Bald Eagle Ridge (50,000 acres), Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River (5,000 acres), and Greater Tussey Mountain (65,000 acres). In some cases, the designation extends beyond

the Blair County border, as is the case with Tussey Mountain, a 75-mile ridge extending from Boalsburg in Centre County to the Maryland. In addition, the IBAs consist of both public and private lands. Over 50% of the land in the Canoe Creek IBA is publicly owned, while nearly 90% of the land in the Tussey Mountain IBA is public land. These four areas are recognized for the significant amount of contiguous forest, high quality wetlands, and riparian areas that support diverse communities of plants and animals and encourage continued breeding and migration.

The greatest threat to these areas is fragmentation of the forested areas from development activity on private lands. For this reason, efforts should be made to preserve and connect the vital forests, wetlands, stream corridors, and open space serve as important ecological habitats.

At Canoe Creek, 226 bird species have been identified in the watershed area consisting of wide forested riparian buffers and undisturbed wetlands along the high quality waters in Canoe Creek and its tributaries. Brush Mountain and Canoe Mountain provide uninterrupted forest habitat in a 20-mile long by 2-mile wide corridor, totaling 8,000 acres of contiguous forest habitat. The Canoe Creek watershed has also been designated an Important Mammal Area (IMA) as a pilot for the Mammal Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey Important Mammal Areas Project. The designation is based on the presence of the largest federally endangered Indiana bat colony and the largest brown bat maternity site east of the Mississippi River, as well as caves that are home to the threatened small-footed bat and northern long-ear bat, as well as forest and wetland habitat that is significant for numerous mammal species.

Additional information in IBAs and IMAs is provided in the Appendix.

NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY

The Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) collects data and inventories the Commonwealth's rarest and most significant ecological features. These features include plant and animal species of special concern, rare and exemplary natural communities, and outstanding geologic features. The goal of the PNDI is to provide accurate and accessible ecological information needed for conservation, development planning, and natural resource management.

There are currently 56 PNLI listings for Blair County. Refer to the Appendix for the complete PNLI listing for Blair County and ranking definitions.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is in the process of conducting a Natural Heritage Inventory for Blair County. The inventory is currently being undertaken with an anticipated completion date of December, 2004. The Natural Heritage Inventory identifies areas that are recognized for their unique biodiversity and ecological integrity, and classifies them as exceptional, high, and notable according to their county significance. The inventory will assist the public (state, county, and municipal governments) and private sectors in protecting significant environmental resources and species habitat when planning for the future.

HAZARD AREAS

Hazard areas are important to identify because they include sites that pose a risk to the health and safety of the general public.

Man-Made Hazard Areas

Superfund

The United States Environmental Protection Agency tracks hazardous waste sites through Superfund, a program that identifies land in the U.S. that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and is a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment (U.S. EPA).

The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) is a database of all sites where releases or potential releases have been reported for Superfund sites. The database tracks activities at hazardous waste sites considered for cleanup.

There are five listed Superfund Sites in CERCLIS and one site listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the worst hazardous waste sites in Superfund, which qualify for priority funding. The five sites include:

- Altoona Westerly Sewage Treatment Plant (Logan Township (Region 3) 6 miles west of Altoona on Route 764)

- Barefoot Disposal (Hollidaysburg, Catfish Ridge)
- Delta Quarries & Disposal Inc. /Stotler Landfill (Antis/Logan Townships on Sand Bank Road): Final clean-up on this National Priorities List (NPL) site is complete.
- Easterly Sewage Treatment Plant - HSCA (Logan Township, Greenwood and 6th Ave.): This site has been remediated at part of the Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Clean-up Act.
- Westvaco Corporation (Tyrone, Pennsylvania Ave)

Toxic Release Inventory

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) tracks the release of over 300 chemicals into the air, water, and land. The TRI is managed and compiled by the EPA, and the inventory contains information on toxic chemical releases reported annually by industry groups and federal facilities covered by the TRI. The inventory was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

There are a total of 18 facilities in Blair County listed on the TRI. Table 1.14 provides information on these facilities.

Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Clean-Up

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection also oversees the clean-up and enforcement of hazardous sites under the Hazardous Sites Clean-up Act (HSCA). HSCA identified sites including bankrupt facilities and abandoned facilities, and inappropriate disposal of hazardous substances. Sites generally do not include active facilities. The Easterly Sewage Treatment Plant in Logan Township (Greenwood and 6th Avenue) is the only site in Blair County listed on the HSCA, for which state assisted clean-up and funding was provided and remediation work was completed, delisting the site in 1999.

Pennsylvania also has a Land Recycling Program that assists private property owners in cleaning-up contaminated properties, commonly known as brownfields, and returning sites to productive use.

II. WATER RESOURCES

This section examines the water resources that are present in Blair County including streams, rivers, and reservoirs. Waterways and water bodies serve as important recreation, navigation, and water supply functions. This section identifies watersheds in the region and discusses water quality protection designations for streams in the planning area. Key water quality issues are also discussed.



WATERSHEDS

Blair County falls in the Susquehanna River Basin, which covers the central part of Pennsylvania. The Allegheny Front serves as the dividing line between the Susquehanna River Basin and the Ohio River Basin, which covers the western portion of the state. The western boundary of Blair County is part of the Continental Divide, separating waters flowing east toward the Susquehanna River and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay, from waters flowing westward toward the Ohio River and ultimately draining into the Gulf of Mexico.

There are three major sub-basins in Blair County. They include the Little Juniata River, the Frankstown Branch, and the Raystown Branch. The Little Juniata River watershed encompasses 343 square miles. Its major tributaries include Bald Eagle Creek, Sinking Creek, and Spruce Creek. The Frankstown Branch encompasses 395 square miles with its major tributaries of Beaverdam Branch, Blair Gap Run, Canoe Creek, Piney Creek, and Clover Creek. A small portion of the southwestern and south-central tip (Region 6 and 7) of the County falls in the Raystown Watershed, which drains parts of North Woodbury, Taylor, and Greenfield Townships.

The Raystown Branch, the Little Juniata River, and the Frankstown Branch make-up the headwaters of the Juniata River Watershed, which encompasses parts of 12 counties and drains 3,400 square miles. Therefore, the actions that take place in the watershed and the resulting water quality impact the entire Juniata watershed. The small portion of the southwestern and south-central tip (Region 6 and 7) of the County falls in the Raystown Watershed, which extends south and west into Bedford and Huntingdon Counties. Smaller watersheds in excess of fifty square acres that fall all or in part Blair County include:

- Bald Eagle Creek
- Little Juniata
- Beaverdam Branch
- Frankstown Branch
- Yellow Creek
- Bobs Creek
- Clover Creek

The following stream basins in Blair County have been identified as High Quality and Exceptional Value (EV) waters according to Title 25, Environmental Protection, Chapter 93.

High Quality Waters

- Mill Run (basin source to Allegheny Reservoir)
- Canoe Creek
- Piney Creek
- Clover Creek
- Tipton Run
- Big Fill Run (T-606 Bridge to mouth)

Exceptional Value (EV) Waters

- Big Fill Run - source to T-606 Bridge

High Quality Waters (HQ) are defined as a stream or watershed which has excellent quality waters and environmental or other features that require special water quality protection. Exceptional Value (EV) Waters are defined as a stream or watershed which constitutes outstanding national, state, regional, or local resources.

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

The following lakes and reservoirs are located in Blair County:

- Kettle Reservoir (Region 1)
- Tyrone Reservoir (Region 1)
- Bellwood Reservoir (Region 2)
- Tipton Reservoir (Region 2)
- Mill Run Reservoir (Region 3)
- Lake Altoona (Region 3)
- Kittanning Reservoir #1 and #2 (Region 3)
- Homers Gap Reservoir (Region 3)
- Allegheny Reservoir (Region 3)
- Canoe Lake (Region 5)
- Blair Gap Reservoir #1, #2, and #3 (Region 5)

All of the above listed surface waters are public water supply reservoirs, with the exception of Canoe Lake.

GROUNDWATER

Rock formations that are the most productive for groundwater are the Cambrian and Ordovician limestones and dolomites. These formations are primarily valley forming rocks, underlying the valleys in Blair County.

Groundwater sources for residential and industrial supplies are primarily from wells and springs. Very little groundwater is used for public water supply, which is primarily drawn from reservoirs in the county. There is a significant presence of springs in Blair County including Cold Spring, Arch Spring, Big Springs, and Roaring Spring, many of which are used for industrial purposes and bottling water.

WATER QUALITY

The following threats to water quality in Blair County have been documented in recent watershed plans and studies:

- urban and industrial development and run-off
- abandoned mine drainage (AMD)

Urban and Industrial Development

One of the most critical watershed protection issues in Blair County is increased urban development (residential, commercial, and industrial development). Urban development is characterized by an increase in impervious surfaces, which prevent infiltration of stormwater. Therefore, balancing growth and development with environmental preservation is

important to protecting Blair County's watersheds. Stormwater management plans and policies should identify mechanisms for mitigating the negative effects of non-point source pollutants from stormwater run-off on streams and water bodies.

Blair County currently has two stormwater management plans as required by the Pennsylvania Storm Water Management Act (Act 167). They include the Beaverdam Branch Stormwater Management Plan and the Little Juniata Stormwater Management Plan. Implementation of these stormwater management plans should ensure that development activities do not adversely affect the health, safety, and property in Blair County municipalities and environment.

Pennsylvania enacted the Storm Water Management Act (No. 167) in 1978 to authorize a program of comprehensive watershed stormwater management. This Act gives municipalities the authority to retain local implementation and enforcement of stormwater ordinances, similar to local responsibility of administration of subdivision and land development regulations. Under the Act, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides grant money to counties to develop stormwater management plans for certain designated watersheds. The intent of the Act is to coordinate planning and engineering efforts, standards, and criteria into local codes and ordinances to manage runoff from new development in a coordinated, watershed-wide approach.

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD)

Abandoned Mine Drainage is drainage flowing from, or caused by, surface mining, deep mining, or coal refuse piles. The Blair County Conservation District has set a goal to begin restoration planning for all watersheds affected by AMD by 2005. There are four watersheds in Blair County affected by AMD. They include:

- Glenwhite Run (Region 3)
- Kittanning Run (Region 3)
- Shaw Run (Region 2)
- Sugar Run (Region 5)

Actions have been taken to restore Glenwhite Run and Shaw Run. A restoration plan was recently completed by the Blair County Conservation District that identifies recommendations and actions for remediating the AMD

occurrences in the Sugar Run watershed. Kittanning Run is by far the most complicated of the four affected watersheds and will require substantial financial and technical assistance to remediate the AMD in this stream.

Other Water Quality Threats

Additional water quality threats in Blair County include illegal solid waste dumping, malfunctioning on-lot septic systems, and agricultural land uses such as manure spreading and livestock grazing near streambanks.

WATER SUPPLY

Section 301(b) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, as amended) requires that counties include in their comprehensive plans, a plan for the reliable supply of water. For now, this comprehensive plan will address this requirement by citing and summarizing (1) Blair County's existing water supply studies and plans, and (2) the applicable river basin plans.

Blair County is largely dependent on small reservoirs that are recharged through precipitation and snowmelt for its water supply. However, some areas rely on springs and groundwater wells for a source of potable water. Since the last major planning effort that took place in 1967, Blair County has not experienced shortages resulting in unmet needs. Therefore, this discussion is confined to a summary of the previous long-term plan for reliable water and references to applicable water basin plans.

Existing Plans and Studies

Two specific plans and studies have been developed regarding Blair County's water resources, current and future water supply, and public water infrastructure. They include:

- Historical Background and Physiography study for Blair County, Blair County Planning Commission, 1967
- Areawide Water and Sewer Plan for Blair County, Blair County Planning Commission, December 1972

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND PHYSIOGRAPHY STUDY FOR BLAIR COUNTY, 1967

This background report found that, at the time of planning, Blair County had sufficient water resources to meet the needs of the population (137,270 in 1960). The plan inventories surface, spring, and groundwater sources and cites a total capacity of 3,268 million gallons with a total yield of 67.95 million gallons per day (MGD).

The plan identifies ten potential sites for future water supply, flood protection, recreation, and flow augmentation. Combined, the ten sites have the potential to provide a total yield of 91.3 MGD. The 1967 plan finds that new sites could supplement the current water supply to provide enough capacity to support a quarter million people. Since 1960, the population of Blair County has decreased to 129,144 (2000 Census). A re-evaluation of these sites is warranted as part of a detailed study, but given the future capacity available from the ten sites and a declining population, it is anticipated that they will meet any future water needs of Blair County. The ten sites will be a consideration in the development of the future land use scenario for Blair County to ensure that the water needs of future growth area are met.

AREAWIDE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR BLAIR COUNTY, 1972

This plan is a detailed study of the existing water and sewer facilities and infrastructure in Blair County. The plan includes recommendations for infrastructure and facilities improvements over a 20-year period. The plan includes a description of existing providers in each municipality, analysis of adequacy of the system, as recommendations for meeting future needs. The plan also includes a list of projects to be completed in a 20-year timeframe (1972-1990). Given the dated nature of this project list, a recommendation of the 2005 Areawide Plan is to update the Water and Sewer Plan concurrently with county and municipal Capital Improvements Plans to identify deficiencies and needed investments in the existing systems.

Water Basin Plans

There are two main watershed plans that relate to water supply and water quality in Blair County: The Groundwater Management Plan for the Susquehanna

River Basin produced by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, June 2004, and the Juniata Watershed Management Plan produced by the Juniata Clean Water Partnership, January 2001.

All water plans, policies, and tools utilized in Blair County should be consistent with the recommendations of the river basin and watershed management plans, as well as the State Water Plan, which is currently being developed.

THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN, 2004

The Groundwater Management Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin addresses existing and anticipated groundwater issues in the Susquehanna River Basin and identifies groundwater management tools to address those issues and problems. Blair County falls within the Juniata sub-basin of the Susquehanna River Basin. The following are identified as the key groundwater issues in the basin:

- Areas of intensive growth and development and consequent water resource development
- Water intensive land uses in small basins
- Watershed transfers
- Loss of clean water input to AMD impacted streams
- Unknown and unregulated groundwater use
- Scarcity of clean water in coal-mined areas
- Undeveloped resource areas that are vanishing
- Drought impact to base flow
- Impacts of mining

Recommendations that are relevant to Blair County include:

- Minimize loss of groundwater recharge due to impervious surfaces by encouraging the use of best management practices (BMPs). BMPs are outlined in the Pennsylvania Handbook of Best Management Practices developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environment, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

- Educate the public on the importance of headwater areas with respect to water quality and water quantity and encourage the preservation and protection of headwater areas and groundwater recharge areas.
- Evaluate the downstream water quality impacts in AMD-impacted areas, and prohibit consumptive water resource development in watersheds that are tributary to streams not meeting state and federal water quality standards.
- Educate the public, local government officials, and municipal engineering firms on the importance of protecting the quality and quantity of water from non-AMD impacted watersheds, to ensure an supply of clean water.
- Develop a program to protect pristine watersheds using environmental and water resource impact assessments, local return of withdrawn groundwater, and prohibiting consumptive use.
- Protect stream base flows by maintaining recharge areas, application of BMPs, and implementation of stormwater management practices that promote infiltration.
- Assist community with groundwater source protection to provide educational and technical assistance in the formulation of protection plans.
- Assess water resources utilization periodically through updated water budget analysis for watersheds at a scale of 15 to 25 square miles, focusing on stressed areas of the Susquehanna Basin.
- Encourage and assist local governments to include groundwater management concepts in planning and land-use control.

JUNIATA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2001

The following key issues were identified specific to Blair County that affect water quantity and quality in the Juniata Watershed:

- Storm water runoff
- Illegal roadside dumping
- Stream bank damage from non-agricultural sources
- Surface water contamination from malfunctioning septic systems
- Erosion from secondary roads
- Contamination of private wells from unknown sources
- Ground water contamination from malfunctioning septic systems

Relevant recommendations for Blair County include:

- Restrict land uses to low-impact land use on high-risk areas such as floodplains, wetlands, and steep slopes.
- Ensure that septic and public sewer systems are in good working order to prevent degradation of streams or groundwater. Manage stormwater to reduce runoff and return clean water to streams and rivers.
- Enhance greenway corridor, trails, and river access to develop/increase residents' appreciation of the value of these areas.
- Combine attractions of historical and recreation sites to increase the educational value and appeal to tourists and residents.
- Educate the public on the importance of the watershed and the value of maintaining and protecting its natural resources. Link education efforts to recreational and cultural programming.
- Ensure multi-municipal cooperation to provide consistent and effective planning, regulation, and enforcement. Encourage economic development that sustains communities and natural systems.

Land Use Impacts on Water Supply

It should be noted that particular land uses could have significant impacts on water supply and water quality. Lawful activities, such as extraction of minerals, impact water supply sources. Such activities are governed by

statutes regulating mineral extraction and specify replacement and restoration requirements for water sources affected by such activities. Furthermore, the Groundwater Management Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin provides recommendations to mitigate the impacts of mining on water supply and quality, including:

- Delineating areas of influence and capture area for the mine withdrawal, identifying impacts and mitigation measures
- Evaluating the impacts of new surface mines and expansions through hydrogeological studies
- Reducing mine pumping through the grouting of water inflow points

Commercial agricultural production also impact water supply sources and should be examined further as part of a detailed water supply plan for the County.

APPLICABLE WATERSHED PLANS

The following river basin and watershed management plans have been developed for basins and watersheds that Blair County falls in.

- Juniata River Basin Reconnaissance Study, 1995 (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- Juniata Watershed Management Plan, 2001 (Juniata Clean Water Partnership)
- Beaverdam Branch Watershed Management Plan, 2001 (Blair County Planning Commission)
- Sugar Run Restoration Plan, 2003 (Blair County Conservation District)

III. KEY ORGANIZATIONS

Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC)

Located at 301 Valley View Boulevard in Altoona, the Blair County Planning Commission is an independent agency of local governments in Blair County. The BCPC provides areawide comprehensive planning for the county and technical assistance to its member municipalities. The BCPC oversees planning-related activities, such as stormwater management planning, as required by federal and state laws.

Blair County Conservation District

Located at 1407 Blair Street in Hollidaysburg, the Blair County Conservation District works to protect, preserve, and enhance Blair County's natural resources through technical assistance and educational guidance.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

A non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, the agency works to promote conservation of natural and agricultural resources throughout western Pennsylvania.

Juniata Clean Water Partnership

The Juniata Clean Water Partnership is a watershed based organization consisting of a coalition of citizens, community groups, and environmental organizations located in Huntingdon, PA. The partnership is dedicated to building and sustaining local capacity through education, assistance, and advocacy in order to enhance, restore, and protect the natural resources of the Juniata watershed.

PA Cleanways - Blair County Chapter

PA CleanWays is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides education and outreach to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania. PA CleanWays of Blair County is an independent chapter of PA CleanWays, Inc, located in Hollidaysburg.

Southern Alleghenies Conservancy

Located in Bedford, PA, the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy is a regionally based non-profit organization that assists local organizations throughout the Southern Alleghenies region to carry out resource conservation activities which are first suggested by local communities. The Conservancy also acts as a land trust organization and accepts donations of property which owners wish to see preserved.

Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Program

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is part of the United State Department of Agriculture. The program is administered by local regional councils. The local councils deliver coordinated resource conservation and rural development assistance throughout rural America. The purpose of the program is to promote the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, to improve the level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and quality of life in all communities. The Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development

Council is located in Bedford, PA and works in Blair County.

Blair County Trout Unlimited

Located in Duncansville, the Blair County Trout Unlimited Chapter works to conserve, protect, and restore trout fisheries and their watersheds in Blair County and southwestern Pennsylvania.

Beaverdam Branch Watershed Coalition

Located in Duncansville, the Beaverdam Branch Watershed Coalition is a watershed-based organization that provides education and outreach by working to protect the Beaverdam Branch.

Appendices

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI)
Toxic Release Inventory of Facilities

Maps

Environmental Features Map
Mineral Resources Map

Sources

Soil Survey of Blair County. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources State Conservation Commission, 1981.

Beaverdam Branch Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. Prepared by Chester Engineers for the Blair County Planning Commission, May 2000.

Juniata Watershed Management Plan. Prepared by the Juniata Clean Water Partnership, September, 2000.

Juniata River Basin Pennsylvania Reconnaissance Study. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, September 1995.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Code. Title 25. Environmental Protection, Chapter 93, Water Quality Standards. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Conservation.

Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the Little Juniata River and Frankstown Branch Watersheds. Prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Watershed Management

Table 1.11 Blair County Major Soil Associations					
Soil Association	Area/Location	Content	Characteristics	Uses	Limitations
Laidig-Hazleton-Buchanan (24%)	Ridge areas & foot slopes along Lock, Loop, Brush and Tussey Mountains (central & east Blair Co.)	acid sandstone, quartzite, shale	Gently sloping to very steep; deep, well drained to somewhat poorly drained	woodland, wildlife habitat, recreation, some farmland	slope, surface stones, seasonal high water table, slow permeability
Laidig-Hazleton-Clymer (16%)	mountaintops of the Allegheny Plateau and Front (west Blair Co.)	acid sandstone, quartzite, conglomerate	Gently sloping to very steep; deep, well drained	woodland and some coal strip mine, limited farming	surface stones, slow permeability
Berks-Brinkerton-Weikert (17%)	Ridges, foot slopes, and drainageways (western Blair Co.)	olive, brown, and yellowish brown acid shale and colluvium derived from shale	Gently sloping to very steep, deep to shallow, well drained and poorly drained	woodland and idle cropland, some urban development	slope, low water capacity, high water table, depth to bedrock
Leck Kill-Meckesville-Albrights (12%)	Ridges, foot slopes, and drainageways at base of Allegheny Front (western Blair Co.)	red acid shale and sandstone	Gently sloping to very steep, deep, well drained to somewhat poorly drained	woodland, farmland, residential	slope, surface stones, high water table, moderately slow permeability
Hublersburg-Murrill-Opequon (14%)	Upland valley slopes & mountain foot slopes in Morrisons Cove & Sinking Valley (east Blair Co)	limestone and sandstone	Gently sloping to very steep, deep & shallow, well drained	cropland and farmland	shallow depth to bedrock, hazard of groundwater contamination, slope
Edom-Opequon-Morrison (8%)	Ridges and valley slopes (central Blair Co)	limestone, calcareous shale, sandstone	Gently sloping to moderately steep, deep & shallow, well drained	cropland	heavy-textured surface layer, shallow depth to bedrock, slope, hazard to groundwater contamination
Morrison Association (5%)	Upland valley slopes (central Blair Co)	calcareous sandstone & dolomitic limestone	Gently sloping to very steep, deep, well drained soils	woodland, few dairy farms and orchards	slope, surface stones, hazard of groundwater contamination
Basher-Monongahela-Purdy (4%)	Floodplains and terraces along Little Juniata & Frankstown Branch	shale and sandstone	Nearly level & gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained to poorly drained	urban development, farmland, and woodland	seasonal high water table, flooding, moderately slow permeability

Table 1.12 Mineral Resource Production in Blair County

Name	Mineral	Commodity Category	Location	Type of Operation
Sproul Lime and Stone Company	limestone	agricultural minerals	Claysburg (Region 6)	quarry
Long, Terry L.	shale	borrow and general fill	Martinsburg (Region 7)	open pit
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	limestone; dolomite; sandstone	carbonate for SO ₂ absorption; construction aggregate; railroad ballast	Roaring Spring (Region 7)	quarry
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	limestone and dolomite	carbonate for SO ₂ absorption; coal-mine rock dust; construction aggregate; high-calcium limestone	Tyrone (Region 1)	quarry
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	limestone	construction aggregate	Frankstown (Region 5)	quarry
Grannas Bros. Stone and Asphalt Co., Inc.	limestone	construction aggregate	Hollidaysburg (Region 5)	quarry
Heverly Enterprises	soil	topsoil	Hollidaysburg (Region 5)	open pit
Snowberger, Earl H.	soil	topsoil	Hollidaysburg (Region 5)	open pit
Ventre, D.C., and Sons, Inc.	soil	topsoil	Duncansville (Region 5)	open pit
Coonery Bros. Inc. (Site 1 Permit #: 07890101)*	coal	electricity generation; manufacturing and industrial processing	Logan Township (Region 3)	surface mine
Coonery Bros. Inc. (Site 2 Permit #: 07000101)*	coal	electricity generation; manufacturing and industrial processing	Logan Township (Region 3)	surface mine

Source: Directory of Non-Fuel Mineral Producers in Pennsylvania, 1997 (PA DCNR)

*PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining and Reclamation

Table 1.13 Toxic Release Inventory Facilities in Blair County

Facility or Chemical	Address	City
A.P. GREEN REFRACTORIES INC.	OLD RTE. 220 & S.R. #3006	SPROUL
ALBEMARLE CORP.	2 ADAMS AVE. INDUSTRIAL PARK	TYRONE
ALPHA-FRY TECHS.	4100 6TH AVE.	ALTOONA
AMERWAY INC.	3701 BEALE AVE.	ALTOONA
APPLETON PAPERS INC.	100 PAPER MILL RD.	ROARING SPRING
CARGILL INC. ANIMAL NUTRITION DIV.	RD. #1 RT. 164 FREDRICK RD.	ROARING SPRING
CHAMPION HOME BUILDERS CO. ATLANTIC HOMES DIV.	OLD BUSINESS RTE. 220	CLAYSBURG
CHICAGO RIVET & MACHINE CO. TYRONE DIV.	INDUSTRIAL PARK	TYRONE
COVE SHOE CO.	107 HIGHLAND ST.	MARTINSBURG
F. L. SMITHE MACHINE CO. INC.	899 OLD RTE. 220 N.	DUNCANSVILLE
GENERAL CABLE INDS. INC.	3101 PLEASANT VALLEY BLVD.	ALTOONA
HUCK INTL. INC.	4601 CORTLAND AVE.	ALTOONA
MEADWESTVACO TYRONE MILL	1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.	TYRONE
PPG INDS. WORKS 27	RTE. 220	TIPTON
SKF USA INC. ALTOONA PLANT	1000 LOGAN BLVD.	ALTOONA
SMALL TUBE PRODS. CO. INC.	SPRING MEADOWS	ALTOONA
SUNOCO - ELDORADO TERMINAL	P.O. BOX 379	ALTOONA
VOPAK USA ALTOONA BRANCH	6TH AVE. & SUGAR RUN RD.	ALTOONA

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency



Park, Recreation, and Open Space

Introduction

The intent of this Plan is to provide a broad overview of available recreation opportunities in Blair County. Therefore, areas identified by this inventory include regional reserves, regional/metropolitan facilities, community park facilities, and special use recreation facilities, with a particular emphasis on regional reserves and facilities.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Access to parks, recreation, and open space is essential to the quality of life of Blair County residents. This section identifies the park and recreational resources that exist in Blair County and each of the seven planning regions. Park and recreational opportunities will be examined in the context of the other plan elements and the vision for Blair County when developing the action plan in Phase III of the plan.

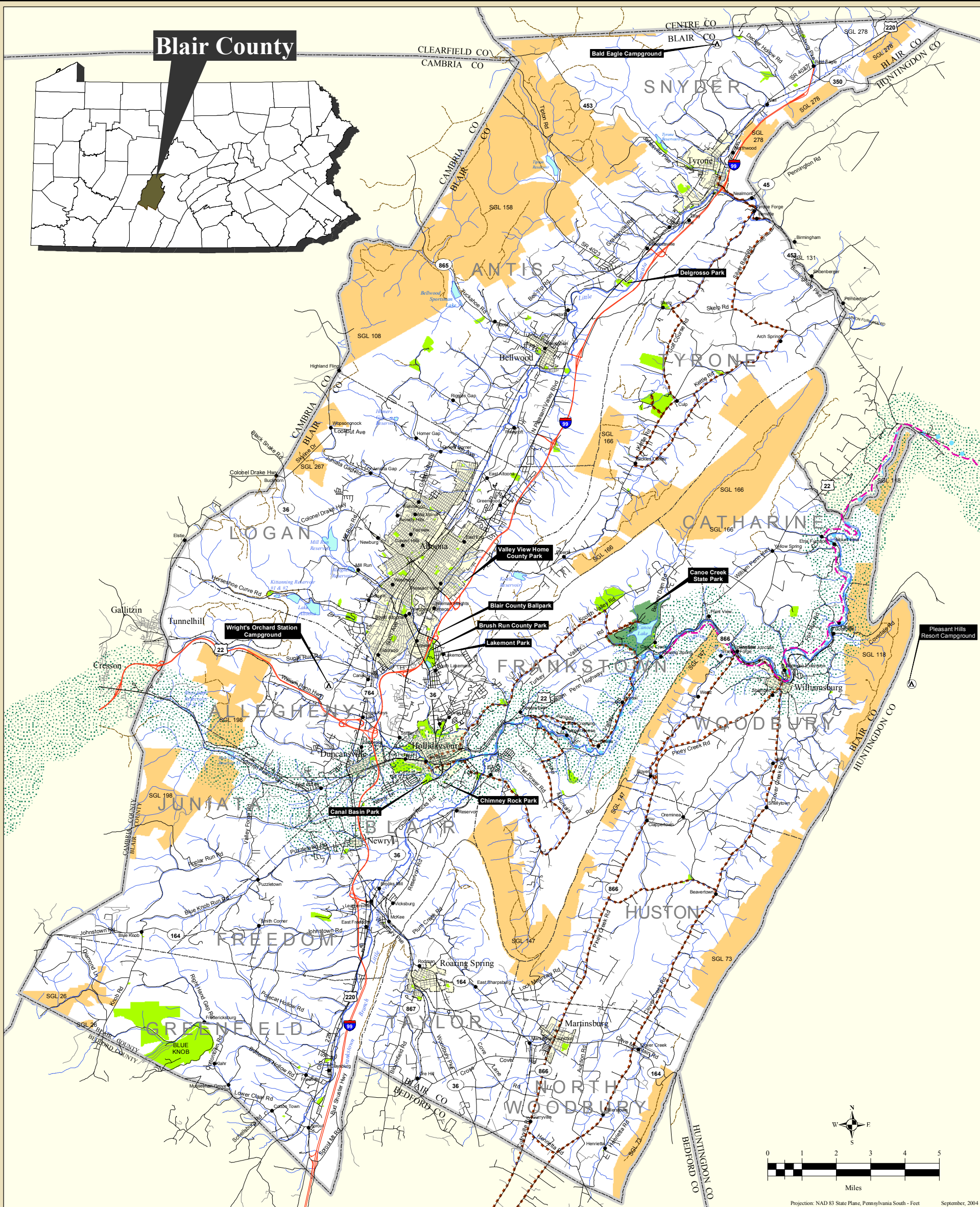
The Recreation Inventory Map should be referenced when reviewing this section. The map identifies the location and varying types of park and recreational opportunities that exist in Blair County.

I. RECREATION FACILITIES

Within Blair County, residents and visitors have a vast range of recreation opportunities available. The National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) hierarchy of parks aids in the evaluation of these opportunities.

The recommendations of this study with regard to recreation are based, in part, on the premise that in order to provide the optimal level of services to County residents, recreation providers must understand and take into consideration the different ways in which people use recreation facilities. The function or use of a park depends on its size and location and availability of accessible, safe facilities. Parks can be organized into a "hierarchy" which defines their functions and the type of activities they should be expected to

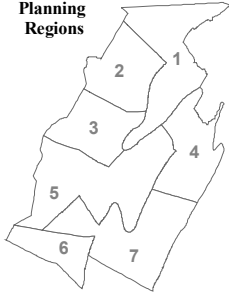
*Access to parks,
recreation, and open space
is essential to the quality of life
of Blair County Residents.*



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004

Legend

Planning Regions



- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream

Recreation Features

- Jeep Trail
- Watertrail
- Cycle Southern Alleghenies On Road Route
- Path of Progress National Heritage Route
- Lower Trail
- Campgrounds

- State Game Land
- State Park
- Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway
- Recreation Area

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602-4409
Phone: (814) 940-5978
Fax: (814) 940-5983
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
State Lands - PASDA
Water & Bike Trails & Path of Progress-Environmental Information Systems

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Recreation
Inventory



accommodate. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) defines the classifications for this park and recreation hierarchy (Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, NRPA, 1995). The NRPA classifications are outlined on Table 1.14

REGIONAL RESERVES

The regional reserve park is a facility designed more for the conservation of natural resources than recreational development. This type of park typically accommodates outdoor activities such as nature study, trail uses, camping, boating and fishing. Regional reserve parks are large in size (1000+ acres) and have a service radius of 40-50-miles.

REGIONAL/METROPOLITAN FACILITIES

These parks accommodate many types of outdoor activities, some of which may require large amounts of land or special facilities, such as special events, swimming, boating, hiking, camping, and bicycling. The service area for a regional/metropolitan facility is 40 to 50 miles or communities within one hour driving time.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Facilities within a community park accommodate several types of activities, and park acreage is usually adequate to provide ample room for large facilities (such as swimming pools or ball fields), group activities, and solitary pursuits (such as hiking or bird watching). Thus, a community park is truly a focus for the community.

This park type serves a large percentage of the local population. Although some people may be able to walk to a community park, most users would arrive by automobile or bicycle. Because of the travel time for most people to reach the park, it becomes a "special destination," and its features and facilities reflect this. The service area for a community park is generally one to three miles.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

These parks serve a very specific purpose. Users can and are generally expected to walk to a neighborhood park. Because they are quickly and easily reached, their use tends to be more casual and spontaneous. These

parks are only large enough to accommodate a few activities and possibly a small amount of open space. Open space may be especially beneficial for a densely populated neighborhood. Equipment and facilities may be specifically geared toward children, especially young children (in many neighborhoods, children are the majority of users). These parks serve as a focus for small areas and ideally should serve the specific needs of its service population. The service area for neighborhood parks is typically one quarter to half a mile.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Individual sports fields, sports field complexes, or facilities geared toward one type of use, such as a racquet club or fairgrounds, exemplify special use facilities. This type of facility is not typically located within a park. Whether privately or publicly owned, this type of facility serves as a "unique destination."

GREENWAYS

Greenways effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. They emphasize harmony with the natural environment and allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout a community. There are two types of greenways -- "natural greenways" and "man-made greenways." Natural greenways follow suitable natural resource areas such as stream corridors and wildlife habitat areas. Man-made greenways include developed areas, revitalized riverfronts, abandoned railroad beds, old industrial sites, and power line rights-of-way. Modes of travel along greenways generally include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, and skating. Greenways can travel through both public and private land.



Table 1.14 National Recreation and Park Association Standards

Type of Facility	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres per 1,000 Population	Desirable Characteristics
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area and picnicking serving a concentrated population.	¼ to ½ mile	1 to 15 acres	1 to 2 acres	Suitable for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population, geographically centered with safe walking and bike access.
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for passive recreation, or a combination of both types of recreation	1 to 3 miles	25+acres	5 to 8 acres	May include natural features such as bodies of water and areas suitable for intense development. Easily accessible.
Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality, for outdoor recreation such as picnicking, fishing, trail uses, swimming, camping; may include play areas	40 to 50 miles	200+ acres	5 to 10 acres	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources
Regional Park Reserve	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation and nature study, swimming, picnicking, hiking, boating, camping. 80% of land reserved for conservation and natural resource management, less than 20% for recreation development	40 to 50 miles	1,000+ acres	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora & fauna, topography
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable	Within communities
Greenways	There are two types of greenways -- "natural greenways" and "man-made greenways." Natural greenways follow suitable natural resource areas such as stream corridors and wildlife habitat areas. Man-made greenways include developed areas, revitalized riverfronts, abandoned railroad beds, old industrial sites, and powerline rights-of-way. Modes of travel along greenways include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, and skating.	variable	Variable	Variable	Tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. They emphasize harmony with the natural environment and allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout a community.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF BLAIR COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

The following is an inventory of the park and recreation assets found in Blair County classified according to the NRPA system discussed above. Each asset is identified on the Recreation Inventory Map.

A. REGIONAL RESERVES

1. State Game Lands

There are approximately 54,474 acres of State Game Lands in Blair County. They include:

- a. State Game Lands #26 - 1,082 acres (Region 6)
- b. State Game Lands #73, #73A, #73B - 3,702 acres (Region 7)
- c. State Game Lands #108, #108A, #108B - 5,114 acres (Region 2)
- d. State Game Lands #118, #118A, #118B - 4,633 acres (Region 4)
- e. State Game Lands #147, #147A - 6,074 acres (Region 4, 5, and 7)
- f. State Game Lands #158, #158A - 13,280 acres (Region 1 and 2)
- g. State Game Lands #166 - 10,093 acres (Region 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- h. State Game Land #198 - 7,750 acres (Region 5)
- i. State Game Land #267 - 1,041 acres (Region 3)
- j. State Game Lands #278 - 1,705 acres (Region 1)

2. State Parks

There is one State Park in Blair County.

a. Canoe Creek State Park

Canoe Creek State Park is located 12 miles east of Altoona in Region 5. The 958-acre park encompasses forests and old farm fields. The park has a visitor center with natural and historical exhibits. A wide variety of environmental and interpretive programs are available to park visitors. Teacher workshops and curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. The 155-acre lake is stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and used by park visitors for fishing and boating. Ice fishing is a popular winter activity. The park also offers a swimming beach, picnic areas, hiking and bridle trails, and rental cabins.



B. REGIONAL/METROPOLITAN FACILITIES

1. County Parks

There are two County Parks in Blair County. They include:

a. Brush Run County Park (Region 3)

Brush Run County Park is located on the same property as Lakemont Amusement Park and the Blair County Ball Park. The main feature of the park is a ball field.

b. Valley View County Park (Region 3)

The Valley View County Park is located on Valley View Boulevard. The park includes hiking/walking trails, picnic shelters and tables, and a nine-hole frisbee golf course.

C. COMMUNITY PARKS

There are several Community Parks in Blair County.

1. Canal Basin Park and Reiser House Visitor Center (Region 5)

Located in Hollidaysburg, this heritage park and visitor center showcase the history of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. Completed in 2002, the park marks the location where goods were transferred from the PA Mainline Canal to the Allegheny Portage Railroad. Interpretive programs tell the story of 19th century life in Hollidaysburg along the canal. Canal Basin Park is part of the planned Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Greenway, a continuous trail connecting communities throughout southwestern Pennsylvania along the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal.

2. Legion Park (Region 5)

3. Williamsburg Borough Park (Region 4)

4. Memorial Park (Region 3)

5. Prospect Park (Region 3)

6. Horseshoe Curve Park (Region 3)

7. Morrisons Cove Memorial Park (Region 7)

8. Reservoir Park (Region 1)

9. Bellwood-Antis Community Park (Region 2)

10. Mansion Park (Region 3)

D. SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

A variety of special use facilities existing in Blair County including campgrounds, trails, amusement parks, ball parks, scenic byways, heritage areas, and ski resorts.

1. Campgrounds

- a. Bald Eagle Campsite (Region 1)
- b. Wright's Orchard Station Campground (Region 5)
- c. Pleasant Hills Resort (Huntingdon County)

2. Trails

- a. Lower Trail

The Lower Trail is an 16.5-mile recreational rail trail that runs along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River between Canoe Creek State Park (Region 5) and Alexandria in Huntingdon County.



The Lower Trail is located on the abandoned Petersburg Branch of the old Pennsylvania Railroad and follows the path of the 19th century Juniata Mainline Canal. The trail is open to hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and other non-motorized recreation. The western terminus and trail head is in Canoe Creek State Park. From there, the trail continues to the following areas, each with a trail access point: Flowing Spring Station, Grannis Station, Williamsburg Station, Cove Dale Station, Mount Etna Station, and Alfarata Station. The trail terminates at Alexandria in Huntingdon County.

- b. Snowmobile Trails

3. Amusement Parks

- a. Lakemont Park (Region 3)
- b. Del Grosso's Park (Region 2)



4. Professional Ballparks

- a. Blair County Ballpark (Region 3)

5. Pennsylvania Heritage Regions

- a. Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area

The cities of Altoona and Johnstown are the anchor communities of the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area, which was designated in 1992. The Heritage Area encompasses the Allegheny Portage Railroad and Johnstown Flood National Memorial. It also celebrates the region's iron, steel, and coal industries.

6. Other Facilities

a. Blue Knob Ski Resort (Region 6)

The Blue Knob Ski Resort is located on the second highest mountain in Pennsylvania, which summits in Bedford County at 3,146 above sea level. Activities at the resort include skiing, snowboarding, a tubing park, and cross country skiing. During the summer months activities include golfing, hiking, mountain bike riding, tennis, and swimming. Blue Knob Resort was established in the 1960's.



III. GREENWAYS AND OPEN SPACE

1. Pennsylvania Greenways

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources state plan, Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections, identifies the follow vision for greenways:
"Pennsylvania and its many partners will develop an outstanding network of greenways across the Commonwealth, creating an asset highly valued by Pennsylvanians and enhancing the quality of life for all. This network of greenways will connect Pennsylvania's open space, natural landscape features, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites, and urban and rural communities. Greenways will become one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities."

2. Greenways and Blueways

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways are narrow and wide, urban, suburban and rural, public and

private, land and water based. Some are used for recreation or preserving scenery while others are used for environmental protection. The location and function differ, but they all have a common focus - to protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources.

Also referred to as blue routes or water trails, blueways are primarily recreation routes through scenic areas where waterways form the corridor and are used for canoeing, kayaking, or fishing. A blueway is often used to link greenway corridors, especially where land is currently not available for the greenway. Therefore, blueways can be incorporated into a larger greenway network.

3. Benefits of Greenways and Open Space

The benefits of greenways include:

- Outline a blueprint for conservation.
- Preserve natural resources.
- Provide educational opportunities.
- Provide alternative forms of transportation.
- Support economic prosperity.
- Enhance sense of community.
- Fostering public recreation, health, and fitness.
- Protection of water resources.
- Conservation of scenic resources.
- Stewardship of farmland and rural character.

4. Hubs and Spokes System

Pennsylvania's greenways network will be a system of hubs and spokes. The greenways are the "spokes" that connect significant cultural, natural, and recreational features.

Hubs can include:

- Natural Areas
- Cultural and Historic Sites
- Recreational Sites
- Urban and Suburban Areas

Spokes can include:

- Conservation Areas
- Neighborhood Connections and Recreation

Opportunities

- Historic and Cultural Interpretation
- Water Recreation
- Motorized Recreation

5. Blair County Greenways

a. Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Greenway

The Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Greenway is part of the Millennium Legacy Trails. The Greenway showcases the history of western Pennsylvania by following the the pathway of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. The proposed recreational greenway will follow the Susquehanna River basin to the mouth of the Juniata River to its headwaters on the Allegheny Ridge in Blair County. From Blair County, the greenway follows the Kiski-Conemaugh through Johnstown to Freeport, where the greenway meets the Allegheny River, following the River into Pittsburgh.

The greenway will offer land- and water-based recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, and canoeing along with education on the history of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. The greenway will take advantage of linkages with state parks and forest, and downtown areas to enhance access and use of the Greenway. Ultimately, the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Greenway will bring together recreation, watershed stewardship, heritage preservation, downtown revitalization, economic development, and serve to enhance the overall quality of life in the region.

Sources

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Maps

Park and Recreation Map



Housing

Introduction

This section is an overview of housing in Blair County. Assessing housing conditions is important in order to understand the housing needs of the population and identify gaps in meeting those needs. In addition, the housing assessment aids in understanding the condition of housing in Blair County, existing residential development patterns, and future residential needs of the community. Therefore, this section examines the following:

- Housing Characteristics and Trends
- Residential Housing Patterns
- Housing Programs
- Housing Needs
- Key Organizations

Assessing housing conditions is important to understand the housing needs of the current and future population.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Code (MPC) states that municipalities should plan to meet the housing needs of a community to accommodate projected growth and existing residents twenty years into the future. Furthermore, municipalities should provide for a variety of housing types, including single family and two-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, and mobile homes. This is done so as to provide housing at a range of income levels and affordability.

I. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS & TRENDS

The following discussion of housing characteristics and trends focuses on the following:

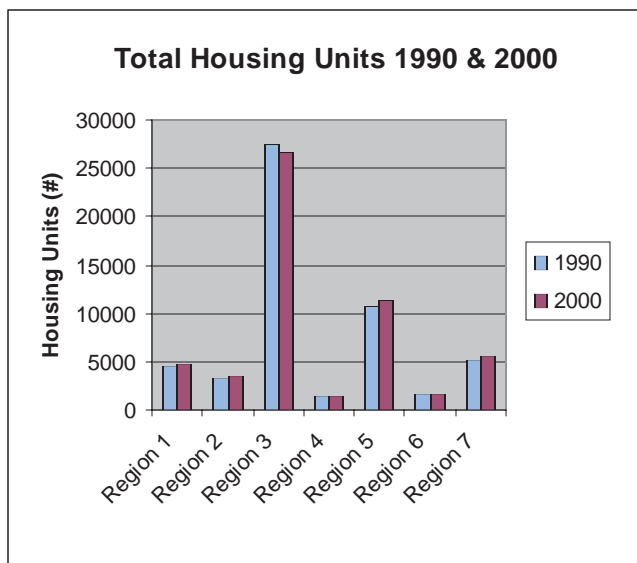
- Total Housing stock
- Type of Housing
- Age of Housing Stock
- Housing Occupancy and Tenure
- Housing value

TOTAL HOUSING STOCK

Table 1.15 is an overview of the total housing stock in Blair County, each municipality and the Planning Regions.

Housing Units

- In 2000, Blair County had a total of 55,061 housing units. The number of housing units in Blair County increased by 1.3% from 1990 to 2000.
- Region 3 contains the greatest number of housing units of all Regions with 26,656 units, nearly half of the housing stock in the entire County. Region 5 contains the second greatest number of housing units with a total of 11,362 housing units.
- Region 4 has the fewest number of housing units with 1,464 units. Region 6 is the second smallest region in terms of the number of housing units with 1,697 units.



Trends in Housing Units

- Blair County's housing stock has not increased in numbers at the same rate as the state of Pennsylvania. From 1990 to 2000, Blair County saw a 1.3% increase in its housing stock compared to Pennsylvania, which saw a 6.3% increase. This information corresponds with data indicating that Blair County's population experienced little growth over this time period.

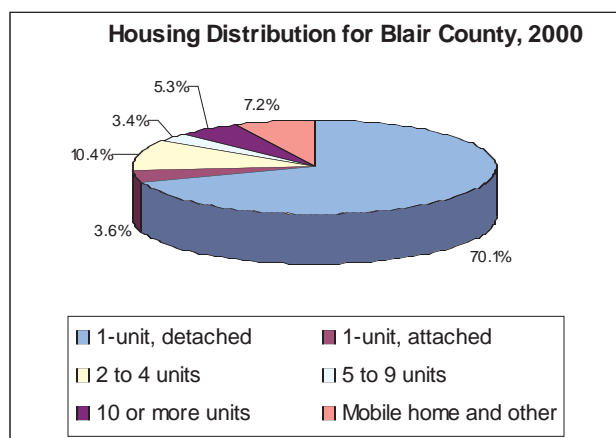
- Of the seven Planning Regions, Region 7 showed the greatest increase (7.4%) in housing units from 1990 to 2000 and Region 3 showed the only decrease (-3%) in housing units.
- Housing growth in the remaining planning regions was as follows: Region 4 (3.0%), Region 5 (4.9%), Region 1 (5.2%), Region 6 (5.8%), and Region 2 (7.2%)
- All the Townships in Blair County gained housing units from 1990 to 2000. The Township with the greatest rate of growth in housing stock is North Woodbury Township (Region 7), with a 19.2% increase in housing units over the 1990 census. The Township with the smallest rate of growth in housing stock from 1990 to 2000 is Allegheny Township (Region 5) with a 0.5% increase in housing stock.
- Other Townships with a growth rate in housing stock over 10% include Snyder Township (11.3%) in Region 1, Woodbury Township (12.9%) in Region 4, Blair Township (17.1%) in Region 5, Freedom Township (13.9%) in Region 7 and Huston Township (11.7%) in Region 7.
- Townships with a growth rate in housing stock less than 10% from 1990 to 2000 include Tyrone Township (6.4%) in Region 1, Antis Township (9.1%) in Region 2, Logan Township (4.3%) in Region 3, Allegheny (0.5%), Juniata (6.1%), and Frankstown (8.2%) Townships in Region 5, Greenfield Township (5.8%) in Region 6 and Taylor Township (5.2%) in Region 7.
- The Boroughs in the county had the smallest growth in housing stock from 1990 to 2000, with no Borough experiencing more than 2% growth in housing. The Borough with the highest rate of growth in housing is Duncansville (Region 5), with a 1.8% increase in housing units. Other Boroughs with increases in housing units include Tyrone (Region 1), Bellwood (Region 2), Duncansville (Region 5), Newry (Region 5), Tunnelhill (Region 5), Martinsburg (Region 7), and Roaring Spring (Region 7). Newry (Region 5) had the greatest rate of decrease in housing stock from 1990 to 2000, with a -10.1% decrease.

HOUSING TYPE

Table 1.16 is an overview of the type of housing that is found in Blair County, including single-family structures (attached and detached), multi-family structures, and mobile homes for 1990 and 2000.

Dwelling Type

- The majority of dwelling units in Blair County are single-family, detached houses. In 2000, this type of dwelling made up just over 70% of the housing stock in the county. Single-family attached units make up only 3.6% of the total housing.
- For multi-unit structures, the majority of dwelling units are in a two to four unit buildings, consisting of 10.4% of the total housing stock in Blair County. Approximately 5.3% of the housing units are located in larger buildings containing ten or more units.
- Mobile homes and other types of housing make up 7.2% of the housing units in Blair County



Trends in Dwelling Type

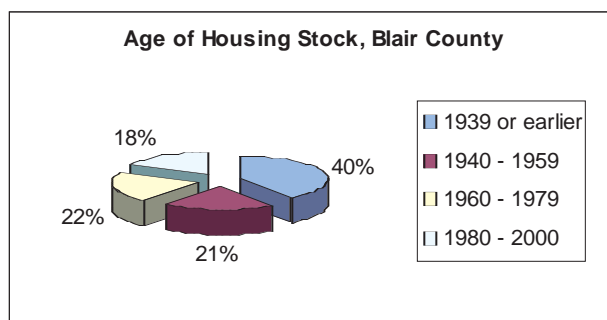
- From 1990 to 2000, the type of dwelling units and the distribution between single-family and multi-family structures in comparison to the total housing stock remained relatively unchanged.
- There was a slight increase in single-family detached housing by 1.3% from 1990 to 2000. However, single-family attached housing decreased by 9.1%. Multi-family housing increased across the board, with the greatest increases in buildings with

five or more units. The more dramatic decrease in dwelling type took place in mobile home units, which decreased by 18.4% over the ten year period.

AGE OF HOUSING STOCK

Table 1.17 provides information on the age of the housing stock in Blair County and each planning Region. The table is broken down into four age categories: 1939 or earlier, 1940-1959, 1960-1979, and 1980-2000.

- Much like housing found throughout Pennsylvania, the housing stock in Blair County tends to be older in nature. The housing construction patterns for Blair County are very similar to housing construction trends in Pennsylvania overall.
- Approximately 60% of the housing stock (33,320 units) in the county was built before 1960, and approximately 40% was built before 1940, whereas just over 54% of the housing stock in Pennsylvania was built before 1960.
- Approximately 17.8 % of the housing stock in Blair



County was built between 1980 and 2000, while just over 20% of the housing stock in Pennsylvania was building between 1980 and 2000.

- The housing stock also tends to be older in Region 1, following a similar pattern of housing construction as the county. However, there is a contrast between the age of housing stock in Tyrone Borough to Snyder and Tyrone Townships. Housing development dramatically decreased in Tyrone Borough from 1980 to 2000, during which time only 163 housing units were added to the housing stock. This represents only a 6.3% of the total housing stock in the Borough. In contrast, housing development in the Region 1 Townships has remained more constant over the years. Nearly

25% of Tyrone Township's housing and 30% of Snyder Township's housing was built from 1980 to 2000.

- Housing development has taken place at a more constant pace over time in Planning Region 2, compared to the county overall. This is primarily due to consistent increases in the number of housing units built in Antis Township over the past years, whereas housing development in Bellwood Borough had dropped off in recent years.
- Almost half (49.3%) of the housing units in Region 3 were built before 1940. This is primarily due to the amount of development that took place in Altoona early on. Over 75% of the housing in Altoona was built before 1960. On the other hand, nearly 60% of the housing in Logan Township was built in the last forty years.
- Region 4 follows a similar pattern as Region 3 with almost half (47.7%) of the housing in the Region built before 1940. The number of houses built since 1940 has decreased steadily with only 13.3% of the housing stock built since 1980. Again, housing construction in Williamsburg Borough has dropped over, while development in the Woodbury and Catherine Townships has remained fairly constant over time.
- Housing development in Planning Region 5 has increased slightly since 1960. However, while housing construction in the Township has increased, new housing development in the Boroughs has declined. Compared to the other Regions, Region 5 had the greatest number of new housing units, 3,337 units or 29.4% of the housing stock, built since 1980.
- Housing development in Region 6, Greenfield Township, has remained relatively constant over time.
- In Region 7, the number of houses built has gradually increased since 1940. Housing construction from 1980 to 2000 in North Woodbury Township is generally higher (44.1% of the housing stock in the Township) than that witnessed for the other municipalities in the Region.

OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

Table 1.18 provides information on the occupancy and tenure (owner-occupied versus renter-occupied housing) for Blair County, its municipalities, and its planning regions.

- Blair County follows the State pattern of owner-versus renter-occupied housing with 72.9% owner-occupied and 27.1% renter-occupied. In Pennsylvania, 71.3% of housing is owner-occupied and 28.7% is renter-occupied.
- Region 2 has the highest percent of owner-occupied housing at 79.6% and Region 3 has the lowest percent of owner-occupied units at 68.9%, which is characteristic of more urban areas such as Altoona.
- The housing vacancy rate for Blair County's is 6.4%, which is lower than the state rate of 9%.
- Region 6 has the highest vacancy rate at 8.7% among the Regions. Region 7 has the lowest vacancy rate of 4.9%.

HOUSE VALUE

Table 1.19 includes the 1990 and 2000 median house values and median rents for Blair County and Pennsylvania.

- The median house value in Blair County in 2000 was \$73,600. This is lower than the median house value for Pennsylvania as a whole of \$97,000. The median house value for Blair County was also lower than the state figure in 1990. The 2000 median rent in Blair County is also lower than the state median with Blair County reporting a median rent of \$411 and the state \$531.
- The median house value and median rent for Blair County increased at a higher rate than what was witnessed for Pennsylvania overall - Blair County's median house value increased by 79% from 1990 to 2000, while the median house value for Pennsylvania increased by 39%.

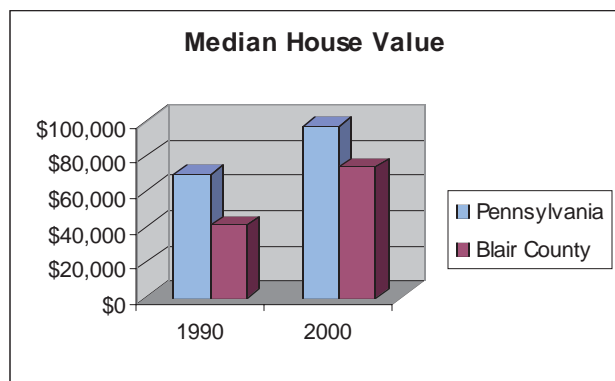


Table 1.20 shows the breakdown in housing value for the housing stock in Blair County and Pennsylvania for 1990 and 2000. The table shows the number of housing units that fall within each of the following cost categories: less than \$50,000, \$50,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$149,000, and more than \$150,000.

- In 2000, both Blair County and Pennsylvania had the greatest number of housing units fall within the \$50,000 to \$100,000 cost category, representing 48.9% and 37.4% of the housing stock, respectively. However, in 1990 Blair County had more housing units (62.6%) in the under \$50,000 category, with 32% in the \$50,000-\$100,000 cost category.
- The number of housing units valued at over \$100,000 has increased as well from 1990 to 2000. In 1990, just over 5% of the housing stock was valued in the over \$100,000 category. In 2000, this figure increased, with over 26% of the housing valued at over \$100,000.

Table 1.21 shows the breakdown in housing value in 2000 for Blair County, its municipalities, and the planning Regions.

- Of the seven planning regions, Region 7 has the highest median unit value of \$84,017 followed by Region 2 and Region 5, with median unit values of \$83,850 and \$83,700, respectively. This higher median unit values in Region 7 are largely attributed to Huston and North Woodbury Township, both showing median unit values over \$90,000. However, all the municipalities in Region 7, with the exception of Roaring Springs Borough, have median housing values that are higher than the County.

- Region 4 has the lowest median unit value at \$68,967, followed by Region 3 at \$71,650. In Region 4, this is largely attributable to Williamsburg Borough, which has a comparably low median house value of \$59,400. Median house values in Region 3 are heavily influenced by the City of Altoona, which has the second lowest median house value (\$58,000) of the all the municipalities in the county, with Tunnelhill showing the lowest median unit value of \$33,800.
- The median housing unit values in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 7 exceeds the Blair County median unit value. The median rents in Regions 2, 3, and 5 exceed the median rent for the county.
- In 2000, Frankstown Township (Region 5) had the highest median unit value of all the municipalities at \$123,000, followed by Antis Township (Region 2) at \$100,600.

II. RESIDENTIAL HOUSING PATTERNS

The majority of housing stock in Blair County is single-family detached units. This type of housing makes up just over 70% of the housing stock in the county. However, the residential density patterns vary throughout Blair County. Generally, housing is concentrated at higher densities in the City of Altoona, Hollidaysburg, and the boroughs, with village and urban development patterns that include grid layouts, sidewalks, short setbacks, on-street parking, street trees, and alleyways. Residential patterns in the townships tend to exhibit greater lot sizes and lower densities that are characteristic of a more rural environment. Generally housing in rural areas does not contain the same neighborhood amenities found in the boroughs and villages due to the lower densities.



Suburban style housing patterns and densities are increasingly common in the more rural townships, where the majority of new housing growth is taking place.

III. HOUSING PROGRAMS

There are several programs and rent subsidies offered for low-income elderly and families in Blair County (those earning 50% to 80% of the median area income). Affordable housing programs target low-income families, low-income elderly, and those with special needs (domestic abuse, mental health, drug and alcohol, etc.). In addition, there are several home ownership programs available that assist people in purchasing their own home. The following discussion highlights housing programs for each of these groups.

A complete list and description of housing for low-income families, elderly, and special needs housing is included in the Appendix.

LOW-INCOME HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The following low-income housing assistance is available for families, individuals, and the elderly in Blair County.

Section 8 Voucher Program

The Section 8 Voucher program is a subsidized housing program that assists very low-income families, elderly, and persons with disabilities in renting or owning safe and decent housing. The program is administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through local public housing agencies. It provides qualified persons with a voucher that covers all or a portion of the rent on a private unit. This program allows the individual or family decide where they prefer to live.

The Section 8 program is administered by the Blair County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Altoona Housing Authority. The Redevelopment Authority administers vouchers on 442 units in the county and the Altoona Housing Authority administers 917 vouchers in the City of Altoona.

Low-Income Housing Assistance for Families

Table 1.22 is an inventory of the housing opportunities for low-income families. The Table includes the location and name of each housing development, the number of units and size, the income limit category, and the manager of the property.

A total of 1,189 housing units including 1,095 efficiency, 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom units are available for low- and very low-income families. Generally, the tenant pays 30% of their adjusted gross income in monthly rent. These housing units are located in 17 developments and two scattered sites in the City of Altoona. Nine developments are located in Altoona (Region 3), five in Tyrone (Region 1), and one each in Claysburg (Region 6), Roaring Springs (Region 7), and Martinsburg (Region 7). One development is managed by the Blair County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, four developments are managed by the Altoona Housing Authority, and seven developments are managed Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc. (IDA).

Low-Income Housing Assistance for the Elderly

Table 1.23 is an inventory of the housing opportunities for low-income elderly persons. The Table includes the location and name of each housing development, the number of units and size, the income limit category, and the manager of the property.

A total of 19 housing developments including 1228 efficiency, 1- and 2-bedroom units are available for low-income elderly residents. Tenant generally pay 30% of their adjusted gross income for rent. Ten developments are located in Altoona (Region 3), two in Bellwood (Region 2), three in Williamsburg (Region 4), one in Hollidaysburg (Region 5), one in Duncansville (Region 5), and two in Tyrone (Region 1). One development is managed by the Blair County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, two developments are managed by the Altoona Housing Authority, and five developments by Improved Dwellings for Altoona (IDA).

Special Needs Housing

Housing and programs are available for those with special needs, including the following:

- community residence and personal care facilities
- domestic abuse shelters and housing
- drug and alcohol abuse recovery
- mental health/mental retardation
- transitional housing
- temporary homeless shelters

Table 1.24 lists the special needs facilities available in Blair County and the locations and contact information for each facility.

HOME OWNERSHIP AND RENTAL PROGRAMS

Below are homeownership and rental programs which are available in Blair County.

Earned Home Ownership Program

A housing program for first time, low-income home buyers administered by Improved Dwellings for Altoona (IDA). IDA rehabilitates 1 to 2 houses each year, which are then sold to low-income families. They have rehabilitated and sold 90 housing units since the beginning of the program.

Housing Opportunities of Blair County, Inc.

This organization provides counseling and education for first time home buyers.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity works with two families per year on a newly-constructed or renovated home.

Altoona Owner-Occupied Rehab Program:

Provides low interest loans to low and moderate incomes homeowners for housing rehabilitation in the city of Altoona.

Altoona Rental Rehab Program

Provides a 50/50 match to landlords for rehabilitation of affordable housing unity for low-income tenants in the city of Altoona.

Altoona Housing Authority Home Choice and Home Start Programs

Programs that support the purchase and rehabilitation of homes as well as the construction of new homes for low and moderate income families. Funding is provided by the federal and state governments to support the program.

IV. HOUSING NEEDS

The following housing needs were identified from key person interviews:

- The varying types of elderly housing are changing with new options for the elderly, such as assisted living facilities, but these facilities are not often provided on a low-income basis.
- There is a gap between meeting the needs of elderly people who qualify for low-income housing assistance and those who earn just above the income limits (50-80% of the area mean income).
- There is a need for one-story affordable homes for the elderly and retired that reduce the risk level for injury and falls.
- New construction in Blair County has been on the high end of the housing market, but there remains a need for middle and low income housing as well.
- The expansion of I-99 will open-up parts of Tyrone for development, which will need to be carefully planned in order to avoid negative impacts from increased development of this Region.

V. KEY ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations and agencies offer various housing assistance programs in Blair County:

Altoona Housing Authority

The agency is located on 28th Avenue in Altoona (Tel: 814.949.2000). The Altoona Housing Authority was created to provide housing for individuals and families who cannot afford safe, sanitary housing in the private market.

The Altoona Housing Authority manages the following programs and developments:

- Fairview Hills I, II, and III (150 units), Altoona
- Green Avenue Towers (206 units), Altoona
- Eleventh Street Towers (160 units), Altoona
- Pleasant Village (120 units), Altoona
- Section 8 Rental Voucher Program (917 vouchers)
- Home Choice
- Home Start

Blair County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (COBRAH)

The agency is located at 1407 Blair Street Village, Hollidaysburg (tel: 814.695.7548). The Redevelopment and Housing Authority administers the County Fair Housing Program. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status. The Authority offers grants to low/moderate income homeowners for the repair of code deficiencies in their homes.

The Redevelopment Authority manages the following low-income programs and developments:

- Bell Court (26 units), Bellwood
- Cold Springs (60 units), Tyrone
- Section 8 Rental Voucher (442 vouchers)

Improved Dwelling for Altoona (IDA)

Improved Dwellings for Altoona (tel:814.944.9466) is a community development organization located on 1600 Eighth Avenue, Altoona. The mission of IDA is to provide adequate housing for persons with disabilities and families with low to moderate income who cannot secure loans in the private market. IDA also receives and administers funds for charitable and educational purposes to preserve, improve, or rehabilitate neighborhoods.

IDA manages the following developments:

- Walnut Place (31 units), Altoona
- Towne Place (8 units), Altoona
- Evergreen Manor (159 units), Altoona
- Lexington Park (24 units), Altoona
- Sylvan Acres (40 units), Altoona
- Washington Terrace (22 units), Altoona
- Blair Tower (100 units), Altoona
- The Fairview/The Taylor (52 units), Altoona
- Woodrow Wilson Gardens (50 units), Altoona
- Country Manor (49 units), Altoona

Housing Opportunities of Blair County

The organization is located on Eighth Avenue in Altoona. The community development organization offers extensive, one-on-one pre-purchase financial management and home ownership counseling to low- and moderate-income first-time home buyers who are

unable to qualify for a conventional mortgage due to credit or income deficiencies.

Habitat for Humanity

The national program is operated out of a local chapter in Altoona. The purpose of the program is to build simple, decent housing for working low-income people. It is a volunteer organization.

Partners in Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc

PAartNR is located in Altoona, PA. The program primarily serves Blair and Cambria Counties. This agency provides consulting for and development of blighted low-income neighborhoods that are also historic (i.e. listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places).

City of Altoona Planning and Community Development Department

Located at 1301 12th Street, the City of Altoona Planning and Community Development Department administers the City's Fair Housing Program. The City of Altoona's Fair Housing Program provides educational information and outreach programs to tenants, landlords, lending institutions, realtors, housing managers, contractors and anyone in the housing business regarding the Federal Fair Housing Laws. City staff assist in landlord/tenant dispute resolution, evaluate complaints to ascertain the whether an act of discrimination has taken place, and refers complaints to the appropriate state and federal parties for further action.

Appendices

Housing in Blair County: A Compendium of Rental and Homeownership Opportunities (Prepared by Improved Dwelling for Altoona, Inc. April 2001)

Sources

United States Census (1990 and 2000)

Housing in Blair County: A Compendium of Rental and Homeownership Opportunities (Prepared by Improved Dwelling for Altoona, Inc. April 2001)

Table 1.15 Total Housing Units

	1990	2000	% Change
Pennsylvania	4,938,140	5,249,750	6.3%
Blair County	54,349	55,061	1.3%
Region 1			
Snyder Township	1,285	1,430	11.3%
Tyrone Borough	2,524	2,567	1.7%
Tyrone Township	676	719	6.4%
TOTAL for REGION 1	4,485	4,716	5.2%
Region 2			
Antis Township	2,440	2,661	9.1%
Bellwood Borough	809	822	1.6%
TOTAL for REGION 2	3,249	3,483	7.2%
Region 3			
City of Altoona	22,698	21,681	-4.5%
Logan Township	4,770	4,975	4.3%
TOTAL for REGION 3	27,468	26,656	-3.0%
Region 4			
Catharine Township	306	311	1.6%
Williamsburg Borough	614	583	-5.0%
Woodbury Township	544	614	12.9%
TOTAL for REGION 4	1,464	1,508	3.0%
Region 5			
Allegheny Township	2,832	2,847	0.5%
Blair Township	1,577	1,846	17.1%
Duncansville Borough	599	610	1.8%
Frankstown Township	2,807	3,036	8.2%
Hollidaysburg Borough	2,395	2,392	-0.1%
Juniata Township	444	471	6.1%
Newry Borough	129	116	-10.1%
Tunnelhill Borough	46	44	-4.3%
TOTAL for REGION 5	10,829	11,362	4.9%
Region 6			
Greenfield Township	1,604	1,697	5.8%
TOTAL for REGION 6	1,604	1,697	5.8%
Region 7			
Freedom Township	1,162	1,324	13.9%
Huston Township	426	476	11.7%
Martinsburg Borough	938	924	-1.5%
North Woodbury Township	771	919	19.2%
Roaring Spring Borough	1,089	1,087	-0.2%
Taylor Township	864	909	5.2%
TOTAL for REGION 7	5,250	5,639	7.4%

Source: United States Census

Table 1.16 Blair County: Type of Dwelling Unit

	1990		2000		% Change
Total housing units	54,349	100.0%	55,061	100.0%	1.3%
UNITS IN STRUCTURE					
1-unit, detached	37,905	69.7%	38,600	70.1%	1.8%
1-unit, attached	2,205	4.1%	2,005	3.6%	-9.1%
2 to 4 units	5,471	10.1%	5,722	10.4%	4.6%
5 to 9 units	1,555	2.9%	1,850	3.4%	19.0%
10 or more units	2,361	4.3%	2,925	5.3%	23.9%
Mobile home and other	4,852	8.9%	3,959	7.2%	-18.4%

Source: United States Census

Table 1.17 Year Housing Unit Built, 2000 (# of units)

	1939 or earlier		1940 - 1959		1960 - 1979		1980 - 2000	
Pennsylvania	1,590,673	30.3%	1,275,149	24.3%	1,305,665	24.9%	1,078,263	20.5%
Blair County	21,987	39.9%	11,333	20.6%	11,943	21.7%	9,798	17.8%
Region 1								
Snyder Township	340	23.8%	293	20.5%	374	26.2%	421	29.5%
Tyrone Borough	1,476	57.5%	550	21.4%	379	14.8%	163	6.3%
Tyrone Township	220	30.6%	111	15.4%	210	29.2%	179	24.9%
TOTAL for REGION 1	2,036	43.2%	954	20.2%	963	20.4%	763	16.2%
Region 2								
Antis Township	470	17.7%	532	20.0%	808	30.4%	851	32.0%
Bellwood Borough	517	62.9%	188	22.9%	81	9.9%	36	4.4%
TOTAL for REGION 2	987	28.3%	720	20.7%	889	25.5%	887	25.5%
Region 3								
City of Altoona	12,073	55.7%	4,951	22.8%	3,287	15.2%	1,371	6.3%
Logan Township	1,106	22.2%	943	19.0%	1,542	31.0%	1,383	27.8%
TOTAL for REGION 4	13,179	49.4%	5,894	22.1%	4,829	18.1%	2,754	10.3%
Region 4								
Catharine Township	118	38.9%	54	17.8%	66	21.8%	65	21.5%
Williamsburg Borough	378	64.3%	151	25.7%	41	7.0%	18	3.1%
Woodbury Township	224	36.3%	129	20.9%	146	23.7%	118	19.1%
TOTAL for REGION 4	720	47.7%	334	22.1%	253	16.8%	201	13.3%
Region 5								
Allegheny Township	323	11.3%	400	14.0%	1,217	42.7%	911	32.0%
Blair Township	253	13.8%	332	18.1%	547	29.8%	702	38.3%
Duncansville Borough	249	40.2%	110	17.7%	148	23.9%	113	18.2%
Frankstown Township	406	13.4%	582	19.2%	910	30.0%	1,138	37.5%
Hollidaysburg Borough	1,322	55.3%	533	22.3%	235	9.8%	302	12.6%
Juniata Township	71	15.1%	68	14.4%	174	36.9%	158	33.5%
Newry Borough	78	66.1%	19	16.1%	10	8.5%	11	9.3%
Tunnelhill Borough	23	57.5%	11	27.5%	4	10.0%	2	5.0%
TOTAL for REGION 5	2,725	24.0%	2,055	18.1%	3,245	28.6%	3,337	29.4%
Region 6								
Greenfield Township	538	31.7%	326	19.2%	447	26.3%	386	22.7%
TOTAL for REGION 6	538	31.7%	326	19.2%	447	26.3%	386	22.7%
Region 7								
Freedom Township	249	18.8%	255	19.3%	424	32.0%	396	29.9%
Huston Township	150	31.5%	41	8.6%	132	27.7%	153	32.1%
Martinsburg Borough	350	37.9%	202	21.9%	175	18.9%	197	21.3%
North Woodbury Township	271	29.5%	65	7.1%	178	19.4%	405	44.1%
Roaring Spring Borough	586	53.9%	284	26.1%	136	12.5%	81	7.5%
Taylor Township	196	21.6%	203	22.3%	272	29.9%	238	26.2%
TOTAL for REGION 7	1,802	32.0%	1,050	18.6%	1,317	23.4%	1,470	26.1%

Source: United States Census

Table 1.18 Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 2000

	Owner Occupied	Renter- Occupied	% Owner- Occupied	% Renter- Occupied	Vacancy Rate
State of Pennsylvania	3,406,337	1,370,666	71.3	28.7	9.0
Blair County	37,554	13,964	72.9	27.1	6.4
Region 1					
Snyder Township	1,130	218	83.8	16.2	5.7
Tyrone Borough	1,467	914	61.6	38.4	7.2
Tyrone Township	564	94	85.7	14.3	8.5
TOTAL for REGION 1	3,161	1,226	72.1	27.9	7.0
Region 2					
Antis Township	2,059	471	81.4	18.6	4.9
Bellwood Borough	572	204	73.7	26.3	5.6
TOTAL for REGION 2	2,631	675	79.6	25.7	5.1
Region 3					
City of Altoona	13,219	6,840	65.9	34.1	7.5
Logan Township	3,864	864	81.7	18.3	5.0
TOTAL for REGION 4	17,083	7,704	68.9	31.1	7.0
Region 4					
Catharine Township	258	36	87.8	12.2	5.5
Williamsburg Borough	360	202	64.1	35.9	3.6
Woodbury Township	475	95	83.3	16.7	7.2
TOTAL for REGION 4	1,093	333	76.6	23.4	5.4
Region 5					
Allegheny Township	2,187	471	82.3	17.7	6.6
Blair Township	1,513	262	85.2	14.8	3.8
Duncansville Borough	354	226	61.0	39.0	4.9
Frankstown Township	2,404	483	83.3	16.7	4.9
Hollidaysburg Borough	1,325	899	59.6	40.4	7.0
Juniata Township	377	51	88.1	11.9	9.1
Newry Borough	60	47	56.1	43.9	7.8
Tunnelhill Borough	35	5	87.5	14.3	9.1
TOTAL for REGION 5	8,255	2,444	77.2	22.8	5.8
Region 6					
Greenfield Township	1,150	399	74.2	25.8	8.7
TOTAL for REGION 6	1,150	399	74.2	25.8	8.7
Region 7					
Freedom Township	1,067	192	79.7	20.3	3.6
Huston Township	354	98	78.3	21.7	5.0
Martinsburg Borough	601	291	67.4	32.6	3.5
North Woodbury Township	706	180	79.7	20.3	3.6
Roaring Spring Borough	724	295	71.1	28.9	6.3
Taylor Township	724	128	85.0	15.0	6.3
TOTAL for REGION 7	4,176	1,184	77.9	22.1	4.9

Source: United States Census

Table 1.19 Trends in Median House Value and Rent

	Pennsylvania			Blair County		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
Median Gross Rent	\$322	\$531	64.9%	\$224	\$411	83.5%
Median Hsg Unit Value	\$69,700	\$97,000	39.2%	\$41,100	\$73,600	79.1%

Source: United State Census

Table 1.20 Blair County Housing Values (1990, 2000)

	1990				2000			
	Pennsylvania		Blair County		Pennsylvania		Blair County	
less than \$50,000	829,226	32.7%	18,528	62.6%	435,193	15.1%	7,802	24.7%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	1,017,795	40.2%	9,451	32.0%	1,079,698	37.4%	15,453	48.9%
\$100,000 - 149,999	395,881	15.6%	1,079	3.6%	703,093	24.3%	5,705	18.0%
more than \$150,000	289,698	11.4%	519	1.8%	671,500	23.2%	2,654	8.4%
Total Housing Units	2,532,600	100.0%	29,577	100.0%	2,889,484	100.0%	31,614	100.0%

Source: United State Census

Table 1.21 Housing Value and Median Rent (2000)

	Median Gross Rent (\$)	Median Unit Value (\$)	< \$50,000 (# units)	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - 149,999	> \$150,000
State of Pennsylvania	\$531	\$97,000	435,193	1,079,698	703,093	671,500
Blair County	\$411	\$73,600	7,802	15,453	5,705	2,654
Region 1						
Snyder Township	\$396	\$70,700	178	438	133	46
Tyrone Borough	\$365	\$64,200	447	777	128	12
Tyrone Township	\$456	\$92,300	28	199	106	50
TOTAL for REGION 1	\$406	\$75,733	653	1,414	367	108
Region 2						
Antis Township	\$439	\$100,600	82	702	681	123
Bellwood Borough	\$426	\$67,100	105	416	9	6
TOTAL for REGION 2	\$433	\$83,850	187	1,118	690	129
Region 3						
City of Altoona	\$381	\$58,000	5,014	5,990	1,180	351
Logan Township	\$494	\$85,300	442	1,751	641	447
TOTAL for REGION 4	\$438	\$71,650	5,456	7,741	1,821	798
Region 4						
Catharine Township	\$410	\$74,300	43	90	28	13
Williamsburg Borough	\$383	\$59,400	97	193	19	11
Woodbury Township	\$387	\$73,200	100	152	58	22
TOTAL for REGION 4	\$393	\$68,967	240	435	105	46
Region 5						
Allegheny Township	\$449	\$96,300	134	578	400	188
Blair Township	\$599	\$99,900	177	430	283	322
Duncansville Borough	\$424	\$74,200	65	192	58	6
Frankstown Township	\$639	\$123,000	94	462	855	707
Hollidaysburg Borough	\$466	\$78,100	206	671	315	59
Juniata Township	\$386	\$96,100	9	112	68	29
Newry Borough	\$462	\$68,200	7	34	4	2
Tunnelhill Borough	\$313	\$33,800	25	3	1	0
TOTAL for REGION 5	\$467	\$83,700	717	2,482	1,984	1,313
Region 6						
Greenfield Township	\$410	\$73,200	173	413	133	11
TOTAL for REGION 6	\$410	\$73,200	173	413	133	11
Region 7						
Freedom Township	\$424	\$79,500	58	493	141	49
Huston Township	\$327	\$94,800	37	79	51	38
Martinsburg Borough	\$380	\$79,400	67	271	83	16
North Woodbury Township	\$512	\$92,500	28	240	131	58
Roaring Spring Borough	\$390	\$71,400	111	484	66	36
Taylor Township	\$370	\$86,500	75	283	133	52
TOTAL for REGION 7	\$401	\$84,017	376	1,850	605	249

Source: United States Census

Table 1.22 Blair County Assisted Family Housing Opportunities

Location	Name	Total Units	Size of Units	Income Limits	Manager/ Owner
Altoona	Chateau of Altoona Walnut Place	31	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Towne Place	8	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Cherry Grove Apartments	75	1, 2, & 3 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Altoona	Evergreen Manors	159	1, 2, 3, & 4 BR	128 subsidized units rent is 30% of AGI; lower & very low income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Fairview Hills I, II, and III	150	1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 Bedroom	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower and very low income	Altoona Housing Authority
Altoona	Harmony House	12	1, 2, & 3 BR	10 subsidized units - rent is 30% of AGI for very low income; 2 unsubsidized units for lower income	Private
Altoona	Logan Hills	212	1, 2, & 3 BR	69 subsidized units - rent is 30% of AGI; very low & lower income	Private
Altoona	Pleasant Village	120	1, 2, & 3 BR	low income housing with priority preference for veterans	Altoona Housing Authority
Altoona	Lexington Park (8 bldgs)	24	1, 2, & 3 BR	\$50/unit subsidy - very low income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Claysburg	Greenfield Apartments	58	1, 2, & 3 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower and very low income	Private
Roaring Spring	Roaring Spring Commons	58	1, 2, & 3 BR	57 subsidized units with rent at 30% of AGI - lower and very low income	Private
Martinsburg	Showalter Apartments	40	1 & 2 BR	18 subsidized units with rent of 30% of AGI; Rural Housing Service limits	Private
Tyrone	Cold Springs	60	2, 3, & 4 BR	Rents is 30% of AGI	Blair County Housing Authority
Tyrone	Syvan Acres	40	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - Rural Housing Service income limits	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Tyrone	Tyrone Park Apartments	24	1, 2, & 3 BR	18 subsidized unit with rent at 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Tyrone	Tyrone Townhouses	50	2, 3, & 4 BR	Rents is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Tyrone	Washington Terrace	22	1, 2, & 3 BR	18 subsidized units with rent at 30% of AGI - low income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Altoona Housing Authority Scattered Sites	20	varies	Rent is 30% of AGI	Altoona Housing Authority
Altoona	IDACON Apartment Sites	26	varies	rents vary	Improved Dwellings Altoona

Source: Housing in Blair County, Compendium of Rental and Homeownership Opportunities
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Inventory of Assisted Rental Housing

AGI = Adjusted Gross Income

Table 1.23 Blair County Assisted Elderly Housing Opportunities

Location	Name	Total Units	Size of Units	Income Limits	Manager
Altoona	Blair Tower	100	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Improved Dwellings Altoona Tower	125	Eff & 1 BR	75 subsidized units - rent is 30% of AGI for lower income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	The Fairview and The Taylor	52	Eff & 1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Altoona	Green Ave. Tower	206	Eff, 1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - low income	Altoona Housing Authority
Altoona	11th Street Tower	160	Eff, 1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - low income	Altoona Housing Authority
Altoona	Station Square	39	1 BR Townhouse	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Altoona	Marian House Manor	21	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Altoona	Penn Alto Hotel	150	Eff, 1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Altoona	Woodrow Wilson Gardens	50	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Bellwood	Bell Mansion Apartments	35	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Bellwood	Bell Court	26	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower income	Blair County Housing Authority
Duncansville	Country Manor	49	Eff & 1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower income	Improved Dwellings Altoona
Hollidaysburg	Spring Manor Apartments	50	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - very low income	Private
Tyrone	Pennsylvania House	100	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - lower & very low income	Private
Tyrone	Tyrone House Apartments	36	1 & 2 Br	Rent is 30% of AGI - Rural Housing Service Income Limits	Private
Williamsburg	Dean House	6	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - Rural Housing Service Income Limits	Private
Williamsburg	Liberty Village	17	1 & 2 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - Rural Housing Service Income Limits	Private
Williamsburg	Spring House	6	1 BR	Rent is 30% of AGI - Rural Housing Service Income Limits	Private

Source: Housing in Blair County, Compendium of Rental and Homeownership Opportunities
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Inventory of Assisted Rental Housing

AGI = Adjusted Gross Income

Table 1.24 Special Needs Housing - Blair County

Facility	Type	Location	Contact
Community Residence Facilities	mental retardation	Altoona	Family Services of Blair County (814.944.3583)
Domestic Abuse Shelter	domestic violence	Altoona	Family Services of Blair County (814.944.3583)
Bridge Housing	domestic violence	Altoona	Family Services of Blair County (814.944.3583)
D& A Transitional Housing	drug & alcohol abuse	Altoona	Family Services of Blair County (814.944.3583)
MH/MR Independent Living	mental health & mental retardation	Altoona	Blair County Mental Health/Mental Retardation (814.693.3023)
Skills of Central PA, INC.	mental retardation	Altoona	Skills of Central, PA (814.949.4800)
Precious Life, Inc.	support for pre- and postnatal women	Altoona	Precious Life, Inc. (814.944.2669)
Altoona Rescue Mission	emergency shelter for men	Altoona	Altoona Rescue Mission (814.942.2170)
Tartaglio House	personal care home	Altoona	Tartaglio House (814.946.5411)
American Rescue Workers	temporary shelter for women & children	Altoona	American Rescue Workers (814.695.0762)
The Salvation Army	men with drug/alcohol, emotional/social needs	Altoona	The Salvation Army (814.946.3645)
Pyramid Health Care	drug & alcohol abuse	Altoona	Pyramid Health Care (814.944.3035)
Teen Shelter	homeless and runaway teens age 12-17	Altoona	Family Services of Blair County (814.944.3583)
Emergency Shelter Project, Inc. Family House	homeless families	Altoona	Emergency Shelter Project, Inc. (814.949.3778)
American Red Cross	temporary disaster shelter	Altoona	American Red Cross (814.944.6146)
Union Avenue Apartments	Chronic mental illness	Altoona	Union Avenue Apartments (814.944.1348)

Source: Housing in Blair County: Compendium of Rental and Homeownership Opportunities



Community Facilities

Introduction

This section inventories community facilities and provides an overview of public services including schools, police, fire, and emergency services. It also identifies municipal buildings, shelters, hospitals, libraries, and other significant community facilities in Blair County. The Community Facilities Map indicates the location of many of the facilities listed in this section.

The section is organized by the following topics:

Community Facilities:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Municipal Buildings
- Libraries
- Other Facilities

Public Services:

- Fire Service
- EMS Service
- Police Service

Separate sections follow identifying water and sewer providers and service areas, solid waste, and stormwater management.

The Areawide Plan seeks to identify realistic opportunities for sharing of resources and developing partnerships to reduce individual municipal burdens.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Public services are provided so as to maintain the health and safety of the Blair County communities. Furthermore, the quality, diversity, and location of community facilities enhance the quality of life for residents within Blair County. However, public services including police, fire, and emergency medical services often strain municipal budgets. Some fire and EMS services are not funded by municipal governments and many are volunteer based. Many of these service providers rely on donations or service fees to operate. This areawide plan seeks to identify realistic opportunities for sharing of resources and developing partnerships to reduce individual municipal burdens

and costs, while providing the best quality service available for residents.

I. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS

There are seven public school districts in Blair County, with each district corresponding to a planning region (with the exception of the Altoona Area School District which is split between Region 1 and 3). The following is a summary of the public school districts and other educational facilities in the county. The corresponding region is noted next to each district. The schools are located on the Community Facilities map.

1) Altoona Area School District (Region 1 & 3)

The Altoona Area School District is a Class AAAA school, the 19th largest school district in the Commonwealth, and the largest school district in Blair County with a student population of 8,560 in 2003. The district encompasses approximately 60 square miles and includes the City of Altoona, Logan Township, and a portion of Tyrone Township.

The schools in the Altoona Area School District include ten elementary schools, two junior high schools, one high school, and one alternative school:

- Altoona Area High School
- Baker Elementary School
- DS Keith Junior High School
- Irving Elementary School
- Juniata Elementary School
- Juniata Gap Elementary School
- Kimmel Alternative School
- Logan Elementary School
- Mowrie A Ebner Elementary School
- Penn-Lincoln Elementary School
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School
- Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School
- Washington-Jefferson Elementary School
- Wright Elementary School

2) Bellwood-Antis School District (Region 2)

The Bellwood-Antis School District is a Class A School District consisting of the municipalities of Bellwood Borough and Antis Township. Total enrollment in the district is approximately 1,383 students.

The Bellwood-Antis School District consists of one high school, one middle school, and one elementary school:

- Bellwood-Antis High School
- Bellwood Antis Middle School
- Lewis M Myers Elementary School

3) Claysburg-Kimmel School District (Region 6)

The Claysburg-Kimmel Class A School District includes the municipality of Greenfield Township in Blair County. Part of the School District is in Bedford County. Total enrollment for the school district is approximately 926 students.

The Claysburg-Kimmel School District consists of one elementary school and high school:

- Claysburg-Kimmel Elementary School
- Claysburg-Kimmel High School

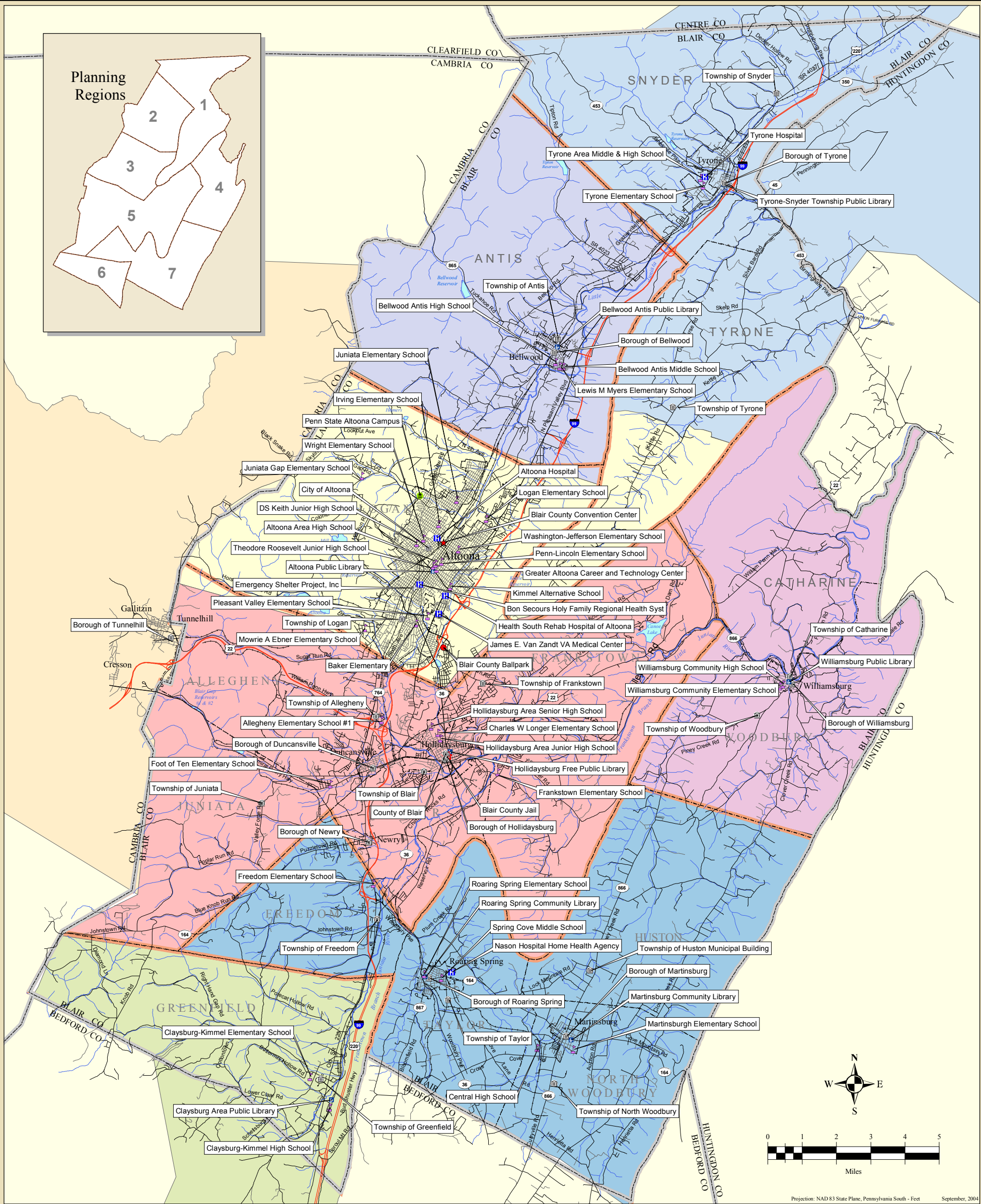
4) Hollidaysburg Area School District (Region 5)

The Hollidaysburg Area School District is a Class AAAA school district and consists of the municipalities of Allegheny Township, Juniata Township, Blair Township, Duncansville Borough, Hollidaysburg Borough, Newry Borough, and Frankstown Township. The enrollment for the district is approximately 3,951.

The mission of the district is “to develop knowledgeable lifelong learners who are challenged to meet their individual potential and who can effectively communicate, express themselves clearly, use technology, solve problems, work cooperatively, understand and respect cultural diversity, adapt to change, and be responsible and productive members of society.”

The Hollidaysburg Area School Districts includes four elementary schools, one junior high school, and one elementary school:

- Allegheny #1 Elementary School
- Charles W Longer Elementary School
- Foot of Ten Elementary School
- Frankstown Elementary School
- Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School
- Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| County Boundary | Planning Region Boundary |
| City/Borough | School Districts |
| Township | Altoona Area |
| Interstate | Bellwood-Antis |
| State Route | Claysburg-Kimmel |
| Railroad | Hollidaysburg Area |
| Lake/Reservoir | Penn Cambria |
| River/Creek/Stream | Spring Cove |
| | Tyrone Area |
| | Williamsburg Community |

Community Features

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|
| College | Hospital | Municipal Building |
| Convention Center | Jail | School |
| Homeless Shelter | Library | Stadium |

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602-6409
Phone: (814) 940-5978
Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
School Districts-PASDA
Community Facilities-Various Sources (See Text)

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Community Facilities



5) Spring Cove School District (Region 7)

The Spring Cove School District is classified as a Class AAA school district and includes the municipalities of Freedom Township, Huston Township, Martinsburg Borough, North Woodbury Township, Roaring Spring Borough, and Taylor Township. The student enrollment is approximately 2,177.

The school districts includes three elementary schools, one middle school, and high school:

- Central High School
- Freedom Elementary School
- Martinsburg Elementary School
- Roaring Spring Elementary School
- Spring Cove Middle School

6) Tyrone Area School District (Region 1)

The Tyrone Area School District is classified as a Class AAA school district and consists of the municipalities of Snyder Township, Tyrone Borough, parts of Tyrone Township, and parts of Centre and Huntingdon Counties. Total enrollment in the district is approximately 2,046 students. The mission of the Tyrone Area School District states, "In partnership with the community, our mission is to offer progressive educational opportunities that empower students to be responsible citizens and life-long learners in our democracy and global society."

The district includes one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school:

- Tyrone Area High School
- Tyrone Area Middle School
- Tyrone Elementary School

7) Williamsburg Community School District (Region 4)

The Williamsburg Community School District includes the municipalities of Catharine Township, Woodbury Township, and Williamsburg Borough. The district is located in the eastern portion of Blair County. The enrollment is approximately 600 students. The Williamsburg Heritage and Historical Society Museum is located in the Williamsburg High School.

The school district includes one elementary school and one high school:

- Williamsburg Community Elementary School
- Williamsburg Community High School

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

Penn State Altoona Campus (Region 3)

Penn State Altoona Campus consists of 150 acres with approximately 112 full-time faculty members and 3,823 students. It is the second largest campus and growing rapidly. Facilities include a student union, athletic complex, fitness loft, computer center, library, state of the art science and engineering labs, theater, art and music studios, and the Ralph and Helen Force Advanced Technology Center. The Blair County Arts School will be established on the Penn State Altoona Campus in May 2004. Dormitories and apartments continue to be built to service the growing number of students. The school offers Bachelor's and Associate's degrees.

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

The Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center is located in Altoona. It is a technical college that offers certifications in welding, equipment and engine maintenance, automotive service, manufacturing skills, and refrigeration services.

HOSPITALS

There are a total of six hospital facilities in Blair County, with the majority of facilities located in Altoona. One facility is located in Roaring Spring and the other is located in Tyrone. The following hospitals are located in Blair County.

Nason Hospital and Nason Hospital Home Health Agency (Region 7)

The Nason Hospital is a non-profit hospital located in Roaring Springs that provides general medical and surgical care, emergency services, general intensive care, pediatric care, and obstetrics. The Nason Hospital Health Agency is a Medicare and JCAHO certified home care agency administered by the Nason Hospital to provide caring, professional services at home. Located in Roaring Spring, the Nason Hospital Health Agency provides quality skilled nursing, physical therapy, speech pathology, occupational therapy, medical social services, home health aide, early maternity discharge, enterostomal therapy, and multi-disciplinary hospice care. The three primary areas of service

include: home health agency programs, hospital social services, and hospital hospice.

Altoona Regional Health System (Region 3)

The Altoona Regional Health System includes Altoona Hospital and Bon Secours Hospital. The Altoona Hospital is the largest of the hospitals in Blair County with 346 beds and approximately 2000 employees. In addition to hospital care services, it has a home nursing agency, a home health resource agency, and the Kopp Pharmacy.

Located in Altoona, the Bon Secours Hospital includes 182 licensed beds and a full range of services to provide a complete continuum of care.

Tyrone Hospital (Region 1)

The Tyrone Hospital is an operated through the Quorum Health Resources and is a not-for-profit agency. The hospital provides general medical and surgical care, intensive care, cardiac intensive care, pediatric medical and surgical care, obstetrics, and has an emergency department. The hospital also provides 24-hour service care.

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center (Region 3)

The Zandt VA Medical Center provides first class health care services to veterans. The hospital has 68 beds with 28 acute care beds and 40 long care beds. The Altoona-based hospital service area includes central Pennsylvania.

Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital (Region 3)

The Healthsouth Rehabilitation Facility has a total of 70 beds. It is an outpatient facility in Altoona.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Below are the municipal buildings that are identified on the Community Facilities Map for Blair County. The corresponding region is listed next to each municipal building:

- Blair County Courthouse (Region 5)
- Altoona City Hall (Region 3)
- Bellwood Borough (Region 2)
- Duncansville Borough (Region 5)
- Hollidaysburg Borough (Region 5)
- Martinsburg Borough (Region 7)
- Newry Borough (Region 5)
- Roaring Spring Borough (Region 7)



- Tunnelhill Borough (Region 5)
- Tyrone Borough (Region 1)
- Williamsburg Borough (Region 4)
- Allegheny Township (Region 5)
- Antis Township (Region 2)
- Blair Township (Region 5)
- Catharine Township (Region 4)
- Frankstown Township (Region 5)
- Freedom Township (Region 7)
- Greenfield Township (Region 6)
- Huston Township (Region 7)
- Juniata Township (Region 5)
- Logan Township (Region 3)
- North Woodbury Township (Region 7)
- Snyder Township (Region 1)
- Taylor Township (Region 7)
- Tyrone Township (Region 1)
- Woodbury Township (Region 4)

LIBRARIES

There are a total of eight public libraries in Blair County. Many have organized volunteer groups, called "Friends of Libraries," that assist with the operations and management of the library. The corresponding region is identified next to each. They are identified on the County Community Facilities Map.

The libraries that exist in Blair County include:

- Altoona Public Library, Altoona (Region 3)
- Bellwood Antis Public Library, Bellwood (Region 2)
- Claysburg Area Public Library, Claysburg (Region 6)
- Hollidaysburg Free Public Library, Hollidaysburg (Region 5)
- Martinsburg Community Library, Martinsburg (Region 7)
- Roaring Spring Community Library, Roaring Spring (Region 7)

- Tyrone-Snyder Township Public Library, Tyrone (Region 1)
- Williamsburg Public Library, Williamsburg (Region 4)

OTHER FACILITIES

Below is a list of other community facilities, which are identified on the Community Assets Map. The corresponding region is identified next to each asset.

- Emergency Shelter Project, Altoona (Region 3)
- Blair County Ballpark, Altoona (Region 3)
- Blair County Jail, Hollidaysburg (Region 5)
- Blair County Convention Center, Allegheny Township (Region 5)

II. PUBLIC SERVICES

BLAIR COUNTY 9-1-1

Established in 1994, Blair County 9-1-1 Center is the only 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point and Emergency Communications Center within Blair County (adopted in 1993 as an Ordinance in compliance with the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act (Act of 1990, P.L. 340, No. 78). According to the Blair County Department of Emergency Services, the Center handles 80,000 emergency calls a year. They are currently staffed with ten full-time telecommunicators, three lead telecommunicators, and three supervisors.

POLICE

Police protection is provided by individual municipalities in the case that a police force has been established or is contracted from an adjoining municipality. For municipalities without a police department, the Pennsylvania State Police provide law enforcement assistance.

There are fifteen police departments in Blair County in addition to the Blair County Sheriff and Pennsylvania State Police. The City of Altoona and the boroughs tend to have police departments, while the townships tend to rely on county and state police service. The national standard for police personnel staffing levels is 2 (two) police officers per 1,000 population. Municipalities should conduct assessments to determine if adequate coverage is being provided as

part of their public safety planning. The following police departments exist in the county:

- City of Altoona Police Department
- Bellwood Borough Police Department
- Duncansville Borough Police Department
- Hollidaysburg Borough Police Department
- Martinsburg Borough Police Department
- Roaring Spring Borough Police Department
- Tyrone Borough Police Department
- Williamsburg Police Department
- Allegheny Township Police Department
- Blair Township Police Department
- Freedom Township Police Department
- Greenfield Township Police Department
- Logan Township Police Department
- North Woodbury Township Police Department
- Woodbury Township Police Department

FIRE

Blair County is serviced by 22 Fire Departments. The departments are generally located in the older villages and major towns within the county. Many of the fire departments are staffed by volunteer personnel. In recent years there appears to be an increasing shortage of volunteers and funding to support individual fire departments. The national standard for fire personnel staffing is 1.65 firefighters per 1,000 population. Again, individual municipalities should assess whether they are providing adequate coverage to residents through their own public safety planning. Blair County's Fire Departments include:

- Allegheny Township Fire Department
- Altoona Fire Department (4 stations)
- Pinecroft Fire Department - Antis Township
- Tipton Fire Department - Antis Township
- Bellwood Fire Department
- Blue Knob Fire Department
- Duncansville Fire Department
- East Freedom Fire Department - Freedom Township
- Geeseytown Fire Department - Frankstown Township
- Claysburg Fire Department - Greenfield Township
- Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department - Hollidaysburg
- Greenwood Fire Department - Logan Township
- Kittaning Trail Fire Department - Logan Township

- Lakemont Fire Department - Logan Township
- Newburg Fire Department - Logan Township
- United Fire Department - Logan Township
- Martinsburg Fire Department
- Roaring Springs Fire Department
- Sinking Valley Fire Department - Tyrone Township
- Bald Eagle Fire Department - Tyrone Borough
- Blazing Arrow Hook and Ladder Fire Department - Tyrone Borough
- Citizen's Fire Company #2 - Tyrone Borough
- Tyrone Fire Department - Tyrone Borough
- Williamsburg Fire Department
- Keystone Search and Rescue
- Altoona HazMat Command Post

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Blair County is serviced by ten (10) emergency medical service agency sites. They provide a combination of basic life support, advanced life support, and quick response time. Below are the ten areas where the EMS sites are located:

- Tyrone AMED
- Hollidaysburg EMS
- Duncansville
- Altoona-Logan Township AMED
- East Freedom Township
- Bellwood
- Roaring Springs
- Claysburg
- Lakemont AMED
- Williamsburg

Maps

Community Facilities Map

Sources

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Blair County Library
Blair County 9-1-1



Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Introduction

This section provides an overview of the water and sewer facilities and providers in Blair County. The purpose of this assessment is to identify:

- existing municipal service providers and service areas in Blair County
- plans for growth and investment in public water and sewer infrastructure
- problem areas with regard to the condition and capacity the systems

It is essential that infrastructure and land use planning are coordinated at the county and municipal level in order to meet the needs of Blair County households

Municipalities not currently served by public water and sewer are also identified. The Water and Sewer Service Area Maps show the location of existing water and sewer service, as well as areas planned for future service. Digital information on existing water and sewer service areas was obtained from the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Corporation (SAPDC). This mapping was then fine-tuned by comparing it to the municipal comprehensive plans and Act 537 Plans. The documents were also reviewed to identify plans for expansion of service.

I. PLANNING CONTEXT

Public utilities are provided by local governments or public authorities to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of the residents of a community. The availability of public water and sewer service, capacity of the system, and quality of the service influences where growth and development will take place in the future, as well as the type and intensity of development. To determine whether or not these services are needed in a particular area depends on a variety of factors, including the location, density, and distribution of future development.

The provision of effective and efficient infrastructure is often used as an economic development and growth management tool. Sites that are infrastructure ready (water, sewer, electric, telecommunications, etc.), and are located near a workforce population, are often

sought by developers and businesses. However, the provision of public services can facilitate unwanted development in agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas, where growth may not be appropriate. Therefore, it is essential that the infrastructure and the land use planning are coordinated at the county and municipal level in order to adequately meet the needs of all households.

The areawide development goal for water and sewer planning previously stated in the Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County (1972) is to, "provide adequate water, sewerage, sewage treatment, and other public utility services to the developed and developing areas of the county, thereby insuring a safe, sanitary, and attractive environment in which to live and work." (p.182) The policies of the Areawide Water and Sewer Plan for Blair County, 1972 to achieve this goal include:

1. Promote the "Areawide" approach to the planning and design of water and sewer systems, by developing plans and programs on a drainage basin basis, taking advantage of the natural drainage patterns, and eliminating costly duplication of facilities.
2. Encourage the municipalities of the county to work cooperatively in the planning and development of water and sewer systems in order to reduce cost per user and reduce duplication of effort.
3. Encourage the extension of water and sewer systems to those developed areas of the county which presently do not have them.
4. Anticipate those areas that require water and sewer service in the future and develop the needed plans and programs for orderly and logical provision of water and sewer service." (p.4-5)

These policies remain quite relevant to current water and sewer planning in Blair County. The BCPC should continue to implement these policies in conjunction with their growth management policies. In addition, more and more municipalities require technical and financial assistance to upgrade outdated plants and systems. Without such upgrades, the needs of Blair County residents cannot be met, with potential negative impacts on the community health and environment.

II. WATER SERVICE

The Blair County Areawide Water and Sewer Plan was created in 1972. At that time, eight (8) Blair County municipalities had municipal water systems. They included Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Duncansville, Bellwood, Tyrone Borough, Williamsburg, Martinsburg, and Roaring Spring. Today, there are twelve (12) public water authorities in Blair County:

- Altoona City Authority
- Hollidaysburg Borough Authority
- Allegheny Township Sewer and Water Authority
- Blair Township Sewer and Water Authority
- Freedom Township Water and Sewer Authority
- Greenfield Township Water and Sewer Authority
- Duncansville Borough Water and Sewer Authority
- Bellwood Borough Authority
- Tyrone Municipal Authority
- Williamsburg Borough Municipal Authority
- Martinsburg Municipal Authority
- Roaring Spring Borough Municipal Authority

The primary sources of water for municipal systems are reservoirs, supplemented by wells and springs. The Water Service Area Map shows the service areas for existing public water systems, as well as the proposed extension of systems. The City of Altoona and all of the boroughs in Blair County, with the exception of Newry, have public water service. In addition, portions of Snyder Township, Antis Township, Logan Township, Allegheny Township, Frankstown Township, Catherine Township, Juniata Township, Woodbury Township, North Woodbury Township, Taylor Township, and Greenfield Township have public water service. The remaining townships, including Freedom Township, Huston Township, and Tyrone Township, do not have any areas served with public water. In these areas, small village systems or private wells are the primary source of water.

The two largest public water authorities in Blair County are the Altoona City Authority and the Hollidaysburg Borough Authority. The Altoona City Authority's water system consists of twelve (12) reservoirs, one (1) well field, seven (7) treatment facilities, sixteen (16) storage tanks, four (4) transfer pump stations and more than 375 miles of distribution system piping. The system covers parts of twelve (12) municipalities and provides water to 32,000 domestic, industrial, and commercial

users. The total capacity of the system is 30 million gallons per day (MGD) and a total capacity of 3 billion gallons.

The Hollidaysburg Borough Authority water system is a consecutive system of the Altoona City Authority water system, meaning that Hollidaysburg purchases treated water from the Altoona City Authority for distribution. The primary water source for Hollidaysburg originates from three surface water reservoirs: the Plane Nine Reservoir, the Blair Gap Reservoir, and the Hollidaysburg Reservoir. The Plane Nine and Blair Gap Reservoirs are owned by the Altoona City Authority, and the Hollidaysburg Reservoir is owned by the Hollidaysburg Authority. The Altoona City Authority purchases water from the Hollidaysburg Authority to be treated at the Plane Nine Treatment Plant, which is then sold back to the Hollidaysburg Authority for distribution.

In addition to the municipal authorities, several small village systems provide water to less populated areas using catch basins, tanks, wells, and reservoirs. These systems serve small concentrations of isolated developed areas scattered throughout the county. Small village systems include:

- Clover Creek (Region 7)
- Curryville (Region 7)
- East Sharpsburg (Region 7)
- Ganister (Region 4)
- Henrietta (Region 7)
- Point View (Region 4)

FUTURE WATER SERVICE AREAS

Only two areas have been identified from municipal comprehensive plans for future water service. Proposed future service areas in Blair Township include expansion to Vicksburg and Reservoir, as well as areas immediately adjacent to Newry Borough. Areas in need of water service identified in Woodbury Township include Shellytown and Royer.

The 1972 Areawide Water and Sewer Plan identified areas to be considered for water service. As of 2004, water service has been expanded to select areas identified by the 1972 Plan for future service consideration. They include:

- Allegheny Township along US 22 from Duncansville to Mountain Lake, and along US 220 from Meadows to Alto Rest Cemetery
- Antis Township: Bellemeade, Fostoria, and Pinecroft,
- Blair Township: Penn Farm Estates
- Catharine Township: Covedale
- Frankstown Township: Sylvan Hills
- Greenfield Township: Friesville
- Logan Township: Greenwood, Mill Run, Newburg
- North Woodbury - Curryville

Other areas identified by the 1972 Plan in need of water service that remain on private systems include:

- Allegheny Township: Sugar Run Area
- Blair Township: Brookes Mill, McKee, Reservoir, Vicksburg, and areas surrounding Newry Borough
- Frankstown Township: Canoe Creek, East Loop, Flowing Springs, Frankstown, Geeseytown, Linds Crossing, Loop, Reese, Upper Reese, West Loop
- Freedom Township: East Freedom, Leamersville, McKee
- Greenfield Township: Klar, Claysburg, Dry Run, Polecat Hollow, Poplar Run, Ski Gap
- Logan Township: Avalon Rd, Bellemeade, East Juniata, Freeman, Juniata Gap, Lakemont, Red Hill
- Newry Borough
- Tyrone Township: Alberta, Sickles Corner, Sinking Valley
- Woodbury Township: Shellytown, Royer

III. SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC SEWER SERVICE

The collection and proper disposal of wastewater is essential to protecting the health and welfare of Blair County citizens. In Blair County, wastewater treatment includes public sewer systems, as well as community and on-lot disposal systems (OLDS), such as septic systems and sand mounds.

Faulty and aging public and private sewage disposal systems pose a serious threat to the public health and natural environment. At risk is the contamination of streams and groundwater wells from uncontrolled discharges. In such cases, there is a high potential for human exposure to bacteria, parasites, and viruses.

An important environmental factor for proper sewage disposal in Blair County is the suitability of soils for on-lot systems. The Septic Suitability Map identifies soils that have no limitations, moderate limitations, and severe limitations for on-lot sewage systems. Only 15% of the soils in Blair County have no septic suitability limitations, while 729 of the soils have severe limitations. Just over 129 have moderate limitations.

One commonly cited issue in Blair County is malfunctioning on-lot systems due to poor soil conditions or poor design, installation, and maintenance of on-lot systems. There is a need to address this issue in rural areas by developing and utilizing new technologies and implementing on-lot management programs in areas where the extension of public infrastructure is cost prohibitive.

The condition of sewage facilities is an issue for several Blair County municipalities due to aging systems. This has resulted in moratoriums on the expansion of municipal sanitary systems until plants and infrastructure are replaced and/or upgraded to meet existing environmental standards. The Greenfield Township sewage treatment facility is at the end of its design life, and is operating over capacity with groundwater infiltration and inflows of stormwater.

As of this writing, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) has imposed moratoria on the following areas in Blair County:

- All areas flowing into the Duncansville sewage treatment plant
- Greenfield Township (entire area)
- Bellwood Borough and areas flowing into it from surrounding Antis Township
- Portions of the City of Altoona

PA DEP will not approve the extension of sewer systems in the above areas until the municipalities have an approved plan to amend problems with the systems. A locally imposed moratorium exists in Southern Antis Township where sewage flows to the Pinecroft Sewage Treatment Plant in Logan Township. Logan Township is treating the maximum amount of sewage as agreed upon with Antis Township, and will not accept additional wastewater at the Pinecroft sewage treatment plant.

Allegheny, Antis, Blair, Frankstown, Freedom, Greenfield, and Snyder Townships have all cited problems with the operation and maintenance of on-lot systems, due to soil limitations and smaller lot sizes in areas not served by a municipal system. The Septic Suitability Map illustrates the soil suitability for on-lot systems in Blair County. The map indicates that there are severe limitations to septic tank absorption fields throughout Blair County.

SEWAGE FACILITIES PLANNING

According to the Pennsylvania Act 537, all municipalities must develop and implement an official sewage plan that addresses their present and future sewage disposal needs. Sewage facilities plans must comply with the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act and the Clean Streams Law.

Sewage facilities plans should include:

1. An assessment of existing areas served by public sewer systems.
2. Future infrastructure requirements based on socio-economic and demographic trends, and the existing condition of the system.
3. Community goals, consistent with those identified in a municipal or multi-municipal plan, for the preservation of land and designation of developed or developing areas, to which service should be expanded.

Six (6) municipalities in Blair County have not adopted an Act 537 Plan. They include Catherine Township, Huston Township, Juniata Township, Taylor Township, Tyrone Township, and Tunnelhill Borough.

EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Sewer service is currently provided in the City of Altoona and all boroughs. Small portions of every Township have public sewer infrastructure, with the exception of Tyrone, Juniata, and Huston Townships.

A review of existing sewer service areas and Act 537 plan mapping was conducted to verify existing and proposed sewer service areas in Blair County (see Sewer

Service Area Map). Existing municipal sewer authorities that provide service to Blair County include:

- Allegheny Township Sewer and Water Authority
- Blair Township Sewer and Water Authority
- Duncansville Water and Sewer Authority
- Hollidaysburg Sewer Authority
- Frankstown Township Sewer Authority
- Freedom Township Water and Sewer Authority
- Greenfield Township Water and Sewer Authority
- Tyrone Municipal Authority
- Central Blair County Sanitary Authority (Logan Township and parts of Antis Township)
- Northern Blair County Regional Sewer Authority (Antis Township and Snyder Township)

Future Expansion of Sewer Collection Systems

Public sewer service in the townships is limited given the low density of development, yet continued development in the townships has increased the need for expansion of sewer systems in Blair County. Based on the Act 537 plans, expansions of sewer systems are proposed in the following townships (refer to Map for the location of proposed extensions):

- Snyder Township
- Antis Township
- Logan Township
- Woodbury Township
- Allegheny Township
- Freedom Township
- Blair Township
- North Woodbury Township

The time frames for sewer extension projects are dependent on the capacity and condition of the system to accept new tap-ins and the cost of the project. The extension of sewer service to several areas in Snyder Township, is cost prohibitive given the low level of new residential customers.

The 1972 Areawide Water and Sewer Plan identified the following areas, which should be given consideration for the provision of a municipal sanitary sewage system. Of the areas identified by the plan, the following are not yet served by a municipal system:

- Antis Township: Fostoria and Riggles Gap
- Frankstown Township: East Loop, Frankstown, Geeseytown, Linds Crossing, Reese, Upper Reese

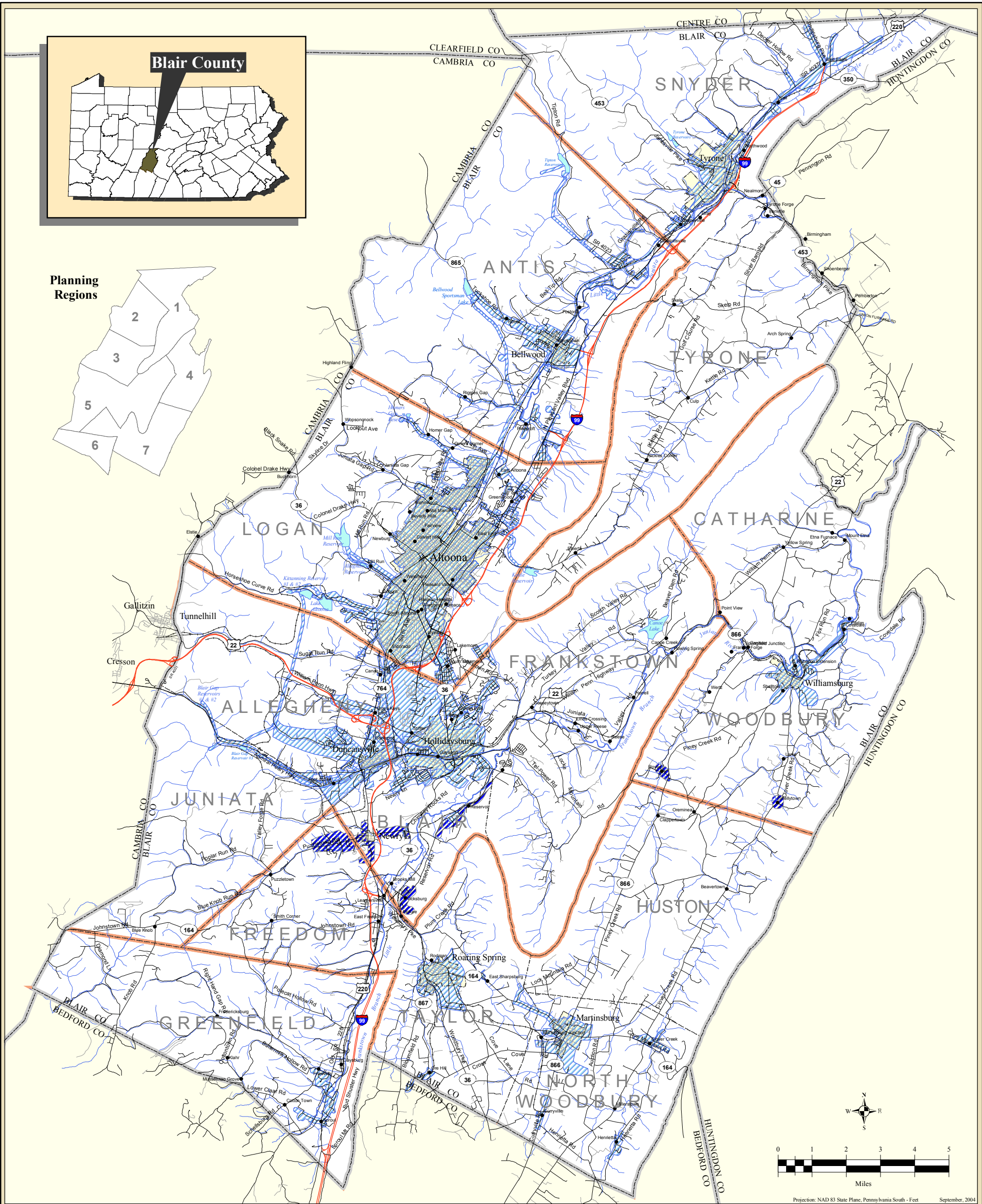
- Greenfield Township: Poplar Run Gap, Ski Gap
- Logan Township: Chicken Haven, Coburn, East Juniata, Grandview, Homer's Gap-Orners Corner, Hutchinson, Kettle Run, Goods Lane,
- Snyder Township: Gray
- Taylor Township: Developed areas adjacent to Roaring Spring along PA Route 164, Route 867, and Route 36
- Woodbury: Ganister

Sources:

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC)
1972 Areawide Water and Sewer Plan, Blair County
Municipal Act 537 Plans (varying dates)
Municipal Comprehensive Plan (varying dates)

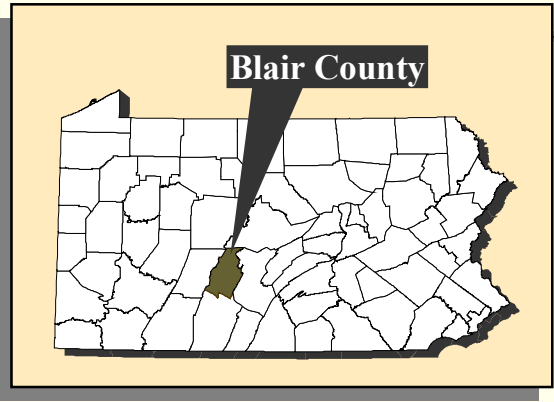
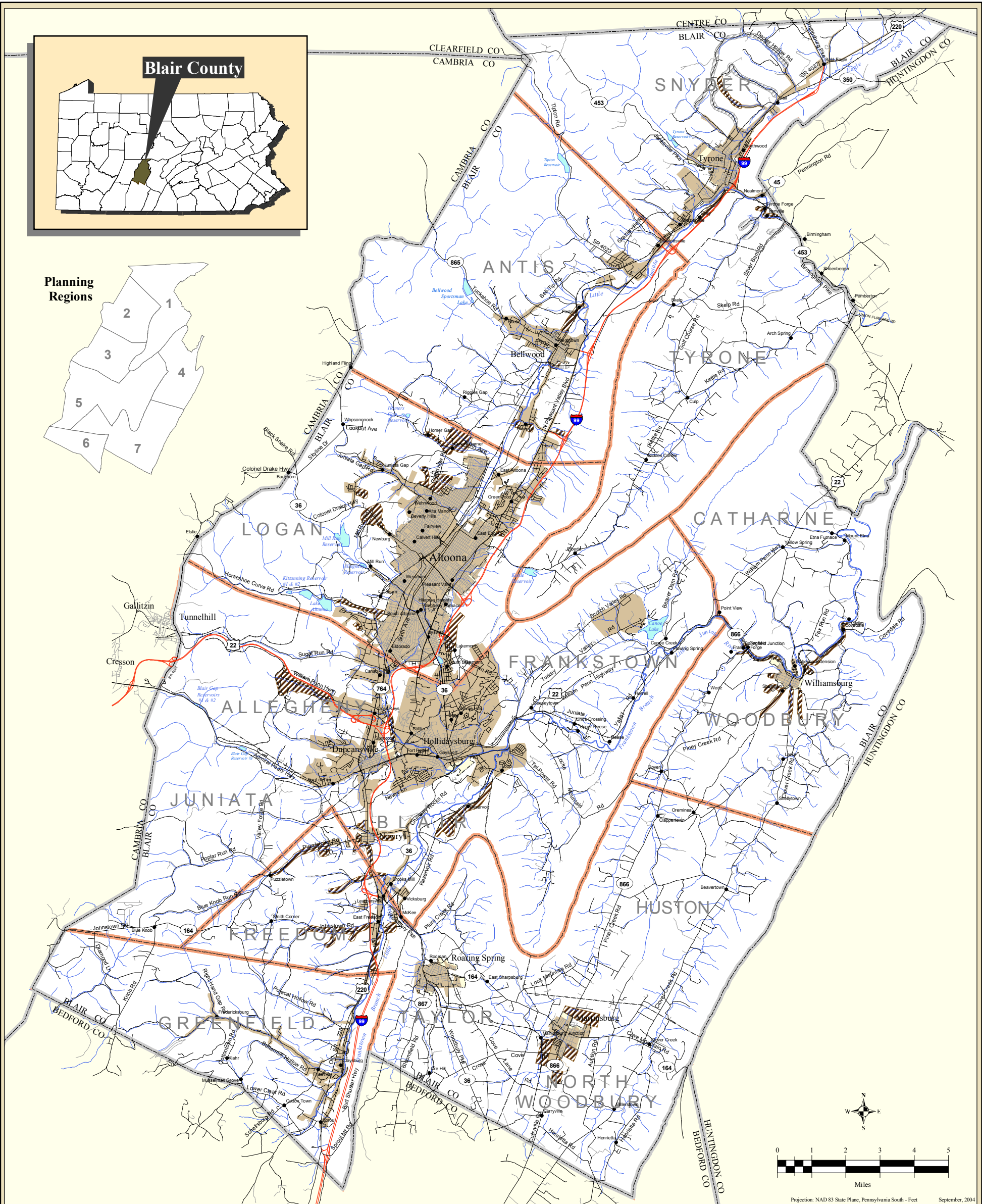
Maps:

Water Service Area Map
Sewer Service Area Map
Septic Suitability Map

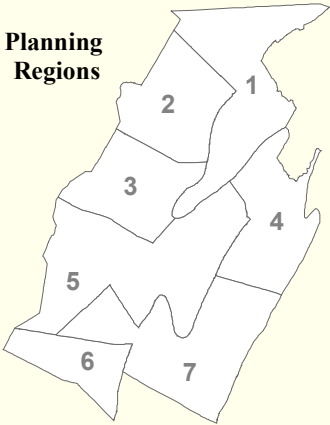


An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

**Existing & Proposed Water
Service Areas Map**



Planning Regions



Legend

- County Boundary
- City/Borough
- Township
- Place
- Interstate
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Lake/Reservoir
- River/Creek/Stream



Planning Region Boundary



Existing Sewer Service



Proposed Sewer Service



Proposed Service Extension (Long-term need)

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602-6409

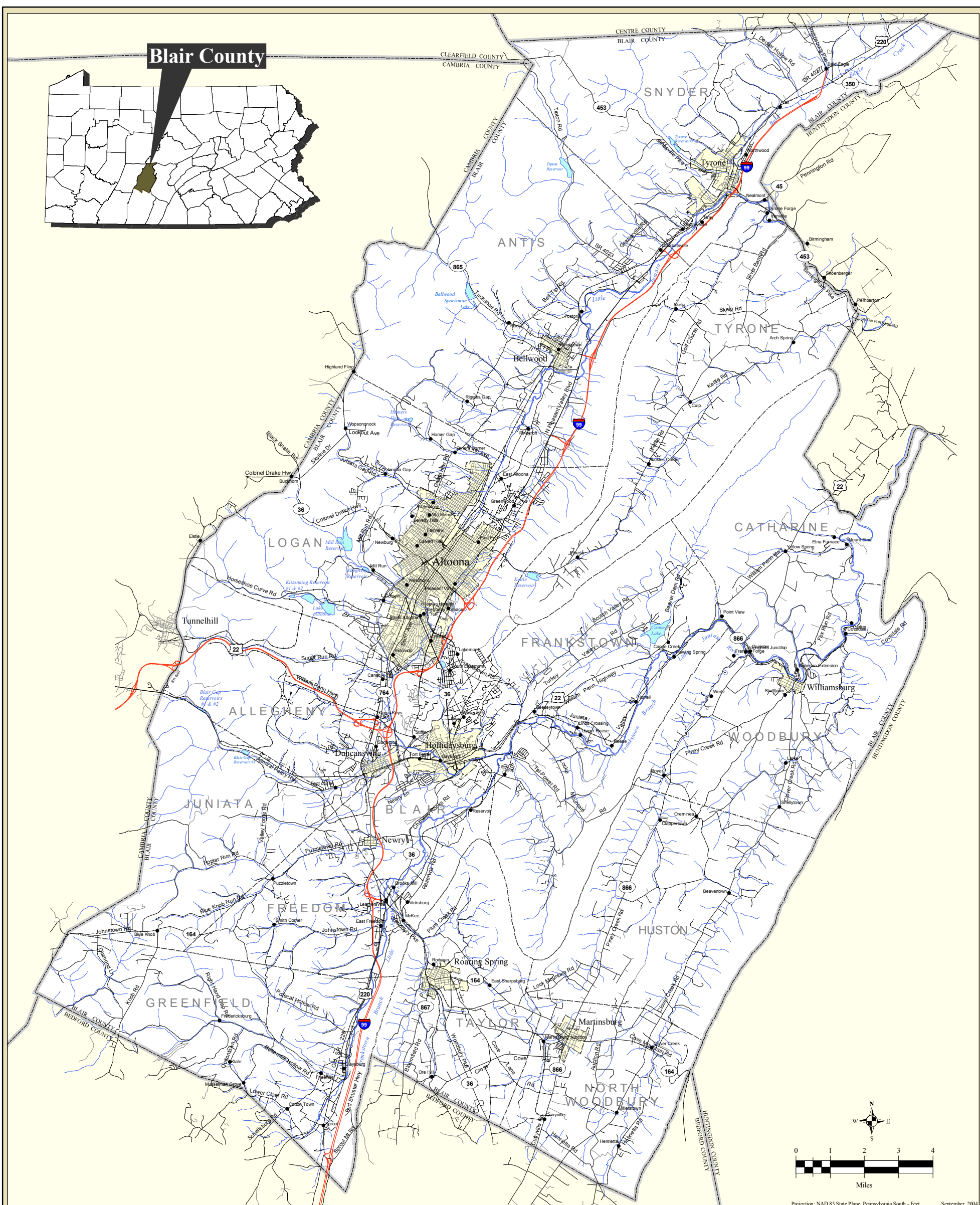
Phone: (814) 940-5978
Fax: (814) 940-5985
TTY: (800) 654-5984

Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology - ERII Networked Streams (PASDA)
School Districts - PASDA
Water Service Areas - SAPDC
Local Municipal Comprehensive Plans

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Existing & Proposed Sewer
Service Areas Map






Legend

- County Boundary
City/Borough
Township
Place
Interstate
State Route
Local Road
Railroad
Lake/Reservoir
River/Creek/Stream

Limitations for Septic Tank Absorption Fields

-  Severe Limitations
 Moderate Limitations
 No Limitations

This map was produced from data acquired from the USDA digital soil survey for Blair County. It is intended for land use planning, evaluating land use alternatives, and for planning site investigations prior to design and construction. The information is not site specific and does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation of the soils or for testing and analysis by personnel experienced in the design and construction or engineering work.

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Valley View Home, Wing E
301 Valley View Boulevard
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Phone: (814) 940-5978
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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology-ERRI Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System
Septic Tank Absorption Field Limitations queried from SSURGO
interpretation tables. Although up to three restriction are attributed
to each mapunit, the primary restriction is displayed on this map.

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan for *Blair County, Pennsylvania*

Septic Suitability





Solid Waste Management

Introduction

The Municipal Waste Management Plan for Blair County was completed in February 2002. It is an update to an earlier plan adopted by the county in 1991. It was prepared for the county in accordance with the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101 of 1988). Act 101 requires that the county update the Plan every 10 years. The document outlines a plan for waste reduction, materials recycling, and municipal waste transport to multiple disposal facilities contracted to accept Blair County's municipal waste.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The proper collection, handling, and disposal of waste is imperative to the health and welfare of residents in Blair County. Waste generation also has a large impact on the environment and natural resources, especially if not disposed properly. The Areawide Plan summarizes the Blair County Solid Waste Management Plan by reference, including municipal waste generation, transport, and disposal; recycling and waste reduction; and County education and outreach efforts.

I. SOLID WASTE PLANNING

The major goals of the Municipal Waste Management Plan for Blair County (2002) include: 1) Illustrate how the county intends to reach the recycling goal of 35% by the year 2003 and 2) Show that there is capacity available for the county for the disposal of waste generated within its boundaries for at least a ten (10) year period.

MUNICIPAL WASTE GENERATION

The total amount of municipal waste generated in Blair County in 2000 was 344 Tons Per Day (TPD) or 123,781 Tons Per Year (TPY). The amount of waste Blair County generated by source included 200 TPD of residential waste, 110 TPD of commercial waste, 11.7 TPD of sewage sludge/septage, and 22.1 TPD of

construction/demolition waste. Based on past population trends, the total municipal waste generated in 2010 is projected to be 377.8 TPD. The Blair County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling believes that the projected amount of waste generated in 2010 is relatively accurate given current levels of waste generation and recycling rates.

MUNICIPAL WASTE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL

The municipal waste collected in Blair County is transported by private, licensed haulers to one or more of two (2) designated processing facilities located in Altoona and eleven (11) disposal facilities located outside of Blair County. In 2000, Blair County's municipal waste was disposed in four (4) or the eleven (11) sanitary landfills under contract.

Blair County does not mandate municipal waste collection in all areas of the county. However, due to population size and density, the municipalities of Tyrone Borough, Hollidaysburg Borough, City of Altoona, and Logan Township are mandated to establish a system for refuse and curbside recycling collection. The remaining municipalities in Blair County can establish and enforce waste and recycling collection policies and programs on a voluntary basis.

Tyrone Borough has one contracted hauler that provides waste collection service for all residences in the entire Borough. In Altoona, Hollidaysburg, and Logan Township, municipal waste is collected using a subscription service in which individual residences are required to select a private hauler to collect refuse. This has created a system in which 100 trucks are licensed to collect refuse in the City Altoona six days a week, whereas the waste generation rates only warrant the need for eight trucks. The remaining municipalities in the county operate on a voluntary basis in which residences can opt to contract a private hauler or not.

The Borough of Hollidaysburg is currently creating a solid waste management plan with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) that will identify waste collection options and alternatives to the subscription service, as well as financing and infrastructure requirements. Altoona has recently submitted a proposal for DEP funding to conduct a similar solid waste management plan for the city. These plans will identify alternatives that will increase efficiency in the collection system and reduce costs for Blair County residents.

Mandatory municipal waste collection would address some environmental issues such as waste burning and illegal dumping that currently takes place in the county. However, the greatest challenge to the municipal governments is providing the infrastructure and financing required for waste collection services.

ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPACITY AND DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS

Assuming Blair County meets and maintains its 35% recycling rate through 2010, the amount of waste generated disposal (65% of total waste produced) in 2010 will be approximately 245.6 TPD. This will represent a decrease from the amount of municipal waste disposed in landfills in (290.6 TPD). The 2002 Plan includes a Request for Proposals to be issued to solicit proposals from facilities to provide disposal services to Blair County for a minimum of 10 years. The County has contracted with disposal sites to provide for a disposal capacity of 1200 TPD, which will ensure that municipal solid waste is adequately collected and disposed over the next 10-20 years.

II. RECYCLING

In 2000, a total of 19,153.7 tons of material was diverted to recycling facilities, representing approximately 15% of the total waste generated in 2000.

The Blair County Solid Waste Management Plan identifies a goal for a recycling rate of 35% by 2003. However, this goal has yet to be obtained. The Blair County Department of Solid Waste reports a recycling rate of just under 30% as of March of 2004. The Department anticipates that the 35% recycling rate will be reached by 2005.

State law requires that municipalities over a certain size and density provide curbside recycling. Curbside recycling is mandated in the City of Altoona, Logan Township, Hollidaysburg Borough, and Tyrone Borough. Residents and haulers are required to recycle in these municipalities. In addition, voluntary curbside recycling programs are offered in Bellwood Borough, Antis Township, Blair Township, and Snyder Township have voluntary curbside recycling programs.

In 1998, Blair County initiated the Blair County Recycling Center Drop-off Program, which operates

eight (9) recycling centers in rural areas so that residents can drop-off recyclable waste. Recycling center locations include:

- Blair County Yard Waste Compost Recycling
- Freedom Township Volunteer Fire Company
- Geeseytown Volunteer Fire Company
- Greenfield Township Municipal Building
- Snyder Township Municipal Building
- Taylor Township Municipal Building
- Tyrone District Justice Office
- Woodbury Township Municipal Building
- Martinsburg Borough Garage

County, Update Revision of the Plan of May 1991 (Act 101).

III. WASTE REDUCTION

The 2002 Solid Waste Management Plan outlines programs to promote composting, including assistance to homeowners to use backyard composting of leaf and yard waste. The Blair County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling operates the Blair County Compost Yard. This facility accepts yard waste from Blair County municipalities, residents, and commercial/institutional establishments.

IV. KEY ORGANIZATIONS

The Blair County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling is the implementing agency for the processing and disposal of municipal waste. The Department conducts outreach and education workshops to increase awareness of the impacts of waste and efforts to reduce, recycle, and reuse. Their educational efforts include presentations at schools, exhibit shows, and Penn State Altoona; newsletter inserts; and video distribution to libraries and public television stations.

The County of Blair oversees all agreements to ensure adequate disposal capacity for municipal waste, in addition to maintaining and operating recycling drop-off centers and the Blair County Yard Waste Compost Recycling Facility. The Blair County Solid Waste Authority is responsible for the ownership of the land for the Blair County Yard Waste Compost Recycling Facility.

Sources

Blair County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling

Richard C. Sutter & Associates, Inc. and Draper Aden Associates. Municipal Waste Management Plan for Blair



Stormwater Management

Introduction

This section examines current stormwater conditions and problems in Blair County, stormwater management plans and strategies, and the relationship of stormwater management planning to land use planning.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Stormwater management involves controlling rain, ice, and snow runoff from the land and buildings. The amount of runoff generated from a storm event corresponds to the amount of development that has taken place in a watershed, and as the amount of impervious surface increases, so will the volume and rate of runoff. Therefore, stormwater management planning is necessary to mitigate the impacts of development on watershed health and prevent flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and non-point source pollution.

The purpose of the stormwater management plans are to outline provisions that are necessary to manage stormwater and ensure that development activities do not adversely affect the health, safety, and property in municipalities within the watershed and basins to which the watershed is a tributary.

I. PENNSYLVANIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act, enacted in 1978, establishes a comprehensive watershed stormwater management program, which encourages local implementation and enforcement of stormwater management plans and ordinances. Blair County is required by the Pennsylvania Storm Water Management Act (Act 167) to prepare and adopt a watershed stormwater management plans for designated watersheds in the county's planning jurisdiction. Blair County has seven designated watersheds that are located within the county boundaries, either all or in part. They include the Beaverdam Branch, Little Juniata River, Frankstown Branch, Yellow Creek, Bobs Creek, Moshannon Creek, and Clearfield Creek.

II. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Blair County adopted the Stormwater Management Plan for the Beaverdam Branch Watershed in May 2000. The County is currently preparing a stormwater management plan for the Little Juniata River under Act 167. Bedford County is currently in the process of creating a stormwater management plan for Bobs/Dunning Creek. Stormwater management plans have not been prepared for the Frankstown Branch (Bair, Bedford, Cambria, Huntingdon Counties), Yellow Creek (Blair and Bedford Counties), Moshannon Creek (Blair, Centre, and Clearfield Counties), or Clearfield Creek (Blair and Cambria Counties).

The Beaverdam Branch Watershed is located in the south-central part of the county, encompassing 88 square miles and eleven municipalities. The municipalities that are in the watershed, in whole or in part, include:

- Allegheny Township
- Altoona City
- Blair Township
- Duncansville Borough
- Frankstown Township
- Freedom Township
- Hollidaysburg Borough
- Gallitzin Township (Cambria County)
- Juniata Township
- Logan Township
- Tunnelhill Borough (Cambria and Blair County)

The watershed is drained by the Beaverdam Branch of the Juniata River and its seven major tributaries. The land within the watershed is mountainous with heavily forested, agricultural, and urban areas. The Stormwater Management Plan estimates a 10% growth in developed areas in the watershed for planning purposes and estimated peak flows based on 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, and 100-year flood events.

III. STORMWATER CONDITIONS

The natural conditions that affect stormwater runoff in the Beaverdam Branch Watershed include soils with slow or very slow infiltration rates and the mountainous topography of the watershed.

The most common type of stormwater-related problems reported by municipalities located in the Beaverdam Branch Watershed is flooding caused by increased stormwater volume and velocity, sedimentation, and combined storm/sanitary sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Borough of Hollidaysburg. In addition, flooding is an issue in Frankstown and Blair Townships. Additional stormwater problems in the watershed include sedimentation, and stream bank and soil erosion. Frankstown Township has a history of flooding at Lind's Crossing. After the most recent flooding event in 1946 property owners at Lind's Crossing were given the option of participating in National Flood Insurance Buyout Program as an incentive to relocate their homes to areas that are not subject to extreme flooding events. Despite this incentive to relocate, many homeowners chose to remain in Lind's Crossing.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Stormwater strategies outlined in the Beaverdam Watershed Management Plan relate to runoff conditions, flood prevention and management, and non-point source pollutants.

RATE AND QUALITY OF RUNOFF

Act 167 requires that stormwater management measures ensure that the maximum rate of stormwater runoff is no greater after development than prior to development activities. The Beaverdam Branch Stormwater Management Plan presents performance-based standards for the management of runoff, but does not specify the use of particular control techniques. According to the Plan, "There shall be no increase in the peak rate of stormwater runoff discharge from land subdivision, land development, and land alteration activities following completion of the activity (post-development conditions) over the rate that would have occurred from the land prior to the activity (pre-development conditions)." This standard is intended to protect adjacent and downstream properties from the effects of new development by controlling runoff at the site. The Plan also designates a recommended (not mandatory) runoff standard for protecting water quality by applying best management practices in the design of stormwater management facilities. The use of stormwater control facilities in the watershed, such as detention/retention ponds, grassy swales, subsurface

storage tanks and rooftop storage, is significant because it demonstrates that stormwater management requirements are being enforced and stormwater control techniques are being used.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

There are currently no regional flood control projects in the Beaverdam Branch Watershed. Existing flood protection facilities are designed to provide localized flood protection. These facilities include stream channelization, stream bank protection, storm sewers, and debris racks. Proposed strategies to limit the impact of new development on flooding include limiting development in floodplains and prohibiting development in floodways, increasing infiltration, reducing runoff rates, accommodating for on-site stormwater storage, limiting erosion and sedimentation, and flood control measures.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTANTS

Stormwater runoff contains non-point source pollutants from agricultural sources, forestry operations, land development, and mining operations. Urban land development creates impervious surfaces that prevent the infiltration of water into the soil and carry non-point source pollutants to streams, lakes, and reservoirs within the watershed. Non-point source pollutants degrade water quality in the watershed and affect the overall environmental health of the watershed. The Beaverdam Branch Watershed Plan recommends using structural as well as non-structural measures to protect water quality from urban land uses. Non-structural measures include public education and effective land use planning that protects open space, stream valleys and floodplains.

IV. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING

Stormwater management plans are implemented by municipalities through land use and development ordinance and regulations. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) grants local governments the authority to prepare comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision and land development ordinances that include stormwater management provisions and regulations. Municipal or multi-municipal comprehensive planning should be a

vehicle for defining water quality concerns, problems, and goals. Comprehensive plans should also identify land use planning and control techniques such as subdivision/land development ordinances, zoning, and land use regulations to address stormwater management problems.

Of the nine (9) municipalities located in the watershed in Blair County, two (2) municipalities have a stormwater management ordinance, eight (8) have floodplain management ordinances or regulations, eight (8) have subdivision and land development ordinances, and five (5) have zoning ordinances.

The Beaverdam Branch Stormwater Management Plan contains a model stormwater management ordinance that can stand-alone or accompany subdivision and land development ordinances. The models should be used as guides for the municipalities to comply with the provisions of Act 167 and the Beaverdam Stormwater Management Plan. However, municipalities are not required to adopt consistent stormwater management regulations and ordinances or to consider the effects of runoff beyond their municipal boundaries. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure consistency among the municipal stormwater management strategies and land use tools.

Source

Beaverdam Branch Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. Prepared by Chester Engineers for the Blair County Planning Commission, May 2000.



Transportation

Summary of the Transportation Process for Blair County (Altoona MSA)

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County [Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)] is a policy making board of elected and appointed officials that provides a forum for areawide transportation planning and programming.

With assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Altoona Metro Transit (AMTRAN) and consulting firms as needed, the staff of the Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) serves as the staff of the MPO.

The MPO's main role is to ensure that federal and state requirements are met in order to keep the Blair County (Altoona MSA) certified to receive federal and state transportation funds. It does this by updating the long range transportation plan (a projection for twenty (20) years), the twelve (12) year program, and the transportation improvement program (a projection for four (4) years), and performing the tasks of the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The long range plan is updated every five (5) years, is fiscally constrained, and consists of a policy document in the form of a narrative text, which spells out the way in which transportation planning will be conducted in Blair County (Altoona MSA). It also contains lists of the highway and transit projects included in the TIP, the twelve (12) year program, a list of proposed projects eight (8) years beyond the twelve (12) year program, and a waiting list of projects proposed outside of current funding levels.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a schedule of top priority projects for which funds are allocated to projects for the current period of four (4) years. The twelve (12) year program (which is a state requirement) contains the TIP's four (4) years plus eight (8) additional years of projects listed for funding.

Examples of planning and programming related activities that can change from year to year and that the staff of the MPO must perform when included in the UPWP are as follows:

- Air Quality Conformity;
- Congestion Management;
- Highway Performance Monitoring;
- Intelligent Transportation Systems;
- Project Need Analysis;
- Traffic Counting.

The funding for these work program tasks is eighty (80) percent federal, and approximately fifteen (15) percent state, with the approximately five (5) percent local. The local share is funded fifty (50) percent by the county of Blair and fifty (50) percent by the twenty-four (24) municipalities collectively. The County of Blair also provides in-kind services such as office space, a vehicle and fuel for traffic counting activities.

The process for updating the transportation improvement program (TIP) and twelve (12) year program is ongoing and on a two (2) year cycle. During the first year of the cycle (which occurs in odd numbered years), projects are solicited from the twenty-four municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce, rail, transit, air, private providers, and the public. Anyone who wishes to give testimony on their proposed projects has the opportunity to do so before the State Transportation Commission (STC) at a locally held public hearing.

The second year of the process (which occurs in the even numbered years) involves the reviewing and setting priorities of projects and making the transportation improvement program (TIP) fiscally constrained. During mid summer, the MPO approves the TIP and the STC includes it in its adopted statewide TIP.

The land use element of the proposed areawide comprehensive plan should be used to help set project priorities of the long range plan, the twelve (12) year program, and the TIP. For instance, information regarding areas with the highest employment, population, and land demand projections should be used help prioritize highway and transit improvements.

Also relating to the land use element, PennDOT is in the process of contracting with consultants to create a

traffic projection model for the larger Altoona area. Our goal is to ensure that employment, population, and land demand projections from the areawide comprehensive plan are used in this model to ensure consistency between transportation planning and land use planning. The information derived from this model should also be used to help prioritize transportation projects.

For further details on policies and projects, please see the Long Range Plan for Blair County (Altoona MSA) 2003-2023, included in the Appendix.

Appendix

Long Range Plan for Blair County (Altoona MSA) 2003-2023 and Projects Included on the Transportation Improvements Plan, 2005-2008

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Blair County (August 2000)



Form and Function of Government

Introduction

This section is an overview of the Blair County government structure and administrative function. Information is provided on advisory commissions, authorities, and intergovernmental organizations that the Blair County Board of Commissioners participates in regarding regional affairs. This section also includes an inventory of land use tools and ordinances adopted by municipalities in Blair County and a review of existing comprehensive plans that have been adopted by Blair County and the twenty-four municipalities.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The Blair County governing body and supporting departments, authorities, boards, and commissions are responsible for providing services to residents in order to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the county.

Therefore, it is important to understand the administrative function and organization of the County Government. It is also important to understand the role and responsibility of the county in land use management and planning. The Municipalities Planning Code requires that all counties have a comprehensive plan and that counties comment on and review municipal plans, zoning, and subdivision and land development ordinances. The role of the Blair County Planning Commission will be discussed, as well as other County and regional planning organizations. Countywide and municipal plans are reviewed in order to identify consistency and discrepancy of goals and objectives.

I. TYPE OF GOVERNMENT

Blair County, established in 1846, is governed by a three member elected Board of Commissioners. The main responsibility of the Commissioners is the overall operation and administration of the government including county budgets, taxation, contracts, appointments of staff, authorities, commissions, and

boards. The County Commissioners must ensure that all county operations function smoothly by communicating with the row officers and other county officials. County finance officers include the controller, three auditors, and the treasurer.

Blair County elected officials (Row Officers) include:

- District Attorney: The District Attorney signs all bills of indictment and conducts all in-court prosecution in the name of the Commonwealth
- Controller: The Controller is the Chief Financial Officer in the county and is responsible for oversight of the county budget and fiscal affairs, and audits of all departments, offices, and agencies.
- Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for receipt, custody, and disbursement of all county monies and issuing of licenses
- Register of Wills/Recorder of Deeds: The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over the probate of wills and the granting of letters. He or she maintains records on wills, estates, fiduciary accounts, inheritance tax, and registration of licenses. The Recorder of Deeds is responsible for recording and maintaining information with regard to real property in the county, including deeds, mortgages, discharges, charters, articles of agreement, and other land records.
- Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts: The Prothonotary is the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, keeping records of all civil procedures, signing writs and processes, and filing copies of all records and processes. The Clerk of Courts serves as the chief clerk and recordkeeper for the criminal courts.
- Sheriff: The Sheriff is principally an officer of the court. The duties of Sheriff include delivering and carrying out the orders of the court. Administrative duties include serving writs and processing judicial documents. The Sheriff provides security for the courthouse and other county property and manages the county jail.
- Coroner: The Coroner investigates deaths of a suspicious and violent nature. The Coroner

performs autopsies and certifies the actual cause of death when it occurs without medical attention.

- Jury Commissioners: The Jury Commissioners' primary role is to select and appoint jurors for judicial proceedings.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The administrative function of Blair County is organized into county departments, authorities, and advisory commissions. The County Seat is the Borough of Hollidaysburg.

BLAIR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Blair County Departments have been established to provide special functions to residents that may not be provided on a municipal level. The following Blair County Departments are responsible for providing services to residents:

- Children and Youth Services
- Civil Defense
- Cost and Fines
- Court Administrator
- Data Processing
- Department of Office Services
- Domestic Relations
- Emergency Management ECC/911
- Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension
- Highway Department
- Human Services
- Juvenile Parole
- Law Library
- Mental Health
- Microfilm
- Personnel
- Prison
- Public Defender
- Purchasing
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Tax Claim
- Valley View Home
- Veteran's Affairs
- Voter Registration

AUTHORITIES AND ADVISORY COMMISSIONS

Authorities are established for specific purposes relating to a public service or facility that yields revenues to pay for construction, maintenance, and operation of the service or facility. Authorities make decisions that impact land use and development given that the availability of public services influences the type, amount, location, and intensity of development that can take place. Therefore it is critical to coordinate land use and infrastructure planning to be consistent with local planning goals and objectives.

The following is a list of authorities that should be consulted and coordinated with in the implementation of the Areawide Plan on both a county and municipal level.

Blair County Authorities and Commissions

- Airport Authority
- Convention & Sports Facilities Authority
- Hospital Authority
- Industrial Authority
- Planning Commission
- Redevelopment/Housing Authority
- Solid Waste Authority

City of Altoona Authorities

- Altoona City Authority
- Altoona Housing Authority
- Altoona-Logan Township Medical Emergency Department Authority
- Altoona Parking Authority
- Altoona Redevelopment Authority
- Transportation and Motor Buses for the Public Use Authority

Other Municipal Authorities

- Bellwood Borough Authority
- Bellwood Antis Township Park and Recreation Authority
- Duncansville Borough Municipal Authority
- Duncansville Borough Water and Sewer Authority
- Hollidaysburg Borough Water Authority
- Hollidaysburg Borough Sewer Authority
- Martinsburg Municipal Authority
- Roaring Spring Borough Municipal Authority
- Tyrone Municipal Authority
- Williamsburg Borough Municipal Authority
- Allegheny Township Sewer and Water Authority

- Blair Township Sewer and Water Authority
- Frankstown Township Sewer Authority
- Freedom Township Water and Sewer Authority
- Greenfield Township Water and Sewer Authority

Boards and committees act in an advisory and oversight capacity to Blair County departments and authorities.

Blair County Boards and Committees

- Behavioral Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board
- Children and Youth Services Advisory Board
- Penn State Cooperative Extension Board
- Conservation District Board
- Heritage Committee
- Human Services Advisory Board
- Library Board
- Private Industry Council
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Sanitary Administrative Committee
- Sesquicentennial Advisory Board
- Solid Waste Advisory Board
- Agriculture and Land Preservation Board
- Fort Roberdeau Association Board
- Airport Board
- Prison Board

III. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

One of the primary sources of local government and school district funds in Pennsylvania are property taxes levied by municipalities, school districts, and the county itself. Table 1.25 compares the 2004 property taxes of Blair County's municipalities. To properly compare the property taxes for municipalities in the county, school and county taxes are included.

Property taxes are expressed in terms of millage rates (a mill is one tenth of one cent). Generally speaking, the annual tax on a property is calculated by multiplying a property's assessed value by the applicable millage rate. In Blair County, however, every municipality and school district, except for the City of Altoona, uses only 75% of the property's assessed value (the City uses 100%) to calculate the tax. The assessed values in Blair County are expressed in terms of 1958 dollars -- the last year the county was reassessed.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Blair County consists of twenty-four (24) municipalities including the City of Altoona, eight (8) boroughs, and fifteen (15) townships. Not counted in these figures is Tunnelhill Borough, for which a portion of the Borough falls in Blair County and a portion in Cambria County.

As a governing body, Blair County is a member of several intergovernmental organizations and commissions. These organizations are both local and regional in nature. They work to address planning, transportation, and economic development issues that cross municipal and county borders. Blair County is a member of the following organizations:

Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC)

Created in 1964, the Blair County Planning Commission provides areawide comprehensive planning for Blair County and technical assistance to its member municipalities, according to the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Members of the BCPC include Blair County, the City of Altoona, and the eight (8) boroughs and fifteen (15) townships located in the county. The Commission consists of nine (9) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Three (3) members represent the City of Altoona, three (3) represent the eight (8) boroughs, and three (3) represent the fifteen (15) townships.

The MPO for Blair County

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County [Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)] is a policy making board of elected and appointed officials that provides a forum for regional transportation planning and programming. The MPO's Board consists of eleven (11) voting members.

The MPO's role is to ensure that federal and state requirements are met to keep the Blair County certified to receive federal and state funds for transportation plans, programs and projects. To do this, the MPO performs the activities required in its annual Unified Planning Work Program.

The Blair County Planning Commission (BCPC) houses and staffs the MPO for Blair County, with additional

assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Altoona Metro Transit (AMTRAN) and the private sector, as needed.

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission

The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission is a six county consortium representing Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties. The Commission is a venue for the counties to come together to address issues related to workforce development, job training, and entrepreneurial development. The Commission's overall mission is to encourage the creation and retention of jobs in the region and improve the quality of life for the residents.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDINANCES

The County of Blair does not administer or implement ordinances such as the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain regulations or building, housing, electrical, plumbing, fire, and property maintenance codes. Such ordinances are administered on a local level by municipality.

VI. LAND USE TOOLS

Comprehensive planning and land use ordinances are the primary land use implementation tools used by municipalities in Blair County. Table 1.26 is an inventory of the land use tools, including comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision and land development ordinances, that have been adopted by Blair County municipalities.

As of 2004:

- Thirteen (13) of the twenty-four (24) municipalities have comprehensive plans. However, only four of the plans are four (4) years old or less.
- Nineteen (19) of the twenty-four (24) municipalities have subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Nine (9) of the twenty-four (24) municipalities have zoning ordinances.

VII. HISTORIC AND NATURAL FEATURES PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Only one municipality in Blair County has a Historic Preservation District, adopted according to Act 167 of the Historic Preservation Act. The Hollidaysburg Historic District is part of the Hollidaysburg Zoning Ordinance adopted in 1997. The Historic District is implemented as a Historic Resources Overlay District.

Structures in the Historic District, roughly identified as the Hollidaysburg downtown area, are classified based on their contribution to the overall character and integrity of the district. According to the district provisions, no permits shall be issued for the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or razing of any structure in the Historic District unless it is in accordance with the requirements of the district. Standards for alteration of structures and new construction of structures are established in order to maintain the historic character of the district.

VIII. REVIEW OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County

The Blair County Planning Commission created its first Areawide Comprehensive Plan in 1972. Plan updates have been conducted since that time to individual sections of the plan, but the 2005 Areawide Plan is the first comprehensive update to the County Areawide Plan since 1972.

Changes have taken place since 1972 that warrant a comprehensive update to the Areawide Plan. According to the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Counties are required to have a comprehensive plan, and to update the plan every ten (10) years. In addition, recent amendments to the Municipalities Planning Code enabled multi-municipal planning and new tools for municipalities for land use and growth management. Changes in the MPC have placed a stronger emphasis on the preservation of natural resources, farmland, and cultural and historic resources. This update to the Areawide Plan addresses relevant issues with respect to

planning and quality of life within the context of changes to the MPC and the current social and demographic trends in Blair County.

The 1972 Areawide Plan focuses on four key planning elements. They include: 1) Land Use; 2) Transportation; 3) Community Facilities; and 4) Public Utilities. The plan emphasizes the importance of developing local level (municipal) plans within the context of the Areawide Comprehensive Plan.

Land Use

When the Areawide Plan was adopted in 1972, approximately 9.5% of Blair County was developed, 27% was in agricultural use and the remaining land was primarily undeveloped. At that time, the preference for suburban housing was evident with decreasing populations in the City of Altoona and the Borough of Tyrone. The overall land use goal of the plan is to achieve the orderly and efficient transformation of open land into residential, commercial, and industrial areas to accommodate the population. The plan advocates for future development based on a “centers” concept, in which new growth is concentrated in and around more heavily populated cities and boroughs. It was suggested that this development pattern would allow for the most efficient and effective use of the county’s resources. The plan projects that this development patterns will occur by 1990.

Under the centers (or multi-nuclei) concept, a mixture of low, medium, and high-density residential are provided in each development concentration, with smaller commercial establishments in each neighborhood. Central business districts provide an all-inclusive range of products and services, and industrial parks encouraged in close proximity to the centers. Strip style development is discouraged and open space and farmland is preserved in areas surrounding and between each development center.

Development centers identified in the 1972 Areawide Plan include the City of Altoona and the eight boroughs in the county. Other small centers include Bald Eagle in Snyder Township, Elberta in Tyrone Township, Canoe Lake in Frankstown Township, Lernnersville/East Freedom in Freedom and Blair Townships, and Claysburg in Greenfield Township.

The Land Use Element of the 1972 Areawide Plan was updated in 1977. The update includes an assessment of the impact of the centers (multi-nuclei) concept on the environment, concluding that this development pattern's impact is primarily beneficial.

Transportation

The plan states that, "Blair County's future growth and development is dependent, to a large extent, on the adequacy of the area's transportation system."

Adequate access to and from Blair County is vital to linking the county with major metropolitan centers to the east (Philadelphia and other east coast cities), and to the west (Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, and midwestern cities). The plan emphasizes the need to explore all types of transportation options for Blair County as an integrated transportation system composed of roads for cars and trucks, mass transit, rail, air, bicycle/pedestrian, and other modes of transit.

The major transportation goals of the plan are to provide an efficient, safe, and economical transportation system to move people and goods that promotes better communication, makes better use of neighboring resources, and create a greater choice of living and working conditions. The plan identifies the adequacies, deficiencies, future needs, and recommendations for highways systems, parking, and mass transit.

Other transportation planning efforts that related to the Areawide Plan include The Altoona Area Transportation Study (1965) and more recently The Long Range Plan for Blair County, which was completed in 1994 and updated in 1997. The Long Range Plan for Blair County was prepared by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Blair County in accordance with the requirements of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) of 1998.

Community Facilities

The goal for the community facilities element of the Areawide Plan is to increase the livability and attractiveness of the county through the adequate provision of a wide range of community facilities which are easily accessible to the public.

The plan analyzes existing community facilities and identifies deficiencies and future needs or improvements for community facilities in Blair County. For the purpose of the 1972 Areawide Plan, community facilities include municipal buildings, schools, libraries, museums and historic sites, park and recreation sites, police and fire, civil defense, hospitals, homes for the aged, social and welfare services, and correctional facilities. The following conclusions and recommendations are made:

- Adequate municipal facilities are required for the operation of local government. Rural areas should consider sharing of facilities to house local government offices.
- Educational facilities must be upgraded to meet nationally recommended standards
- Library facilities do not meet standards established by the American Library Association
- The County lacks an adequate museum facility to reflect its rich history
- Sites of historic significance should be acquired, restored, and preserved
- Local recreational needs are apparent and it is recommended that more detailed planning and programming for recreational facilities take place
- The Open Space Acquisition and Development Program identifies policies and priorities for open space Acquisition in order to provide recreation areas, protect natural resources, and provide economic development opportunities
- Ambulance coverage throughout the county is adequate, but quality varies
- Police and fire services generally meet residents needs, but changes in population and development patterns will increase demand for facilities, equipment, and services
- There is a need for expanded and improved hospital facilities to serve residents

Public Utilities

The public utility goal of the 1972 Areawide Plan is to provide adequate water, sewer, and solid waste disposal services to the developed and developing areas of the county to ensure a safe and clean environment in which residents live and work. Recommendations are made to alleviate deficiencies in the public utility systems and provide for future utility needs.

A separate Areawide Water and Sewer Plan was prepared by Gwin Engineers, Inc. for the 1972 Areawide Plan.

The plan identifies a three, five, and ten-year program designed to fulfill the twenty-year plan.

The provision of adequate water service is developed areas of Blair County is a challenge because the county lies at the headwaters of the Juniata River, providing little watershed area upstream from the developed parts of the county; pollution of water from mine drainage, malfunctioning on-lot systems, and industrial waste; rapid urban development where extending service is cost prohibitive.

Existing water service is located in the City of Altoona and the Boroughs. The plan evaluates water systems in each municipality, identifies deficiencies, and makes recommendations for improvements to meet future needs. The plan evaluates the small village water systems as well, including Claysburg, Clover Creek, East Sharpsburg, Ganister, Greenfield Park, Henrietta, Point View, Sproul, and Tipton. It also identifies built-up areas that are in need of adequate water service in the next five to ten years. The Ducansville to Tyrone area is served by five (5) different municipal authorities and two private water companies. The plan recommends a single water or unified water supplier for this area.

Sewer service areas are also limited to the City of Altoona and the county boroughs. The plan finds that the provision of adequate sewer facilities to suburban and fringe developments is difficult due to inability of the soils to support on-lot systems. The plan evaluates areas served by a different sewage treatment plants and providers and identifies future needs and improvements for each system.

Plan Implementation

Various local government entities were charged with implementation of the 1972 Areawide Plan, including Township Supervisors, Borough Councils, City Council, and the Board of County Commissioners. The main implementation tools identified for the 1972 Areawide Plan include subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances, capital improvements programs, and the Areawide Review process. The on-going program for implementation included community outreach and education efforts that recognized the value of public input and citizen participation.

Municipal Comprehensive Plans

Municipal comprehensive plans exist for the following municipalities:

- Allegheny Township (2003)
- Altoona (2000)
- Antis Township (1996)
- Blair Township (1978)
- Catharine Township (1974)
- Hollidaysburg Borough (1982)
- Logan Township (1999)
- Martinsburg Borough (1972)
- North Woodbury Township (1972)
- Roaring Spring Borough (1968)
- Tyrone Borough (1974)
- Williamsburg Borough (1974)
- Woodbury Township (1974)

Plans were reviewed to identify the main goals and objectives, the future land use plans, and the recommendations for implementation. It was noted whether or not each plan identifies inter-governmental cooperation goals and steps taken to coordinate with neighboring municipalities and the county. A summary of the plans is included in the Section I Appendix. The future land use maps from all the municipal comprehensive plans are summarized in an aggregated future land use map in Section II.

OTHER COUNTY PLANNING EFFORTS

Blair County has completed the following plans, which are referenced in Section I:

Long Range Plan for Blair County (Altoona MSA), 1994 (updated in 1997).

Municipal Waste Management Plan for Blair County, Update Revision of the Plan of May 1991 (Act 101).

Beaverdam Branch Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, May 2000.

Sources

The Areawide Comprehensive Plan for Blair County. Prepared by the Blair County Planning Commission, August, 1972.

COMPARISON OF 2004 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

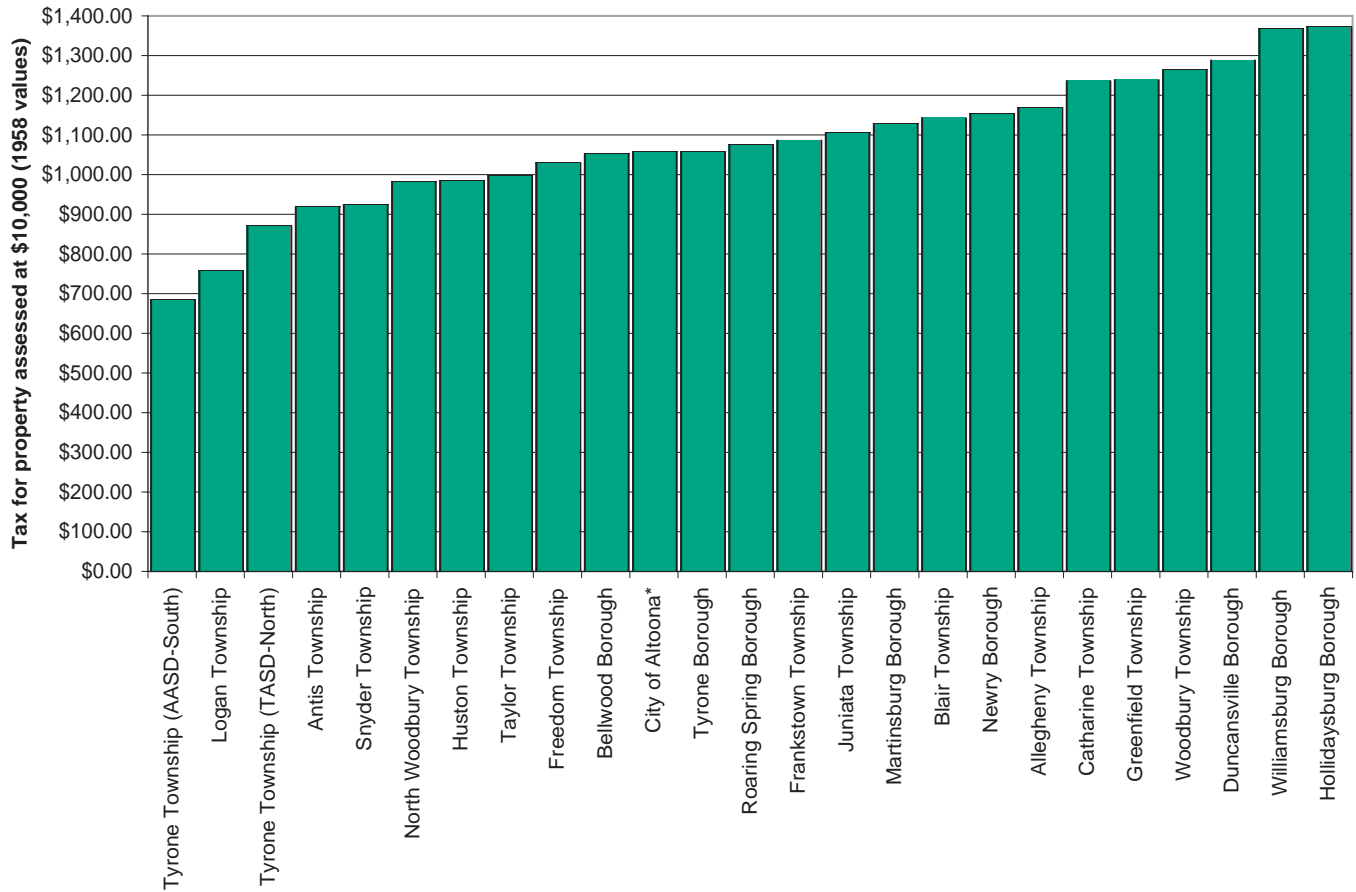


Table 1.25 COMPARISON OF 2004 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

Municipality	Municipal Millage	School District Millage	County Millage	Total Millage	Tax for Property Assessed at \$10,000**
Tyrone Township (AASD-South)	4.00	57.00	30.50	91.50	\$686.25
Logan Township	13.50	57.00	30.50	101.00	\$757.50
Tyrone Township (TASD-North)	4.00	81.71	30.50	116.21	\$871.58
Antis Township	6.00	86.00	30.50	122.50	\$918.75
Snyder Township	11.00	81.71	30.50	123.21	\$924.08
North Woodbury Township	3.66	97.00	30.50	131.16	\$983.70
Huston Township	4.00	97.00	30.50	131.50	\$986.25
Taylor Township	5.50	97.00	30.50	133.00	\$997.50
Freedom Township	10.00	97.00	30.50	137.50	\$1,031.25
Bellwood Borough	24.00	86.00	30.50	140.50	\$1,053.75
City of Altoona*	40.26	57.00	30.50	127.76	\$1,058.85
Tyrone Borough	29.00	81.71	30.50	141.21	\$1,059.08
Roaring Spring Borough	16.00	97.00	30.50	143.50	\$1,076.25
Frankstown Township	0.00	114.50	30.50	145.00	\$1,087.50
Juniata Township	2.50	114.50	30.50	147.50	\$1,106.25
Martinsburg Borough	23.00	97.00	30.50	150.50	\$1,128.75
Blair Township	7.50	114.50	30.50	152.50	\$1,143.75
Newry Borough	9.00	114.50	30.50	154.00	\$1,155.00
Allegheny Township	11.00	114.50	30.50	156.00	\$1,170.00
Catharine Township	6.50	128.00	30.50	165.00	\$1,237.50
Greenfield Township	8.00	126.82	30.50	165.32	\$1,239.90
Woodbury Township	10.00	128.00	30.50	168.50	\$1,263.75
Duncansville Borough	27.00	114.50	30.50	172.00	\$1,290.00
Williamsburg Borough	24.00	128.00	30.50	182.50	\$1,368.75
Hollidaysburg Borough	38.00	114.50	30.50	183.00	\$1,372.50

*Altoona's municipal millage is applied to %100 of assessed value (note that general, debt, recreation, and shade tree millages have been included in the City's millage). All other millages in Blair County (including all school districts) are applied to only 75% of assessed value. Altoona also taxes land and buildings seperately.

**This represents \$10,000 in 1958 values, when Blair County was last reassessed. Property tax equals mills (a mill is one tenth of a cent) times assessed value.

Source: Blair County Planning Commission

Table 1.26 Land Use Tools by Municipality, Blair County

Municipality	Comprehensive Plan	Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance	Zoning Ordinance	Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan
Allegheny Township	Y (2003)	Y (1996)	N	Y (1989)
Altoona City	Y (2000)	Y (1978)	Y (1993)	Y
Antis Township	Y (1996)	Y (1994)	N	Y (1993)
Bellwood Borough	N	N	N	Y (1987)
Blair Township	Y (1978)	Y (1997)	N	Y (1994)
Catharine Township	Y (1974)	Y (date unknown)	N	N
Duncansville Borough	N	Y (1992)	Y (1979)	Y (1991)
Frankstown Township	N	Y (1991)	Y (1981)	Y (1994)
Freedom Township	N	Y (1987)	N	Y (1989)
Greenfield Township	N	Y (1994)	N	Y (2000)
Hollidaysburg Borough	Y (1982)	Y (1982)	Y (1990)	Y (1990)
Huston Township	N	Y (1997)	N	N
Juniata Township	N	N	N	N
Logan Township	Y (1999)	Y (1979)	Y (1979)	Y (1994)
Martinsburg Borough	Y (1972)	N	Y (1972)	Y (1986)
Newry Borough	N	N	N	Y (w/Blair Township)
North Woodbury Township	Y (1972)	Y (1997)	N	Y (w/Martinsburg Borough)
Roaring Spring Borough	Y (1968)	Y (1967)	Y (1993)	Y (1985)
Snyder Township	N	Y (1993)	N	Y (2000)
Taylor Township	N	Y (1997)	N	N
Tunnelhill Borough	N	N	N	N
Tyrone Borough	Y (1974)	Y (1977)	Y (1994)	Y (1995)
Tyrone Township	N	Y (1984)	N	N
Williamsburg Borough	Y (1974)	N	Y (1975)	Y (w/Woodbury Twp)
Woodbury Township	Y (1974)	Y (date?)	N	Y (1997)

Source: Blair County Planning Commission (06/2004)



Quality of Life in Blair County: Citizen's Perspective

A county comprehensive plan must address the needs and concerns of residents. In order to do so, community input is required. Several public input methods were used to identify what the community values and specific issues to be addressed in the plan. Included in this section is a summary of the results of the public input meetings held at the beginning of the planning process and the questionnaire that was randomly distributed to residents to assess factors that contribute to quality of life in the County.

I. REGIONAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS - ROUND 1

OVERVIEW

The public meetings served several purposes: 1) as an education and awareness building tool to inform residents of the plan, the issues it will address, and the process used to update the Areawide Plan and 2) to give residents the opportunity to provide feedback on planning related issues that affect local communities and residents. Public meetings were conducted in the seven planning regions according to the following schedule:

Public meeting locations included:

- Region 1: Tyrone, March 26, 2003
- Region 2: Bellwood-Antis, April 21, 2003
- Region 3: Altoona, May 6, 2003
- Region 4: Williamsburg, May 13, 2003
- Region 5: Hollidaysburg, April 29, 2003
- Region 6: Claysburg-Kimmel, April 28, 2003
- Region 7: Morrisons Cove, March 31, 2003

At each public meeting, the Blair County Planning Commission and the consulting team consisting of Pashek Associates and Wade VanLandingham gave a brief presentation on the planning process.

The public meetings were designed to solicit feedback from everyone in attendance using a structured public participation process called Nominal Group Technique

(NGT). Each person was given the opportunity to voice what they like about their community and Blair County, what they see as existing or emerging issues, and what they would like their community to look like in the future. The following questions were posed to stimulate discussion and public comment.

- What elements of Blair County or your local community do you like and would like to see continue into the future?
- What elements of Blair County or your local community would you like to change?
- What issues, needs, challenges, or opportunities do you see facing Blair County or your local community (now and in the future)?

KEY THEMES

At each public meeting, participants were given the opportunity to prioritize comments that were provided by residents. Using this prioritization process, several issues emerged as important to all the planning regions:

- **Land use and Growth management:** Managing land use and future growth were medium to high priorities in all regions. Region 3 comments related to allowing for future housing growth and providing adequate utilities and infrastructure. In Region 2, there was support for preparing for spillover growth from Centre County. In Regions 3, 5, and 7 there is a desire to control outward growth (limit sprawl) and focus on revitalization of existing neighborhoods and downtowns. High priority comments also focused on land use tools for revitalization and growth management such as zoning and growth boundaries.
- **Farmland preservation:** Preserving farmland, forestland, and woodlands, and maintaining the agricultural/rural character of the planning regions and the County are a high priority for residents that attended the public meetings.
- **Economic development:** Economic growth and job creation were among the top issues raised at the public meetings in all the planning regions. Comments focused on developing a skilled and educated workforce and retaining/attracting quality jobs. Encouraging and retaining industries were high priorities in Region 1 and Region 4. Residents in Region 2 simply posed the open-ended question to

the group - how should we promote and manage economic development in our area? Residents in other regions made the connection between the quality of life in Blair County and the quality of job opportunities available to residents, especially those in the 20-34 age category.

- **Environmental protection:** Protecting sensitive environmental resources such as riparian buffers, floodplains, and forests were another high priority of public meeting participants. Water resource protection and stormwater management was also cited as important for protecting groundwater and surface water in Blair County.
- **Municipal cooperation:** A reoccurring theme was improving and/or facilitating municipal cooperation between all levels of local government. Some comments referred to the merger of municipalities (ex. Bellwood-Antis) and other comments focused on more cooperation between the County and municipalities, and between individual municipalities (boroughs and townships).
- **Education:** Comments on education were also a top priority of all regions. Comments ranged from sustaining the existing high quality educational system/schools to taking advantage of educational opportunities to develop a more skilled and adaptable workforce. Other high priority comments focused on diversifying educational programs (ex. environmental education).

Additional medium to high priority issues that emerged at the public input meetings include:

- Creating recreational opportunities and developing trails and greenways
- Providing for different housing types
- Balancing land uses and future growth (economic development and environmental protection)
- Maintaining/improving quality of life (low cost of living, recreational opportunities, jobs, quality education, good place for children/families)
- Updating and enforcing ordinances
- Revitalizing neighborhoods and downtowns
- Updating and expanding infrastructure and services (police, emergency response- 911) to accommodate existing and future needs (natural gas, water/sewer, roads)

THEMES SPECIFIC TO EACH PLANNING REGION

Region 1

Region 1 includes the Borough of Tyrone, Snyder Township, and Tyrone Township. The highest priority comments in region 1 included:

- Retain larger industries and encourage job creation
- Preserve farmland and forests
- Maintain quality schools
- Maintain good water quality
- Preserve riparian buffers and floodplains
- Enable new housing development
- Maintain public services to keep communities safe
- Evenly dispersing public housing
- Develop a countywide environmental education program
- Create outdoor recreational opportunities

Medium priorities focused on quality of life issues such as neighborhood quality, recreational opportunities, cost of living; providing for and identifying resources for adequate utilities and infrastructure; encouraging consistent ordinances; and encouraging high-tech and environmentally friendly business development.

Region 2

Region 2 includes the Borough of Bellwood and Antis Township. The highest priority comments in Region 2 included:

- Preserve farmland, forest, and freshwater resources
- Develop water/sewer infrastructure
- Protect floodplains from development
- Create bike and hiking trails for recreation
- Groundwater protection
- Consider a municipal merger (Bellwood-Antis) for funding purposes
- Identify how to promote/manage economic development
- Stormwater management
- Evaluate and prepare for growth from Centre County
- Promote better land use planning

Medium priority issues focused on improving land use planning and implementation of plans, allocating

resources for public services in order to maintain public safety, and developing recreational and trail opportunities.

Region 3

Region 3 includes the city of Altoona and Logan Township. The highest priority comments in Region 3 included:

- Focus development and build on assets in downtown areas to re-identify Altoona as a core to county - restrict sprawl
- Continue to promote the quality of life through family and sustaining jobs - improve the amount of quality jobs
- Reuse existing brownfield and vacant sites
- Create strong neighborhoods - keep neighborhoods intact and preserve older neighborhoods
- Strong leadership at the County level - look at more than individual municipalities
- Develop a votech/skilled workforce in greater Altoona
- Develop a strategy to balance development and environmental issues to guide economic development
- Preserve Farmland
- Preserve open space and create greater density developments
- Balance of industry, agricultural land, and other uses

The top issues identified tended to focus on revitalizing the City of Altoona and its neighborhoods through development efforts that build on the existing assets in the city and reuse of vacant industrial sites. Attracting and maintaining quality jobs and developing a skilled workforce were also top priority issues for those attending the Region 3 public meeting. Medium priority issues focused on the following: engaging youth in the community; enhancing industry, manufacturing, and high-tech jobs; recognizing the economic benefits of natural resources; the lack of zoning; focusing on higher education to improve image; and improving recreational/cultural opportunities.

Region 4

Region 4 includes Catherine Township, Woodbury Township, and Williamsburg Borough. The highest priority comments include:

- Need more cooperation between County and townships
- Need more industry in the area (Region 4 specifically)
- Need new roadways in the eastern part of the County (Region 4 specifically)
- Improve perception of the school district by outsiders
- Further develop the County greenways plan
- Expand regional sewer infrastructure
- Support economic growth by supporting the banking community
- Resolve the 9-1-1 emergency dispatch situation
- Need more intergovernmental cooperation on historic preservation
- Expand and develop natural gas infrastructure

Region 5

Region 5 includes Hollidaysburg, Allegheny Township, Juniata Township, Blair Township, and Frankstown Township. The highest priority comments in Region 5 included:

- Tailor education to meet future job markets for Blair County
- Agricultural Preservation
- More jobs for 20-34 age group - information technology
- Land use controls to redevelop existing urban areas
- Woodlands Preservation
- Funding - how should controls be implemented
- Code Enforcement for garbage, junk cars, blighted properties
- Better land use controls - growth boundaries and better use of land
- Greenway to Pittsburgh and other riparian buffers
- Need more recreational opportunities for teens and seniors

Medium priority goals included the following: supporting economic development through regional infrastructure and intergovernmental cooperation; water and sewer infrastructure expansion; identifying suitable and unsuitable areas for development; and protecting water resources.

Region 6

Region 6 encompasses Greenfield Township. The highest priority comments in Region 6 included:

- Attract better paying jobs as an incentive to keep people in the area and to increase levels of educational attainment
- Pursue more professional and service industries and education related jobs
- Would like to see zoning used to designate land uses in Greenfield Township
- Implement recommendations of the Juniata Watershed Management Plan
- Maintain Agricultural Land
- Value the work ethic and character of rural people in the area
- Quality Health Care
- More Countywide cooperation between municipalities and the County (especially w/Greenfield)
- Better and more communication between government and people - talk to people before making a decision that affects the public and provide them with all information to educate people on their options Twp)
- Maintain water quality for public drinking water and recreation

Medium priorities included the following: improving government/citizen communication, maintaining water quality, eliminating illegal dumps, highlighting cultural opportunities and preserving historic resources, and stormwater management.

Region 7

Region 7 includes the townships of Freedom, Taylor, North Woodbury, and Huston, Roaring Spring Borough, and Martinsburg Borough. The highest priority comments included:

- Maintain and preserve agricultural land
- Protect groundwater resources (wells)
- Control sprawl to do better planning (control speed of development)
- Job creation and retention
- Better cooperation between municipalities in planning (especially between the boroughs and townships)
- Completion of the I-99 extension - for economic development and land use
- Improve transportation systems and access to homes and facilities in Region 7
- Protect the Roaring Spring

- Create meaningful family supporting jobs and reduce retail (ex. enterprise zones)
- Complete improvements to Rt.22, Rt. 36, and Rt. 164 to better serve the Cove

Medium priority comments focused on the following: creating more recreational opportunities; addressing stormwater management; promoting Morrisons Cove within the community; developing/promoting the "creative class"; water and sewer infrastructure; and improving quality of life

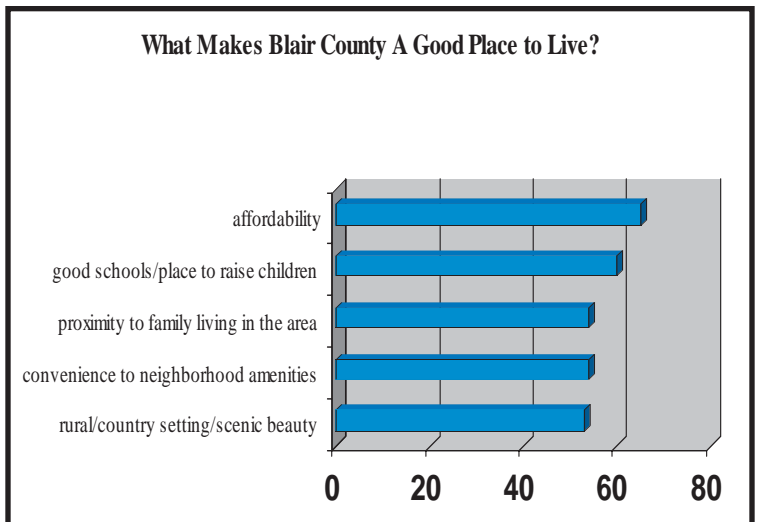
II. SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of the public participation process, 7000 questionnaires were mailed out to Blair County residents with the aim of receiving a statistically significant response from each of the seven planning regions. The survey asked residents specific questions about their perceptions of the quality of life in the area. The questionnaire also allowed respondents to provide personal, handwritten responses in several instances. Of the 7,000 mailed, 1,121 questionnaires were returned (16% response rate) and all answers were tabulated. A 95% confidence interval was calculated to determine how confident we can be that the information collected from the survey is representative of the entire population of Blair County. The 95% confidence interval for this sample is +/- 2.7%, meaning that 95 out of 100 repeated applications of the survey would yield similar results within 2.7% of the responses collected. A summary of the responses follows.

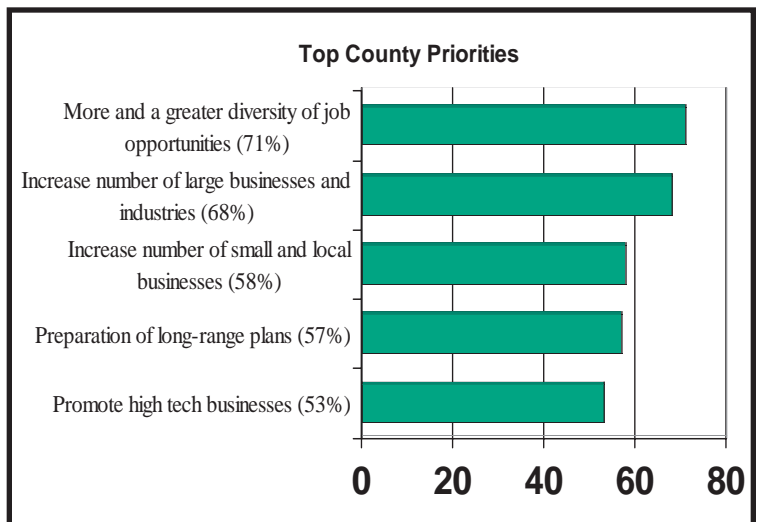
It should be understood that not all respondents answered every question and, in a very small number of cases, answers could not be read. Therefore, for each question, percentages were calculated on the total number of respondents that actually answered that question and whose responses could be interpreted.

Likes and Dislikes (Questions 1 & 2) - Those responding to the survey indicated that the things they most like about living in Blair County are its affordability (65%), good schools and place to raise children (60%), proximity to family living in the area (54%), convenience to neighborhood amenities (54%), and rural/country setting/scenic beauty (53%). When

asked what they dislike about living in Blair County, respondents most often selected the lack of interesting job opportunities, scarcity of cultural and educational opportunities, and crime. Many who wrote in responses about their dislikes spoke of increasing drug problems, a surplus of retail/low-wage jobs, and a failure to provide programs and opportunities for youth and young graduates as problems in the County.



County Priorities (Questions 3, 4 & 9) - Four out of the top five County priorities selected by respondents relate to job creation. Preparation of long-range plans to set goals for the County also emerged as one of the top five priorities.



Respondents were also asked to prioritize public spending among a list of six categories. More than half (57%) designated spending for economic/business development as the first priority, and 86% ranked this category within the top three spending priorities.

Seventy-one percent (71%) chose infrastructure, and 52% selected transportation as one of their top three spending priorities.

When asked to agree or disagree with a list of statements, the highest percentage of those who answered (92%) concurred that it is important to support the family farm. A substantial, but smaller, percentage (81%) agreed that preservation of farmland should occur even if it limits development. Respondents also strongly agreed that it is important to support the sharing of services (89%), that housing rehabilitation is vital (84%), and that it is more important to maintain existing roads than to build new ones (77%).

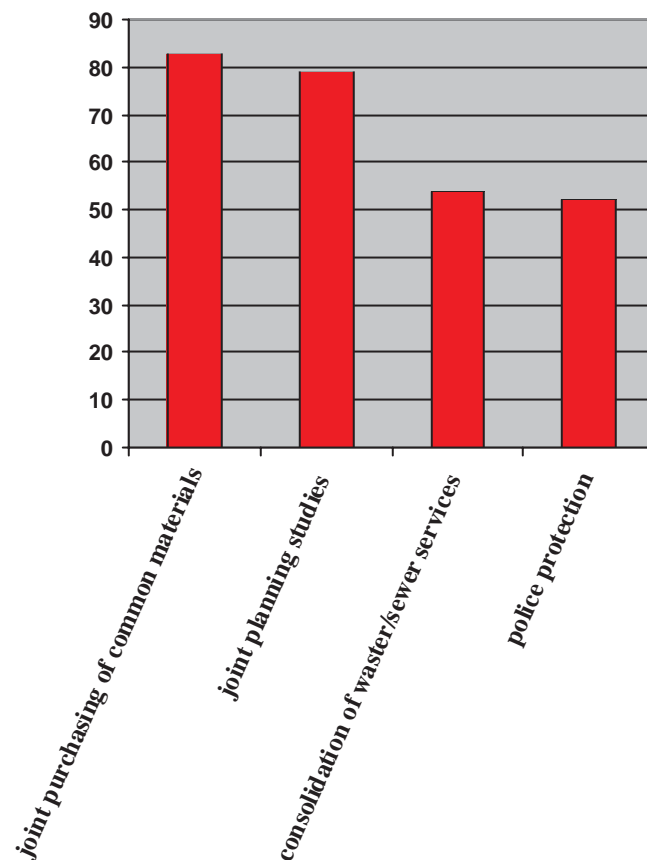
Economic/Business Development (Questions 5 & 6) -

Nearly 95% of those answering indicated that they support providing incentives such as tax breaks, grants and infrastructure improvements to encourage businesses to locate in Blair County. Seventy four percent (74%) of respondents indicated that when implementing a development strategy, public agencies must focus on both attracting new businesses, as well as, improving existing business districts.

Land Use Controls (Questions 7, 8 & 10) - When asked if they were in favor of controlling land uses for particular purposes, two-thirds of respondents (66%) said they approved of controls when needed to prevent conflicting adjacent land uses. Fifty-five percent (55%) favored controls to conserve open space and 53% approved of them when needed to preserve agricultural land. The questionnaire also asked residents whether they favored unrestricted housing development or some restrictions on new housing to preserve open space. Seventy-four percent (74%) of those who expressed an opinion felt housing growth should be balanced with land preservation. However, more than half the respondents (56%) indicated that they are against all land use regulations that restrict use of private land.

Sharing and Consolidation of Local Services (Question 11) - Residents were also questioned about their receptiveness to sharing or consolidation of certain municipal services. Eighty-three percent (83%) voiced support for joint purchasing of common materials, while 79% agreed that joint planning studies were worth pursuing. Just over half the respondents indicated support for consolidation of water/sewer services (54%) and police protection (52%).

Interest in Shared Municipal Services



Increased Development (Question 12) - When asked whether residents would like to see more development of any type in their municipalities, most respondents answered affirmatively. Thirty-six percent (36%) wanted to see more development anywhere in their communities, while 49% indicated that development was desirable if limited to certain areas.

Access to Amenities (Question 16) - The survey also asked residents to indicate whether they would like greater access to a list of amenities. The highest percentage of respondents (48%) indicated that greater trail access was desired. One third of those answering indicated they would like more access to parks, while less than a third stated they wanted better access to recycling (29%), community centers (21%), and libraries (16%). In written comments, however, respondents most often voiced a need for more places for youth activities (playgrounds, youth centers, baseball fields, swimming pools and ATV trails). The need for more shopping (grocery and department stores) was also

frequently cited. Several commenters also called for greater access to cultural opportunities such as theatres and live music venues.

Future of Blair County (Final Write-in Question) - The top three issues raised in written comments were (1) the importance of quality job creation; (2) the need to address the increasing drug and crime problems; (3) the preference for redeveloping existing areas over "greenfield" development.

By far the largest number of commenters stated that attracting new business to create jobs is the most pressing issue for Blair County. The majority of them stated that these jobs must be high paying, full-time positions with benefits and not minimum-wage retail jobs. Many respondents talked of children and grandchildren leaving the area to find employment. Others spoke about families with two working parents unable to make ends meet due to low-wage jobs. Other respondents added that business incentives and fewer restrictions on new business are needed.



Many commenters talked about the increasing drug and crime problems in the County and stressed that these issues need to be brought under control. Some respondents felt that more youth activities/facilities would give young people other outlets. Others stated that too many drug rehabilitation centers and Section 8/low-rent housing have come into the area. Many agreed that the drug and crime problem is destroying city neighborhoods and quality of life for many residents.

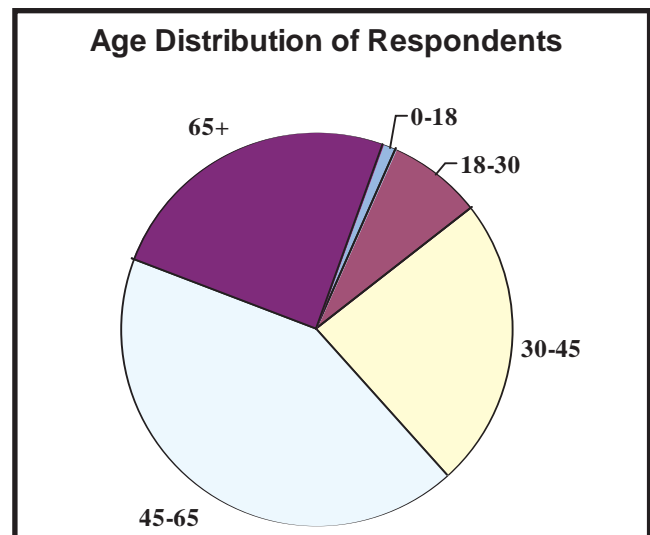
The need to rehabilitate dilapidated or vacant structures before building new ones was also raised repeatedly. Several stated that this was important to prevent continued "sprawl" development. Other commenters

suggested demolishing rundown housing and replacing it with new residential units. The need for conserving open space and environmental assets in the County was also stressed by commenters.



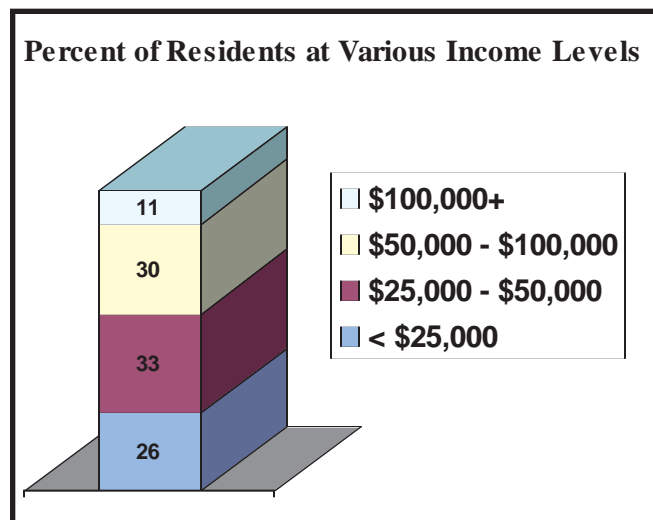
Other issues raised by 10 or more respondents were 1) opposition to the privatization of the local water/sewer system; 2) support for municipal consolidations (Altoona - Logan or Countywide); 3) the need for lower taxes; and 4) the need for better road maintenance.

Respondent Profiles (Questions 13 - 15 & 17 - 21) - More than two thirds (68%) of the residents responding to the questionnaire are over 45 years old, with 25% of the total number of respondents over 65 years of age. Fewer than 10% are under 30 years old.



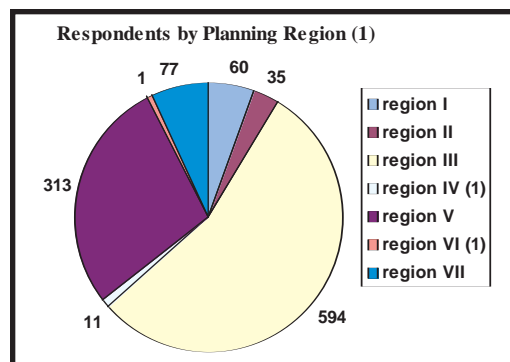
Respondents are well educated. Thirty-four percent (34%) are high school graduates, 22% have some college education and 42% hold a college degree. However, more than half of them have household incomes of less than \$50,000 per year. One third of those answering (33%) make between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year, while about one-fourth (26%) earn

less than \$25,000. This may be due to the relatively high number of retirement age respondents, as well as the scarce employment opportunities, that was commented on by many respondents. However, nearly one-third (30%) of the respondents report having household incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 11% earn more than \$100,000.



A substantial majority (84%) of respondents own their own homes. Almost half (48%) indicated that they have lived in their home or community for more than 15 years. Thirty-two percent (32%) have lived in the same place from 5 to 15 years, while 20 % moved in within the last 5 years.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents live in cities or boroughs, while 38% reside in townships. More than half (51%) of the respondents answering the survey live in the City of Altoona or Hollidaysburg Borough. The breakdown of respondents by planning region is illustrated in the pie chart below.



(1) Because the response from Regions IV and VI was not substantial, the comprehensive plan cannot draw broad conclusions about the residents in these regions or compare responses from this region with those from other planning regions.

When asked how best to contact them about Blair County programs, services and other information, most respondents indicated newspapers (70%) and television (65%) would be most effective.

CROSS-TABULATION ANALYSIS

The following summarizes the similarities and differences between the responses to select questions in the survey by region, age, and income. It should be noted that conclusions could not be drawn for Region 4 and Region 6 due to the low response rates from these two regions. In addition, conclusions cannot be drawn for responses in the under 18-age group due to low response rates in that category.

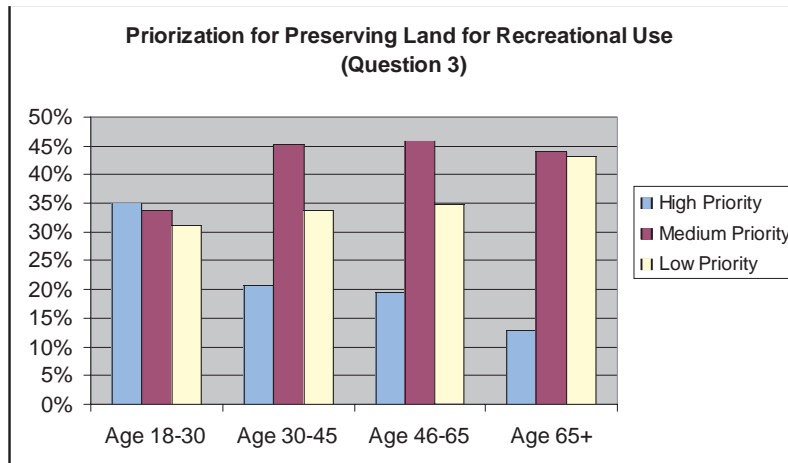
What do you not like about where you live - Crime (Question 2)

Region 3 (Altoona Area) had the highest percent (33% or 1/3) of respondents identify crime as an aspect they dislike about their community. Region 3 is followed by Region 1 (Tyrone Area), where 23% of respondents identified crime as a dislike. Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) and Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) had a very low percentage of respondents identifying crime as a dislike (3% and 4%, respectively).

Preserve Land for Recreational Use (Question 3)

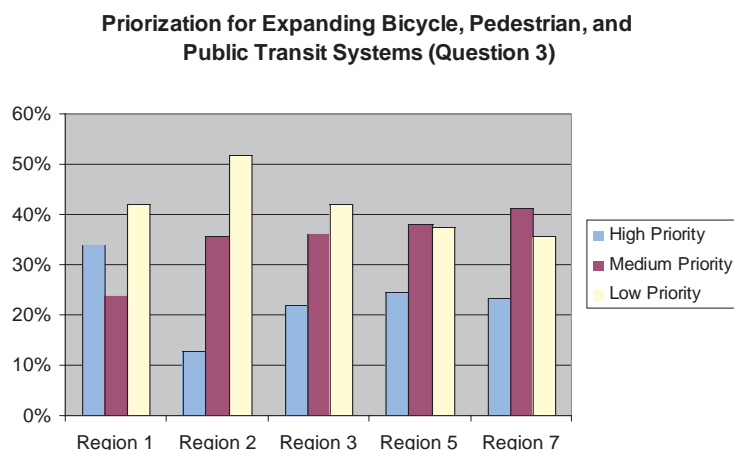
There is very little discrepancy between the regions in prioritizing the preservation of land for recreational use. All regions had roughly the same percent of respondents state that preserving land for recreational use is a high priority, ranging from 18% to 23%.

Excluding the under 18 age category, the percentage of respondents who indicated that the preservation of land for recreational use is a high priority decreased as age increased. The 18-30 age group had the highest percent of respondents state that land for recreational use is a high priority (35%). Those age 65 and over had the lowest percent of respondents rank this as a high priority (13%).



Expand Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transportation Systems (Question 3)

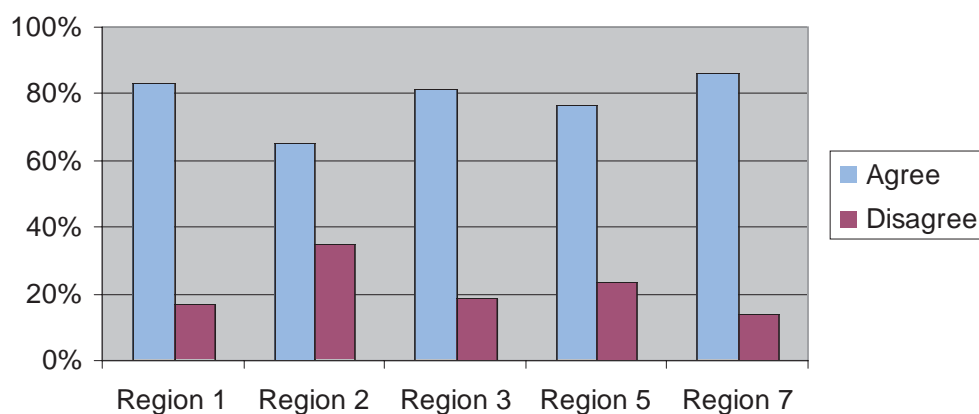
Region 1 (Tyrone Area) had the highest percent (34%) of respondents rank expanding bike, pedestrian, and public transportation a high priority. Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) had the lowest percent (13%) of respondents ranking this as a high priority. Region 3 (Altoona Area), Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), and Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) all had between 22% and 24% of respondents ranking expanding bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation systems as a high priority. There is a slight discrepancy in the prioritization of bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit expansion. Overall, one in four respondents (25%) over the age of 45 placed a high priority on the expansion of bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation. Slightly fewer respondents (19%) in the 30-45 age category ranked this a high priority and 23% of respondents in the 18-30 age category ranked this a high priority.



Preserve existing farmland even if it limits development (Question 4)

Farmland preservation is a high priority for all the regions, especially Region 1 (Tyrone Area), Region 3 (Altoona Area), and Region 7 (Spring Cove Area), where 82% - 85% of respondents agreed that Blair County should preserve existing farmland, even if it limits development. In Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), 77% of respondents agreed that farmland should be preserved. In the Bellwood/Antis Area (Region 2), 66% of respondents agreed with this statement.

**Preserve Farmland Even if it Limits Development
(Question 4)**



Housing rehab is vital (Question 4)

All regions agree that housing rehabilitation is vital to Blair County, especially Regions 1 (Tyrone Area), 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area), and 3 (Altoona Area) where nearly 90% of all respondents agreed that housing rehab is important. In comparison to the other regions, Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) had the lowest percent of residents respond that housing rehab is vital, with 66% of respondents agreeing with this statement. In Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), 77% of respondents agreed with the statement.

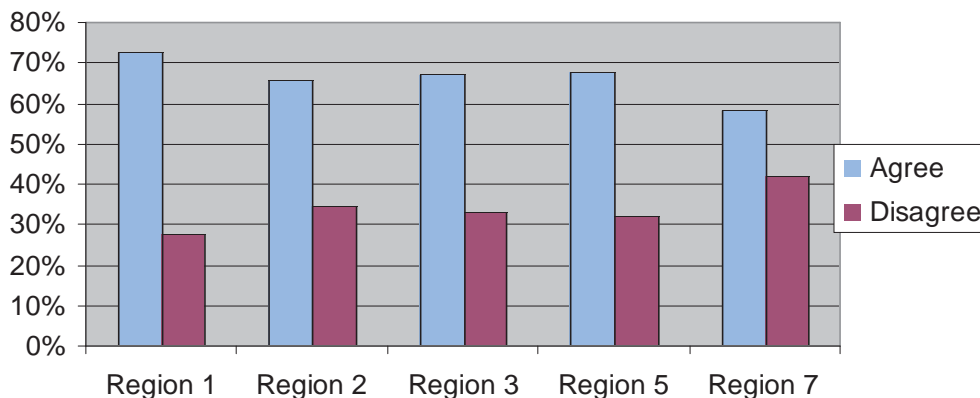
MORE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING IS NEEDED (Question 4)

Respondents in all the planning regions recognize a need for more middle-income housing. Between 78% and 81% of respondents in Regions 1 (Tyrone Area), 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area), and 3 (Altoona Area) agree that more middle-income housing is needed. Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area) had the lowest percent of respondents (71%) agree with this statement compared to the other planning regions. In Region 7 (Spring Cove Area), 76% of respondents agreed with this statement.

The county needs more innovative housing for young people (Question 4)

There is a recognized need for more housing for young people in Blair County, but varying levels of need were expressed by survey respondents in each region. Region 1 (Tyrone Area) had the highest percent of respondents (73%) state that more innovative housing for young people is needed among all the planning regions. Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area), Region 3 (Altoona Area), and Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area) had roughly the same percentage (ranging from 66% to 68%) of respondents agree that more innovative housing is needed for young people. The Spring Cove Area (Region 7) had the lowest percent of respondents (58%) agree with this statement in comparison to the other regions.

**Need for More Innovative Housing for Young People
(Question 4)**



Blair County should plan for more mixed-use, walkable communities (Question 4)

A majority of respondents in all regions agree that Blair County should be planning for mixed-use, walkable communities. However, some regions expressed a greater desire for mixed-use developments over others. In Region 1 (Tyrone Area), 87% of respondents agree that Blair County should plan for more mixed-use, walkable communities. In Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), on the other hand, 71% of respondents agree with this statement. The remainder of the planning regions (Regions 2, 3, and 7) had responses in support of this statement varying from 75% to 81%.

Municipalities should share purchasing of common materials (Question 11)

There is strong support for joint purchasing of materials among municipalities and this varies little by region. The overwhelming support of joint purchasing is perhaps the result of clear financial benefits in the minds of Blair County residents. In every region, between 89% and 97% of respondents agree with the statement that municipalities should share purchasing of common materials. Region 7 (Spring Cove) had the lowest percent (89%) of respondents agree with this statement, and Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) had the highest (97%).

The percent of respondents who agree that municipalities should share purchasing of common materials increased as incomes increased. Ninety percent of respondents in the 0-\$25,000 income category agree with this statement, while 95% in the \$50,000 - \$100,000 income category and 100% or respondents in the >\$150,000 income category agree with the statement.

There is little variation in responses to the question of whether municipalities should share materials purchasing based on the length of time a respondent has lived in Blair County. The percentage of respondents who agree is 94% to 95% in all categories (<5 yrs, 5-15 yrs, >15 yrs).

Municipalities should consolidate police (Question 11)

Not all regions showed the same level of support for the consolidation of police. This is perhaps due to a fear of losing control over individual municipal departments coupled with unclear benefits of consolidation. Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) has the highest percent of respondents (69%) who agree with this statement. In Region 3 (Altoona Area) and Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), between 61% and 62% of respondents responded favorably to police consolidation. Roughly half (51%) of respondents in Region 1 support police consolidation, and only 43% of respondents in Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) support it.

The percent of respondents who agree that municipalities should consolidate police services increases as incomes increase. Only 47% of people earning between 0-\$25,000 agreed that municipalities should consolidate police, followed by those earning \$25,000-\$50,000, in which 61% of respondents agree with the statement. For those earning \$100,000-\$150,000, 66% of respondents agree and for those earning over \$150,000, 71% of respondents agree with the statement.

There is little variation in the responses of those who agree that municipalities should consolidate police service based on the length of time a respondent has lived in the County. The percent of respondents who agree with this statement ranges from 57% to 61% for all categories (<5 yrs, 5-15 yrs, >15 yrs).

Would you like to see more development locate in your municipality (Question 12)

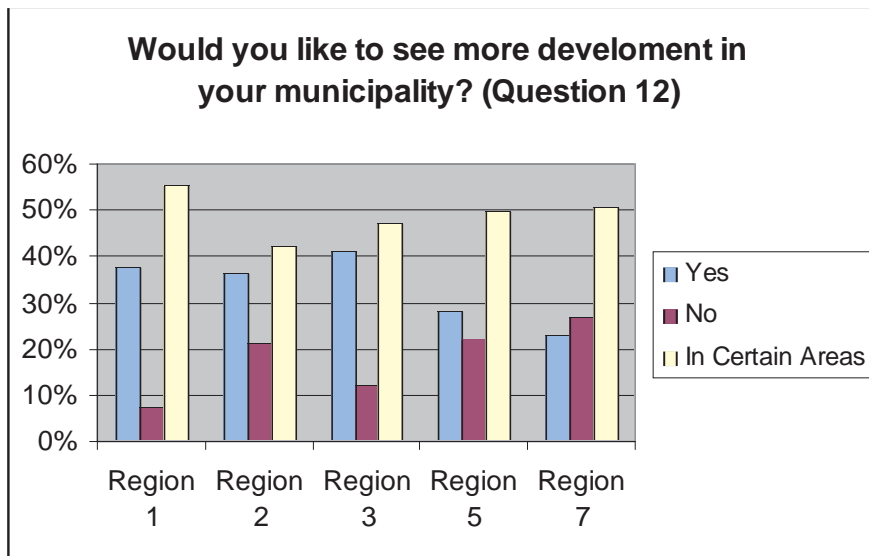
The desire for more development also varies by planning region. For Question 12, respondents were given the choice of stating that development is desired, that no development is desired, or that development is desired only in certain areas. A range in responses indicates that some growth management and land use tools should be in place to ensure that development takes place in desired and appropriate places.

Region 1 (Tyrone Area) appears to have the least opposition to development compared to the other planning regions. This region had the lowest percent (7%) of respondents indicate that they do not want more development to occur and the highest percent (38%) of respondents indicate that they want development to occur, regardless of location. However, over half of respondents (55%) only want to see new development in certain areas.

On the other hand, Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) had the highest percent (27%) of respondents indicate that they do not want more development to occur in their municipalities and the lowest percent (23%) of respondents indicate that they would like to see more development occur, regardless of location. Over half (51%) of respondents stated that they would like to see development occur only in certain locations.

In the Altoona Area (Region 3), 12% of respondents indicated that they do not want to see more development in their municipality. Nearly half (47%) of respondents from Region 3 want to see development take place only in certain areas and 41% want more development, regardless of location.

Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) and Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area) fall in between the Altoona area and the Spring Cove area in terms of desire for more development. Roughly 1 in five respondents in Regions 2 and 5 indicated that they do not want to see more development. In Region 2, 42% of respondents would like to see development only in certain areas and 36% want more development, regardless of location. In the Hollidaysburg area, half (50%) of respondents want to see development only in certain areas, while 28% want more development, regardless of location.



Desire more access to parks (Question 16)

Respondents from the Altoona Area (Region 3) showed the greatest desire for parks with 39% of respondents indicating they would like more access to parks. Roughly 1/3 of respondents in Region 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area) and Region 5 (Hollidaysburg Area) desire more access to parks. Approximately 1 in 5 respondents from Region 1 (Tyrone Area) and Region 7 (Spring Cove Area) desire more access to parks.

The desire for more park access declines as age increases, disregarding the 0-18 age group due to the low response rate. The 18-30 age group had the highest percent (46%) of respondents indicate that they would like more access to parks, followed by the 30-45 age group, in which 41% of respondents responded favorably to parks. About 1/3 of respondents age 46-65, and roughly 1 in 5 people age 65 and older, desire more access to parks.

Desire more access to trails for walking and biking (Question 16)

More respondents in each planning region desire more access to trails than parks. Roughly half of the respondents in Regions 2 (Bellwood/Antis Area), 3 (Altoona Area), 5 (Hollidaysburg Area), and 7 (Spring Cover Area) desire more access to trails for walking and bicycling. In Region 1 (Tyrone Area), 40% of respondents desire more access to trails.

The desire for access to trails is also greater than that for parks among the various age cohorts. However, the same trend is witnessed for trails as for parks, in which the desire for more access to trails declines as age increases. There is strong support for trails among the 18-30 age group in, which 60% of respondents desire more access to trails for walking and biking. Just over half of respondents age 30-45 and 47% of respondents age 46-65 desire more access to trails. This decreases slightly in the over age 65 category for which 41% of respondents responded that they desire more access to trails.

III. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Focus group meetings were conducted with several key interest groups in the County to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities that relate to specific topics, including recreation, tourism, economic development, and local planning. The results of the focus group meetings are summarized below.

Focus group meetings were held with the following groups:

- Park and Recreation Providers
- Be Proud Taskforce
- Elected Officials and Planning Commission Members

PARKS AND RECREATION PROVIDERS

This meeting focused on the current and future park and recreation facilities and needs in Blair County. The following key issues were identified by the group:

Need for Trail and Greenway Development: There is a general consensus regarding the need for expansion of the current trail system (ex. Lower Trail) to serve as a destination for recreation. Trails should support multi-use recreation, including bicycling, camping, cross-county skiing, fishing, and racing events. Trail safety was also raised as an issue, especially on multi-use trails and trails that are shared with roadways.

Greenway opportunities were identified, such as connecting Canoe Creek State Park and the State Game Lands, as well as along the tributaries to the Juniata River (ex. Beaverdam Branch), which provide ideal spots for fishing. Greenways should be focused on connecting population centers, cultural and historic resources, and natural features (ex. protected floodplains) along linear corridors.

Utilizing Blair County's Natural Resources: Blair County has unique natural features, such as waterways, that offer recreational opportunities including kayaking, canoeing, and fly-fishing. This should be marketed to increase interest and visibility for Blair County.

Opportunities for Multi-Municipal Cooperation: Many opportunities for multi-municipal cooperation in the development and management of recreation facilities were identified. For example, Hollidaysburg would like to join with neighbors to develop a multi-municipal recreation commission. Other examples include the development of a county-wide community center and a community amphitheater for Hollidaysburg, Duncansville, and Blair Townships. The group noted that it is important not to duplicate services between smaller units of government. Maryland was identified as a model for providing many services at a county level in order to reduce inefficiencies.

Expand Art and Cultural Opportunities: The need for expansion of art and cultural opportunities was identified as an issue. Efforts should be made to connect historic and cultural assets through music, drama, and historical interpretation of the region (ex. fort, iron, canal stories need to be told).

Intersection with Land Use Planning and Open Space Planning: It was suggested that the County undertake a Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan after the Area-wide Comprehensive Plan is complete. The other logical follow-up to the Area-wide Comprehensive Plan is multi-municipal planning, in which park and recreation planning should be given a greater emphasis. The focus groups also recognized that zoning and planning need to be considered by all communities in the County to ensure preservation of open space and accommodation of recreation facilities for future residents.

Emphasize Walkability and Accessibility: Emphasis was placed on the need for neighborhood parks to be located within walking distance of residents and for regional facilities to be easily accessible by car. There is a need to make communities and neighborhoods walkable, thereby providing both public health and recreation benefits.

Park and Recreation Management: In response to what type of organization would be appropriate to provide and manage County recreation programs and facilities, it was suggested that a Park Authority be developed. This entity would have more autonomy than a County Parks Department and would be able to acquire grants on its own.

Meeting Recreation Needs for Young People: The recognized need for teenage activities was discussed. It was suggested that Blair County could support a high adventure camp, focusing on river sports, hiking, camping, fishing and climbing. It was also noted that existing school buildings and recreational facilities are not being fully utilized, especially during the summer months when buildings are vacant.

BE PROUD TASKFORCE

A focus group meeting was held with the Be Proud Taskforce, a group of professionals from various public and private organizations in Blair County working to address issues related to community image, visual blight, and quality of life. Taskforce representatives identified the following key issues that need to be addressed in the area-wide plan:

Community Image: Improving the community image is the focal point of the Be Proud Taskforce. The

taskforce recognizes that community aesthetics affects economic development and quality of life in Blair County. A blighted and run-down appearance is not attractive to businesses or new residents, and thus detracts from the desirability of the County as a place for people to live and work. The taskforce discussed the need for greater municipal involvement through implementation of land use controls and regulations. The taskforce also acknowledged that there is a real need for people to take pride in their community, which would in-turn, improves the visual appearance of homes, businesses, and the quality of development that is taking place.

Land Use: The taskforce identified several land use issues as barriers to success and opportunities for improvement. For instance, the lack of land use regulations in some parts of Blair County is a barrier to economic development and attracting high-quality employers. Desirable employers are not willing to operate in a community where there is a high potential for unwanted land uses and little accountability for what is done on an adjacent parcel. The taskforce expressed a need for quality ordinances that address signage issues, property maintenance, and design guidelines. In particular, the area along Broad Avenue between Altoona and Route 136 is in need of a sign ordinance to preserve the historic integrity of the corridor. Furthermore, gateways need to be identified and enhanced, such as Plank Road in Logan Township. The group stated that growth management tools should be identified and implemented to prevent further sprawling development patterns. Taskforce representatives identified specific sites that need to be protected, such as the Lakemont Park neighborhood, to ensure that future develop doesn't negatively impact the existing village. The Task Force also discussed the potential for designating Transportation Revitalization Investment Districts (TRIDs), in order to take advantage of redevelopment opportunities and promote transit-oriented development.

Quality of Life Factors: The taskforce noted that community aesthetics and quality of life are intrinsically linked. Blair County has many assets that contribute to a high quality of life, such as its outdoor recreational opportunities, but people will not want to live and work in Blair County if the community is not attractive. One aspect that impacts quality of life is access to bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit facilities. The group

noted that it's important to promote connectivity of neighborhoods, schools, and amenities through sidewalks, bike paths, and transit routes, and to enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities where they currently exist.

Economic Development Factors: The taskforce identified the significant economic generators in the County as the health care/life sciences sector and the education sector. They recognized the need to coordinate strategic planning in these sectors with future urban development plans, in order to maximize the benefits of these economic assets to the community. The Altoona Hospital and the Penn State Altoona Campus were both identified as key assets to consider in planning for the future of Blair County. Taskforce members noted that the cost of not improving the community aesthetics and quality of life in the County will be lost opportunities for business recruitment/retention and retaining a college educated workforce. The group also noted the importance of agriculture to Blair County from both an economic perspective and a community image/quality of life perspective.

Increasing Education and Awareness: The group concluded that improving education and outreach on good planning is strongly needed in Blair County. Residents need to understand the economic benefits of good planning and the positive impact on the bottom line for businesses and residents. The following education tools were identified to increase education and awareness: providing examples of good planning and design, presenting case studies that demonstrate the economic benefits of planning and visioning for a community, and demonstrating the economic benefits of historic preservation. It was noted that it's important to justify why certain policies and action steps are being recommended as part of the plan, and the positive outcomes that could result.

PLANNING REGION FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Focus group meetings were held with municipal officials and planning commission members from each Planning Region. The purpose of the focus groups was to get feedback from municipal officials on how the Areawide Plan can best support local planning efforts and address the needs of each Planning Region. The summary below identifies the key issues discussed in each focus

group meeting. Three meetings were held according to the following breakdown by planning region:

1. Planning Region 3: Altoona and Logan Township
2. Planning Region 5: Hollidaysburg Borough, Duncansville Borough, Newry Borough, Allegheny Township, Blair Township, Frankstown Township, Juniata Township, Tunnelhill Borough
3. Planning Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
Region 1: Snyder Township, Tyrone Borough, Tyrone Township
Region 2: Antis Township, Bellwood Borough
Region 4: Catherine Township, Williamsburg Borough, Woodbury Township
Region 6: Greenfield Township
Region 7: Freedom Township, Huston Township, Martinsburg Borough, North Woodbury Township, Roaring Springs Borough, Taylor Township,

Region 3

A focus group meeting was held with municipal officials, planning commission members, and professional planning staff from the City of Altoona and Logan Township. This meeting focused exclusively on Region 3, given that nearly half of the population in the County resides in Region 3. The following key issues and needs were identified in the discussion on the future of the Altoona and Logan Township area:

Neighborhood design and amenities: The municipalities would like to maintain their existing walkable communities and neighborhoods and promote neighborhood design that fosters communities with a sense of place. To that end, they would like to implement planning practices and design guidelines to encourage neighborhood amenities such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, street trees, and neighborhood parks.

Redevelopment and Revitalization of Altoona: The City of Altoona is pursuing a revitalization plan that involves using public funding to remove vacant and dilapidated structures in order to prevent blight. However, infill development on cleared sites poses a challenge due to the lot sizes, cost of construction, and the lower market rates for housing in the city. Incentives need to be identified to encourage reuse of

such sites which have access to infrastructure and other amenities in the city. Redevelopment within the city needs to involve the commercial developers, housing developers, and public financing agencies to focus on creating mixed-use spaces that are attractive and appealing to residents and businesses. In particular, the area between the Altoona Hospital and the Penn State Altoona Campus was identified as a potential mixed-use area. Particular corridors and gateways were identified in need of enhancement including Plank Road, 17th Street, Frankstown Road, Rt. 764, and Logan Blvd between Altoona and Hollidaysburg.

Housing: Many issues surrounding the quality and quantity of housing in the region were discussed. Altoona and Logan Township are faced with different housing issues. The city contains a range of affordable middle-class housing and efforts are in place to maintain the quality of the housing stock, while promoting new housing development within the city (such as the northern Juniata neighborhood). The majority of subsidized housing is located within the city and this is not anticipated to change. It was noted the housing programs through the Housing Authority and Improved Dwelling for Altoona have been successful. While the city is trying to maintain and improve the existing housing stock, Logan Township is trying to manage new residential growth of primarily single-family subdivisions. The township noted that updates to their zoning ordinance are needed in order to allow for a range of housing types.

Stormwater Management and Hillside Protection: Given the topography of Blair County, hillside development is an issue. Logan Township, in particular, expressed a need for standards and regulations to address hillside development issues such as stormwater run-off and erosion. It was also suggested that the municipalities consider regulations for site clearance that seek to retain natural vegetation.

Consistency and Joint Planning: The participants discussed the importance of promoting consistency between local planning and the Areawide Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that planning in Blair County is not akin to growth and development given the population outlook. Rather, planning in Blair County should be focused on how to enhance the quality of life. It was also suggested that land use planning needs to be coordinated among neighboring

municipalities to ensure consistent land use patterns across municipal boundaries. The municipalities also expressed a need for more information on potential funding for planning projects and implementation tools.

Region 5

A focus group meeting was held with the municipal officials, planning commission members, and professional planners from the eight municipalities that make-up Region 5. Region 5 has the second largest population next to Region 3, with nearly one quarter of the residents in Blair County residing in Region 5. The following key issues were identified and discussed:

Roadway Infrastructure: Region 5 includes both built-up boroughs and rural townships with little to no public infrastructure. One common issue that all the municipalities in the region identified is roadway maintenance and upgrades. In the more rural areas, this involves roadway paving and clearing. However, in the more developed areas, specific intersections and road corridors were identified in need of upgrade and repair, due to higher levels of traffic volume and use. For example, Newry is located at a crossroads of two major roads, Hwy 764 and Puzzletown Road, which run north/south and east/west. This intersection is heavily trafficked by vehicles from neighboring municipalities. Newry Borough is responsible for maintaining the intersection, yet lacks the resources for needed maintenance and upgrades. Other problem areas identified include Route 22 and Newry Lane in Hollidaysburg, and Frankstown Road and Scotch Valley Road in Frankstown.

Redevelopment Opportunities: The Boroughs in Blair County are primarily built-out and there is little room for new growth and development. At issue is identifying ways to support and expand the tax base by attracting new businesses/industries and revitalizing underutilized brownfield sites. The approval process for new business and industry is not streamlined, deterring businesses from locating in the county. Participants emphasized that the County needs to look at opportunities for redevelopment in the boroughs, such as adaptive reuse of brownfield sites for new business and industry (ex. the Norfolk Southern site and the Hollidaysburg car shops).

Sewage Facilities Planning: There is a need for the municipalities to be more proactive in their sewage facilities planning through regional cooperation. Water and sewer planning is not coordinated and often occurs in places for which it does not make sense to be providing infrastructure. Each municipality currently has their own municipal authority with the exception of the smaller boroughs, such as Newry. It was anticipated that there will be a need to consolidate authorities to more effectively provide services and support economic development.

Stormwater Management: Stormwater management and flooding are key issues for many municipalities, such as Blair Township. The municipalities noted that they are starting to cooperate to address stormwater issues. For instance, there are several areas in which the municipalities in Region 5 are cooperating. Blair Township and Hollidaysburg are working together on issues related to the Beaver Dam, and Frankstown and Logan Townships are working together to address stormwater issues as well.

Planning Resources and Needs: The municipalities expressed a need for more information on municipal level demographic projections to help them plan for their future infrastructure and service needs. It was noted that township governments tend to think in terms of short-term needs, such as maintaining the roads. It is hard for the townships to think long-term due to the lack of resources and support. Long-range planning needs also tend to be transportation related.

Recreation: The municipalities would also like to better plan and provide for the recreation needs of their communities. Demographic information and trends can help with this as well. They noted that there is a wide range of recreation needs in their communities, ranging from the aging population to the younger people. They noted that young people want more recreational opportunities related to ATVs and trails.

Economic Development, Job Creation and

Retention: The group discussed the need to promote economic development in the County in order to retain young people, who otherwise may go elsewhere in search of employment. Given that the County is aging, there is a need to retain people who will support the community economically. One issue that was identified is training people for jobs that will stay in the County.

The importance of promoting livable communities so people will want to stay in the County was also raised. Small businesses should be part of these livable communities because they generate jobs and support the community. One participant expressed that there are too many municipalities in Pennsylvania for the state to be competitive on the regional level. All the municipalities have different goals and objectives, and their competing agendas keep the municipalities, counties, and state from moving forward. Municipalities are starting to cooperate in the areas of equipment sharing and joint purchasing, but there is a need to do more.

Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7

A focus group meeting was held with the municipal officials and planning commission members from the municipalities that make-up Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7. The five regions represent fifteen municipalities and constitute just over 40% of the population of the County. The focus group participants identified the following key issues:

Planning Resources and Needs: The municipalities expressed an interest in planning and updating their land use tools, but indicated a need for technical and financial assistance to implement their planning objectives. Several municipalities are interested in multi-municipal planning. Tyrone Borough and Snyder Township have discussed the option of multi-municipal planning. Tyrone Borough is completely surrounded by Snyder Township, with little area for future growth and development. However, Snyder Township is mid-way through a comprehensive planning process, and it may be difficult to coordinate their municipal planning efforts as a result. Antis Township is also considering updating their subdivision and land development ordinance and possibly their comprehensive plan as well.

Housing: The group identified several issues relating to housing in the County. One participant stated that the Spring Cove area is attractive to families because they have a good school district, but people are having trouble finding housing the area. There has to be both available housing and a good school district for people to want to live in the area. Providing for a variety of housing types was also discussed. Many retirees and elderly people in the County are moving into age-

restricted housing, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. There is a need for a mix of housing options in the County as people age and the housing needs of the County changes.

Land Use Controls: Many municipalities from the planning regions do not have zoning and have historically faced resistance to zoning from the community. However, one participant stated that communities with zoning are perceived as having a higher level of protection, which is attractive to people moving into a community. On the other hand, some municipalities do not have the resources to support the implementation and enforcement of a zoning ordinance. It was noted for municipalities without zoning, that the subdivision and land development ordinance can be used to address some planning issues. However, the SALDO cannot address the main purpose of zoning, which is to outline where different types of land uses can be located in a municipality. Taylor Township noted that their subdivision and land development ordinance does not contain adequate requirements for developers to build roads that meet the Township specifications. They are currently working to remedy this issue.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure: Infrastructure is also an on-going issue for the municipalities. In Taylor Township, sewage is an issue because the soils are not suitable for septic, yet at the same time, a poorly maintained public sewer system is posing problems for the municipality. Tyrone Borough noted that Governor Rendell recently adopted the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy that calls for reductions in nutrient levels in the watershed. The strategy calls for sewage treatment plants to reduce nitrate levels in sewage treatment plants. The municipalities fear that they are potentially facing expensive upgrades to their sewage treatment plants to comply with the plan.

Flooding and Stormwater Management: One of the biggest challenges for municipalities in the planning regions represented at the meeting is flooding and stormwater management. The developed Boroughs of Tyrone and Williamsburg are susceptible to flooding because they are located partially within the floodplain, and they are downstream from upland areas that are developing. As the amount of impervious surfaces in the watershed increases, the volume and velocity of stormwater increases as well, thereby putting riverfront

communities at increased risk of flooding. Representatives from Freedom Township also pointed out that logging roads and clear-cut areas create run-off that is harmful to the watershed and downstream areas. In Tyrone, they have recently started a project to create a ten-year water stewardship plan to promote better forest management practices that will protect their watershed.

Community Assets: Participants identified many economic assets in the planning regions represented at the focus group. The Spring Cove Area has a limestone quarry, Roaring Spring Bottled Water/Blank Book, Apple Paper, and many other good employers. They need to focus on keeping the employers they do have in the County. Other strong assets for the Spring Cove area include the Blair County Airport, Nason Hospital, and Morrison's Park. Major assets for the Tyrone area are the school district, Tyrone Hospital, Reservoir Park, and their community arts.

Economic Development: It was stated that economic development should be a high priority for the region given the loss of business and industry in the County. There need to be good job opportunities for people to want to live in Blair County.

ATV Use: The rural townships noted that illegal ATV use on private lands is one of the biggest complaints they are receiving from their residents.



by: Wade VanLandingham, VanLandingham Consulting

Demographic Characteristics and Trends

BLAIR COUNTY PROFILE AND ANALYSIS OF CHANGE

Introduction: Blair County lies in South Central Pennsylvania. It is surrounded by Clearfield, Centre, Huntingdon, Bedford, and Cambria Counties, which for the purposes of this Plan are considered the Blair County Region. Blair County's land area is 525.9 square miles (about 1.2 percent of the area of Pennsylvania), making it one of the smaller counties in the state. The Region has a total area of 5,359 square miles. The Region comprises about 12 percent of the total state land area. (All statistics in this section are from the US Census of Population and Housing, 1990 or 2000, unless noted).

There are three metropolitan areas in the Region. The Altoona Metropolitan Area is composed of Blair County. Centre County comprises the State College Metro Area. And the Johnstown Metropolitan Area consists of both Cambria and neighboring Somerset Counties. Bedford, Clearfield, and Huntingdon Counties are non-metropolitan.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS: POPULATION AND AGE STRUCTURE

Population: Blair County had 129,144 residents in 2000. This was a decrease of 1,398 or 1.1 percent from the 130,542 residents it had in 1990. The County has been losing population slowly for several decades; between 1970 and 2000 it lost 4.6 percent of its 1970 population. (Table 1.27)

The Region had 596,452 residents in 2000, up 8,915 or 1.5 percent from 1990. Cambria County lost about 6.4 percent and was the only county in the Region other than Blair to lose population over the decade. The fastest growth Counties from 1990 to 2000 were Centre at 9.7 percent and Clearfield at 6.8 percent. Between 1970 and 2000 the Region grew by 16.6 percent with the fastest growth occurring in Centre County (36.8 percent) and Bedford (18.0 percent). Over the whole

This section provides an overview of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics and trends for Blair County and the seven Planning Regions. The purpose of this section is to understand the changes that are taking place in Blair County's population and economic structure.

period Cambria was the only county in the Region, other than Blair, to lose population (-18.3 percent).

Pennsylvania grew by 399,411 from 1990 to 2000 to a total population of 12,281,054; this was an increase of 3.4 percent. During the decade the US grew by 32,712,033, an increase of 13.1 percent. Over the three decades from 1970 to 2000 the Commonwealth grew by just 4.4 percent.

Population Change and Migration: The decline of population in the County (and the Region) over the past decade(s) are due largely to migration. Between 1990 and 2000, the County would not have grown even with no out-migration due to the existing age structure, but the total loss of residents from the excess of deaths over births would have been just 233 persons. Actual decline according to the Census was 1,398. Hence, there was a loss of about 1,165 from out-migration.

Density: The average population density for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was 274 persons per square mile in 2000. For the Region it was just 111.3 persons per square mile. Blair was the most densely settled County in the Region with a population of 245.6 per square mile. Bedford, Clearfield, and Huntingdon Counties are more rural; none have a population density over 75 persons per square mile. Of the total population of the County, 95,621 lived in urban areas. About 1,048 lived on farms.

Table 1.27: Population and Population Change, 1970 - 2000

Place	2000	1990	1980	1970
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	11,881,643	11,864,720	11,766,310
Bedford County	49,984	47,919	46,784	42,353
Blair County	129,144	130,542	136,621	135,357
Cambria County	152,598	163,029	183,263	186,785
Centre County	135,758	123,786	112,760	99,267
Clearfield County	83,382	78,097	83,578	74,619
Huntingdon County	45,586	44,164	42,253	39,108
Region	596,452	587,537	605,259	577,489
Change in Population				
Place	1990--2000	1980--1990	1970--1980	1970--2000
Pennsylvania	399,411	16,923	98,410	514,744
Bedford County	2,065	1,135	4,431	7,631
Blair County	-1,398	-6,079	1,264	-6,213
Cambria County	-10,431	-20,234	-3,522	-34,187
Centre County	11,972	11,026	13,493	36,491
Clearfield County	5,285	-5,481	8,959	8,763
Huntingdon County	1,422	1,911	3,145	6,478
Region	8,915	-17,722	27,770	18,963
Percent Change in Population				
Place	1990--2000	1980--1990	1970--1980	1970--2000
Pennsylvania	3.4	0.1	0.8	4.4
Bedford County	4.3	2.4	10.5	18.0

Blair County	-1.1	-4.4	0.9	-4.6
Cambria County	-6.4	-11.0	-1.9	-18.3
Centre County	9.7	9.8	13.6	36.8
Clearfield County	6.8	-6.6	12.0	11.7
Huntingdon County	3.2	4.5	8.0	16.6
Region	1.5	-2.9	4.8	3.3

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1970 – 2000

Age Structure: Analysis of the age structure shows the percentage of the population in the potential labor force as well as the number of children and elderly. This analysis also provides the best basis on which to project future population.

The **median age** of the population is the age where half of the people in the area are older and half are younger. A higher median age denotes an older population; a younger median suggests more potential for internal growth. Blair County in 2000 had a median age of 39.5 years, somewhat higher than the state median of 38.0 years and substantially higher than the US median of 35.3 years. The County with highest median age in the Region was Cambria at 41.2 years. The lowest was Centre at 28.7. (This is quite young by any standard and is primarily due to the large number of students between 18 and 24 at Penn State University in State College). The median age in Bedford, Clearfield, and Huntingdon was close to that in Blair. More important than the specific median age at a point in time, is the change in median age from one decade to the next. A rapid rise in the median age suggests that the area is aging quickly. Since the median age in Pennsylvania increased from 34.0 in 1990, the population median age increased by 4.0 years between 1990 and 2000. The change in the median age in Blair County was slightly greater, 4.3 years. This suggests that the population of the County is aging even faster than the state. The populations of Bedford, Cambria, Clearfield and Huntingdon aged even faster than Blair's, typically about 4.7 years. Due to the large number of young students at Penn State in Centre County, the increase in the median age was only 2.7 years.

Although the changes in median age suggest an aging population, it is necessary to use more detailed statistics to determine the actual age structure. The most commonly used age statistics are the number of children (the percentage **under 18**) and the number of elderly (the percentage **over 65**). In the Commonwealth, 23.8 percent of the population was under 18 years of age in 2000. The average for the US was 25.7 percent. In the Region only 21.2 percent were under 18. About 22.7 percent of Blair County residents were under 18. Again because of the influence of the 40,000 students at Penn State, Centre County had the smallest proportion under 18 at 18.0 percent. Bedford had the greatest percentage under 18 in the Region at 23.8 percent.

In 1990, 23.5 percentage of the state's inhabitants were under 18; hence there was a slight increase of 0.3 percent in that age group. While the percentage of persons **under 18** actually grew in the state between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of those under 18 fell in all Counties in the Region over the decade. In both Blair County and the Region the percentage fell by 1.7 percent. The greatest relative loss in the Region was in Clearfield County where those under 18 declined by 2.5 percent. Centre County had a loss of just 0.3 percent.

People **over 65** are considered elderly by the Bureau of the Census. This group was 12.4 percent of the US population. The percentage of this group in the population increased from 15.3 percent to 16.0 percent in the Region over the past decade; in the state the percentage increased by just 0.2 percent from 15.4 in 1990 to 15.6 in 2000. The percentage of senior citizens in the population of Blair County was 17.4 in 2000, up from 17.0 in 1990. Blair had the second greatest proportion of seniors in the Region. Cambria had a substantially higher percentage in both years. In 1990, 18.8 percent were over 65; by 2000 this had increased to 19.7 percent. Predictably, Centre had the lowest percentage of elderly in both 1990 and 2000 with 9.0 percent at the beginning of the period and

10.4 percent at the end. The other counties in the Region had between 14.8 and 16.9 percent in the over 65 group. Although the percentage of elderly in the population increased by 0.7 percent over the decade in the Region, there was substantial difference in the rate of change between the counties. Elderly persons increased most rapidly in Centre, Huntingdon, and Bedford Counties and more slowly in Blair and Clearfield.

The **working age** population is that portion of the total between 18 and 65. In Pennsylvania, 60.6 percent of the total were in this group in 2000. For the Region, as a whole, 62.8 percent fell into this definition of the potential labor force, for Blair just 59.9. Cambria had the smallest percentage, 59.3 percent. Centre had the highest at 71.6 (including PSU students).

BLAIR COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE AND MIGRATION: 1990 – 2000

This section is based on the actual change in the population of Blair County between 1990 and 2000 based on statistics from the Census of Population and Housing for those two years and on the birth and death statistics for the County as reported by the Pennsylvania State Health Data Center. Neither data source may be assumed to be completely accurate and the methods by which they collect data are very different. Hence, all numbers reported here are approximate.

In 1990 the County had 130,542 residents; by 2000 the population was 129,144, a loss of 1,398 or 1.1 percent. Part of the decline was attributable to an excess of deaths over births. During the decade there were 15,485 deaths in the County. There were 15,252 births. Hence, even without any out-migration, the population would have declined by 233 persons. Out-migration accounted for the remainder of the loss. Approximately 1,165 persons moved out of the County during the 1990s. This was over 83 percent of the total decline.

Far more important than the absolute decline in population was the changing age structure of the residents. In 1990, 36,098 residents were under 20 years of age. This was 27.7 percent of the total. By 2000, this cohort had declined to 35,054 or 25.9 percent. Parents moving from the County and taking their children with them largely caused this decline of 1,044 persons in the youngest age group.

The largest decline in the population of the County between 1990 and 2000 was in the 20 to 34 year old cohorts. In 1990 there were 26,724 residents in these age groups. By 2000, this number had decreased to 22,765. This was a loss of 3,959, a decline of almost 15 percent. Only a small part of this decline is due to the fact that the cohorts aging into this group were smaller than their predecessors. The three five-year cohorts who were between ten and twenty-four years of age in 1990 totaled 26,589, just 135 persons fewer than the twenty to thirty-four year old group in 1990. Only a few (less than 70) died over the decade. Therefore, most of the loss was attributable to out-migration. Without it these cohorts would have totaled about 26,421. About 3,656 persons between 20 and 34 left the County; this was 92 percent of the total decline.

The out-migration of persons in this age group is of great concern for planning, governance, and economic development. These young adults are just entering the labor force and just starting families. By leaving they are not available to replenish the losses in the labor force caused by retirement and they are taking the children of the next generation with them. This latter can lead to a downward spiral of population.

In 1990 there were 32,228 persons between 35 and 54 years of age. By 2000 this group had grown to 37,840, an increase of 5,612 or 17.4 percent. Most of this growth came from the “baby-boomers” (persons born between 1946 and 1964) aging into these cohorts. [Note: From the late 1940s through the mid-sixties, the birth rate across America was extremely high compared to the two previous decades and the following ones as well. This created a bulge in the population, which has affected all walks of life as this group has aged from school children in the 1950s to the mainstay of the labor force in the 1990’s.]

Blair County saw a slight in-migration of persons in this age group between 1990 and 2000. Without the in-migration, i.e. considering only the aged cohorts who were 25 to 44 in 1990, the expected population of the 35 to 54 year old group would have been 37,210; according to the Census there were actually 37,840 persons in this age group in the County. While this in-migration was just 630 persons or 1.7 percent of the total cohort and 11 percent of the total increase, it may represent a trend. This emerging pattern is not unique to Blair County. Several studies have suggested that some out-migrants who left rural areas in their twenties are returning in their thirties and forties as they settle down and want a more compatible place to raise their children.

Persons between 55 and 64, includes those still in the labor force and early retirees. These residents are usually empty nesters or soon to be. In 1990, there were 13,338 residents of the County in this decade of their life. By 2000 there were 12,759, a decrease of 579 or 4.3 percent. Most of this loss is accounted for by deaths. There were approximately 72 net in-migrants in this age group.

The vigorous elderly, those 65 to 74, are among the most mobile of all age groups. In 1990, there were 12,792 residents of the County in these cohorts. In 2000, there were only 11,127, a net decline of 1,665 or 13.0 percent. The cohort survival estimate (abstracting from migration) is that there should have been 11,486. Hence, about 359 persons in this age group left the County during the decade. This was 21.6 percent of the decrease. Most of these out-migrants were probably looking to retire elsewhere.

In 1990 there were 9,362 persons over the age of 75 in Blair County. By 2000 this number had grown to 11,329. There was an actual increase of 1,967 persons in this group between 1990 and 2000. This was an increase of 21.0 percent, the largest percentage growth of any age group. In addition, about 170 of these older residents left the County. The large increase in the frail elderly suggests that the demand for medical and social services increased as well.

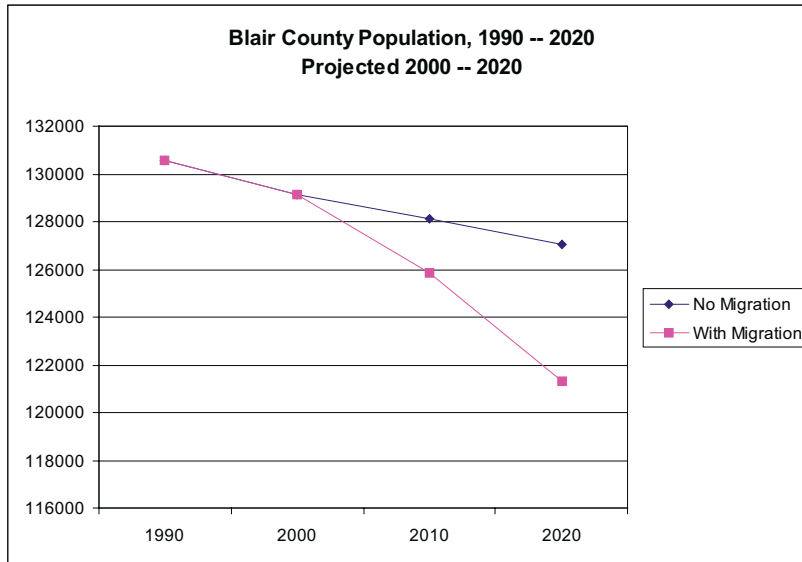
PROJECTED CHANGE IN POPULATION, 2000 – 2020

In projecting population there are only three factors to consider: births, deaths, and net-migration. Births and deaths depend on both the age structure of the population (including the number of females of child bearing age and the number of elderly) and mortality and natality rates. Here it is assumed that birth and death rates will hold essentially constant at the levels of the late 1990s. The death rate has been generated by dividing the actual number of age specific deaths by the population in each five-year age cohort. Five-year cohort for females from 15 to 45 calculated birth rates on the number of births.

Migration is not so easily predicted. Although past trends provide a clue as to the likely direction and magnitude of migration, changes in economic conditions and lifestyle preferences may sometimes mitigate or even reverse these trends. Furthermore, as seen above, migration tends to vary by age group. Young adults tend to leave less urban areas for more urban ones in search of economic opportunity; families may move to less urban areas to raise their children; while recent retirees may move for climate or other personal preference. Here, there are two scenarios presented, neither of which is likely to be exactly correct. The first assumes that there is no net migration; i.e. that only births and deaths affect the level of the future population. The second assumes that the age specific migration trends of the past decade will continue for the forecast period. These two scenarios project very different population totals – and different age structures – for Blair County by 2020. It is quite possible to project that some other pattern of migration trends will dominate during one or more of the next several decades, however, this would entail more guesswork than seems appropriate for this analysis. Most likely the actual total population and the number of people in each group will fall somewhere between the scenarios presented here.

Starting with the 129,144 population of Blair County in 2000 as a base, the total population of Blair County in 2020 will probably range between 121,279 (if migration continues as in the past decade) and 127,033 (if no net migration occurs). In 2010, the population will be about 128,100 without migration and around 125,900 if the pattern of the 1990s continues.

It is likely that the population of Blair County will continue to decline, even if there is no net out-migration. This decline is due to the age structure of the existing population: there are more elderly or near elderly people in the population than there are young families to have children. The relatively small cohorts of females aging into their child bearing years will not provide enough new births to replace those who die during the next two decades. Hence, deaths will continue to out-number births. The more rapid decline in total population assumes that the out-migration of young adults continues. Under this scenario, not only will over 5,000 young women leave the County during the projection period, but also those women will not have children in the County. Children less than ten will continue to decline from 15,391 in 1990 to about 13,200 in 2020. Meanwhile, the population over 65 will continue to climb.



CHANGE BY AGE GROUP

Children under 15 were 18.5 percent of the total County population in 2000. By 2020, the best-case scenario suggests that they will be only 17.0 percent. The 23,909 who were in that group in 2000 will decline to just 21,644, a loss of 2,265 or almost 9.5 percent. This will have important consequences for many services, especially school districts. Unfortunately, the more likely scenario is that migration will continue to reduce this number. If the previous pattern holds, the number of children under 15 could fall to about 20,600, a loss of 3,279 or 13.7 percent.

The group from 15 to 19 years of age deserves special mention in Blair County. Although this group decreased in absolute numbers from 1990 to 2000, from 9,662 to 9,595, there was actually a slight in-migration of people in this age range. The cohort of persons 5 to 9 years old in 1990 only had 9,047. Hence, leaving aside deaths (which would have reduced this total slightly), there was an influx of at least 550 persons (probably, in part, because of Penn State Altoona). However, this group will decline in the County in the next 20 years. By 2020, there will be only about 7,703 even if the in-migration continues and 6,956 if it does not. The cohort will decline because there will be fewer children in the youngest age group to age into it.

Persons from 20 to 34 will remain about the same or grow slightly if the serious out-migration of the 1990s is curbed or halted. In 2000, there were 22,765 residents in this critical group. However, in the three cohorts below that level there were 23,909. Deaths alone would reduce this total by only a small number. Hence, the no-migration scenario predicts that by 2020 there will be 23,635 persons in the 20 to 34 year old age group in the County. If, as is more likely, young adults continue to leave the County at about the same pace they did in the 1990s, there will be only 19,670, a decline of 3,095 or 13.6 percent. As noted above, such a decline will lead to a long-term downward spiral in the population and it will potentially lead to a labor shortage.

The 35 to 54 year old group is critical. In 2000, there were 37,840 persons in this group in the County. They accounted for 29.3 percent of the population. Without migration, this group will decline to just 31,504, a loss of 6,336, over 16.7 percent. In 2020 this group will be only about 24.8 percent of the County's population. This group included almost all of the "baby-boom" population in 2000. These people will have aged out of the age group by 2020 and the cohorts who will age in are much smaller. Migration may exacerbate this loss by a small amount. If the trends established in the 1990s continue, there may be only 30,758 residents in this age group.

The 35 to 54 year olds are important for several reasons. They are the heart of the labor force; they are typically homeowners; and they pay a substantial amount of the collected tax. A loss of this magnitude in this group will have significant impacts for planning, housing, and services.

The group of 55 to 64 year old persons will grow as the baby-boomers age into it. In 2000, this group was 12,579; by 2020 there will be at least 17,819 if no net migration occurs. This is an increase of 5,240 or 41.7 percent. In 2000, 55 to 64 year olds were 9.7 percent of the population; in 2020 they will be at least 14.0 percent. Migration will have little net effect on this group; if migration continues as it did in the 1990s, there will be about 17,860 residents in this age group.

Typically, the 55 to 64 year old group has the highest earned income and substantial accumulated wealth due to home equity. Most of their children are grown or soon will be. They are also, in the latter part of their labor force participation and will start to retire soon. The death rate for persons, especially males, in this group is significantly higher than for the younger age groups.

In the past persons 65 to 74 have largely been retirees. This may change in the coming decades. With fewer persons to replace them in the labor force, the older worker is likely to be more highly valued. It may become more common for workers to stay active until at least 70. In 2000, there were 11,127 of these post middle age people in the County. In 2020, there will be almost 15,000. This increase will be about 3,860 or 35percent. Migration could be a small factor. This group would have approximately 14,625 persons if past migration patterns persist. Death plays a larger role in determining the number of persons in this age group; about 20 percent of males and 15 percent of females will die before the age of 75.

During the 1990s, the frail elderly were among the fastest growth age groups in the County. This is likely to change during the next twenty years. In 1990 there were 12,792 persons between 65 and 74 who, unless death intervened, would age into the 75-plus groups by 2000; and, in fact 8,496 did.

In 2000, there were only 11,127 in the 65 to 74 year old group. If death continues to take about one-third before they age into the frail elderly group, there will be only 7,450 who move up to this group by 2010. A similar situation will prevail during the decade from 2010 to 2020. Hence, without migration, in 2020 there may be only 10,486 persons over 75 in the County. Migration would reduce this by about 400.

The conclusion that the frail elderly population will decline slightly is extremely tenuous because, while death rates have been fairly constant for those in their younger years, medical advances have been increasingly prolonging the lives of the elderly. Even if the frail elderly population does not expand rapidly before 2020, it can be expected to grow very quickly after that because the oldest baby-boomers will turn 75 in that year.

SUMMARY OF POPULATION CHANGE BY AGE GROUP

It is likely that Blair County will continue to decline in population between 2000 and 2020. The most likely range of population in 2020 will be between 121,000 and 127,000. This would be a change of between -1.6 percent, if there is no further net out-migration and -6.1 percent, if the pattern of migration that occurred during the 1990s is maintained. Only if some unexpected change (in economic opportunity or personal preference) occurs will Blair County grow in population during this period.

Even with no net out-migration, it is likely that the number of persons from 0 to 19 will decrease by between 14.5

and 15.5 percent...thus leaving fewer persons to enter the labor force after 2020.

The most pernicious out-migration of the previous two decades has been the loss of 20 to 34 year olds. In the next two decades if there is a way to keep these young people in the County, that group could grow by 3.8 percent; however, the more likely prospect is that group will continue to leave the County for better economic opportunities. If the continuing pattern of migration occurs, the County could lose 13.6 percent of 20 to 34 year olds compared to the 2000 number.

It is also likely that the number of 35 to 54 year old residents will decline by 16 to 19 percent. All of the baby-boomers will have aged out of this group by 2020.

Growth will occur in the age cohorts between 55 and 74. These groups will contain the entire large cohort of baby-boomers. Even if the pattern of migration persists the group between 55 and 64 will grow by about 42 percent and the group between 65 and 74 will grow by at least 31 percent.

The oldest age cohorts, those over 75, will actually decline somewhat between 2000 and 2020. The best estimate is that these groups will lose between 7.0 and 11.0 percent. However, if medical advances continue to prolong life for persons over 75, this decline could be much smaller. It must also be noted that the decline will be temporary; after 2020 the large baby boom cohort will add at least 50 percent to this group.

Table 1.28: Population by Age Group, 1990 and 2000 and Projected to 2010 and 2020

No Migration								
Age Group	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990% Tot	2000% Tot	2010% Tot	2020% Tot
0 to 19	36,098	33,504	29,485	28,599	27.7	25.9	23.0	22.5
20 to 34	26,724	22,765	25,249	23,636	20.5	17.6	19.7	18.6
35 to 54	32,228	37,840	34,242	31,504	24.7	29.3	26.7	24.8
55 to 64	13,338	12,579	17,346	17,820	10.2	9.7	13.5	14.0
65 to 75	12,792	11,127	10,876	14,989	9.8	8.6	8.5	11.8
75 plus	9,362	11,329	10,906	10,485	7.2	8.8	8.5	8.3
Total	130,542	129,144	128,104	127,033	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With Migration								
Age Group	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990% Tot	2000% Tot	2010% Tot	2020% Tot
0 to 19	36,098	33,504	30,586	28,334	27.7	25.9	24.3	23.4
20 to 34	26,724	22,765	21,724	19,667	20.5	17.6	17.3	16.2
35 to 54	32,228	37,840	34,738	30,759	24.7	29.3	27.6	25.4
55 to 64	13,338	12,579	17,457	17,861	10.2	9.7	13.9	14.7
65 to 75	12,792	11,127	10,556	14,626	9.8	8.6	8.4	12.1
75 plus	9,362	11,329	10,816	10,073	7.2	8.8	8.6	8.3
Total	130,542	129,144	125,877	121,320	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 1990 and 2000 data from the US Census of Population and Housing. Projections to 2020 by VanLandingham Consulting, 2004.

GENDER, RACE, AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

Gender: The resident population of a place is not usually divided fifty-fifty between males and females. Unless unusual conditions exist in a certain area, females will out-number males by a small percentage. This situation is created by the fact that females tend to live longer than males. In Pennsylvania the percentage of females was 51.7 in 2000, down slightly from 52.1 percent in 1990. In Blair County the proportion of females decreased even more, from 52.9 percent in 1990 to 52.1 in 2000. All counties in the Region, except Centre, likewise had a decrease in the percentage of females in the population.

Huntingdon and Centre Counties are the exceptions to the rule in Region. Both have a slight preponderance of males. In the case of Huntingdon County most of the excess of males over females is due to the presence of the State Correctional Institutes at Huntingdon. Penn State accounts for the higher percentage of males in Centre County.

Table 1.29: Population by Gender, 1990 and 2000

Place	MALE 2000	FEMALE 00	MALE 90	FEMALE 90	%FEM 00	%FEM 90
Pennsylvania	5,929,663	6,351,391	5,694,265	6,187,378	51.7	52.1
Bedford County	24,631	25,353	23,413	24,506	50.7	51.1
Blair County	61,917	67,227	61,526	69,016	52.1	52.9
Cambria County	74,011	78,587	78,112	84,917	51.5	52.1
Centre County	69,322	66,436	64,072	59,714	48.9	48.2
Clearfield County	41,581	41,801	37,658	40,439	50.1	51.8
Huntingdon County	23,842	21,744	22,849	21,315	47.7	48.3
Region	295,304	301,148	287,630	299,907	50.5	51.0

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990, 2000.

Race and Hispanic Origin: The population of Blair County is largely white and non-Hispanic. In 2000 only 2.4 percent of the total population was non-white. Just 0.5 percent was Hispanic. Compared to the state, the Region was also very homogenously white. In Pennsylvania only 85.4 percent was Caucasian while 10 percent was African-American and 3.4 percent was composed of other racial groups. About 3.2 percent of Pennsylvania's population was Hispanic.

Table 1.30: Racial and Hispanic Population Characteristics, 1990 – 2000

Census 2000	White	Black	*AmerInd	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Pennsylvania	10484203	1224612	18348	219813	188437	394088
Bedford County	49253	178	54	143	78	263
Blair County	126059	1535	109	463	180	662
Cambria County	146183	4322	132	573	374	1352
Centre County	124134	3544	184	5373	1003	2243
Clearfield County	81218	1239	97	220	216	471
Huntingdon County	42544	2342	48	94	205	524

Section 1

Demographic Characteristics and Trends

Region	569391	13160	624	6866	2056	5515
Census 1990	White	Black	AmerInd	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Pennsylvania	10520201	1089795	14733	137438	119476	232262
Bedford County	47607	150	40	78	44	118
Blair County	128840	1073	118	380	131	431
Cambria County	158584	3734	109	384	218	985
Centre County	116552	2801	179	3841	413	1350
Clearfield County	77609	176	87	182	43	200
Huntingdon County	41994	1982	53	83	52	195
Region	571186	9916	586	4948	901	3279
% of Total	White	Black	AmerInd	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Pennsylvania	85.4	10.0	0.1	1.8	1.5	3.2
Bedford County	98.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
Blair County	97.6	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5
Cambria County	95.8	2.8	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9
Centre County	91.4	2.6	0.1	4.0	0.7	1.7
Clearfield County	97.4	1.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.6
Huntingdon County	93.3	5.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1
Region	95.5	2.2	0.1	1.2	0.3	0.9
% Change 90--00	White	Black	AmerInd	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Pennsylvania	-0.3	12.4	24.5	59.9	57.7	69.7
Bedford County	3.5	18.7	35.0	83.3	77.3	122.9
Blair County	-2.2	43.1	-7.6	21.8	37.4	53.6
Cambria County	-7.8	15.7	21.1	49.2	71.6	37.3
Centre County	6.5	26.5	2.8	39.9	142.9	66.1
Clearfield County	4.7	604.0	11.5	20.9	402.3	135.5
Huntingdon County	1.3	18.2	-9.4	13.3	294.2	168.7
Region	-0.3	32.7	6.5	38.8	128.2	68.2

* AmerInd is the Census abbreviation for American Indian.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990 B 2000.

The Region had a somewhat more racially mixed population. Just over 5.1 percent of Huntingdon County's population was Black, partly because of the racial structure of the state penitentiaries and partly because of historical concentrations of Blacks in some Huntingdon County communities. Both Huntingdon and Centre Counties had concentrations of Hispanics well above the Regional average.

In the state as a whole, the composition of the population changed substantially between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of whites declined by 0.3 percent while all other racial groups grew rapidly. Hispanics also became a larger proportion of the population. The Region also became slightly less homogenous; the Black population grew by 32.7 percent and Hispanics by 68.2 percent. The white population of Blair County declined by 2.2 percent while all other races, except American Indians, increased rapidly. The number of Hispanics in the population increased by 53.6 percent.

HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES, AND GROUP QUARTERS

Households are defined as all occupied housing units. Hence, they are a basic measure used in both demographic and housing analysis. Families are a subset of households which contain at least two related individuals. Persons living alone are counted as households but not as families. Persons in group quarters are not included in households.

Households and Household Change: There were 51,518 households in Blair County in 2000, up from 50,332 in 1990. This was an increase of 2.4 percent. The change in households was small compared to the Commonwealth or the Region. Pennsylvania households grew by 6.3 percent and the Region by 5.3 percent. In total, the Region added 12,292 households between 1990 and 2000 for a total of 230,684. Cambria County saw a decrease of 2.4 percent in the number of households in the County. Since households are also occupied housing units, the number of occupied units in Cambria County fell by 1,473 over the decade. Within the Region, Centre County had the greatest increase in households, 15.6 percent, 6,640 units. Clearfield and Bedford had growth of about 10.0 percent. Note that, because of changes in the size of households (the number of people living in each unit), households may increase even if population change is negative.

Families and Family Change: Since only households that contain related individuals are counted as families, there will always be fewer of the latter than the former. In 2000, Blair County had 34,895 families. This was a decrease of 892 or 2.5 percent. Not surprisingly, Cambria County had the greatest loss of families in the Region, down by 3,564 over the decade. This was a decrease of 8.1 percent. Overall, the Region saw an increase of only 60 families between 1990 and 2000. The losses in Blair and Cambria Counties were offset by gains in all the other Counties, with Centre leading the way with an increase of 2,142 families or 8.1 percent. In the state, families increased by just 1.7 percent.

Families as a Percent of Households: This measure describes an important characteristic of an area. A high proportion of families usually indicates a stable population. The average for the Commonwealth in 2000 was 67.2 percent. Blair had 67.7 percent family households. In Bedford County families were 73.3 percent of all households, while in Centre (because of student households) the average was only 57.8. The Region had an average of 66.4 percent.

More importantly, families as a proportion of households has been falling for all areas analyzed. In 1990, families as a percentage of households in the Commonwealth were 70.2 and in the Region, 70.1. Families as a proportion of households decreased by 4.3 percent in the state, 5.3 percent in the Region, and 4.7 percent in Blair County. Centre and Cambria lost 6.4 and 5.8 percent respectively. The decline was slowest in Huntingdon County, which lost only 3.2 percent.

Table 1.31: Households and Families, 1990 – 2000

Place	Households 2000	Families 2000	Households 1990	Families 1990
Pennsylvania	4,777,003	3,208,388	4,495,966	3,155,989
Bedford County	19,768	14,493	18,038	13,748
Blair County	51,518	34,895	50,332	35,787
Cambria County	60,531	40,615	62,004	44,179
Centre County	49,323	28,501	42,683	26,359
Clearfield County	32,785	22,926	29,808	21,798
Huntingdon County	16,759	11,798	15,527	11,297
Region	230,684	153,228	218,392	153,168
Place	Change in Households	Change in Families	% Change in Households	% Change in Families
Pennsylvania	281,037	52,399	6.3	1.7
Bedford County	1,730	745	9.6	5.4
Blair County	1,186	-892	2.4	-2.5
Cambria County	-1,473	-3,564	-2.4	-8.1
Centre County	6,640	2,142	15.6	8.1
Clearfield County	2,977	1,128	10.0	5.2
Huntingdon County	1,232	501	7.9	4.4
Region	12,292	60	5.3	0.0
Place	Fam as % HH 2000	Fam as %HH 1990	Avg HH Size 2000	Avg Fam Size 2000
Pennsylvania	67.2	70.2	2.48	3.04
Bedford County	73.3	76.2	2.5	2.95
Blair County	67.7	71.1	2.43	2.96
Cambria County	67.1	71.3	2.38	2.96
Centre County	57.8	61.8	2.45	2.95
Clearfield County	69.9	73.1	2.44	2.94
Huntingdon County	70.4	72.8	2.44	2.92
Region	66.4	70.1		

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990 – 2000.

Household Size: Household size is related to several factors. Families tend to be larger than other households because there are often children living in the same housing unit as their parents. Households comprised of unrelated individuals tend to be smaller and single person households obviously are the smallest of all. The average household size for the Commonwealth in 2000 was 2.48 persons. Only Bedford had larger average households (2.50). All other Counties in the Region had household sizes between 2.38 and 2.45. Two age related factors influence the change in household size. First, as the members of households age, children leave and a family household which might have had four or five persons falls to just the two parents. Second, as the members of the household age even more, one spouse dies leaving a single person household. Household size has been falling in all areas analyzed.

Group Quarters: Approximately 3.5 percent of all Pennsylvania residents do not live in households. Most of these 433,301 persons (2000 Census) are in group quarters of some kind; a few thousand are homeless. The Blair County Region had 35,578 persons in group quarters in 2000, about 6.0 percent of the population. Blair County had 4,107 persons in group quarters, 3.2 percent of the total. Two counties (Centre and Huntingdon) account for the high proportion of Regional residents in group quarters. In Centre County there were 14,777 residents or 10.9 percent in group quarters and in Huntingdon there were 4,683 persons (10.3 percent) in group quarters. The high percentage in Centre County is due primarily to the University, of course, but Rockview State Correctional Institution also accounts for a substantial percentage. In Huntingdon, the cause for such a high percentage is the prison. Bedford had the lowest percentage of its population living in group quarters, just 0.9 percent.

In all, institutionalized persons accounted for 47.8 percent of all persons in group quarters in the Region, slightly less than the 49.3 percent statewide. (Here, institutions include prisons, mental hospitals, nursing homes, and juvenile facilities.). There was a considerable range between the Counties in the Region in the percentage institutionalized. Blair County was just about in the middle with 60.4 percent in this category. Clearfield had the highest percentage at 91.3 percent and Centre the least with 20.5 percent.

Table 1.32: Group Quarters and Institutionalized Persons

Census 2000	In Households	In Group Quarters	Institutionalized
Pennsylvania	11,847,753	433,301	213,790
Bedford County	49,516	468	357
Blair County	125,037	4,107	2,480
Cambria County	144,290	8,308	4,568
Centre County	120,981	14,777	3,029
Clearfield County	80,147	3,235	2,952
Huntingdon County	40,903	4,683	3,605
Region	560,874	35,578	16,991
Place	% in Households	% in Group Quarters	% of Group Qtrs Institutionalized
Pennsylvania	96.5	3.5	49.3
Bedford County	99.1	0.9	76.3
Blair County	96.8	3.2	60.4
Cambria County	94.6	5.4	55.0
Centre County	89.1	10.9	20.5
Clearfield County	96.1	3.9	91.3
Huntingdon County	89.7	10.3	77.0
Region	94.0	6.0	47.8

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000

Household and Family Structure: In Pennsylvania **married couple families** made up 76.9 percent of all families in 2000. However, **married couple families with children less than 18** living at home were only 42.3 percent of married couple families or 32.5 percent of all families. In other words, less than one-third of families had children at home. In the Region the situation was similar but more extreme; 80.7 percent of families included a married couple but just 40.0 percent of these had children at home. Blair County was near the middle of the Regional distribution; married couple families made up 77.6 percent of all families and 40.0 percent of those had children at home.

Female headed households (households with more than one persons and no male present) were 11.6 percent of all households in 2000. More than 50 percent of **female headed households** had **children under 18 in them** (6.2 percent of all households). The Regional average is somewhat below the state's on these two statistics, just 9.1 percent of all households were female headed and 4.8 percent of all households were headed by females with children at home. Blair County was close to the state and well above the Regional average. In 2000, there 5,769 female headed households (11.2 percent) and 3,112 had children living in them, 6.0 percent of all households. This statistic is important because female headed households with children tend to be lower income and have a high incidence of poverty.

Table 1.33: Married Couple and Female Headed Households

Census 2000	Married Couple Families	M Cpl Families w/ Children	Female Headed Households	Fem Head w/ Children
Pennsylvania	2,467,673	1,043,071	554,693	298,021
Bedford County	12,206	4,873	1,532	779
Blair County	27,080	10,836	5,769	3,112
Cambria County	31,967	12,279	6,318	3,052
Centre County	24,138	10,205	3,025	1,700
Clearfield County	18,556	7,407	3,049	1,611
Huntingdon County	9,741	3,844	1,397	797
Region	123,688	49,444	21,090	11,051
Place	Married Couple As % of Families	Married w/Child As % of Marr Cpl	Female Head As % of HHs	Fem Head w/ Ch as % of HHs
Pennsylvania	76.9	42.3	11.6	6.2
Bedford County	84.2	39.9	7.7	3.9
Blair County	77.6	40.0	11.2	6.0
Cambria County	78.7	38.4	10.4	5.0
Centre County	84.7	42.3	6.1	3.4
Clearfield County	80.9	39.9	9.3	4.9
Huntingdon County	82.6	39.5	8.3	4.8
Region	80.7	40.0	9.1	4.8

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

One person households make up a surprisingly large percentage of all households. In Pennsylvania, in 2000, 27.7 percent of households were single person. The average for the region was only slightly lower at 27.3 percent. Blair was just above the average at 27.8 percent. The County in the Region with the fewest single person households was Bedford with 23.5 and the highest was Cambria with 29.8. One clear indication of the aging population of the Region is shown in the percentage of **single person households over the age of 65**. In Pennsylvania, 42.0 percent of all single person households were over 65; in the Region 45.5 percent were elderly. The Regional average would have been significantly higher but Centre County (PSU influence) had only 28.8 percent of all one person households over 65. Predictably, Cambria County had the highest percentage at 52.6 percent while Blair was somewhat lower at 47.6 percent.

Overall, 32.6 percent of all households in the state were **households with persons under 18**. In the Region only 30.3 percent of households had persons under 18. Blair was above the Regional average with 31.9 percent of households containing children. The highest percentage in the Region was in Bedford County and this was followed closely by Huntingdon and Clearfield. Centre was the lowest with 27.0 percent.

Households with persons over 65 were not so evenly distributed; while the state average was 27.8 percent and the Region had 28.6 percent, the variation within the Region was great. Only 19.2 percent of all households had persons over 65 in Centre County compared to 34.7 percent in Cambria. Blair, Bedford, and Clearfield were in the midrange with between 29 and 30 percent while Huntingdon was lower at 28.4 percent.

Table 1.34: Single Person Households and Households with Children and Elderly

Census 2000	1 Person Households	1 Person Over 65	Households w/ Under 18	Households w/ Over 65
Pennsylvania	1,320,941	555,374	1,559,281	1,328,237
Bedford County	4,649	2,279	6,538	5,786
Blair County	14,344	6,832	16,414	15,184
Cambria County	18,015	9,469	17,697	20,974
Centre County	13,102	3,770	13,296	9,477
Clearfield County	8,614	4,287	10,510	9,779
Huntingdon County	4,332	2,068	5,449	4,753
Region	63,056	28,705	69,904	65,953
Place	1 Person % of Households	1 Person 65+ % of Hholds	HHs w/ Under 18 % of Hholds	HH w/ Over 65 % of Hholds
Pennsylvania	27.7	42.0	32.6	27.8
Bedford County	23.5	49.0	33.1	29.3
Blair County	27.8	47.6	31.9	29.5
Cambria County	29.8	52.6	29.2	34.7
Centre County	26.6	28.8	27.0	19.2
Clearfield County	26.3	49.8	32.1	29.8
Huntingdon County	25.8	47.7	32.5	28.4
Region	27.3	45.5	30.3	28.6

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic characteristics describe the population of a place, the number, age, race, living situation, etc. Socio-economic characteristics are acquired traits which describe the condition of that population. These include: education, income, occupation, employment status, etc.

Educational Attainment: One of the most important characteristics of any place is the level of education attained by its residents. A place with a poorly educated populace typically has lower incomes, less ability to attract new employers, and a greater need for social services. The Census of Population and Housing presents several different measures of educational attainment, the most significant are high school graduation and the attainment of college degrees.

In 2000, in Pennsylvania, 81.9 percent of persons over 25 years of age had obtained at least a high school diploma. In the Blair County Region the percentage was slightly lower at 81.7. In Blair County, on the other hand, 83.8 percent had at least graduated from high school. The County in the Region with the lowest rate of high school graduation was Huntingdon with 74.6 percent. (This is at least partially due to the prison population). Centre County, by contrast, had 88.2 percent of persons over 25 holding at least high school diplomas. (Here, of course, the percentage is high because of the University population). Bedford, Cambria, and Clearfield were all somewhat below the state of Regional averages.

More varied than high school graduation rates was the spatial distribution of college degrees. The average for the Commonwealth in 2000 was 22.4 percent of persons over 25. The Region had a college degree attainment rate of 17.2 percent. All of the Counties in the Region were well below the state average except for Centre. Because of Penn State, Centre County had 36.3 percent of all persons over 25 holding at least a Bachelor's Degree; Blair was a distant second with 13.9 percent in this category. The County with the smallest percentage was Bedford at 10.2 percent. About 13.7 percent of the adult population of Cambria County had college degrees; Clearfield and Huntingdon had between 11 and 12 percent.

Despite lagging the state in educational attainment in 2000, the Region showed significant improvement over 1990. At the beginning of the decade only 13.9 percent of persons over 25 in the Region had at least a Bachelor's Degree. At that time only 10.5 percent of Blair County residents over 25 held a college degree. The average for Pennsylvania in 1990 was 17.9 percent. The improvement was even more significant in high school graduation rates. Just 73.9 percent of persons over 25 in the Region had high school diplomas in 1990 and just 75.0 percent in Blair.

Overall, the Region compares favorably to the Commonwealth in the percentage of persons with a high school education but relatively poorly on the percentage with a college education. It should be remembered that the age structure of the population plays an important role in this statistic. The Region has an older population than the state and fewer persons among the older cohorts had the opportunity for advanced education. Another factor which plays a significant role is the out-migration of young adults. Studies show that, among the 20 to 34 year age groups, the better educated are most likely to leave. As noted above, Blair County lost about 14.0 percent of this age group to out-migration between 1990 and 2000.

Table 1.35: Educational Attainment, 1990 – 2000

Census 2000	Persons Over 25	% with High School	% with 4 year College Degree
Pennsylvania	8,266,284	81.9	22.4
Bedford County	34,582	78.3	10.2
Blair County	88,366	83.8	13.9
Cambria County	106,780	80	13.7
Centre County	74,785	88.2	36.3
Clearfield County	58,138	79.1	11.1
Huntingdon County	31,152	74.6	11.9
Region	393,803	81.7	17.2
Census 1990	Persons Over 25	% with High School	% with 4 year College Degree
Pennsylvania	7872932	74.7	17.9
Bedford County	31555	68.5	7.8
Blair County	86870	75.0	10.5
Cambria County	110251	71.2	10.8
Centre County	66356	83.6	32.3
Clearfield County	51464	70.2	8.6
Huntingdon County	28598	71.2	9.4
Region	375094	73.9	13.9

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1990 B 2000.

School Enrollment: A different aspect of education is shown in the school enrollment statistics. These numbers reflect both age structure and personal choices about education. Overall, 18.1 percent of the population of Pennsylvania was enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve in 2000. Just 16.3 percent of the residents of the Region were in elementary or secondary school. All the counties in the Region, except Centre, had between 16.4 percent and 17.6 percent of their populations enrolled in these grades. Centre County's population is skewed by the students at Penn State; in 2000, only 13.5 percent of the population was enrolled below the college level.

The 36,000-plus students at Penn State reverse the statistics for college enrollment. The non-commuting students are considered residents of Centre county while in school and that (plus the student population at the Region's other colleges) leads to disproportionately high percentage of the total Regional population enrolled in college. In 2000, 9.1 percent of all residents of the Region were enrolled in higher education, compared to 5.7 percent statewide. All of the Counties in the Region have some type of higher education, though their total enrollment doesn't come close to the total at University Park in State College. Just over 26.8 percent of the population of Centre County is in college or graduate school. Blair, Cambria, and Huntingdon have four year colleges and each has between four and five percent of their population enrolled. Bedford and Clearfield have between two and three percent.

Table 1.36: School Enrollment, 2000

Census 2000	In School	Nursery School	Kinder-garten	Elementary School	High School	College
Pennsylvania	3,135,934	203,934	159,146	1,379,671	690,020	703,163
Bedford County	10,487	660	524	5,531	2,706	1,066
Blair County	29,585	1,965	1,642	13,632	7,095	5,251
Cambria County	34,592	2,025	1,816	14,634	8,503	7,614
Centre County	56,564	1,902	1,214	11,225	5,867	36,356
Clearfield County	18,092	1,217	1,005	9,017	4,697	2,156
Huntingdon County	10,515	438	429	4,587	3,027	2,034
Region	159,835	8,207	6,630	58,626	31,895	54,477
% of Total						
Census 2000	In School	Nursery School	Kinder-garten	Elementary School	High School	College
Pennsylvania	25.5	1.7	1.3	11.2	5.6	5.7
Bedford County	21.0	1.3	1.0	11.1	5.4	2.1
Blair County	22.9	1.5	1.3	10.6	5.5	4.1
Cambria County	22.7	1.3	1.2	9.6	5.6	5.0
Centre County	41.7	1.4	0.9	8.3	4.3	26.8
Clearfield County	21.7	1.5	1.2	10.8	5.6	2.6
Huntingdon County	23.1	1.0	0.9	10.1	6.6	4.5
Region	26.8	1.4	1.1	9.8	5.3	9.1

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

Housing Stability and Sources of In-migration: In Pennsylvania in 2000 approximately 63.5 percent of residents over the age of five lived in the same that they lived in in 1996. This is a measure of population and housing stability; for the US as a whole, the percentage is much lower. Such stability is neither inherently good or bad, that judgment depends on other population dynamics.

In all the counties in the Region – except Centre – the percentage living in the same house in 2000 was higher than in the state. In Blair County 66.7 percent of housing occupants were stable, while in Centre the percentage was just 46.9. Bedford and Clearfield Counties had the highest percentages at 70.6 and 70.1 percent respectively. The average for the Region was 64.4 percent.

Of those who moved to their present house in past five years, 62.0 percent of Pennsylvanians were from a different house in the same County; 21.6 percent more were from somewhere else in Pennsylvania and just 20.6 percent were from a different state or country. The numbers were somewhat different for the Region; here only 55.9 were from the same county but 29.3 percent were from elsewhere in Pennsylvania; 18.0 percent were from outside the state. Blair County had even more extreme numbers; 72.7 percent were from within the County; and, only 11.5 percent were from outside the state. The latter suggests that neither the Region nor the County were especially attractive to in-migrants and that, of those who did move to the area during the last five years of the decade, most were from inside the Commonwealth.

Table 1.37: Sources of In-migration

Census 2000	Same House	Same County	Different County	Same State	Different State	Moved from Outside US
Pennsylvania	7,333,591	2,513,167	154,3549	874,796	66,8753	165,231
Bedford County	33,138	8,647	5,062	2,983	2,079	98
Blair County	81,255	29,234	10,983	6,759	4,224	394
Cambria County	103,931	27,002	13,072	8,697	4,375	852
Centre County	60,754	22,493	41,632	28,049	13,583	4,627
Clearfield County	55,289	14,478	8,900	5,961	2,939	214
Huntingdon County	29,412	7,148	6,461	4,772	1,689	99
Region	363,779	109,002	86,110	57,221	28,889	6,284
Census 2000	%Same House	%Same County	%Different County	%Same State	%Different State	% Out of US
Pennsylvania	63.5	62.0	38.0	21.6	16.5	4.1
Bedford County	70.6	63.1	36.9	21.8	15.2	0.7
Blair County	66.7	72.7	27.3	16.8	10.5	1.0
Cambria County	71.7	67.4	32.6	21.7	10.9	2.1
Centre County	46.9	35.1	64.9	43.7	21.2	7.2
Clearfield County	70.1	61.9	38.1	25.5	12.6	0.9
Huntingdon County	68.2	52.5	47.5	35.1	12.4	0.7
Region	64.4	55.9	44.1	29.3	14.8	3.2

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

Labor Force: The potential labor force, as defined by the Bureau of the census, includes all persons over 16 years of age. The civilian labor force is all of those persons who are employed or actively seeking employment, excluding those in the armed services. Statistics are by place of residence.

In 2000, there were 279,122 persons in the Region's civilian **labor force**; this was an increase of 6.5 percent over 1990. The state labor force grew by just 3.4 percent over this period and the Blair County labor force by 3.8 percent. Centre (11.3 percent), Clearfield (10.7 percent), and Bedford (9.3 percent) had the fastest growth in the Region. The labor force of Cambria grew at the slowest rate, just 1.5 percent.

Overall **employment** in Pennsylvania grew by 4.0 percent; in the Region by 7.9 percent, and in Blair County by 5.0 percent. Unemployment, therefore, fell in all areas except Cambria. Employment grew by a higher percentage than the labor force in almost all of the entities analyzed. Only Cambria County showed employment growth slower than the change in the labor force (a 1.2 percent increase in employment compared to a 1.5 percent increase in the labor force). The fastest growth in the number of employed residents was in Clearfield County (15.9 percent); this was followed by Bedford (12.2 percent), and Centre (11.9 percent). Note: Because these statistics are by place of residence they do not indicate actual employment in each county; commuting across county or state borders will cause these figures to differ from employment within the county.

Table 1.38: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment: 1990 – 2000

Census 2000	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp	LFPR	%Unemp	%Change Emp
Pennsylvania	5,992,886	5,653,500	339,386	61.8	5.7	4.0
Bedford County	23,817	22,458	1,359	60.3	5.7	12.2
Blair County	61,589	57,756	3,833	59.6	6.2	5.0
Cambria County	67,004	61,115	5,889	53.7	8.8	1.2
Centre County	68,406	64,663	3,743	60.0	5.5	11.9
Clearfield County	38,293	35,659	2,634	57.4	6.9	15.9
Huntingdon County	20,013	18,887	1,126	54.2	5.6	8.0
Region	279,122	260,538	18,584	57.5	6.7	7.9
Census 1990	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp	LFPR	%Unemp	%Change LF
Pennsylvania	5,797,937	5,434,532	344,795	61.7	5.9	3.4
Bedford County	21,787	20,013	1,736	58.4	8.0	9.3
Blair County	59,309	55,022	4,164	58.0	7.0	3.8
Cambria County	66,022	60,374	5,502	50.9	8.3	1.5
Centre County	61,452	57,809	3,398	59.3	5.5	11.3
Clearfield County	34,587	30,777	3,751	56.9	10.8	10.7
Huntingdon County	18,962	17,482	1,451	54.2	7.7	5.5
Region	262,119	241,477	20,002	55.9	7.6	6.5

The **labor force participation rate** (LFPR) is the percentage of the potential labor force actually employed or unemployed and seeking employment. A high LFPR usually implies a robust economy while a lower rate indicates that fewer persons are working or seeking work. A rising LFPR indicates that more persons are willing to work and believe they can find work. A falling LFPR is often a result of discouraged unemployed workers who have given up seeking employment.

The state's LFPR was fairly high in 2000 at 61.8 percent. The Regional rate was 57.5 percent. Blair County had a LFPR of 59.6 percent, which was among the highest in the Region. Cambria County, probably due to more than two decades of economic decline, had a rate of just 53.7 percent. The LFPR increased or at least stayed the same in all of the areas analyzed between 1990 and 2000. Pennsylvania had a slight increase of just one-tenth of a percent but both the Region and Blair County increased by 1.6 percent.

Unemployment and the **unemployment rate** are measured more accurately by the monthly statistics released by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and more current numbers are found in the *Economic Conditions* section of this Plan. Nonetheless, it is instructive to note that, according to the Census, unemployment fell between 1990 and 2000 in most areas analyzed for this Profile. Only Cambria County saw an increase in the unemployment rate over the decade. In 1990, the unemployment rate in Cambria was 8.3 percent, by 2000 it had climbed to 8.8 percent which was the highest in the Region. The rate of unemployment stayed the same in Centre County but the actual number of unemployed increased slightly. At the beginning of the period, Pennsylvania had 5.9 percent of

the labor force unemployed; this fell to 5.7 percent by 2000. The rate in Blair County fell from 7.0 percent to 6.2 percent. For the Region, the rate fell from 7.6 percent to 6.7 percent. Clearfield County had the greatest decline in the unemployment rate for the decade, with a change from 10.8 percent to 6.9 percent.

Incomes: Nowhere is the diversity of Pennsylvania seen with more impact than in the distribution of income. In 2000, the state had a **median household income** of \$40,106, which indicates that if all household incomes were ranked from top to bottom, the household in the middle of the distribution would have an income of just over \$40,000. The lowest median income in the Region in 2000 was in Cambria County with \$30,179. The highest was in Centre at \$36,165. Blair County's median household income in 2000 was \$32,731, just 81.9 percent of the state median.

Median family income is calculated only for households that have at least two related individuals living together. Because this definition excludes single person households, family incomes tend to be higher than that for all households. In 2000, the median family income in Pennsylvania was \$49,184; within the Region, only Centre County had a median above that of the Commonwealth (\$50,557). The median family income in Blair County was \$40,160 or 81.6 percent of the state.

In some ways, **per capita income** is a better statistic for measuring relative well-being. Per capita income is calculated by dividing total personal income of all residents by the number of residents. Since it is an average, not a median, it provides a basis for direct comparison. In 2000, the per capita income for the Commonwealth was \$20,880; for the Region it was \$16,616 or 77.3 percent of the state.. Blair fared slightly better than the Region with a per capita income of \$16,743, 80.2 percent of the state. The highest per capita income was in Centre County at \$18,020, which includes the students at Penn State. The lowest in the Region was in Huntingdon County at \$15,379.

Table 1.39: Median Household and Family Incomes and Per Capita Income

Census 2000	Median Household	Median Family	Per Capita
Pennsylvania	\$40,106	\$49,184	\$20,880
Bedford County	\$32,731	\$37,741	\$16,316
Blair County	\$32,861	\$40,160	\$16,743
Cambria County	\$30,179	\$37,797	\$16,058
Centre County	\$36,165	\$50,557	\$18,020
Clearfield County	\$31,357	\$38,004	\$16,010
Huntingdon County	\$33,313	\$40,388	\$15,379
Region	-----	-----	\$16,616
Change 1990 – 2000	% Chg Med HH	%Chg Med Fam	% Chg Per Cap
Pennsylvania	38.0	41.1	48.4
Bedford County	51.4	48.9	63.9
Blair County	41.2	41.6	49.1
Cambria County	40.6	42.9	53.5
Centre County	38.8	47.3	52.0
Clearfield County	44.0	45.1	53.5
Huntingdon County	44.4	45.2	46.9
Region	-----	-----	52.7

The income gap is narrowing, although incomes in the Region still lag the state, substantial gains were made during the 1990's. Median household income in Blair increased by 41.2 percent compared to the state average of 38.0 percent. Bedford had the highest rate of increase, 51.4 percent and Centre the least at 38.8 percent. Per capita incomes increased by 48.4 percent statewide and by 52.7 percent in the Region; in Blair per capita incomes increased by 49.1 percent. Bedford County showed the greatest gain at 63.9 percent and Huntingdon the least at 46.9 percent.

Income Distribution: It is also important to consider the distribution of income within the population because this substantially determines the kind and amount of services needed and the resources available to pay for them. The distribution of household income was reported by the Census in 2000 and is here considered in six classes: under \$10,000 per year (very low), \$10,000 to \$15,000 (low), \$15,000 to \$25,000 (moderate), \$25,000 to \$50,000 (lower middle), \$50,000 to \$100,000 (middle), above \$100,000 (upper). Some of the Census reported classes have been combined for easier reporting.

Very low incomes: Because the income is reported by households there is no way to know if this income is for one person or several. Typical Social Security checks for individuals were a bit below \$10,000 in 1999, but even for one person this was in the poverty range. About 9.7 percent of all households in Pennsylvania had incomes below \$10,000 in 1999; for the Region there were 25,567 households or 11.5 percent in this range. Blair County was just on the Regional average at 11.5 percent. The County with the highest proportion of very low incomes was Cambria with 12.1 percent; Bedford had the smallest percentage at 10.2.

Table 1.40: Income Distribution, 1999

Census 2000	LT \$10K	\$10 TO 15K	\$15 TO 25K	\$25 TO 50K	\$50 TO 100K	GT \$100K
Pennsylvania	465,860	333,381	657,266	1,443,118	1,387,343	492,218
Bedford County	2,026	1,601	3,390	7,522	4,494	767
Blair County	5,940	4,903	8,458	17,812	12,116	2,393
Cambria County	7,355	6,238	11,450	20,395	12,645	2,485
Centre County	5,666	3,964	7,338	15,045	13,134	4,189
Clearfield County	3,712	3,121	6,223	11,292	7,133	1,311
Huntingdon County	1,868	1,328	2,864	5,893	4,135	690
Region	26,567	21,155	39,723	77,959	53,657	11,835
Census 2000	LT \$10K	\$10 TO 15K	\$15 TO 25K	\$25 TO 50K	\$50 TO 100K	GT \$100K
Pennsylvania	9.7	7.0	13.8	30.2	29.0	10.3
Bedford County	10.2	8.1	17.1	38.0	22.7	3.9
Blair County	11.5	9.5	16.4	34.5	23.5	4.6
Cambria County	12.1	10.3	18.9	33.7	20.9	4.1
Centre County	11.5	8.0	14.9	30.5	26.6	8.5
Clearfield County	11.3	9.5	19.0	34.4	21.8	4.0
Huntingdon County	11.1	7.9	17.1	35.1	24.6	4.1
Region	11.5	9.2	17.2	33.8	23.2	5.1

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

Low incomes: About 7.0 percent of Pennsylvania households had incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000. These households would also be considered to be at or below the poverty level. There were 21,115 households in this income range in the Region, about 9.2 percent. All of the counties in the Region had higher percentages of low

income households than the state. Blair County was in the middle of the distribution with 9.5 percent low income households. Cambria had the largest percentage of low income households (12.1 percent) and Huntingdon the least with 7.9 percent.

Low to moderate incomes: Depending on their size, many of these households would be below or at the edge of poverty. In the Commonwealth, 13.8 percent of all households were in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 (low to moderate) income range. Just over 17.2 percent of the Region's households were in this category. Blair County had a slightly lower proportion of low to moderate income households than the Region with 16.4 percent in this group. Cambria and Clearfield Counties had about 19.0 percent in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range. Centre County had the smallest percentage, just 14.9 percent.

Lower middle income: The \$25,000 to \$50,000 range of incomes was the largest group among all areas analyzed. This group contained 30.2 percent of Pennsylvania households; 33.8 percent of Regional households and 34.5 percent of Blair County households. The County with the greatest percentage in the Region was Bedford (38.0 percent). Centre had the fewest with 30.5 percent.

Middle income: This group is composed of households earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 dollars per year. It is the second largest in the state with 29.3 percent of all households. A much smaller proportion of households in the Region, 23.2 percent, were in this range. Blair was just above the Regional average with 23.5 percent. Within the Region, this group was smallest in Cambria County (20.9 percent) and largest in Huntingdon (24.6 percent).

Upper income: Those households with incomes over \$100,000 per year are here classed as upper income. Approximately 10.3 percent of Pennsylvania households were in this category in 1999. Only 5.1 percent of the Region's households had incomes over \$100,000. In Blair County, 4.6 percent had incomes over \$100,000 which was the second highest in the Region. Centre County biases the Regional average; 8.5 percent were over \$100,000. The lowest was Bedford at 3.9 percent, followed by Clearfield at 4.0 percent.

Income Distribution Summary: While only 30.5 percent of households in Pennsylvania had incomes below the \$25,000 level in 2000, 37.5 percent of households in the Region were in this range. Likewise 39.3 percent of all households had incomes over \$50,000 compared to 28.3 percent in the Region. Blair County's household income distribution closely matched that of the Region.

Poverty: Predictably, poverty is a substantial problem in the County. While only 10.4 percent of Pennsylvanians had incomes below the poverty level in 2000, 12.6 percent of all Blair County residents, including 9.1 percent of children under five had incomes below the poverty level.

PLANNING REGION ONE

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region One is composed of Snyder Township, Tyrone Borough, and Tyrone Township. This Region is sometimes referred to as the Tyrone Area School District, although the borders do not conform exactly. Part of Tyrone Township is in the Altoona Area School District and TASD also includes Warriors Mark Township, Franklin Township, and Birmingham Borough in Huntingdon County and Taylor Township in Centre County.

Population

In 2000, Region One had a population of 10,686, about 8.3 percent of Blair County. Just under 61 percent of the population is urban (6,501) and, of the rural population, 201 persons live on farms.

Population Change, 1990 -- 2000

The Region gained 103 residents between 1990 and 2000, just 1.0 percent of the 1990 total. However, there was a sharp decline in the number of children and a corresponding increase in the number of very elderly over the decade. The number of children less than five years old decreased by 81 or 12.3 percent; children five to 19 decreased by 1.4 percent. On the other hand, there were 202 more people over the age of 75 living in the Region. This was an increase of 19.3 percent. Of equal importance is the change in those 20 to 34 and those 35 to 54. The former group declined by 13.7 percent (250 persons), and the latter increased by 21.0 percent or 652 persons. The increase in persons 35 to 54 represents the aging of the baby-boom population. The decrease in those 20 to 34 is, in part due to the much smaller cohort of persons born during the Ababy-bust@ decades and, in part, to out-migration of youth.

Table 1.41: Region One: Projected Population Change

Region 1	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	10,583	10,686	10,345	10,178
Under 20	2,840	2,729	2,310	2,397
20 to 34	2,081	1,831	1,846	1,584
35 to 54	2,460	3,112	2,608	2,648
55 to 74	2,358	1,968	2,787	2,764
Over 75	844	1,046	794	785
15 to 69	7,110	7,103	6,734	6,510

Migration accounted for all of the population growth in Region 1 during the decade of the 1990s. In fact, there was a net in-migration of 176 persons over the decade. Without the in-migrants the population would have fallen by more than 70 residents. Despite this increase, out-migration is a serious concern for the Region; 26 percent of males and 17.6 percent of females between the ages of 20 and 24 left the Region between 1990 and 2000. This is the age group that would just be entering the labor force and starting families and is an important loss. On balance 251 persons between the ages of 20 and 34 left the Region during the time period. There was also a significant out-flux of persons between 65 and 74. Apparently, a net of 164 newly retired people chose to move elsewhere. The major in-migration occurred in persons between 35 and 59; there was net increase of 416 persons of this age group.

Projected Change in Population

Unless major economic change occurs to alter settlement patterns, the population of Region 1 will decline by about 500 between 2000 and 2020. If migration continues the same regional pattern of the previous decade, which seems likely, the population of the Region will decrease by about 500 persons or 4.8 percent. If, however, net migration is zero B and all population change is determined by births and deaths B the population will fall less rapidly; by about 340 persons or 3.2 percent. Tyrone Borough will see the greatest decline, from 5,528 to about 5,150. Both Tyrone Township and Snyder Township will grow slightly, the former from 1,800 to about 1,850 and the latter from 3,358 to around 3,550.

Age Structure

Although total population will change little under the current scenarios, the age structure of the population will change greatly. With no migration or with the same pattern of migration which occurred in the 1990s, the number of persons under 20 years of age and the number of persons between 20 and 34 will decrease by at least 10 percent and the number of persons between 35 and 54 will also decline. Only those age groups over 55 will see an increase

in population. The cohort most strongly affected will be the group between 55 and 64; this group will increase by at least 52 percent (with no migration) and by almost 82 percent if the migration pattern of the 1990s continues.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

Over 99 percent of the population of Region One is white and only 0.5 percent is of Hispanic origin. Females outnumber males by a significant margin, 52.6 to 47.4 percent, no doubt due to the age structure as females tend to live longer than males.

Households, Families, and Group Quarters

In 2000, 10,532 residents of the Region lived in households (98.6 percent); the balance (154 persons) were in group quarters. Of those in group quarters, 126 were institutionalized and 28 were in other types of group quarters.

There were 4,396 households (an average of 2.4 persons per household). Of the total households 3,028 were families and 1,314 were non-family living arrangements. Families comprised 68.9 percent of all households. Since 8,937 persons lived in families, the average family size was 2.95 persons.

Married couple families comprised 78.2 percent of all families (2,369). Of the married couple families 984 had children under 18 living at home. This was just 32.5 percent of families. Eighty-six (86) families with children were headed by a male with no spouse and there were 302 female headed households with children. Hence, 2.8 percent of families were males with children and 10.0 percent were females with children.

Non-family households tend to be smaller than other types of living arrangements. In Region 1 these 1,368 households averaged just 1.17 persons in 2000. Most of the non-family households were single person, 1,217. This was 27.7 percent of all households (about the same as the County and state). Female single person households outnumbered male by 696 to 521. There were only 151 non-family households with more than one person.

There were 2,001 persons over 65 in Region 1 in 2000. This was 18.7 percent of residents. Of this total, 1,847 lived in households and 154 were in group quarters. Most of those in group quarters (126) were institutionalized in nursing homes and 28 were in non-institutional settings. There were 119 males living alone and 451 females living in single person households. Hence, persons over 65 made up almost 47 percent of all single person households.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

There were 1,736 students from the Region enrolled in grades one through 12 in 2000. This was 18.6 percent of the total population over the age of three. In addition there were 182 preschool students and 183 children in Kindergarten. Two and one half percent of the population over age three were enrolled in an undergraduate college program and about 0.1 percent were in graduate school.

Approximately 85 percent of residents over the age of 25 had completed at least high school and 11.3 percent had at least bachelor's degrees. Of the 6,301 persons over 25 who had completed high school, 3,920 residents or 52.9 percent had no further formal education. Fifteen percent had some college but no degree and 5.8 percent had an associate degree. About 3.7 percent had an advanced degree.

Income and Poverty

Incomes are generally low in Region 1. Forty percent of households had incomes below \$25,000 in 1999 compared to 37.4 percent countywide. Only 24 percent had incomes over \$50,000. Still, there are some households which are

quite well off; average income in the Region exceeds the median income by a substantial amount. Per capita incomes were less than 90 percent of the County average.

Poverty is a significant problem in Region 1. In 1999, 15.2 percent of residents had incomes below the poverty level according to the Bureau of the Census. The incidence of poverty on the young is of particular concern. In 2000, 23.3 percent of residents were under 18 years of age but 36.3 percent of those in poverty were in this age group. Poverty is not of as great concern for the elderly. While 18.7 percent of the population was over 65, only 12.7 percent of those in poverty were in this group. Over 11 percent of residents had incomes below 75% of the designated poverty level

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

There were 8,493 residents over the age of 16 in the Region in 2000. Of these, 4,955 were in the Labor Force. Only eight were in the Armed Forces. Therefore, the civilian labor force was 4,947; this was a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 58.3 percent compared to the state rate of 61.8 percent and the county rate of 59.7 percent. Note that 41.7 percent of those over 16 were not in the labor force; this is due, in part, to the high percentage of elderly. Employed residents in the Region in 2000 totaled 4,695; the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

Industry of Employment

The following statistics from the census of Population and Housing, 2000, refer to the industry of employment of Region1 residents wherever they may be employed. Employed resident were 55.3 percent of all persons over 16 in 2000. Manufacturing was by far the largest employer of the Region's residents. It employed 1,288 of the 4,695 employed persons or 27.4 percent compared to less than 15.0 percent for the County. Health and Social services was distant second with 13.6 percent, followed by retail trade at 10.1 percent. (These were 15.7 and 14.8 percent, respectively, for the county). No other industry employed more than 10 percent. Education was fourth with 8.8 percent. Construction employed 6.2 percent and accommodations and food services employed 4.4 percent. Transportation and other services were the next largest employers with 4.7 percent and 4.4 percent respectfully.

Occupation

It is no surprise, since manufacturing is by far the largest employer of Region 1 residents, that production workers are the leading occupation. In 2000 there were 782 production workers among the Region's employed workers (16.7 percent). The other major occupations were: office and administrative staff (12.1 percent), sales (10.0 percent), and material handlers (9.1 percent). Repair service workers, including mechanics, were 6.3 percent; construction workers and food preparers and servers each had 5.5 percent. No other occupation had more than five percent of the workforce. In general, the Region's workforce may be characterized as largely blue collar with relatively few managers and professionals. Together this group totaled just 14.2 percent of employed persons.

SUMMARY

Planning Region 1 has an older population and will lose population between 2000 and 2020. The under 20 age group will continue to decline while the group between 55 and 74 will grow rapidly. The labor force will continue to decline in size as well. Fairly low educational attainment, low incomes, and a blue-collar workforce characterize the Region.

PLANNING REGION TWO

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region Two consists of Bellwood Borough and Antis Township. Together they comprise all of the Bellwood-Antis School District. I-99 runs through the Region and provides the primary growth impetus.

Population

The Region had 8,344 residents in 2000; this was 6.5 percent of the total Blair County population. Antis Township was the larger municipality with 6,328 residents and Bellwood Borough had 2,016. Just over 44 percent of Antis Township residents are considered urban and all of those in the Borough are so categorized. Only 55 residents of the Township lived on farms in 2000.

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Region Two gained 192 residents between 1990 and 2000. This was 2.3 percent of the 1990 population. However, most of the in-migrants were older (35 to 74) and, therefore, not family-makers.

Table 1.42: Region Two: Projected Population Change

Region 2	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	8,152	8,344	8,387	8,574
Under 20	2,219	2,071	2,094	2,272
20 to 34	1,675	1,468	1,281	1,138
35 to 54	2,125	2,616	2,124	2,347
55 to 74	1,585	1,620	2,027	2,019
Over 75	548	569	861	798
15 to 69	5,673	5,784	4,917	4,904

Projected Change in Population

Due to the relatively mature age structure, the population of the Region will be essentially the same in 2000 and 2020 unless considerable in-migration occurs. With no migration, the expected population in 2020 is 8,387, a change of just 43 persons or less than 1.0 percent. It is likely that the availability of developable land near I-99 will generate enough in-migration to cause some population growth. If the regional pattern of the 1990s continues the expectation is for the planning region to add about 200 residents by 2020. Bellwood will have about 2,200 residents and Antis Township, depending on in-migration, will have between 6,200 and 6,300 residents. The rapidly aging population may lead to the population in 2010 being slightly higher than in 2020.

Age Structure

Even if population changes are small, the population will age considerably during the next two decades. The population under 20 will grow by around 10 percent only if in-migration continues. If that trend does not continue, the population under 20 will remain almost constant. The number of residents between 20 and 34 will fall by at least 12 percent and perhaps more. However, the largest percentage decline will be in the group between 35 and 54. In 2000 this group contained 2,616 persons or 31.4 percent of the Region's population. By 2020, under the most

extreme scenario (i.e. with no in-migration), those 35 to 54 could be just 25.3 percent of the population, a decline of 492 or 18.8 percent. The population over 55 will increase by as much as 68 percent. The cause of this change is the aging bulge of baby-boomers in the population. By 2020, most of the baby-boomers will have aged into the 55 to 74 year old group. In 2000, there were 1,620 persons in the 55 to 74 year-old age group (19 percent of the total). By 2020, under even the most favorable scenario, this group will number 2,019 or 24 percent; this will be a 25 percent increase. The frail elderly, those over 75, will also become a larger portion of the population, increasing by at least 40 percent.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

There are very few minority or Hispanic persons in the Region. In 2000 there were 104 non-whites (1.2 percent) and eight Hispanics (less than 0.1 percent). Even compared to Blair County, which is composed primarily of English speaking Caucasians, the Region is extremely homogenous.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

Almost all residents of the Region live in households (99.4 percent) and most are in family households (88.9 percent); highest among the seven Planning Regions. By comparison only 96.8 percent of Blair County residents are in households and 82.1 percent are in family units. There were only 46 residents in group quarters and only one of these persons was institutionalized.

There were 3,307 households in the Region in 2000, with an average size of 2.51. This was quite a bit larger than the average for the County, which was 2.42. Somewhat surprisingly, households in Bellwood Borough were larger than those in the Township (2.57 versus 2.49). This is unusual because boroughs – with their older housing stocks -- often have more single person and empty-nest households.

In 2000 there were 2,503 families in the Region. These had an average of 2.96 persons compared to the County average of 3.00. Again, families in the Borough tended to be larger than those in the Township (3.13 persons versus 2.91).

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

A high percentage of persons over 25 have at least a high school diploma, 86.6 percent compared to just 83.8 percent countywide. However, relatively few have a college degree, just 11.9 percent compared to the county average of 13.9 percent. The latter is probably due to the age structure.

Income and Poverty

The Region is relatively well off compared to the County. In 1999 the median household income in Blair County was \$32,861. In Bellwood Borough the median was \$34,595 and in Antis Township it was \$39,682. Only 32.8 percent of households had incomes under \$25,000 compared to 37.4 percent of all households in Blair County. Also, 33.5 percent of households in the Region had incomes over \$50,000 compared to just 28.1 percent countywide.

Poverty in the Region is low compared to most of the County. In 1999 only 7.4 percent of residents had incomes below the poverty level; in the County the percentage was 12.6 percent. The Region had the lowest poverty rate of all seven Planning Regions. Of particular importance is the fact just 1.2 percent of families with children had incomes below the poverty level compared to the County average of 4.1 percent.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

Region Two had the highest labor force participation rate in the County in 2000, 64.5 percent. Of the 4,321 persons in the labor force, 4,41 were employed and the employment rate was just 4.0 percent compared to the County level of 6.2 percent.

Place of Work

Approximately 10.7 percent of all workers over 16 worked out of Blair County compared to 10.1 percent countywide. However, only 14.4 percent worked in their place of residence; the County average in 2000 was 33.2 percent. This statistic suggests that the Planning Region is primarily a bedroom community for Altoona and other urban concentrations.

Means of Transportation to Work

A greater percentage of workers in the Region used their autos to get to work than was the average for the County. In 2000, 94.2 percent traveled to work in cars and 91.6 percent traveled alone. The averages for the County were 92.6 percent and 88.8 percent respectively.

Journey to Work

The probable reason for such high dependence on the automobile was the fact that most worked outside of their place of residence. This, in turn, is reflected by the fact that the average travel time to work was among the highest in the County. Whereas the average commute for the County as a whole was just 19.7 minutes, the average for Region Two was 26.4 minutes.

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

Over 21 percent of all employed persons in the Region worked in manufacturing industries. Health and services was the second largest sector (14.5 percent) and retail trade was the third (13.4 percent). These same three sectors were dominant in the County economy as well but were more evenly distributed. Manufacturing had just 15.9 percent of total County employment; retail had 14.5 percent and health and social services had 14.2 percent. The only other sectors to have more than 5.0 percent of the Region's employment were education (9.0 percent), other services (6.0 percent), and wholesale trade (5.5 percent). All were slightly over-represented in the Region compared to the County.

Occupation of Employed Residents

As appropriate for an area with a high concentration of manufacturing sector employees, production workers were the largest occupational category in the region (12.1 percent compared to the County average of 10.4 percent). Other blue-collar occupations were also more concentrated in the Region than in the County. In particular, drivers were 5.2 percent of the regional total compared to 3.9 percent of the County average. Material handlers were 10.7 percent versus 9.2 in the County. And repair workers were 6.3 percent compared to 5.3 percent. In total, blue-collar workers were 39.8 percent of regional employees but just 36.5 percent of Blair County workers.

SUMMARY

The population of Planning Region 2 will be stable to slightly growing until at least 2020. The most significant characteristics of the Region are a stable, family based, populace and an aging, blue-collar, workforce.

PLANNING REGION THREE

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region Three consists of the City of Altoona and Logan Township. These, together with the southern third of Tyrone Township, comprise the Altoona Area School District.

Population

The Region contained 61,448 residents in 2000. There were 49,525 persons living in Altoona and 11,923 in Logan Township. Together they comprised 47.6 percent of the population of Blair County. Almost all residents, 94.6 percent, lived in urban areas as defined by the Census. Only 34 – all in Logan Township – lived on farms.

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Between 1990 and 2000 the Region lost 2,814 residents; this was 4.4 percent of the population. Although Altoona suffered the majority of this loss, 2,358; the Township had an almost equally great percentage decline. It lost 456 persons or 3.6 percent during the decade. The loss in Altoona during the 1990s follows several decades of declining population.

Table 1.43: Region Three: Projected Population Change

Region 3	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	64,262	61,448	58,294	55,204
Under 20	13,798	12,738	13,517	13,512
20 to 34	13,277	11,444	11,137	9,549
35 to 54	15,159	17,561	14,607	14,315
55 to 74	13,090	10,905	14,755	14,106
Over 75	4,821	5,101	4,278	3,721
15 to 69	43,596	42,282	37,612	35,337

Projected Change in Population

Out-migration is the key factor in the population losses suffered by the Region and, unless the local pattern can be turned around, the Region will lose another 10 percent of its population by 2020. If the Region loses population at the rate of the County, it will have just 6.0 percent fewer residents by 2020. If, somehow, all out-migration could be halted, the Region would still lose slightly over the next two decades; the 2020 population would be 58,294, a decrease of 5.1 percent. The City of Altoona will continue to lose population, falling from 49,523 in 2000 to about 46,950 in 2020; Logan Township will lose between 1,100 and 1,400 residents depending on migration.

Age Structure

If the local pattern of migration continues through 2020, the under 20 population would grow by about six percent; if the County trend is dominant population in this age group would still grow by about the same amount. The 20 to 34 year old group will, however, decline possibly be as much as 17 percent. The number of residents over 55 will increase by between 16 and 18.5 percent, depending on migration. The labor force will decrease even if all migration is arrested. With no out-migration the labor force will fall by eleven percent; if local trend hold the loss could be 16.4 percent by 2020.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

The Region has a slightly higher percentage of minorities and Hispanics than the County as a whole. This is typical of urban areas but the percentages are still quite low by Pennsylvania or US standards. In 2000, only 3.6 percent of the Region's population was non-white compared to 2.5 percent countywide. About 0.5 percent were Hispanic.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

The Region and the County had comparable percentages of persons living in households, 96.5 versus 96.8 but the Region had a smaller percentage living in families. Over 82 percent of all persons in the County were in family households compared to just 79.4 percent in the Region. Again, this is typical of more urban areas.

The average household size in the Region was 2.39 compared to 2.42 in the County. The reason for this difference is found in the percentage of single persons households; over 30 percent of the Region's households, most of them in Altoona, were single person compared to less than 28 percent countywide. The discrepancy is largely explained by the fact that 27.2 percent of females over 65 in the Region, some 2,818, lived alone. Only 24.2 percent of the same group countywide lived alone.

Families, especially married couple families are under-represented, in the Region. In 2000, 64.7 percent of all households in the Region were family groups compared to 68.3 percent countywide. Only 73.9 percent of these families were married couples versus 78.1 percent in the County.

Because of access to services, single-parent households tend to be located in urban areas. This is quite true in the Region, where 10.2 percent of all families are female-headed single parent and 4.0 percent are male-headed single parent families. The comparable percentages for the County are 8.5 percent and 3.6 percent.

Compared to the other Planning Regions, Altoona-Logan had the lowest percentage in the County living in families and the highest in non-family households. It had the smallest average size household and the greatest percentage of single person households.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

Of the 41,117 persons over 25 who were residents of the Region in 2000, 82.4 percent had high school diplomas and 13.0 percent had college degrees. Both of these percentages are slightly below the County averages (83.8 and 13.9 percent respectively).

Income and Poverty

Blair County's median household income in 1999 was \$32,851. The median in Altoona was well below this at \$28,248. However, Logan Township had among one of the highest median incomes in the County at \$36,993. Almost 42 percent of Region Three households had incomes below \$25,000 compared to 37.4 percent for the County as a whole. At the higher end of the income spectrum, only 25.6 percent of Region Three households had incomes over \$50,000 compared to 28.1 percent in the County.

As would be expected from the income statistics, poverty in the Region is a much more significant problem than it is for the County as a whole. While 12.6 percent of all individuals in the County had incomes below the poverty level, 15.7 percent of the Region's residents were below this level. Of particular concern is the fact that 14.5 percent of all families with children under 18 were in poverty in the City of Altoona compared to 9.4 percent in the County.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was roughly the same in the Region and the County in 2000 (59.8 and 59.6 percent). Of the 29,429 persons over 16 in the labor force, 27,022 were employed (91.8 percent). The 8.2 percent unemployment rate was the highest among all regions.

Place of Work

It should not be surprising, considering the urban nature of the Region, that a very high percentage of employed persons worked in their municipality of residence; in Altoona, 60.7 percent did. However, only 18.2 percent of employed resident of Logan worked in the Township. Over 92 percent of the residents of both the Township and the City worked in Blair County compared to just over 89 percent in the County.

Means of Transportation to Work

Even though public transit is more concentrated in the Region than elsewhere in the County, the percentage of workers who took an automobile to work was actually higher in the Region than in the County (92.9 percent versus 92.6 percent). However, there was a slightly greater tendency to carpool in the Region (12.4 percent versus 11.2 percent). Actually public transit did attract a slightly greater percentage of commuters in the Region, but it was still under 1.0 percent compared to about 0.5 percent for the County. A much lower percentage of Regional employees worked out of their homes (1.3 percent versus 2.4 percent).

Journey to Work

Almost 53 percent of all workers who lived in the Region had commutes less than 15 minutes. This compares favorably with the 44.3 percent countywide. For the Region, the average commute was 17.7 minutes compared to 19.7 for the County.

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

A lower percentage of workers in manufacturing and a greater percentage in retail trade, education, and health and social services, characterized the structure of employment in the Region compared to the County. The County had 15.9 percent of its workforce in manufacturing in 2000; the Region had just 11.8 percent. Retail employed 15.9 percent in the Region but only 14.5 percent countywide.

Occupation of Employed Residents

Blue-collar occupations are a much smaller percentage of the workforce in the Region than in the County. In all, just 32.1 percent of employed residents of the Region are employed as manual workers compared to 36.5 percent countywide. Most significantly only 8.6 percent are employed as production workers and 8.5 percent as material handlers compared to 10.4 and 9.2 percent in the County. By contrast, 13.5 are sales employees and 16.1 percent are office and administrative workers, compared to County averages of 12.2 and 14.5 percent.

SUMMARY

The urban nature of the Region is its most defining characteristic compared to the remainder of the County; however, along with that diversity is the poverty and lower incomes often associated with urban areas. The Region will lose population and the labor force will decline in size during the next two decades.

PLANNING REGION FOUR

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region Four consists of Williamsburg Borough and Catherine and Woodbury Townships. It is one of the least populated Regions and also one of the most remote from other centers of population.

Population

There were only 3,740 residents of the Planning Region in 2000; none of whom were considered urban by the Census definition. Approximately 171 lived on farms; this was 4.6 percent of the population, well above the 0.8 percent average in Blair County.

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Between 1990 and 2000 the Region grew from 3,612 to 3,740; although 128 new residents may not seem very many, this was the second fastest growth rate among the seven Planning Regions.

Table 1.44: Region Four: Projected Population Change

Region 4	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	3,612	3,740	3,677	3,766
Under 20	1,065	975	808	813
20 to 34	743	715	669	600
35 to 54	939	1058	940	954
55 to 74	651	669	924	1,030
Over 75	214	323	336	370
15 to 69	2,452	2,537	2,304	2,320

Projected Change in Population

Region 4 saw some population growth between 1990 and 2000, however, if no further in-migration occurs, the Region will lose over 60 residents by 2020. If local migration trends continue, the Region will gain about 26 residents. Woodbury Township has been the recipient of most of the in-migration, if this continues the Township may have just over 2,000 residents by 2020. On the other hand, Catherine Township's population will remain about constant at about 750 to 775 residents. Williamsburg, like most small boroughs in Pennsylvania, is losing population. If migration trends persist, the Borough will have about 1,130 residents in 2020; otherwise it will stay at about the same level.

Age Structure

The primary cause of the possible decline in population is the decreasing number of persons under twenty years of age. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons under 20 in the Planning Region declined by 190; this was largely due to the fact that there were not enough people in the 20 to 34 year old age group to keep the level of births up to the previous level. A downward spiral effect will insure that births will continue to fall unless more young families move into the area. The age groups over 55 on the other hand will continue to grow under almost any circumstance. In 1990 there were 651 persons in the group between 55 and 74; this will probably increase to at least

950 by 2202 due to the aging of the baby boomer population. Depending on migration the group over 75 may grow to 370 from just 214 in 1990 and 323 in 2000.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

Although just 81 non-white persons lived in the Region in 2000, this was a somewhat higher percentage (2.1 percent) than most non-urban places in central Pennsylvania. Most of the racial minorities were located in Woodbury Township. There were just 17 persons of Hispanic origin in the Region, about 0.5 percent.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

A drug treatment facility in Woodbury Township with 78 institutionalized persons probably explains some of the unexpectedly high percentage of non-white persons since the racial mix in such institutions is often not representative of the surrounding population. Other than the inmates in the facility there are only 33 persons in group quarters in the Planning Region, all non-institutionalized.

Despite the fairly large institutionalized population, Planning Region Four had a slightly greater percentage of its residents living in households than the County (97.0 versus 96.8). In part this was due to the fact that 100 percent of the persons in Catherine Township lived in household units. The average size of households was quite large; 2.52 persons per unit versus the County average of 2.42. Woodbury Township had a very large average size at 2.68 persons.

Given the rural nature of the area, it is not surprising that the Region had a high percentage of its residents living in families; 85.0 percent in 2000 compared to the County average of 82.1 percent. The families were also larger than the average for the County, 3.04 versus 3.0. One person households were a fairly small proportion, 24.1 percent of all households. In Blair County 27.7 percent were comprised of single persons.

Married couple families with children were 34.6 percent of all families compared to 31.6 percent countywide. There was a slightly below average percentage of single parent families.

Most of the persons over 65 (96.8 percent) lived in household units. Only 5.7 percent of males over 65 and 23.0 percent of females in that age group lived in single person units. However, 33 (3.2 percent of the total) were in non-institutional group homes.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

The Region lags behind the County in educational attainment. In 2000, just 82.6 percent of persons over 25 had high school diplomas and only 11.9 percent had college degrees. For the County the averages were 83.8 and 13.9 percent respectively. It is typically the case that purely rural areas will not have educational attainment figures on a par with the more urban areas.

Income and Poverty

Typically, when educational attainment is low, incomes are likewise low. This is not the case for Planning Region Four. Two of the three areas had median household and family incomes above the County averages in 1999. Just 34.8 percent of households in that year had incomes below \$25,000 compared to 37.4 percent countywide. At the other extreme, however, just 26.1 percent of households in the Region had incomes over \$50,000 compared to 28.1 percent in Blair County.

As might be expected by the fairly narrow distribution of income, poverty in the area is relatively low. Only 10.4 percent of the population was below the income level for poverty in 1999 compared to the state average of 12.6 percent. However, there was a significant range of percentages between the municipalities. In Williamsburg 12.4 percent were below poverty while just 7.3 percent of those in Catherine Township fell into this category.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

The Census defined potential labor force of Planning Region Four, that is, persons over 16 years of age, in 2000 was 2,974. Of this total 1,632 were actually in the labor force, giving the region a Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 55.2 percent, well below the County rate of 59.6 percent.

The unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.7 percent, significantly better than the 6.2 percent Blair County average. There were 1,556 employed persons.

Place of Work

A smaller than average percentage of employed persons worked in their County of residence. Just 85.5 percent were employed in Blair County compared to the County average of 89.2 percent. The Region's location on the border with Huntingdon County probably accounts for most out of County employment. The rural nature of the area also causes most workers to commute out of their municipality of residence; only 19.6 percent were employed in their own MCD as opposed to the average of 33.2 percent.

Means of Transportation to Work

Although the automobile is the dominant means of transportation to work in the Region as well as the County, a surprisingly large number of employed persons walked to work. Just 88.1 percent drove or carpooled to work compared to the County average of 92.6 percent. Over 6.4 percent walked to work. Of these workers who walked, a high proportion lived in Williamsburg. Almost eleven percent of workers in the Borough walked to work.

Journey to Work

Probably correlated with the place of work statistics is the fairly long travel time to work. The average for Blair County in 2000 was 19.7 minutes but for the Region it was 23.0 minutes, with those from Catherine Township having the longest time: 26.5 minutes. However, as the walking statistics would indicate, there was another group for whom travel times were quite short; 6.5 percent had travel times under five minutes.

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

Manufacturing was the single most important sector of employment for most employed persons in the Region. In 2000, 24.5 percent of workers were employed in manufacturing industries. Agriculture was also far more important to the Region than to the County as a whole; it employed 7.8 percent compared to the County average of 1.4 percent. Construction and mining were the only other sectors to employ a significantly higher percentage of workers than the County average; 8.5 compared to 6.1 for construction and 0.9 compared to 0.3 for mining.

Accommodation and food service, health and social services, retail trade, and professional and technical firms were significantly under-represented.

Occupation of Employed Residents

Blue-collar workers are a much larger part of the occupational mix in the Region than in the County. In 2000, the Census reported that 46.0 percent of workers were in these occupational categories, while, countywide the total was just 36.5 percent. Farmers, farm managers, production workers, and construction workers were over-represented compared to the County. All types of business oriented white-collar workers were somewhat under-represented.

SUMMARY

The Region is a blue-collar, middle income, area. Residents are educated appropriately for the jobs they hold but not for new growth opportunities in expanding high tech and knowledge intensive areas. Total population will be stable.

PLANNING REGION FIVE

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Region Five is the most complex of the designated Planning Regions. Not only does it encompass eight municipalities (Allegheny, Blair, Frankstown, and Juniata Townships and Duncansville, Hollidaysburg, Newry, and part of Tunnelhill Boroughs) it also has widely varying demographics and socioeconomic characteristics. The vast majority of students attend the Hollidaysburg Area School District; only the few students from Tunnel Hill Borough attend the Penn Cambria District schools. The Region lies in central Blair County, between Altoona and Greenfield Township.

Population

There were 27,330 residents living in Planning Region Five in 2000. This was 21.2 percent of the County total; placing it second in population among the seven Planning Regions. The municipalities with the largest populations were Frankstown Township (7,694), Allegheny Township (6,978), Hollidaysburg (5,368), and Blair Township (4,590). Duncansville (1,248) and Juniata Township (1,115) were of modest size; while Newry (232) and that part of Tunnelhill Borough in Blair County (105) were tiny. (In the population projections the population of Tunnelhill is not included because the age structure was not reported in the source material for just the Blair County portion of the Borough).

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Table 1.45: Region Five: Projected Population Change

Region 5	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	26,597	27,212	25,085	26,043
Under 20	7,001	6,585	5,040	5,387
20 to 34	5,310	4,114	4,300	3,602
35 to 54	7,140	8,420	5,786	6,095
55 to 74	5,299	5,387	7,541	7,929
Over 75	1,847	2,706	2,219	3,029
15 to 69	18,390	18,486	15,975	15,923

Projected Change in Population

Region Five will lose population between 2000 and 2020 under almost any scenario. Both age structure and migration trends work against this Region. With no migration the loss will be about 7.8%. If local migration trends continue the loss will be about 4.3%. Blair Township will continue to grow and will have about 5,400 residents in 2020. Frankstown Township will grow until 2010, then level off at about 7,640 residents. The other municipalities will all lose population. Allegheny Township will have about 6,325 residents, Duncansville about 940, Juniata 990, and Newry 185. Hollidaysburg will decline to about 4,775.

Age Structure

The expected decline in population is based on the existing age structure of the population. Region Five had the greatest percentage of residents over 65 and smallest percentage under 18. Even without further out-migration there will not be a sufficient number of persons in their child-bearing years to assure that births will out-number deaths over the next two decades. The under 20 age groups will lose at least 18 percent by 2020. The 55 to 74 groups will increase by at least 40 percent. Hence, the population will continue to age unless new in-migrants in their childbearing years replace those who are aging.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

Like most of Blair County, Region Five is almost homogeneously white. In 2000 only 1.9 percent of the residents were listed as African-American, Asian, or other races. Further, only 0.2 percent of residents were of Hispanic background. Females are slightly more prevalent in the population, 51.4 percent versus 48.6 percent for males.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

One reason for the high percentage of persons over 65 in the population is the prevalence of nursing homes. Over twenty percent of persons over 65 are housed in nursing homes. In 2000 there were 1,017 persons institutionalized in nursing homes (including a major Veterans Home in Allegheny Township). Just 24 senior citizens were in other group housing. There were 649 institutionalized persons in Allegheny Township and 416 in Hollidaysburg.

In part due to the fairly high proportion of nursing home residents, only 95.1 percent of residents are in households compared to the County average of 96.8 percent. However, the percentage of persons in families was higher than the County average (82.5 percent versus 82.1 percent). Residents in non-family households, then, were a somewhat smaller percentage of the total, just 12.6 percent compared to 14.8 percent.

Average household size and average family size were almost the same as the remainder of the County (2.42 and 2.97 persons per unit, respectively). However, there were significant variations within the Region. The average household size in the two Boroughs was well below the average for the Townships. In 2000, Duncansville had just 2.14 persons per household and Hollidaysburg 2.19. By contrast, Frankstown and Juniata Townships had 2.62 persons per housing unit each. One-person households made up over 35 percent of all households in the three Boroughs. As would be expected, the majority of these one-person housing units were occupied by persons over 65.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

Compared to most of Blair County, educational attainment was quite high in Planning Region Five. The Region had a high percentage with a high school diploma (87.4%) and the highest with at least a college degree (19.7%). Within the Region, Frankstown Township had by far the highest level of educational attainment; 91.6 percent of residents over 25 had completed high school and 27.7 percent had at least a bachelor's degree.

Income and Poverty

Nowhere is the internal diversity of Planning Region Five better seen than in the income distribution. In 1999, the median household income in Blair County was \$32,861. In Frankstown Township it was \$49,677 and in Newry it was one-half that, just \$24,688. Average incomes show an equally great disparity between the municipalities. The highest was also in Frankstown (\$63,955) and the lowest in Newry (\$34,435). Five of the municipalities had average incomes below the County average of \$40,786; they were Newry, Duncansville (\$35,663), Tunnelhill (\$38,137), Juniata Township (\$39,997), Allegheny Township (\$40,187), and Hollidaysburg (\$40,610). However, Frankstown and Blair Township (\$55,005) combine to give the Region an average household income slightly above the County average.

Less than 30 percent of households had incomes less than \$25,000. The region had the largest percentage over \$50,000 (34.9 percent). Poverty was well below the Blair County average at only 8.0 percent.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

It is probably the age structure of the population which generates the low Labor Force Participation Rate in the Region. In 2000 just 58.3 percent of those over 16 were in the labor force (compared to the County average of 59.6 percent). Certainly lack of job prospects does not contribute to the low LFPR since, in 2000, just 4.6 percent of those in the labor force were unemployed. In total, there were 12,232 employed persons in the Region.

Place of Work

The place of work statistics mirror the County's except in one regard...only 12.2 percent of employed persons work in their municipality of residence compared to 33.2 percent countywide. This is only partially due to the small population size of the MCD's and more likely a function of the bedroom community nature of several of these. In particular, Frankstown and Juniata Townships had only 6.9 percent of their workforce employed within their boundaries.

Means of Transportation to Work

A higher percentage of workers are dependent upon the automobile for transport to work than is the case for Blair County as a whole. In 2000, 94.5 percent used the auto to get to work and 92.6 percent drove alone. Because most worked outside of their own MCD, walking to work was not very popular, only 2.5 percent did so compared to 3.7 percent in the County.

Journey to Work

Despite the low percentage who worked in their own MCD, the average travel time to work was comparable to that for Blair County 19.9 minutes versus 19.7 minutes).

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

Although employment is diversified, Health and Social Services and Retail Trade are the most over-represented industrial sectors in Planning Region Five. In 2000, Retail had 15.8 percent of the workforce and Health had 15.1. The County averages were 14.5 and 14.2 respectively. On the other hand, there are substantially fewer employees in the manufacturing sector than the average; just 13.3 percent compared to 15.9 percent countywide. Employment is also slightly concentrated in Transportation and Wholesale Trade compared to the County and slightly under-represented in Construction.

Occupation of Employed Residents

Given the distribution of employment by industry, it is no surprise that just 34.5 percent of workers in the Region are blue-collar. Further, as the income distribution, suggests many of the employed persons in the region are professionals and managers, with health professionals and business managers well represented. Production workers were only 7.8 percent of all workers compared to 10.4 percent countywide.

SUMMARY

Educational attainment and the occupational mix are very positive attributes in Region Five. However, the primary negative attribute, the very old population, threatens to cause the area to lose substantial population in the next twenty years unless in-migration can be greatly increased.

PLANNING REGION SIX

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region is composed of just Greenfield Township in southern Blair County. Students from this area attend Claysburg-Kimmel School District which encompasses parts of Blair and Bedford Counties. Growth impetus is derived from the presence of I-99.

Population

There were 3,904 residents of the Township in 2000. There were no urban places but only 57 persons (1.5 percent) lived on farms.

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Between 1990 and 2000 the Region grew by just two people; however, certain age groups saw significant change. The group between 34 and 55 grew from 963 to 1,124, or 16.7 percent and the number of persons over 75 increased from 206 to 254, a change of 23 percent. The number under twenty changed very little, from 1,070 to 1,082 even though the primary parental age group, those 20 to 34, declined from 1,928 to 1,844 (4.3 percent) over the decade.

Table 1.46: Region Six: Projected Population Change

Region 6	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	3,802	3,904	4,096	4,224
Under 20	1,070	1,082	1,028	1,104
20 to 34	858	762	787	665
35 to 54	963	1,124	1,000	1,057
55 to 74	705	682	1,004	1,056
Over 75	206	254	278	341
15 to 69	2,646	2,722	2,562	2,542

Projected Change in Population

Region 6 will grow under any likely scenario. With local migration trends as they were in the 1990s it could grow by 11 percent. With no migration it will still gain 7.6 percent.

Age Structure

The Region had the highest percentage of residents under 18 (25.0%) and lowest percentage over 65 (13.9%) in 2000. If local migration trends persist the percentage under 20 in 2020 will be 26.1 percent. If no new in-migration occurs, the percentage under 20 will fall but will still be 25.1 percent. The group that will gain the highest percentage will be the 55 to 74 year-olds. This group will increase by at least 47 percent. Even under the most favorable scenario, however, the labor force will fall 5.9 percent from 2000 to 2020 due to the rapid aging of the population.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

Although rural, Region 6 has essentially the same racial and ethnic structure of the County as a whole. In 2000, there were 2.5 percent non-whites and 0.3 percent Hispanics in the population. Females out-number males by a 52 to 48 percent margin.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

Almost all residents are in households; only 21 persons live in non-institutionalized group quarters, 0.5 percent. Most persons in group quarters (12 of the 21) are seniors living in group homes. Family households are even more prevalent than in the County, 85.3 percent versus 82.1 percent.

The average household size is large, 2.49 persons compared to 2.42 countywide. Families, on the other hand, average the same number of persons as the County, 3.0 per unit. The reason for the discrepancy is that there are fewer single person households than average; only 24.8 percent versus 27.7 percent.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

Greenfield Township has the lowest percentage in the County in both high school diplomas (77.1%) and college degrees (6.1%). It also has a large percentage of persons with less than a ninth-grade education; 8.8 percent versus the 4.8 percent County average.

Income and Poverty

The Planning Region has a very high percentage of households with incomes under \$25,000 (45.9%) and a small group with incomes over \$50,000 (19.0%). The County average for incomes under \$25,000 was 37.4 percent in 2000 and for incomes over \$50,000 it was 28.1 percent.

Not surprisingly, poverty is the highest in County at 16.6%. Of particular concern is the fact that 6.8 percent of families with children have incomes below the poverty level. The poverty level for seniors was almost twice the County average.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was somewhat below the County average, 58.7 percent compared to 59.6 percent. Of the 3,029 persons over 16 years of age only 1,777 were in the labor force. However, unemployment in 2000 was also quite low. The Blair County rate in that year was 6.2 percent while Greenfield had just 4.6 percent unemployed.

Place of Work

A high percentage of employed persons worked out of the County (15.5%), presumably most of these worked in Bedford County as the population centers are quite close. Considering the rural nature of the Township, it is interesting that over 30 percent of employed workers had employment in their own municipality.

Means of Transportation to Work

Just under 91 percent of workers drove their automobiles to work; the County average was 92.6 percent. A fairly high percentage (3.5 percent) worked at home and almost five percent walked to work. No public transportation was used or available.

Journey to Work

Considering the high percentage who worked out of the County, the average commute was not excessive. The County average was 19.7 minutes compared to 21.0 minutes for Planning Region residents. For those who worked in the Township the commute was obviously quite short; 10.5 percent of all workers had commutes of less than five minutes compared to just 5.3 percent of Blair County workers.

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

There was a high percentage of total employment in manufacturing (25.5%), in accommodations and food service (9.8 percent), in agriculture (4.0 percent), and in construction (8.2 percent). Most other sectors were under-represented in the Region.

Occupation of Employed Residents

Blue-collar occupations in general were (44.4%) far higher in Greenfield Township than in the County. The County average was 36.5 percent. As would be expected from the structure of employment by industry, production workers (12.6 percent), farmers (2.5 percent), material handlers (11.3 percent), construction workers (6.1 percent), and drivers (4.4 percent) were over-represented while most service workers, sales people, and professionals were under-represented.

SUMMARY

The primary positive attribute of the Planning Region is its strong growth potential both in population and in employment. The primary negative characteristic is that its low educational attainment holds down incomes and produces a substantial number of working poor.

PLANNING REGION SEVEN

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Planning Region Seven, the Spring Cove School District, has six municipalities: Freedom, Huston, North Woodbury, and Taylor Townships, and Martinsburg and Roaring Spring Boroughs. The area, other than Freedom Township, is generally referred to as Morrison's Cove (or just the Cove) by residents. The Altoona-Blair County Airport is located in the Region near Martinsburg.

Population

There were 13,692 residents of Planning Region Seven in 2000. This was 10.6 percent of the County population and placed the Region third in population among the seven Regions. Just over 49 percent of the population was classified as urban (6,740 persons) but 430 (3.1 percent) lived on farms.

The largest municipality was Freedom Township with 3,261 residents and the smallest was Huston Township with 1,262. Roaring Spring Borough had 2,418 residents and Martinsburg had 2,236. Taylor and North Woodbury were about the same in population with 2,239 and 2,279 residents respectively.

Population Change, 1990 – 2000

Between 1990 and 2000 the population of the Planning Region grew slightly. The growth of 264 persons was a positive change of 2.0 percent. Unfortunately, most of the growth was in the age cohorts over 75 years of age. This group grew from 872 persons in 1990 to 1,271 in 2000, an increase of almost 46 percent, which suggests that the area has become a haven for retirees. There are also two large nursing homes in the Region. The under twenty cohorts decreased by 500 persons or 12.7 percent and the 20 to 34 group by 8.3 percent. Losses and gains in the other age groups were relatively minor.

Table 1.47: Region 7: Projected Population Change

Region 7	1990	2000	2020 No Migration	2020 Local Migration
Population	13,428	13,692	13,041	13,211
Under 20	3,966	3,466	2,904	2,933
20 to 34	2,766	2,537	2,327	2,050
35 to 54	3,414	3,492	3,263	3,314
55 to 74	2,410	2,476	3,442	3,419
Over 75	872	1,271	1,106	1,495
15 to 69	9,138	9,203	8,327	8,099

Projected Change in Population

Because of the age structure of the population this Region will lose residents under most scenarios. If the local migration trends of the 1990s continues the Planning Region will lose 481 people or about 3.5 percent of its residents. With no migration the population in 2020 will be 4.7 percent lower than in 2000, about 13,041. Freedom Township will continue to grow and will have about 3,650 residents in 2020 if the migration trend continues. Huston Township's population will remain about the same with between 1,230 and 1,270 residents. North Woodbury's population will decline just slightly to between 2,150 and 2,250. The populations of Martinsburg,

Roaring Spring, and Taylor Township are all dependent on migration; they will decline to about 1,850, 2,340, and 1,970 respectively if no migration occurs. Roaring Spring and Taylor will lose somewhat more if the patterns of the 1990s continue, while Martinsburg will lose a somewhat lower number.

Age Structure

The under 20 age group will lose at least 16 percent of its 1990 population with local migration trends in effect and possibly a bit more if there are no in-migrants. The group 55 to 74 could gain almost 40 percent due to the aging of the large baby-boom contingent. The size of the over 75 age group is the most difficult to project. If the pattern of migration that prevailed in the Region during the 1990s continues, then the group could grow by over 18 percent. If no migration occurs, the cohort will actually decrease very slightly in size. The growth that occurred in this age group between 1990 and 2000 was caused by massive expansions in the nursing homes. It is difficult to project whether such growth is likely to affect the Region between 2000 and 2020.

Of great concern is the probable change in the labor force over the next two decades. In the best case, with no migration, the potential labor force will lose over 800 possible workers. However, with the local migration trends, the number of persons 15 to 69 could decrease by 1,300, a loss of 12 percent.

Race, Gender, and Ethnicity

Region Seven is almost homogenously white. In 2000, there were only 111 non-whites in the area. This was just 0.8 percent of the population. Further, there were only 21 Hispanics or 0.2 percent of residents. Females out-numbered males 7,080 to 6,612 or 51.7 percent to 48.3 percent.

Households, Families, and Residents of Group Quarters

There were 5,377 households, with an average size of 2.49 persons. There were 3,927 families, which was 73.0 percent of households. Both the size of households and the percentage of people living in households slightly exceeded the County average. Family size also exceeded the County norm as did the number of families as a percentage of households. Of the 282 persons in group quarters, 278 were seniors in institutional nursing homes.

One-person households were 24.4 percent of all households, 1,310 total of which 648 were seniors living alone.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational Attainment

The Region was a bit below the County average in educational attainment (81.5 percent HS and 11.5 percent college). Approximately 7.5 percent of all persons over 25 did not have more than an eighth grade education compared to just 4.8 percent countywide.

Income and Poverty

Notwithstanding the lower than average educational attainment, incomes were slightly above the county average. Just 32.4 percent had incomes below \$25,000 compared with 37.4 percent in Blair County. But 29.3 percent had incomes over \$50,000 compared to the County average of 28.1 percent. Median household incomes in 1999 ranged from \$41,635 in Taylor Township to \$27,125 in Martinsburg. The County median in 1999 was \$32,861. All municipalities except Martinsburg had median incomes above the County level.

Poverty in the Region was low at 9.0 percent of the total population compared to the Blair County figure of 12.6 percent.

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment

The Region had the lowest unemployment rate among the seven Planning Regions in 2000 (3.8 percent) and a high Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 61.3 percent. The County LFPR in that year was 59.6 percent.

Place of Work

Planning Region Seven workers followed the County pattern in terms of place of employment: about the same percentage worked out of state and out of county. However, only 19.0 percent worked in their municipality of residence compared to the County average of 33.2 percent.

Means of Transportation to Work

Almost twice the percentage of employed residents worked at home as in the County as a whole (4.7 percent versus 2.4 percent). Of all workers, 90.3 percent took an auto to work but of those 629 carpooled. The percentages for carpooling and driving solo were about the same as the County averages. No one used public transportation and just 32 people walked to work.

Journey to Work

Despite the fact that relatively few persons worked in their own municipality, travel times were quite short. The average for all Blair County commuters in 2000 was 19.7 minutes but only 9.4 minutes for Region Seven commuters. Workers who lived in the Boroughs had the shortest commutes (18.1 minutes for Martinsburg and 18.9 minutes for Roaring Spring).

Industry of Employment by Place of Residence

A little over 21 percent of employed persons worked in manufacturing in 2000 compared to 15.9 percent countywide; and 5.5 percent worked in agriculture compared to 1.4 percent. Transportation was the only other sector of employment to be significantly over-represented (8.4 percent compared to 6.2 percent). Education, health care, administrative services, and accommodations and food service were the most under-represented sectors.

Occupation of Employed Residents

Almost 45.5 percent of all Region Seven employees were blue-collar workers, a substantially higher percentage than the County average of 36.5 percent. Production workers accounted for 15.3 percent of all workers versus just 10.4 percent in the County. Service workers of all types were under-represented.

SUMMARY

The Region has a solid agricultural and manufacturing base. It lags behind the County in educational attainment but, due to a high LFPR and low unemployment, incomes are actually above the County average and poverty is low. The primary negative characteristic is an age structure heavily biased towards the older cohorts.



County Economic Profile

HISTORY OF THE BLAIR COUNTY ECONOMY

ECONOMIC CHANGE, BLAIR CO. 1990 – 2000

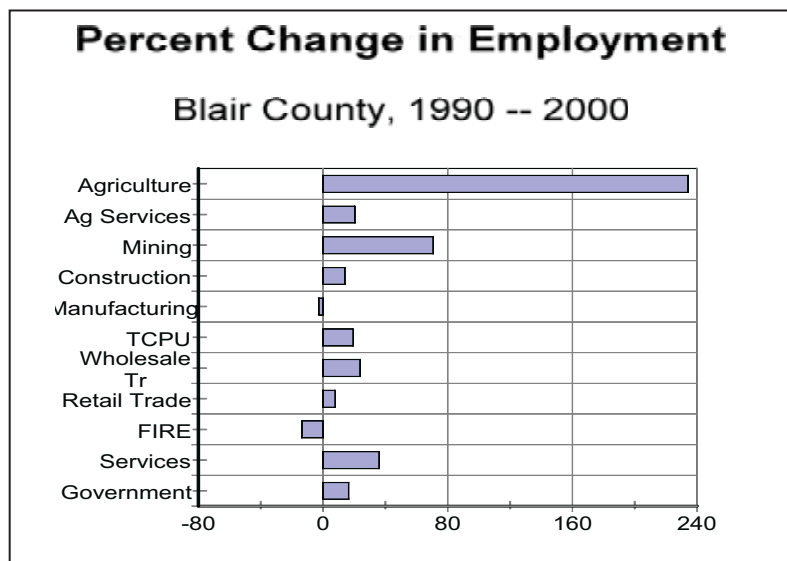
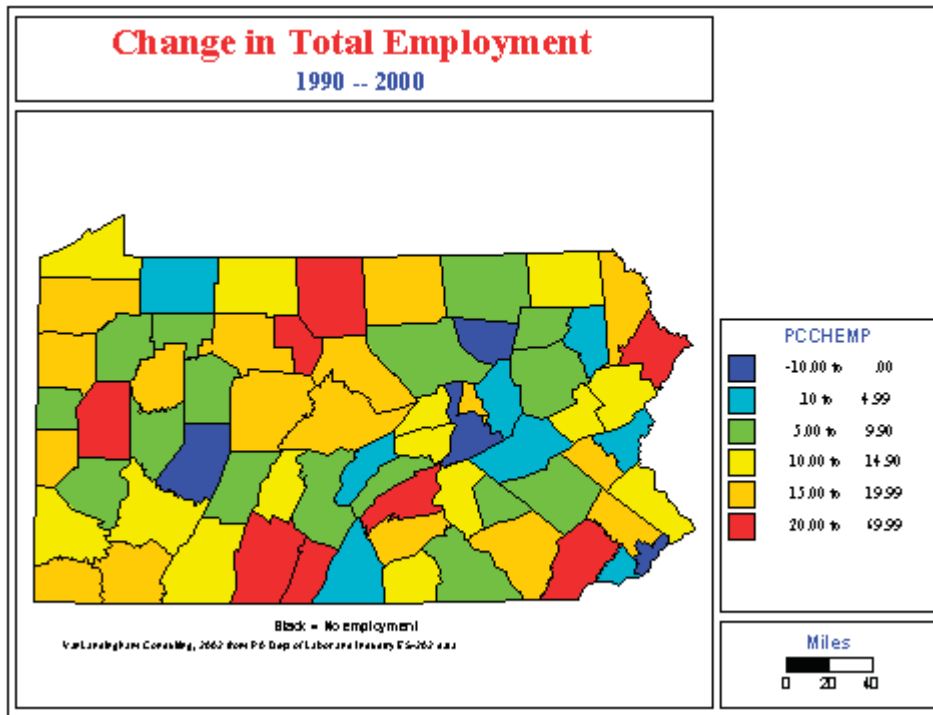
Employment: In the first quarter of 2000, Blair County had 56,997 workers covered by Unemployment Compensation employed within its borders. This was an increase of 7,081 or 14.2 percent over the 1990 total. Since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grew by only 10.2 percent over the period, the Blair performance was well above average; in fact, it placed Blair 15th among the 67 counties in the Commonwealth in total employment growth.

Wages: The average first quarter wage in Pennsylvania in 1999 was \$7,863 (Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2000). Blair was quite low at \$5,924 (47th among the 67 Counties). Between 1990 and 1999 the average wage increased by 34.7 percent in Blair (22nd), somewhat below the state average of 37.3 percent.

Comparison to Pennsylvania and Surrounding Counties

Blair County was part of a high growth region during the 1990's. Bedford County was one of the fastest growing employment centers in the Commonwealth with an increase of 33.9 percent over the period; Centre added 15.9 percent, and Clearfield 18.0 percent. Of the neighboring counties, only Cambria and Huntingdon had growth rates below the state average.

The economy of any local area is a primary determinant of growth or decline, of wealth or poverty, and of resident satisfaction or dissatisfaction. It determines much of the demand for land and it affects the level and type of services demanded and affordable by the community. Therefore, the health and vigor of the economy has a major impact on the Comprehensive Plan.



Other than the Agriculture sector, whose statistics are meaningless because only farm workers covered by unemployment compensation are shown in the data, and the tiny Mining sector, the fastest Blair County growth occurred in the Services sector, the Wholesale Trade sector and Agricultural Services. Only FIRE and Manufacturing lost employment. By comparison to the state, Manufacturing in the County fared well, losing only 2.8 percent of its 1990 employment. The state lost about 10 percent.

Concerns: Labor Force and Industrial Structure

By the end of the 1990's the single largest problem facing employers was finding qualified workers. As shown by the growth of employment in the surrounding counties, the demand for labor throughout central Pennsylvania was high and unemployment in 1999 was very low. The situation has eased somewhat because of the recession and the post 9-11 trauma.

The other concern for the County and the region is the structure of existing industry. Most of the major basic industries are in the manufacturing sector. Despite the rapid increase in employment in producers' services during the 90's the economy is still vulnerable to declines in these industries.

STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY AND REGIONAL ECONOMY

Introduction

The economy of any local area is the primary determinant of growth or decline, of wealth or poverty, and of resident satisfaction or dissatisfaction. It determines much of the demand for land and it affects the level and type of services demanded and affordable by the community. As such, the health and vigor of the economy has a major impact on the Comprehensive Plan.

This Chapter describes the economy of Blair County and the surrounding region as it is in the first part of the 21st Century. The economic structure of the County and the Region is compared to that of the Commonwealth and the nation. The majority of the Chapter deals with employment and wages using North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. This dataset is supplemented with information on the national economy from County Business Patterns and the Census of Population and Housing. Recent changes in employment and wages are also described.

The primary dataset from the Department of Labor and Industry is derived from ES-202 forms completed for each establishment in the Commonwealth for Unemployment Compensation purposes. Not all workers are captured by this data. In particular, businesses with no covered employees, including most family farms, are excluded. Further, railroad employment is excluded. Employees in this industry are covered by a separate unemployment program.

When the NAICS system was introduced in 1997 to replace the Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC), there was a substantial redefinition of industries and sectors. There are now 20 defined sectors of economic activity. Newly defined sectors include: *Health and Social Services, Information, Lodging and Food Service, Utilities, Transportation and Warehousing, Finance and Insurance, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, Professional Services, Management, Administration and Waste Management, Education, Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment, and Other Services*. In addition, the traditional sectors of *agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing, retail trade, and wholesale trade* have been significantly redefined. Only *government* continues essentially as it was previously defined.

Although the federal government adopted the NAICS codes in 1997, for the Economic Censuses, the Commonwealth used the SIC codes until 2001. The redefinition precludes time series analysis that mixes the old system with the new. Therefore, the time series data provided for the County, Region, and state in this section includes only the 2001 through 2003 data. US data is shown for the 1998 through 2002 period.

Overview

Blair County had 57,287 workers covered by Unemployment Compensation in the first quarter of 2003. Blair had just over one percent of the total Pennsylvania employment of 5,379,991

Blair County and the counties surrounding it are here defined as the Blair County Region. The other five counties in the Region are: Bedford, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, and Huntingdon. Huntingdon had the smallest employment in the Region with 12,272 workers in the first quarter of 2003; Bedford had the second lowest level with 15,307 workers; Clearfield had 31,128; Cambria had 55,353 employees, and Centre had 61,613. In total, the Region had 232,960 workers or 4.2 percent of Pennsylvania employees.

Wages in the Region are low compared to the average for the Commonwealth. The average for all employees for the first quarter of 2003 was \$6,997, just 78 percent of the state average (\$8,965). The average wage in Blair County was

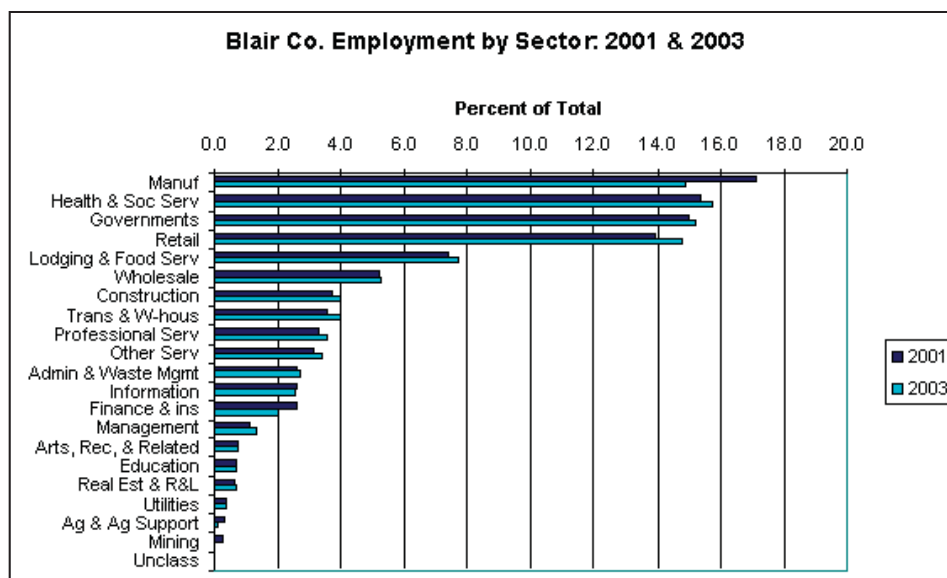
slightly below the Regional average at \$6,931. In the region Centre County had the highest average wage (\$7,754) and Bedford the lowest (\$6,208).

For the period that began in the first quarter of 2001 and ended in the first quarter of 2003, total employment in Blair County increased by 676 persons. This was 1.2 percent. The state total declined by 120,542 workers or 2.2 percent. The Blair Region lost 3,097 workers or -1.3 percent. Somewhat surprisingly, Blair County was the only one in the Region to show any net positive change in employment. The County with the greatest employment loss was Cambria County (1,787 or -3.1 percent). Bedford County lost an even greater percentage of its total employment, -4.5 percent (713 workers). Even Centre County, which has been the growth center of the Region for more than two decades, lost 746 jobs or 1.2 percent.

Wage change over the two-year period varied substantially across the Region and the Commonwealth. Blair County saw an increase of \$268 or 4.0 percent. Overall, the Commonwealth experienced an increase of 8.8 percent in average quarterly wages. The Blair Region, had an average total increase of 4.6 percent. Centre County had the largest increase in the Region, 5.3 percent, while Huntingdon workers received an average increase of just 1.2 percent.

The largest sectors of employment in Blair County in 2003 were: *Health and Social Services* (9,011 employees), and *Government* (8,745). *Manufacturing* (8,527) is now only the third largest sector and *Retail Trade* (8,493) is close behind. The four largest sectors employ over 60 percent of the Blair County workforce. These four were followed by *Lodging and Food Service* (4,421), *Wholesale Trade* (3,027), *Construction* (2,299), *Transportation and Warehousing* (2,294), and *Professional Services* (2,056). No other sector had more than 2,000 employees or 3.5 percent of total employment. There were five other sectors with between 500 and 2,000 employees. These were: *Other Services* (1,947), *Administrative Services and Waste Management* (1,570), *Finance and Insurance* (1,459), *Information* (1,163), and *Management* (749). The sectors with fewer than 500 employees were: *Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment* (428), *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* (407), *Agriculture and Agricultural Support* (223), and *Utilities* (74). *Mining* had no reported employment in 2003. The following section deals with these sectors in more detail and compares the employment and wages in each to the Blair Region and Commonwealth. Changes in employment are also shown for the 2001 through 2003 period.

Distribution of Employment by Sector, 2001 -- 2003



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004.

Employment, Employment Change, and Wages by Sector

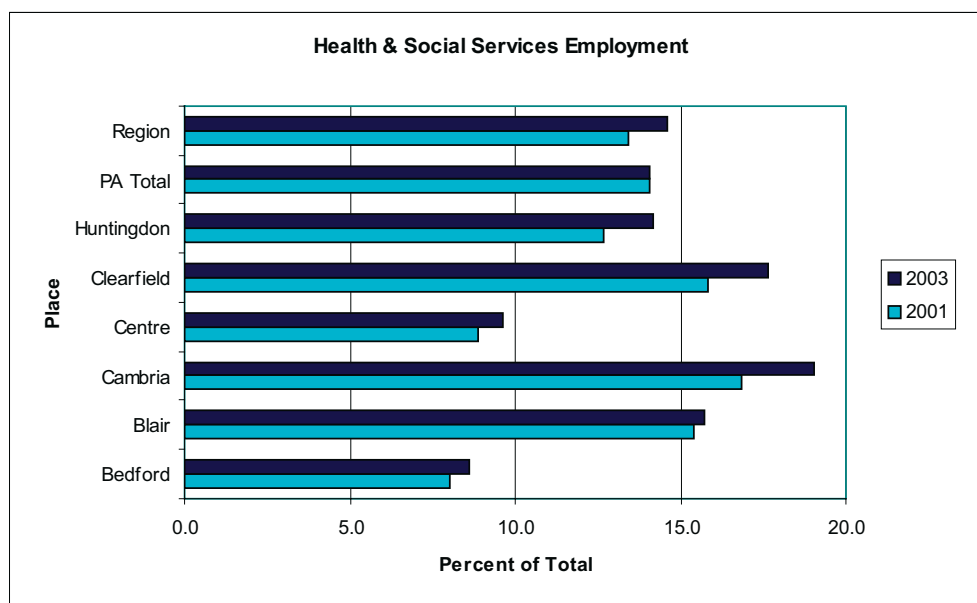
This section provides an analysis of the structure of the Blair County and Regional economies using the new sector definitions. The sectors are described from the largest to the smallest using their first quarter of 2003 employment. Employment change is based on the period from the first quarter of 2001 through the first quarter of 2003. Changes in sector employment and wages for the sectors in the US as a whole is provided for the 1998 through 2002 period.

Health and Social Services: In 2003, the largest sector of employment in Blair County was *Health and Social Services*. This sector had 9,011 employees and paid an average quarterly wage of \$7,389 (96.3 percent of the state average for the sector). The sector employed 15.7 percent of the County workforce compared to 13.6 percent of the state and 14.6 percent of the Region.

In the Region, *Health and Social Services* was the second largest sector, after *Government*. It employed 34,026 in the first quarter of 2003. The average regional wage was a bit lower than the Blair County wage at \$7,008. Cambria County had the greatest regional employment in the sector with 10,538 (19.0 percent of its total employment); Bedford had the least with 1,318 (8.6 percent).

In Blair County the *Health and Social Services* sector gained 298 new workers (3.4 percent) and had an average wage change of \$412 (5.9 percent). Pennsylvania added 4.5 percent to total employment in the sector; these workers had an average increase of 7.3 percent in wages. In the Region there were 2,307 new *Health and Social Services* employees (7.3 percent) with an average wage increase of 3.6 percent.

Percent of Total Employment in Health and Social Services, 2001 -- 2003



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004.

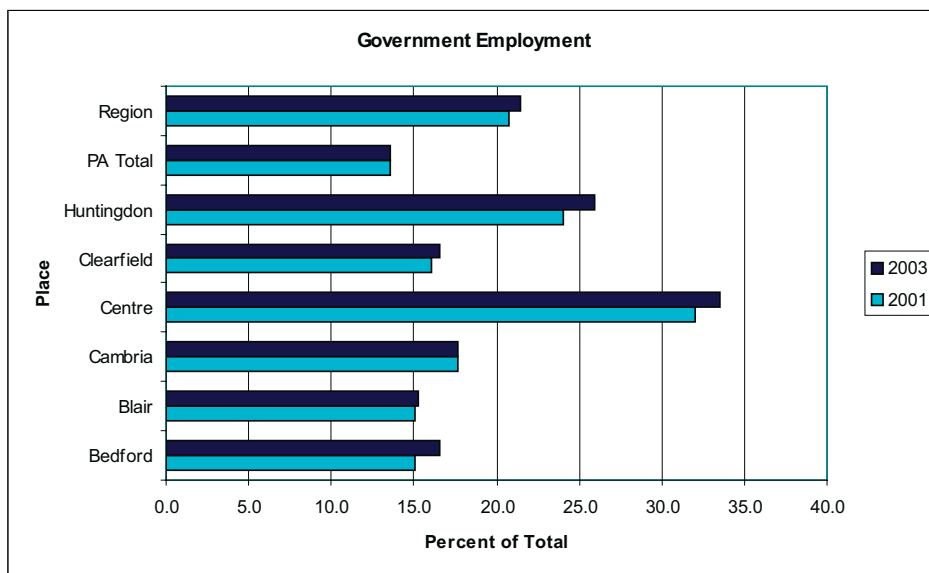
The *Health and Social Services* sector in the US grew by 8.3 percent in employment from 1998 through 2002. Wages per employee in the sector grew by 16.5 percent compared to the US average of 14.6 percent.

Government: All federal, state, and local government entities combined had the second greatest employment in the County with 8,745 workers (15.3 percent). *Government* employees in Blair County were paid an average wage of \$8,817 (88.5 percent of PA). *Government* employment in the County was 15.3 percent of the total workforce. It was 13.1 percent of the PA total and 21.5 percent of the regional total.

Government employment in the region is quite high. This is due, in part, to the almost 12,000 employees of **Penn State University** in Centre County. In 2003, there were 50,043 *Government* employees in the Region with an average wage of \$9,136. Centre County had the greatest *Government* employment in the Region (20,667 or 33.5 percent)) while Blair's concentration was the lowest.

The *Government* sector grew by 2.8 percent over the period in Blair county (238 employees). It grew by 2.2 percent in the Commonwealth and 2.1 percent in the Region. Average wage increased by \$588 in the County (7.1 percent); and also by 7.1 percent in the Region.

Percent of Total Employment in Government, 2001 -- 2003



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

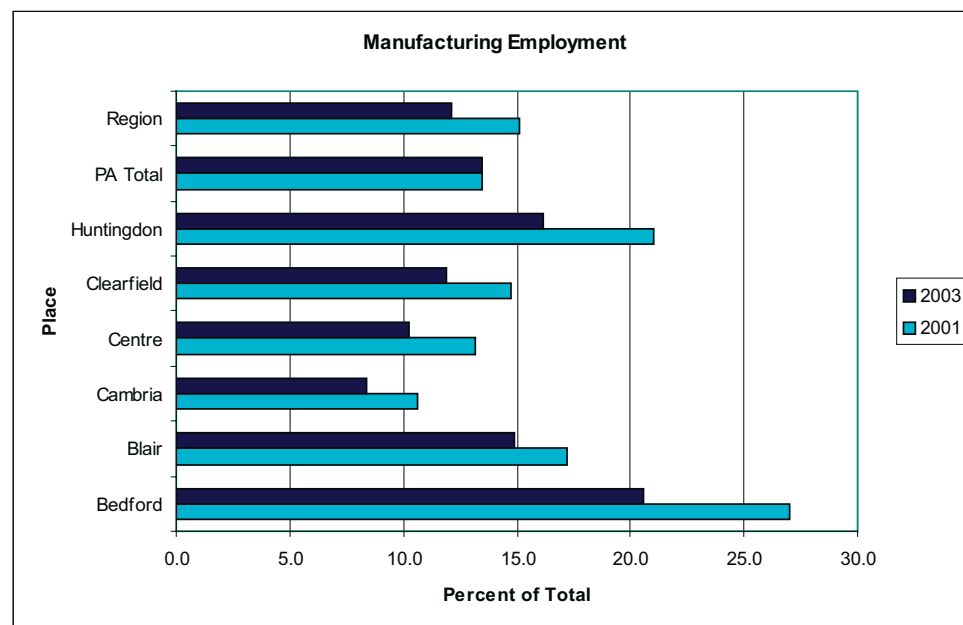
National comparisons in the *Government* sector are not provided because *County Business Patterns* does not report employment and wages for this sector.

Manufacturing: This sector has lost significant employment in the County, as well as the state and nation, over the past thirty years. In 2003 it was still the third largest sector in Blair County but, if present trends continue, it will soon be overtaken by *Retail Trade*. There were 8,527 workers in the *Manufacturing* sector of Blair County with an average wage of \$8,620. *Manufacturing* now accounts for only 14.9 percent of total employment in the County, the same percentage as in Pennsylvania. Just 12.2 percent of total employment in the Region is in the *Manufacturing* sector.

In total there were 28,316 *Manufacturing* employees in the Region with an average wage of \$8,341. The greatest concentration in the Region is found in Bedford County with 20.6 percent of its total employment in this sector. Cambria County now has the lowest level of *Manufacturing* employment in the region, just 8.4 percent.

Manufacturing did not fare well in the County, Region, or Commonwealth during 2001 through 2003. The County lost 1,194 *Manufacturing* sector workers (12.3 percent). That was still below the 17.0 percent lost by the Commonwealth or the 20.4 percent lost in the region. Wages in the County increased by 3.6 percent; the regional *Manufacturing* wage increased by 4.0 percent; however, wages paid statewide decreased by almost 9.0 percent.

Percent of Total Employment in Manufacturing, 2001 -- 2003



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

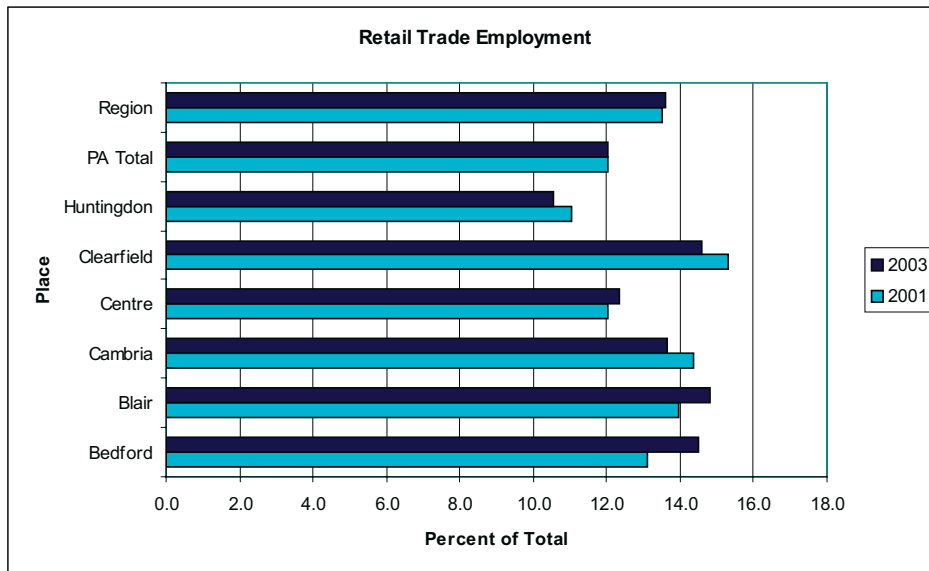
US employment in *Manufacturing* declined by 15.1 percent from 1998 to 2002. However, wages grew by 12.5 percent.

Retail Trade: *Retail* is now the fourth largest employer in Blair County. In the first quarter of 2003, there were 8,493 *Retail* sector employees earning an average wage of \$4,566 (90.1 percent of the Pennsylvania average). Blair County has the highest concentration of *Retail Trade* in the Region with 14.8 percent of the workforce employed in this sector. Only 13.0 percent of the PA workforce is employed in *Retail* as compared to 13.6 percent in the Region.

Total *Retail trade* employment for the Region was 31,703 in 2003. The average wage was \$4,433. Within the Region, only Huntingdon (10.5 percent) and Centre (12.4 percent) were under-served in retail compared to the state.

Employment in *Retail Trade* increased rapidly in the County between quarter one of 2001 and quarter one of 2003. The 580 new workers were a percentage increase of 7.3 percent. However, overall the Region lost 0.6 percent or 187 employees. Cambria (-662, -8.1 percent) had the greatest decline. The Commonwealth lost 2.2 percent. Wages paid per employee also decreased statewide (5.7 percent), while the Region saw a 6.6 percent increase and the County average increased by 4.9 percent.

Percent of Employment in Retail Trade



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

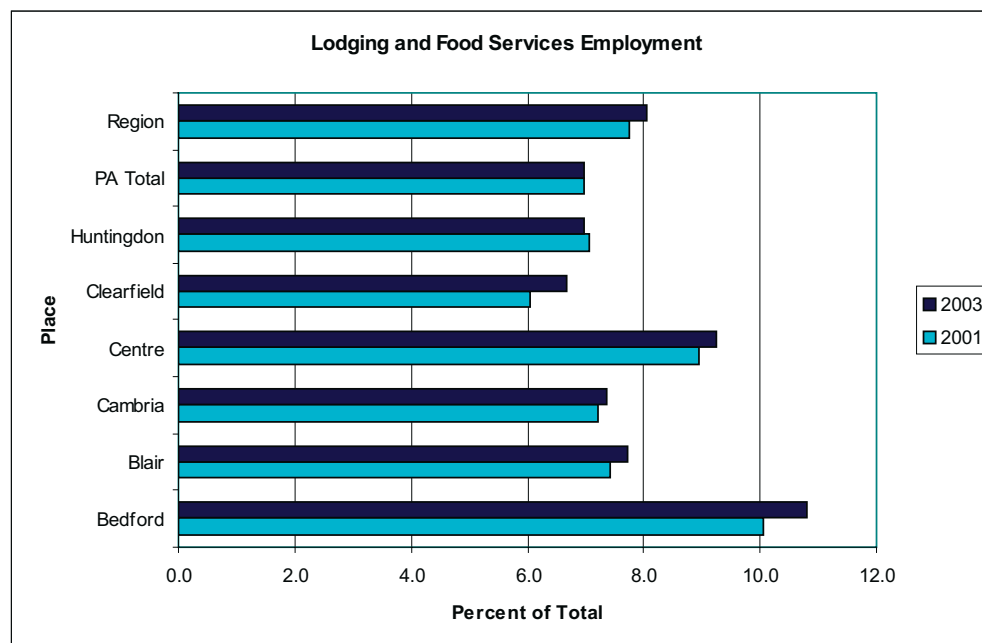
US *Retail* employment grew by 4.1 percent and wages by 18.4 percent.

Lodging and Food Services: This was the fifth largest sector in the County with 4,421 employees and an average wage (not including tips) of \$2,459. The 7.7 percent of the labor force employed in the *Lodging and Food Service* sector in the County is above the state's average of 6.7 percent but below the 8.1 percent regional average. .

The region had 18,780 employees with an average wage of \$2,362. Bedford had the highest percentage of employee in this sector at 10.8 percent and Huntingdon the lowest at 7.0 percent.

Although there was significant variation in employment change, the *Lodging and Food Service* sector was a growth area during the period for most areas of the Commonwealth. The County grew by 5.2 percent, the Region by 2.7 percent, and the state by 2.4 percent.

Percent of Employment in Lodging and Food Services



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

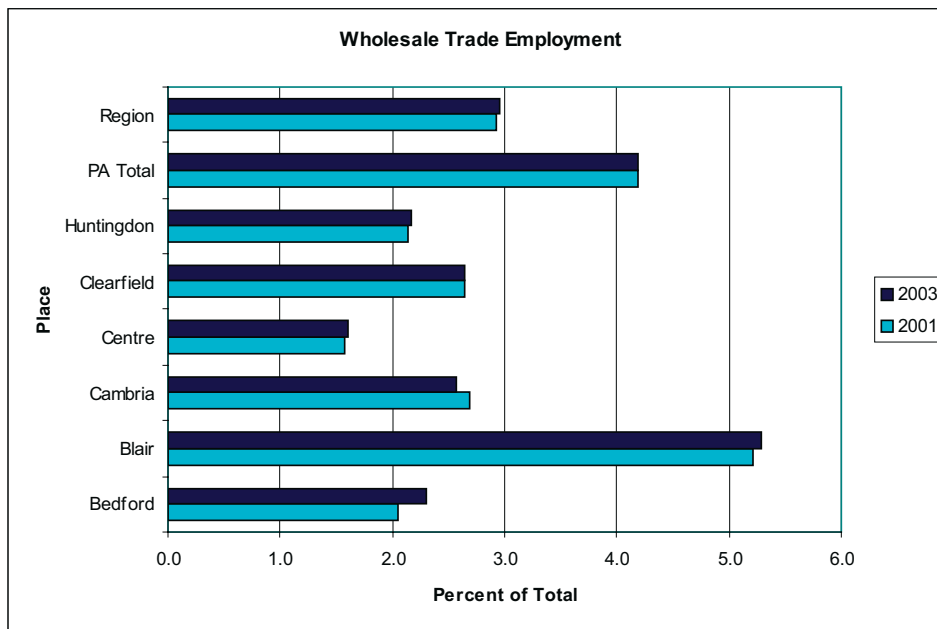
Lodging and Food Service employment in the US grew by 6.2 percent from 1998 to 2002. Wages in the sector grew by 12.7 percent compared to the national average of 14.6 percent

Wholesale Trade: This sector had 3,027 employees in Blair County who were paid an average wage of \$8,591. The sector had 5.3 percent of total Blair employment, well above the Commonwealth average of 4.0 percent or the regional average of 3.0 percent.

The Blair Region had 6,877 *Wholesale Trade* employees. Over 44 percent of the Region's wholesale trade employment was in Blair County. Only 1.6 percent of the Centre County employment was in this sector.

Blair and Bedford Counties showed employment growth in Wholesale Trade between 2001 and 2003 (2.6 and 7.0 percent, respectively). However, overall the Region lost 0.3 percent and the state 0.5 percent. Cambria County lost 7.4 percent of its employment in this sector during the period. Wages paid per employee increased across the board. Blair County *Wholesale Trade* workers gained 6.0 percent compared to 8.5 percent for the Region and 5.5 percent for the Commonwealth.

Percent of Employment in Wholesale Trade



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

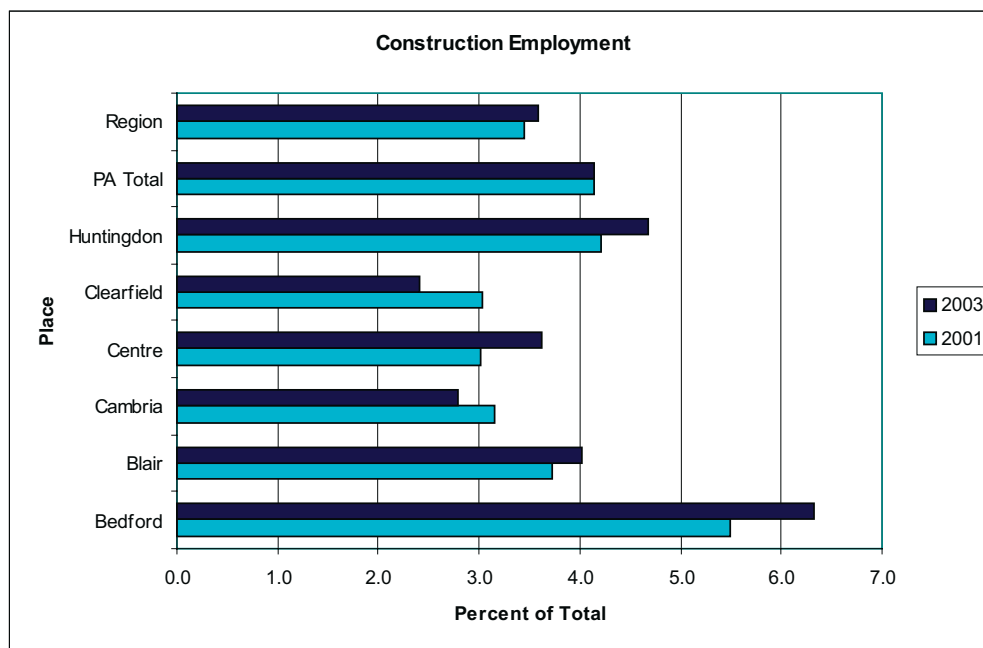
US employment in *Wholesale Trade* declined by 0.4 percent from 1998 to 2002. Wages also lagged the US average with an increase of 12.7 percent.

Construction: Blair County had 2,299 employees (not including self-employed persons) in the *Construction* industries with an average wage of \$6,536 (just two-thirds of the state average). Blair and the state had the same proportion of total employment in this sector, 4.0 percent. The Region's *Construction* employment was a bit lower at 3.6 percent of the total.

The Blair Region had a total of 8,370 employees in the *Construction* sector with an average wage of \$6,799. Bedford had the highest concentration of *Construction* employment, 6.3 percent; Clearfield had the lowest percentage, 2.8.

The *Construction* sector gained employment in the County and Region (9.3 percent and 2.7 percent) but lost 1.1 percent for Pennsylvania as a whole. Interestingly, wage change did not follow the same pattern as employment change. In Blair County, wages paid per employee increased by just 0.6 percent. *Construction* sector employees in the Region lost 2.1 percent of their quarterly wages but PA workers gained 2.1 percent.

Percent of Employment in Construction



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

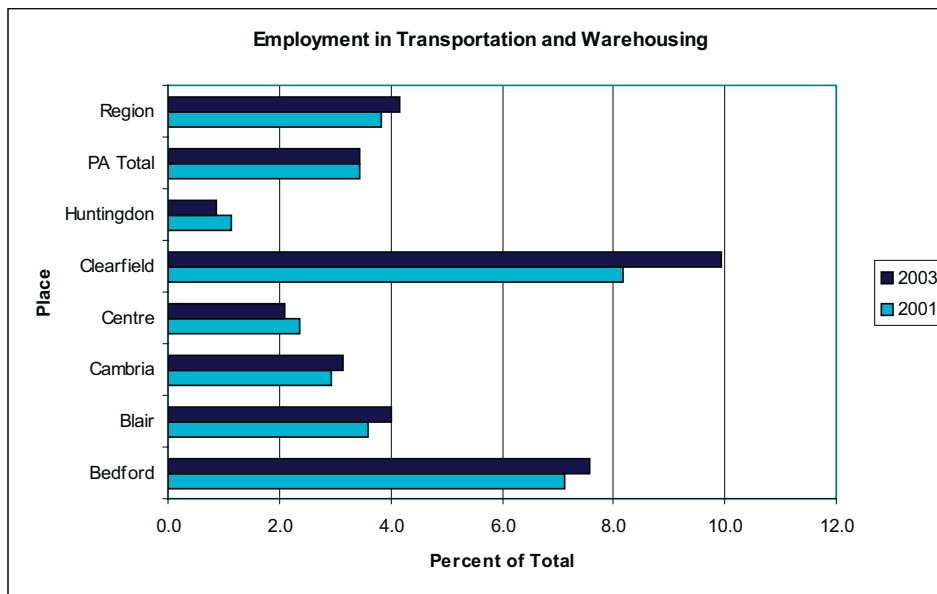
The *Construction* sector showed fairly strong employment growth between 1998 and 2002 in the US with an increase of 8.8 percent. Wage change was approximately on a par with the national average at 14.5 percent.

Transportation and Warehousing: This sector fell just behind *Construction* with 2,294 workers and an average quarterly wage of \$7,974 in Blair County in 2003. About 4.0 percent of the total Blair employment was in this sector compared to the state average of 3.3 percent and a regional average of 4.2 percent.

There were 9,693 employees in the *Transportation and Warehousing* sector in the Region. They were paid an average quarterly wage of just \$7,205 in the first quarter of 2003. The state average for the sector was \$8,298. Clearfield (9.9 percent) and Bedford (7.6 percent) had the highest concentration of *Transportation and Warehousing* employment, while Huntingdon had less than 1.0 percent of its total employment in this sector.

The Transportation and Warehousing sector gained 13.1 percent in employment in Blair County from quarter one of 2001 through quarter one of 2003. Likewise, the region as a whole saw substantial growth (7.4 percent). However, the change was quite mixed. Huntingdon County lost 24.5 percent of its employment in the sector and Centre lost 12.5 percent. Clearfield, however, gained 20.8 percent. Overall the state lost 0.6 percent. County workers gained 10.0 percent in wages while those in the Region gained 5.3 percent. In the Commonwealth wage change was much more modest, just 0.7 percent.

Percent of Employment in Transportation and Warehousing



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

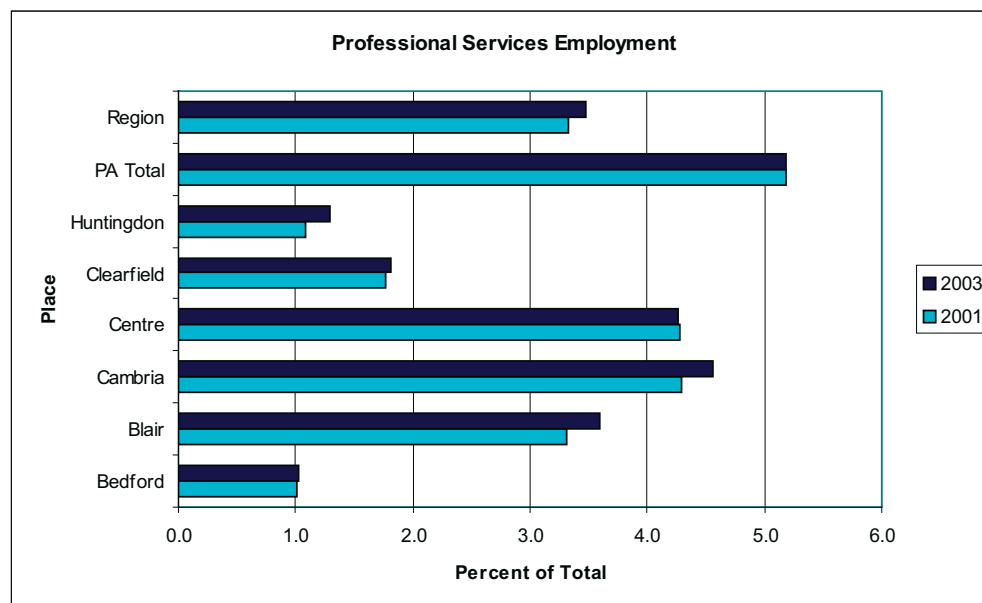
Nationally the *Transportation and Warehousing* sector grew by just 3.4 percent between 1998 and 2002; wages per employee increased by 13.3 percent.

Professional Services: With 2,056 employees and an average wage of \$7,046, this was the ninth largest sector in Blair County in quarter one of 2003. The County's wage for this sector was just 50 percent of the Commonwealth average. This sector includes legal services, accounting, engineering, and the like. Neither the County nor the Region had a high percentage of employment in the sector compared to the Commonwealth, which had 5.0 percent of its total employment in the *Professional Services* sector; just 3.6 percent of County employment and 3.5 percent of regional employment was in this sector.

The Region had 8,091 employees in the *Professional Services* sector with an average wage of \$9,274. Centre County had the largest number of *Professional Services* employees in the Region, 2,629, and the highest percentage of its total workforce in this sector, 4.6 percent. Just 1.0 percent of Bedford's total employment was in this sector.

Professional services grew in employment in the County and Region but declined in the Commonwealth (9.4, 3.1, and -2.7 percent, respectively). Wages per worker, on the other hand, decreased in Blair by 5.3 percent but increased rapidly in the Region (9.2 percent) and increased slightly (1.9 percent) in the state.

Percent of Employment in Professional Services



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

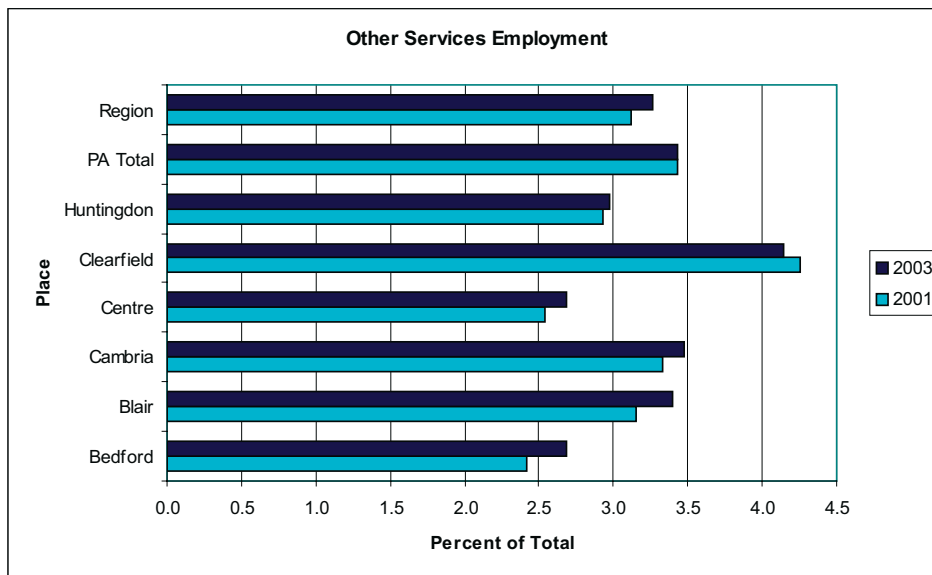
The *Professional Services* sector remains one of the fastest growth sectors in the nation with an increase in employment of 16.4 percent between 1998 and 2002. Wages per employee increased by 14.1 percent.

Other Services: The *Other Services* sector includes most personal services (beauty shops, funeral parlors, etc.), as well as automotive and other repairs. In Blair County it had 1,947 employees in the first quarter of 2003 and paid an average wage of \$3,714 (without tips). This was 67 percent of the state average. Like *Retail Trade*, *Other Services* tends to be a collection of local serving activities. Hence, all regions tend to have similar percentages of workers in this sector. The sector has 3.4 percent of total Blair County employment and 3.3 percent of both the regional and statewide employment.

There were 7,591 regional employees in the sector in 2003. They were paid an average wage of \$3,809 in the first quarter of 2003. Bedford and Cambria Counties had the lowest concentration of employment in Other Services (2.7 percent) and Clearfield had the highest at 4.1 percent.

This sector grew strongly in the County (9.0 percent), moderately in the Region (3.1 percent), and fairly slowly in the state (1.5 percent). Employee wages grew by 5.6 percent in Blair, 3.9 percent in the Region, and 6.1 percent statewide.

Percent of Employment in Other Services



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

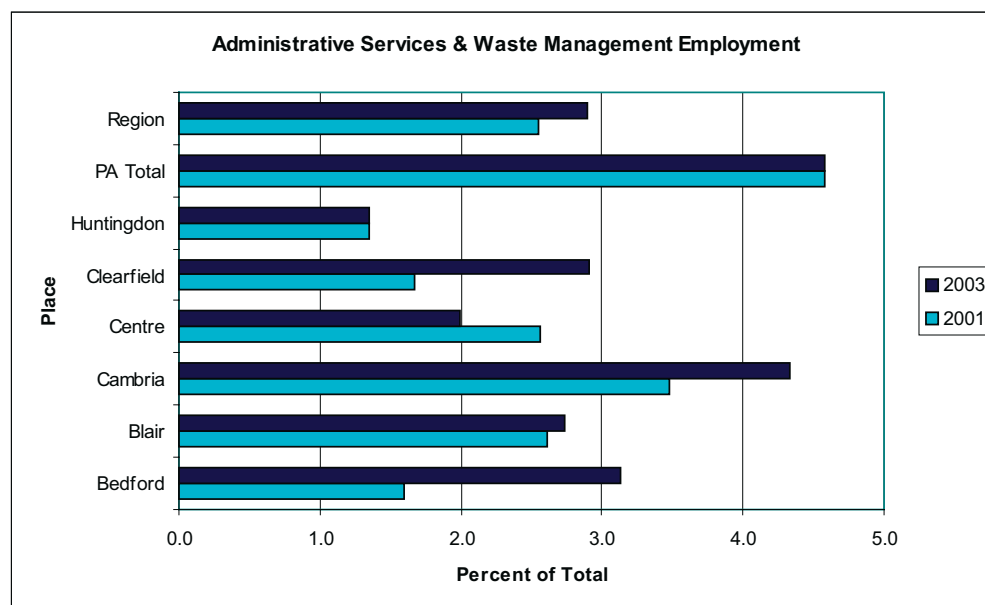
The *Other Services* sector nationwide increased in employment by 7.6 percent over the period from 1998 to 2002. Wages grew by 15.1 percent.

Administrative Service and Waste Management: This sector includes most firms providing non-professional business services such as copying, building maintenance, etc. It also includes all private sector waste management and recycling entities. (Municipal waste management is classified under government employment). This sector had 1,570 employees and paid an average of \$3,979 (just 57.1 percent of the state average) in Blair County in quarter one of 2003. The concentration of employment in this sector was 2.7 percent in Blair, 2.9 percent in the Region, and 4.4 percent in the state.

In the Region, 6,747 workers were employed in the *Administrative Services and Waste Management* sector in 2003. The average regional wage was \$4,225. Cambria County had the highest percentage of its total workers in this sector (4.3 percent) and Huntingdon had the least (1.3 percent).

Bedford County almost doubled its employment in this sector (88.2 percent growth). Blair County saw a more modest increase of 6.2 percent. The total Region had an increase of 12.3 percent. The Commonwealth lost 7.5 percent of its employment in *Administrative Services and Waste Management*. Wage change per employee was very different. Blair employees gained 6.1 percent; regional employees gained 1.9 percent; and statewide wages increased by 12.3 percent.

Administrative Services and Waste Management



Source: Derived by *VanLandingham Consulting* from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

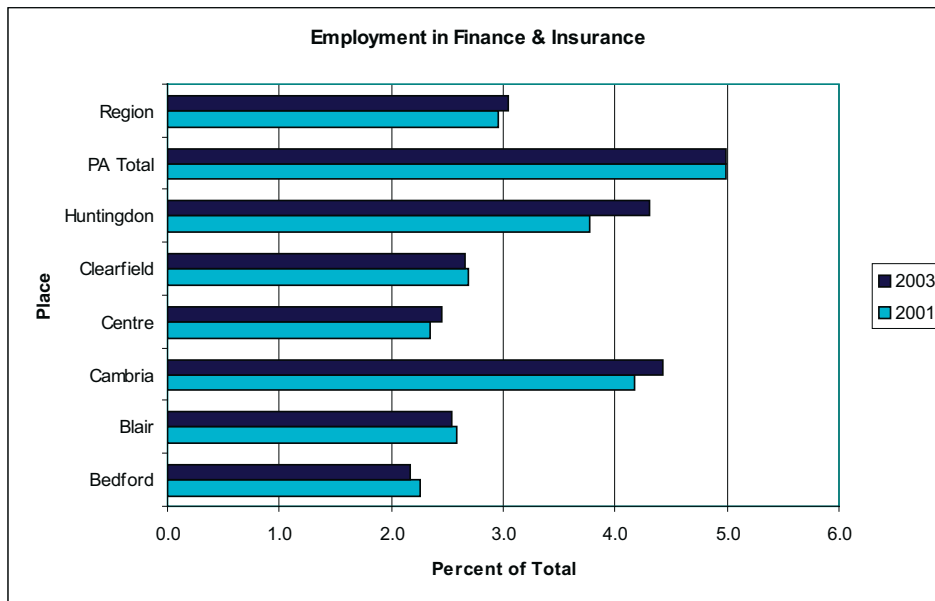
Administrative Services and Waste Management saw an employment increase of 6.7 percent and wage growth of 21.4 percent nationally. This was the fastest rate of wage change of any sector.

Finance and Insurance: This sector had 1,459 employees and an average wage of \$10,369 in Blair County in the first quarter of 2003. While the sector paid a high wage for Blair County, it was only 65 percent of the state average. In Pennsylvania 4.8 percent of the workforce was employed in this sector; only 3.0 percent of regional employment and 2.5 percent of County employment was in the sector.

The Region had 7,101 employees in the *Finance and Insurance* sector with an average wage of \$9,283. Within the Region, Cambria had the greatest concentration of employment in the sector, 4.4 percent and Bedford the least, 2.2 percent.

Blair County and the Commonwealth both lost employment in this sector during the 2001 to 2003 period. Blair lost just 0.5 percent and the state lost 1.2 percent. Some Counties in the Region showed fairly strong growth and the overall change was 1.6 percent. Wages increased in all areas. Blair employees saw an increase of 5.1 percent, while in the Region wages increased by 6.3 percent. Statewide there was a 1.6 percent increase in this sector's wages.

Percent of Employment in Finance and Insurance



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

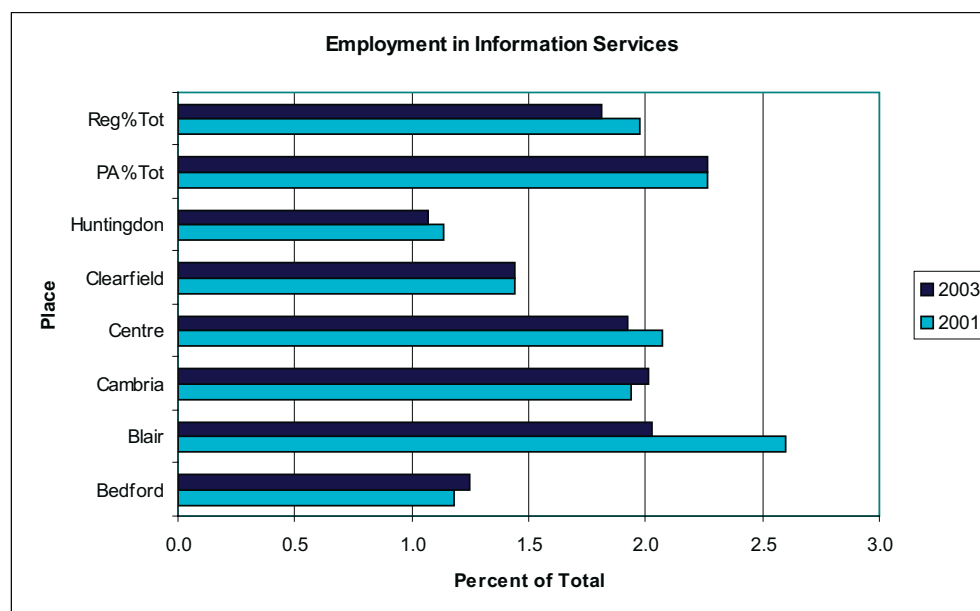
The *Finance and Insurance* sector in the US grew in employment by 11.2 percent and in wages by 15.6 percent between 1998 and 2002.

Information: This is a newly defined sector that includes all media communications as well as data processing and related activities. It had 1,163 employees in Blair County in 2003. The average wage was \$9,429, 70 percent of the state average. About 2.0 percent of the County's employment was in the *Information* sector, compared to 2.2 percent statewide and 1.8 percent in the Region.

There were 4,228 *Information* sector employees in the Region and their average quarterly wage in quarter one of 2003 was \$9,019. Blair and Cambria both had 2.0 percent of employment in this sector, while Huntingdon had just 1.2 percent.

The *Information* sector had large employment losses in the County, Region, and Commonwealth. Blair lost 21.0 percent of its employment in this sector; the Region lost 9.2 percent; and the state lost 13.1 percent. The workers who were left in Blair County were among the more highly paid of this sector's workforce. Wages per employee increased by 16.2 percent in the County. Regional employees had an increase of 8.9 percent. However, statewide *Information* sector employees saw a decline of 1.2 percent.

Percent of Employment in Information Services



Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, 2004

On average, *Information* was a fairly high growth sector in the US between 1998 and 2002. Employment increased by 12.5 percent and wages by 13.8 percent.

All other sectors had far fewer than 1,000 employees and are considered minor sectors for purposes of this analysis. No charts accompany these descriptions.

Management: This sector includes all establishments that have, as their primary responsibility, the management of other firms or establishments. In Blair County, there were 749 employees of these *Management* establishments. The average wage for these employees was \$13,571, highest of all the sectors in the County, but still just 77 percent of the state average. *Management* is slightly concentrated in Blair County with 1.3 percent of all employment; the state had 1.2 percent, and the Region just 1.8 percent in this sector.

Region-wide, there were 1,934 employees in the *Management* sector with an average wage of \$13,810. Clearfield and Huntingdon Counties had no reported employment in this sector. The concentration in Blair County was well above second ranked Cambria, which had just 0.9 percent.

Management sector employment in Blair County grew by 15.6 percent, which was the highest percentage increase of all sectors. However, the sector is small and there were only 101 new jobs created. Major *Management* sector losses in Clearfield and Bedford Counties caused the Region to lose 14.8 percent of its employment during the two-year period. The Commonwealth added 10.2 percent to its employment base in this sector. Blair County wages in the sector also increased dramatically, 27.6 percent. Wages per employee in the Region also climbed rapidly over the period, up by 26.8 percent. Meanwhile, Pennsylvania didn't fare as well; wages were down by 2.5 percent statewide. The sector has not been a high growth area in the US lately. Employment increased by just 7.8 percent and wages by 8.2 percent between 1998 and 2002.

Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment: This group of establishments had 428 employees with an average wage of \$3,215 in quarter one of 2003. While wages in the sector are low overall, the Blair County average was just 54 percent of the state average. The Region had only 0.6 percent of its employment in this small sector, compared to 0.7 percent in Blair and 1.1 percent statewide.

The Region had 1,400 employees in this sector in 2003. Only Centre County had more employees than Blair in the Region. Both Blair and Centre had 0.7 percent of their employment in this sector. Both Bedford and Clearfield were significantly under-represented; they had just 0.2 percent each.

The County gained 3.4 percent in employment in this sector; the state added 7.4 percent but the Region saw a 1.6 percent decline. Wage change varied by area; the County's wages per employee fell by 2.0 percent. However, employees in PA and the Region received 7.7 and 11.5 percent higher wages respectively. In the US the sector grew by 13.7 percent in employment and 16.4 percent in wages over the 1998 to 2002 period.

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing: This small sector had 407 employees in Blair County; their average wage for the first quarter of 2003 was \$5,165 (58 percent of the PA average). While only 0.7 percent of the Blair County employment was in this sector, statewide 1.2 percent of all workers were in *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* establishments. The average for the region was 0.9 percent. This sector had 2,181 employees in the Region whose average wage was \$6,564. Bedford had just 0.3 percent of its workforce in the sector and Centre had 1.3 percent.

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added 9.1 percent to sector employment in Blair County, but employment fell in both the Region and the state. The Region, largely due to a 28.7 percent decrease in Cambria County, lost 6.2 percent of its employment; the state lost 1.1 percent. Wages in the County increased by 7.4 percent per employee. They increased by 9.1 percent statewide. Regionally, wage per employee fell by 1.5 percent. The sector in the US saw job gains of 11.3 percent and wage increases of 17.5 percent from 1998 to 2002.

Education: The *Education* sector includes only employees of private schools and colleges (not public school teachers). This group of establishments had 394 employees in Blair County in 2003 and paid an average wage of \$3,840. The average wage was among the lowest of all sectors (relative to the average for the Commonwealth) at just 41 percent. This sector was also among the most under-represented in the County. Only 0.7 percent of all workers were in the *Education* sector in Blair, compared to 2.9 percent statewide and 1.4 percent in the Region.

In the Region, there were 3,285 employees of private schools and colleges. They were paid an average of \$6,263. Bedford had the lowest concentration with just 0.2 percent of its employment in the sector. Huntingdon and Cambria, because of the presence of Juniata College in Huntingdon and Saint Frances and Mount Aloysius in Cambria, had by far the greatest concentrations, 4.0 and 3.0 respectively.

Private sector *Education* employment fell by 1.5 percent in Blair. The sector added 1.7 percent in Pennsylvania and 4.9 percent in the Region. Both Centre and Bedford had major percentages increases (43.7 and 39.1 percent). Wages paid per employee grew by 4.9 percent in the County, 11.6 percent in the state and 12.5 percent in the Region. Along with Professional Services, this was one of the fastest growth sectors in the national economy. Between 1998 and 2002 it had job growth of 16.3 percent and wage increases of 18.4 percent.

Agriculture and Agricultural Support: This sector includes forestry, fishing, and firms that supply agricultural services (such as farm supply centers) but the data does not include farmers or farm workers except for those employed by corporate farms and, therefore, covered by Unemployment Compensation. In Blair County in 2003, there were 223 such employees. The average quarterly wage was \$3,821 (65 percent of PA). Only 0.4 percent of the Blair County workforce is employed by this sector but that was higher than the Region and on a par with the Commonwealth. (See the separate section on agriculture elsewhere in this chapter).

In the Region there were just 653 employees of the *Agriculture and Agricultural Support* sector. They received an average quarterly wage of \$4,386. The greatest concentration of employment in the Region was in Huntingdon County (1.0 percent of total employment). Both Cambria and Clearfield Counties had just 0.1 percent.

Employment in this small sector grew by 21.9 percent in the County but declined by 2.6 percent statewide and 11.0 percent in the Region. Wage change was 20.3 percent in Blair, 5.8 percent in Pennsylvania and 7.8 percent in the

Region. Those areas of *Agriculture and Agricultural Support* covered by *County Business Patterns* had a sharp decline in employment between 1998 and 2002. Employment fell by 3.2 percent and wages rose just 10.5 percent nationally.

Utilities: In Blair County the smallest sector with employees covered by Unemployment Compensation was the *Utilities* sector; it had 74 employees and an average wage of \$11,378 during the first quarter of 2003 (54 percent of the state average). Although this is a small sector in the Region and the state as well as the County, Blair is significantly under-represented. Only 0.1 percent of the County's employment was in this sector; in the state 0.5 percent of all workers are in the sector, and in the Region, 0.4 percent.

There were 1,002 employees in the *Utilities* sector in the Region. They were paid an average quarterly wage of \$14,718 in Q1 of 2003. Clearfield County had the largest percentage of its total workforce in the *Utilities* sector (0.9 percent) and Blair the least.

The *Utilities* sector suffered major losses in Blair County between 2001 and 2003. It declined by 144 workers or 66.1 percent. Most of this loss was caused by the reclassification of at least one establishment into the *Management* sector. In both the state and the Region the *Utilities* sector lost significant employment as well (15.5 percent and 29.7 percent). Wages per worker declined by 21.7 percent in Blair and by 2.4 percent in the region. Statewide wages increased by 11.1 percent. In the US the sector lost 5.0 percent of its 1998 employment by 2002 but wages continued to grow faster than the national average at 15.6 percent.

Summary of Sector Change

From the first quarter of 2001 through the first quarter of 2003 the Blair County economy gained 826 jobs or 1.5 percent. This is a very decent performance, given that the Commonwealth lost 1.2 percent of its employment over the same period.

Six sectors lost employment and fourteen gained over the two-year period. Only three of the sectors losing employment showed significant decline. The other three lost a total of 14 jobs between them. However, *Manufacturing*, *Utilities*, and *Information* had significant losses.

Manufacturing lost 1,194 jobs or 12.3 percent of its first quarter 2001 employment. This was a significant loss but not as great as the state's loss of 14.0 percent over the period. The largest percentage employment losses were in the *Utilities* sector; that sector declined by 66.1 percent. This was a loss of 154 employees. However, most of the *Utilities* sector loss was probably due to a reclassification of some *Management* sector employees into that sector. The *Information* sector lost 310 jobs or 21.0 percent of its 2001 total.

While gains outnumbered losses by 826 jobs, no sector had gains comparable to the almost 1,200 employee loss in *Manufacturing*. The greatest numerical gain was in the *Retail* sector, which added 580 jobs; this was 7.3 percent of the 2001 total. *Agriculture* had the greatest percentage gain at 21.9 percent but this increase was just 40 employees. Other sectors of note include *Transportation and Warehousing*, which continues to be one of the county's strengths. This sector added 266 jobs or 13.1 percent. *Construction* also fared well with an increase of 195 jobs or 9.3 percent. The increase in *Construction* employment over this period was especially notable because the state lost about 1.0 percent of its 2001 total during 2002 and the first quarter of 2003.

Average wages paid increased by \$1,194 or 4.7 percent. *Management* companies had the greatest increase, from \$42,533 to \$54,286. This was \$11,753, almost 28 percent. Since this small sector was also growing by 101 employees or 15.6 percent over the period, the impact on the economy was significant B almost \$1.2 million in new payroll. This largely offset the loss (perhaps because of the reclassification suggested above) in the *Utilities* sector.

THE ECONOMIC BASE OF BLAIR COUNTY

Economic Base: Description and Methodology

The economic base of the area includes all industries that produce at least part of their output for consumption outside of the local area. These are important industries because the sales they generate determines the income available for growth and for the consumption of items not produced locally. @Export@ sales by local industries are determined by the concentration of that industry in the local area. This concentration is measured, somewhat crudely, by a ratio called the Location Quotient. To calculate the Location Quotient for each industry the percentage of local employment in a given industry is compared to the percentage of national employment in that industry by the ratio:

$$LQ_i = \% \text{ of total local employment in industry } i / \% \text{ of national employment in industry } i$$

When the LQ for an industry is exactly 1.0 (i.e. the local industry employs the same percentage of total employment as the industry nationally) the industry is said to be locally self-sufficient and the area neither imports nor exports the products of that industry. When the LQ is above 1.0 the part above 1.0 is presumably exported to other parts of the national or global economy. When the LQ for a particular industry is below 1.0 the area must import some of the products of that industry which it consumes locally. Obviously, if the LQ for an industry is 0.0 all of the consumed product must be imported. For example, Pennsylvania does not grow any citrus fruit because of its climate, therefore it has an LQ of 0.0 for that industry; all citrus consumed in the state must be Aimported@ from Florida, California, Arizona, or elsewhere.

We determine the economic base for a local area by computing the Location Quotients for all industries. Those industries that have LQ's above 1.0 are part of the economic base. Their employment above the percentage required to generate an LQ of 1.0 is said to be Abasic@ employment. The assumption here is that the basic employment produces goods or services for sale to other areas and generates income for the area in proportion to the basic employment. Different industries have different pay scales; therefore, an even better measure of the contribution of a basic industry to the local economy is the average wage for that industry times the number of basic employees.

Depending on the mix of industries in the economic base an area economy may be healthy, stable, or declining. If a local area is highly concentrated in one, or just a few industries, its economy is highly dependent on that narrow economic base. If an area has several B or many B industries in its economic base it is less dependent upon the fortunes of any one of those industries. When the area is heavily dependent on industries that are declining nationally (even if the local firms in those industries are stable or growing) it is Aat risk@ because it is likely that decline may strike the local firms at any time.

Although we traditionally think of manufacturing industries as the main components of a local economic base, this is an incorrect assumption. The largest economic base industry in central Pennsylvania is education. Penn State exports educational services to students from all over the Commonwealth and elsewhere. It generates income for the region by bringing in tuition, research monies, government support, and sports related revenues.

Other non-manufacturing industries in a local economic base might include: mining, transportation services, wholesale trade, services to other businesses, tourism, and B in some cases B health care. Industries that are not typically in the economic base include retail, personal services, and other Alocal serving@ industries. These industries exist to serve the needs of the local populace and typically have LQ's near 1.0. The exception to this general rule is found when an area serves as a regional center for retail and/or services and draws customers from an area much wider than its nominal boundaries. In such a case these regional markets are reflected in Location Quotients well above 1.0.

For purposes of economic base analysis, the sectors described above are not very useful. They don't provide enough detail. The data on employment and wages gathered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry are actually collected at the individual establishment level and, for purposes of analysis, may be aggregated to various levels of detail. For example, the *Manufacturing* sector is actually made up of about 20 industry groups (e.g. food products, apparel, etc.); these may be further delineated as industry types (e.g. dairy products) and, finally, as specific industries (e.g. ice cream). These very specific industries are most useful for economic base analysis because they indicate the actual products or services supplied within the local economy.

In this section the most important industries in the economic base of Blair County are shown based on data for the first quarter of 2001. [Note: Although Pennsylvania data are available for 2002, the most recent national data available are for the first quarter of 2001]. Because the industries are quite specific, there are in some cases only one or two firms in each. Actual employment and wage data for these industries might reveal information about specific firms and, by law, cannot be shown in this published document. The proxy used here is the contribution to the economic base based on the average wage in the industry multiplied by the number of basic employees. This preserves confidentiality and allows the real value of the industry to the economic base to be shown.

The Economic Base of Blair County

The economic base of Blair County is both broad and deep. In 2001, there were 195 industries with Location Quotients greater than 1.1 not including government employees or agricultural production workers. There were 31,930 employees in these industries and 19,366 of these were basic (i.e. were employed in producing goods or services for export). Since there were 47,659 private sector, non-agricultural, workers in the County covered by Unemployment Compensation, this means that the ratio of non-basic to basic workers was 1.46. This, in turn, implies that for every increase of one worker in the economic base of the County, there will be an increase in total employment of almost 2.5 workers. Basic employees added \$139,888,997 dollars to the economy of Blair County in the first quarter of 2001.

Table 1.48: Important Industries in the Economic Base of Blair County

NAICS	TITLE	Blair
322233	Stationery, Tablet, and Related Product Manufacturing	100.5
316213	Men's Footwear (except Athletic) Manufacturing	99.0
333291	Paper Industry Machinery Manufacturing	53.0
322232	Envelope Manufacturing	52.5
331421	Copper Rolling, Drawing, and Extruding	39.4
323111	Commercial Gravure Printing	39.1
212319	Other Crushed and Broken Stone Mining and Quarrying	37.7
322215	Non-folding Sanitary Food Container Manufacturing	35.8
334514	Totalizing Fluid Meter and Counting Device Manufacturing	33.2
333131	Mining Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	32.5
331491	Nonferrous Metal (except Copper and Aluminum) Rolling, Drawing,	26.8
325320	Pesticide and Other Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing	23.9
488111	Air Traffic Control	21.0
322121	Paper (except Newsprint) Mills	18.6
312112	Bottled Water Manufacturing	18.4

314999	All Other Miscellaneous Textile Product Mills	17.6
332991	Ball and Roller Bearing Manufacturing	17.2
327125	Non-clay Refractory Manufacturing	16.7
562119	Other Waste Collection	15.0
334611	Software Reproducing	14.2
541860	Direct Mail Advertising	13.8
311330	Confectionery Manufacturing from Purchased Chocolate	13.7
327215	Glass Product Manufacturing Made of Purchased Glass	13.4
422410	General Line Grocery Merchant Wholesalers	13.4
332722	Bolt, Nut, Screw, Rivet, and Washer Manufacturing	13.0
315228	Men's and Boys' Cut and Sew Other Outerwear	12.8
335122	Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Electric Lighting Fixtures	10.7
315212	Women's, Girls', and Infants' Cut and Sew Apparel	10.7
488210	Support Activities for Rail Transportation	10.4
445210	Meat Markets	10.4
511199	All Other Publishers	9.7
327390	Other Concrete Product Manufacturing	9.2
321991	Manufactured Home (Mobile Home) Manufacturing	8.4
311919	Other Snack Food Manufacturing	7.9
336322	Other Motor Vehicle Electrical and Electronic Equipment Manufacturing	7.9
421320	Brick, Stone, and Related Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers	7.7
336510	Railroad Rolling Stock Manufacturing	7.3
334220	Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment	7.1
486910	Pipeline Transportation of Refined Petroleum Products	6.0
323118	Blank-book, Loose-leaf Binders, and Devices Manufacturing	5.7
339950	Sign Manufacturing	5.5
623990	Other Residential Care Facilities	5.0

Source: Derived by **VanLandingham Consulting** from CBP 2001 & ES202, Q1 2001

Specific Industries in the Economic Base of Blair County

The Blair County industries with the highest Location Quotients are shown in Table 1.48. The industry with highest LQ was *N322233: Stationery and Related Products*. This industry produced over 100 times the amount necessary for local consumption. The last industry on the list, *N623990: Other Residential Care Facilities* provided enough of this service to satisfy the needs of about five Blair County size areas. Note that 13 of the 15 top exporters are manufacturing industries. One is a mining operation and the other is a sort of statistical anomaly in that only counties with commercial airports will have any air traffic control employees at all.

While Location Quotients are a useful device for determining the industries in the economic base; that measure alone does not show the actual size of the industry or its importance to the local economy. Hence, Table 1.49 is more useful. It shows the impact of the basic industries on the income of the County. Here, the impact of the industry is measured by the product of the average wage in the industry times the number of basic employees.

The twenty most important contributors to the economic base of Blair County in 2001 were:

• Paper Mills	-
• Hospitals	+
• Grocery Wholesalers	+
• Freight Trucking	+
• Glass Products	-
• Envelopes	-
• Ball & Roller Bearings	-
• Offices of Physicians	+
• Radio & TV Broadcasting Equipment	-
• Copper Rolling & Drawing	-
• Paper Industry Machinery	-
• Miscellaneous Textile Products	-
• Direct Mail Advertising	-
• Men's Footwear	-
• Stationery & Tablets	-
• Other Concrete Products	+
• Non-ferrous Metal Rolling & Drawing (except Copper & Alum)	-
• Department Stores	-
• Gravure Printing	+
• Women's, Girl's, and Infants Apparel	-

These were distributed across several sectors: manufacturing, health, wholesaling, trucking and warehousing, and retailing. The preponderance of these industries (14 of 20) were manufacturing industries. These 14 industries contributed over \$49 million in basic wages to the Blair County economy in the first quarter of 2001. The other six industries added an additional \$32.2 million. Together these 20 industries accounted for 58 percent of the basic income derived in that quarter.

The most serious concern for economic planning purposes is that between 1998 and 2001, 14 of these industries were declining in employment at the national level. The only manufacturing industry to grow during the period was *N327390: Other Concrete Products*. The only non-manufacturing industry in the twenty most important economic base industries to decline nationally was *N452110: Department Stores*. It will be important to monitor the performance of the local firms in these declining industries carefully in the future.

Of the remaining 170 industries in the economic base of Blair County:

- 2 are mining industries
- 2 are utilities
- 45 are manufacturers
- 17 are wholesalers
- 39 are retailers
- 9 are transportation and warehousing
- 8 are information industries
- 2 are financial
- 2 are in the real estate and rental sector
- 3 are professional services
- 4 are administrative or waste management
- 3 are educational services
- 16 are medical or social services
- 7 are lodging or food service, and
- 16 are in the other services sector.

Note that overall, service industries far out-number goods producing industries in Blair County's economic base. This indicates a fairly balanced and mature urban economy. In smaller, or less developed, areas the economic base tends to have fewer industries and the majority of basic employment is in the *Manufacturing* industries.

Growth Industries in the Economic Base

There were 298 national industries that had employment growth of over 10.0 percent between 1998 and 2001. Sixty-one of these were retail or personal services industries and are not further considered. (The retail and local service activities are not further described here but are shown in the Appendix Tables). Of the 237 remaining high growth industries, 55 were in the economic base of Blair County.

Blair County's economic base had no high growth agricultural, mining, utilities, or construction industries. In the US there were six agricultural or agricultural support industries with growth over 10 percent. There were five mining industries in this category, as well as two utilities industries. Construction industries are here not separated below the sector level because of differences in the coding system used by the state and federal reporting agencies. The sector as a whole grew by 12.3 percent in the US but is not a basic industry in the County.

Only 37 of over 300 manufacturing industries had employment growth of more than ten percent in the US between 1998 and 2001. In Blair County there were only seven *Manufacturing* industries that grew by more than ten percent. These had total employment of 542 persons in the County. Only one, N327390, had more than 100 employees.

Industry	Growth
N311991: Perishable Prepared Foods	+10.4%
N312112: Bottled Water	+11.0%
N321214: Truss Manufacturing	+16.2%
N327331: Concrete Blocks and Bricks	+10.0%
N327390: Other Concrete Products	+19.0%
N332312: Fabricated Structural Metals	+10.4%
N339116: Dental Laboratories	+10.2%

Four of the County's high growth basic *Manufacturing* industries were related to *Construction*.

Sixteen national *Wholesale Trade* industries grew by more than ten percent over the period, only three were basic in Blair County.

N421310: Wholesale Lumber, Plywood, and Millwork	+11.1%
N421320: Wholesale Brick, Stone, and Related	+35.0%
N421720: Wholesale Plumbing & Heating Equipment	+14.8%

Note that all three are related to the *Construction* industries.

Sixteen *Transportation and Warehousing* industries had high national growth rates; five were basic in Blair County

N484110: Local General Freight Trucking	+10.2%
N484121: Long Distance General Freight Trucking	+14.0%
N488111: Air Traffic Control	+19.7%
N488210: Railroad Support Activities	+22.7%
N493110: General Warehousing & Storage	+35.6%

Except for Air Traffic Control, these are all large employers in Blair County. They are part of an important regional distribution cluster that includes several *Wholesale Trade* industries as well.

There were nineteen high growth *Information* sector industries in the US; four are in the economic base of Blair County.

N511140: Directories & Mailing Lists	+18.6%
N514120: Libraries & Archives	+49.8%
N514199: All Other Information Services	+88.5%
N514210: Data Processing	+18.7%

Only one of these industries (N514210) is a large and important contributor to the economic base of the County.

Of the 18 high growth *Finance and Insurance* industries nationally, none are in the economic base of Blair County. There are also no fast growth basic *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* industries in the County; there were eight of these industries in the US.

The industries in the *Professional Services* sector are, in general, high growth industries nationally; 28 grew in employment by more than ten percent in the US. Only one of these was basic in Blair County; N541310: Architectural Services, +22.7 percent).

Neither of the two high growth *Management* sector activities is basic in the County.

Just one of the eighteen fast growth *Administrative Services and Waste Management* industries is basic in the County. (N561611: Investigation Services, +10.0 percent).

Of the twelve national *Education* sector industries that added more than ten percent to their employment base only one is basic in the County. That one, N611620: Sports and Recreation Instruction, is quite small and not a significant contributor.

On the other hand, nine of the seventeen high growth *Health and Social Service* Industries are basic in Blair County. These include:

N621111: Offices of Physicians	+14.2%
N621310: Offices of Chiropractors	+20.1%
N621320: Offices of Optometrists	+10.4%
N621999: Miscellaneous Ambulatory Health Care	+24.0%
N623311: Continuing Care Retirement Communities	+18.4%
N623312: Homes for the Elderly	+35.3%
N623990: Other Residential Care Facilities	+14.6%
N624190: Other Individual & Family Services	+26.5%
N624310: Vocational Rehabilitation	+10.2%

Blair County has a strong cluster of related economic activities in the *Health and Social Services* sector. Despite the regional, rather than national, nature of the market, this is an important element of the economic base of the County.

Fifteen industries in the *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* sector had employment growth greater than 10.0 percent during the 199 2001 period. Of these only one was in the economic base of Blair County and it was quite small. This industry, N711211: Sports Teams and Clubs grew by 22.5% nationally.

There were six national industries in the *Lodging and Food Services* sector with employment growth over 10 percent in the US during the 1998 to 2001 period. Again, Blair had only one of these high growth industries, N721214: Recreational and Vacation Camps (+10.6%). This industry had fewer than 20 employees in the County and thus contributed very little to the economic base.

Ten industries in the *Other Services* sector had national employment growth over ten percent. The only one present in Blair County's economic base was N811213: Communications Equipment Repair and Maintenance; this industry added 15.0 percent to its national employment over the period.

Declining Industries in the Economic Base

Between 1998 and 2001, 213 US industries declined by more than 10.0 percent. Only 30 of these industries were in the economic base of Blair County. No Retail sector activities and only one local service industry were in this number. Unfortunately, of the 29 remaining industries, several were among the most important contributors to the County's economic base.

No agricultural industries in Blair County's economic base were among the three national industries that lost more than ten percent of their employment between 1998 and 2001.

Ten US *Mining* industries lost over ten percent. None were in the County's economic base.

In the *Utilities* sector only one US industry, N221112: Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation lost more than 10.0 percent (-10.9%). However, this industry was a fairly important basic activity in the county.

Manufacturing employment has declined steadily for the last two decades in the US. Almost 165 industries lost more than 10.0 percent of their national employment between 1998 and 2001. Eighty-one of these industries were in the economic base of Pennsylvania, which helps explain why the state lost almost fifteen percent of its manufacturing employment during the period. Twenty of the industries that lost more than ten percent of their employment were in the economic base of Blair County.

Industry	Employment Loss
N311919: Other Snack Foods	-19.3%
N313210: Broadwoven Fabric	-19.1%
N315212: Women's, Girls', and Infants' Apparel	-39.2%
N315228: Men's and Boys' Outerwear	-40.0%
N316213: Men's Footwear	-27.4%
N321991: Manufactured Homes	-29.4%
N322121: Paper (except Newsprint)	-11.5%
N322233: Stationery, Tablets, and Related	-20.1%
N323116: Manifold Business Forms	-19.8%
N323118: Blankbooks and Looseleaf Binders	-22.3%
N331421: Copper Rolling & Drawing	-13.5%
N331491: Other Nonferrous Metal Rolling & Drawing	-10.2%
N332991: Ball & Roller Bearings	-11.9%
N333131: Mining Machinery	-14.1%
N333291: Paper Industry Machinery	-25.7%
N333315: Photographic & Photocopying Equipment	-36.8%
N333514: Special Tool & Die Cutting	-11.3%
N334611: Software Reproduction	-36.9%
N336322: Other Motor Vehicle Elec. Equipment	-12.9%
N339932: Games, Toys, & Children's Vehicles	-20.8%

These twenty industries accounted for 4,373 jobs in Blair County in 2001. Of the total, 3,902 were basic; they generated almost \$36 million in basic wages. Decline in these important industries puts the economic base of Blair County in serious jeopardy.

Only three Wholesale Trade industries lost more than 10.0 percent of their employment in the US between 1998 and 2001. Two of these industries were in the economic base of Blair County, although neither was an important component.

N421930: Recyclable Materials, Wholesale -12.5%
N422450: Confectionery, Wholesale -14.1%.

Although *Retail* industries are not typically considered in economic base analysis, one industry that lost employment nationally is in the economic base of the County as a fairly major regional player. This industry, N453930: Manufactured Home Dealers, lost 17.8 percent of its national employment over the period.

Just one of the eight US *Transportation and Warehousing* sector industries that lost significant employment is in the economic base of Blair County, N493190: Other Warehousing and Storage lost 15.9 percent. This is a fairly small industry in the County.

None of the three *Information* sector or four *Finance and Insurance* sector industries that lost more than 10.0 percent in employment nationally were in the economic base of Blair County in 2001. No industries in the *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing* sector lost more than 10.0 percent.

Three *Professional Services* activities lost more than 10.0 percent of their employment in the US over the period. Only N541850: Display Advertising, was in the County's economic base.

No *Management* or *Education* sector activities declined by more than 10.0 percent over the period.

Three *Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment* sector industries lost more than 10.0 percent. Only one was basic in Blair County. N713110: Amusement and Theme Parks, lost 13.9% of its national employment.

Just one *Lodging and Food Service* industry lost more than 10.0 percent of its 1998 employment and that one is not in the economic base of the County.

Seven national industries in the Other Services sector lost more than 10.0 percent; two were in the economic base of the County.

N811118: Other Automotive Repair Services -12.9%
N812922: One-hour Photo-finishing Laboratories -29.9%.

Neither was an important contributor to the economic base of the County.

Summary of Economic Base

Relatively few of Blair County's basic industries were among the high growth national industries. Those that were in this group tended to be in the *Health and Social Services* sector or the *Transportation and Warehousing* sector. Several *Manufacturing* and *Wholesaling* industries related to the *Construction* sector were also high growth industries in the US. Note that very few of the faster growth, white collar, industries are in the economic base of the County.

The most important concern for the existing economic base of the County is the continued decline of *Manufacturing*. Not only does Blair have about twenty of the 165 Manufacturing industries that are declining nationally, many of these are important components of the County's economic base. Even if those industries are

stable or growing in the County economy at this time, they must be considered “at risk” for future decline.

THE LABOR FORCE OF BLAIR COUNTY

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

A robust economy tends to have a high rate of labor force participation, indicating that jobs are plentiful and unemployment is relatively low. In contrast, if potential workers cannot find employment, they tend to be discouraged and drop out of the labor force. By these standards, there is quite a bit of variation in the economy of the Blair Region.

According to the Census of Population and Housing, in 2000 the civilian labor force of Blair County numbered 61,589 out of a potential 103,379 persons age 16 and older. This was a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 59.6 percent. There were 57,756 employed persons and 3,833 unemployed in the labor force. This was a 6.2 percent unemployment rate. In comparison, the LFPR in Pennsylvania was 61.8 percent and the unemployment rate was 5.7 percent.

Bedford and Centre Counties had LFPR rates higher than Blair (60.3 and 60.0 percent, respectively). Their unemployment rates were also lower at 5.7 and 5.5 percent). On the other hand, The LFPR in Cambria County was just 53.7 percent. In Huntingdon it was 54.2 percent. Both were among the lowest in the Commonwealth. Cambria County had an unemployment rate of 8.8 percent. The LFPR in Clearfield County was 57.4 percent and the unemployment rate was 6.9 percent.

Hence, none of the counties of the Blair Region appear to have significantly out-performed the Commonwealth. Both Cambria and Huntingdon had low labor force participation and, Cambria at least, had high unemployment. Clearfield's economy appeared to be in only slightly better shape. Blair County was in the middle of the regional distribution. Centre and Bedford were doing relatively well.

Between 1990 and 2000, the labor force of Blair County increased by just 2,208 from 59,309 in 1990 to 61,589 in 2000. This was an increase of 3.8 percent. However, the unemployment rate decreased from 7.0 percent in 1990 to 6.2 percent and the LFPR increased from 58.0 percent to 59.6 percent.

Age Structure of the Potential Labor Force

Although the labor force is often considered to be all those persons 16 years of age and older, it usually makes more sense to think of the cohorts from 15 to 64 or 69 as the “potential” labor force. Those over 70 years of age are unlikely to be drawn back into the labor force if jobs become more plentiful.

In Blair County in 1990 there were 89,080 persons between the ages of 15 and 69. This declined to 88,250 by 2000. In 1990, 36,386 were between the age of 15 and 34; by 2000, there were just 32,360. This was a decline of 3,126 or 8.6 percent. By contrast, the cohorts between 35 and 54 increased substantially. In 1990 there were 32,228 persons age 35 to 54. This increased – largely due to the aging of the baby-boom segment – to 37,840 during the decade. This was an increase of 5,612 or 17.4 percent. On the other hand, the group from 55 to 69 years of age decreased from 20,466 to 18,050, a decline of 2,416 or 11.8 percent.

The above figures indicate that, while the total potential labor force declined by just 830 persons (about 1.0 percent), older workers – particularly those between 35 and 54 -- now dominate. In a stable economy this would not be bad news. Workers in that age group tend to be more experienced and productive. However, as the changes in the economic base indicate, this is not a stable time in the economy. Middle age workers find it more difficult to change jobs and to retrain for changing technology.

Changes in the Projected Labor Force to 2020

As noted in the Demographics Chapter, the population of Blair County is expected to continue to decline over the next two decades. This decline will have some effect on the size of the labor force. Perhaps of even greater concern, the population, and therefore, the labor force will grow older between 2000 and 2020.

Between 2000 and 2010, the labor force will remain essentially constant, even though the population will decline slightly. By 2010, there will be approximately 88,475 persons of working age in the County. This will be an increase of just 225 or 0.2 percent. However, between 2010 and 2020, the baby-boomers will start to retire. By 2020, unless some unforeseeable change occurs, the potential labor force will decline to about 84,152; a decline of 4,100 from 2000. This will be a loss of 4.6 percent in the number of persons available for work.

A far greater impact will be seen in the age structure of the labor force. Those under 35 constituted 36.6 percent of all working age people in Blair County in 2000. By 2020 this group will be only 32.5 percent. In absolute terms, the number will fall from 32,360 to 27,370, a decline of 4,990 or 15.4 percent. The group from age 35 to 54 will fall from 37,840 to 30,760. This will be a loss of 7,080 or 18.7 percent. They will then make up 26.5 percent of the potential labor force, down from almost 50.0 percent in 2000. At the older end of the working age spectrum, workers 55 to 69 will increase to 26,022, up from 18,050 in 2000. This will be an increase of 44.2 percent.

The greatest impact on the size of the potential labor force will be felt in the decade between 2020 and 2030. During this decade even the younger baby-boomers will retire. Unless there is a substantial change in migration patterns, the number of Blair County's potential workers will decline by at least another five percent during the decade.

Education

The Census provides information on highest level of schooling completed for persons over 25 years of age. In 2000, the residents were fairly well educated; 83.8 percent had completed high school, compared to 81.9 percent of persons over 25 in Pennsylvania. This was the second highest rate in the Region; only Centre County had a higher percentage of high school graduates (88.2 percent). The percent holding high school diplomas in Blair was up from 75.0 percent in 1990. The Commonwealth average in that year was 74.7 percent.

Blair was also second highest in the Region in college graduation rates. In 2000, 13.9 percent of residents over 25 had completed college in the County. However, the Commonwealth average for college graduation was 22.4 percent. The percentage holding at least bachelor's degrees was up from 10.5 percent in 1990. The Pennsylvania rate was up from 17.9 percent in 1990.

These figures imply that Blair County has a workforce appropriate for skilled labor and most service sector occupations but is not fully prepared for the technical and management jobs which are driving the national economy.

Occupation

The educational attainment figures are reflected in the occupational structure of the County for 2000. Just 25.6 percent of employed workers are in the management, professional, or technical jobs, which typically require at least some college education, compared to 32.6 percent statewide. Centre and Cambria Counties have higher levels of this "white and pink collar" type of employment (41.6 percent and 27.9 percent respectively).

About 16.4 percent of Blair County employees worked in service type jobs in 2000. This is well above the state average of 14.8 percent. Likewise, production workers make up 19.5 percent of the Blair County workforce compared to 16.3 percent in the Commonwealth. Construction workers were 11.0 percent of the workforce in the County, but just 8.9 percent statewide. Agricultural workers were 0.8 percent, but only 0.5 percent in the state.

Most of these “blue collar” occupations require only a high school diploma.

Commuting Patterns

The Blair County commuting region, based on the flows of workers into and out of the County in 2000, was composed of Blair and the five surrounding counties. In that year, Blair had net in-commutation of 5,340 workers from the surrounding counties and lost a net of 11 workers to all other places of employment.

Blair’s balance of commutation was positive for all Counties in the Region except Centre. By far the largest net in-commutation was from Cambria. However, given the relative size of the Cambria and Bedford labor forces, a higher percentage of Bedford’s workers were employed in Blair County.

Table 1.49: Commuting to and from Blair County, 2000.

From Blair	To Bedford	To Cambria	To Centre	To Chrlfd	To Hunt’don
	1,129	1,136	1,624	260	722

To Blair	From Bedford	From Cambria	From Centre	From Clearfield	From Huntingdon
	2,833	5,055	616	766	921
Net	1,704	3,919	-1,008	526	199

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2000.

In 1990, Blair County had a net positive in-commutation from these same Counties of 3,794 workers. Between 1990 and 2000, Blair gained 1,546 net in-commuters. This is evidence of the fact that Blair’s economy out-performed that of the Region during the decade. It was this increase in net in-commutation, coupled with the numerical increase in the labor force and the decrease in unemployment, which allowed the actual employment in the County to grow by almost ten percent between 1990 and 2000.

EXPECTED CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY OF BLAIR COUNTY TO 2020

The following section is based on trends in the economy, population, and age structure. It suggests scenarios that might occur based on those trends. However, unforeseen and basically unforeseeable, changes in the national economy, place of residence preferences, labor force participation rates, etc. could render all of these scenarios moot.

Impacts of Labor Force Change and Population Loss

The labor force of Blair County grew by 3.8 percent in the 1990s. It is expected to remain constant until about 2010 and then start to decline. Employment increases in the County will have to come from either in-migration or in-commutation. Further, the labor force will continue to age throughout the period. This will make technological change more difficult to assimilate.

The County is expected to continue to lose population throughout the projection period. In addition to reducing the size of the potential labor force, this implies that local markets are unlikely to expand.

Directions of Change in the Economic Base

The following projections are based on the 1998 through 2002 employment changes in the national industries that

make up the economic base of Blair County. Although the direction and relative magnitudes of growth or decline are indicated, no effort has been made to determine the exact percentage of employment change.

The economic base of Blair County contains a wide variety of economic activities but is dominated by manufacturing industries. Nationally, the *Manufacturing* industries in Blair's economic base declined substantially between 1998 and 2002, on average. If the percentage of employment lost in those industries nationwide is projected for the next several years, the County may expect to lose over 2,000 more manufacturing jobs from its economic base by 2010.

Only one other sector in the economic base of the County, *Arts, Recreation, and Entertainment*, may be expected to lose employment based on the 1998 to 2002 national trends. That loss probably will be less than 50 jobs.

The greatest gains, if national trends hold, will be in the *Health and Social Services* sector. That sector may add over 1,500 jobs. The next greatest growth could be in the *Retail* sector. Theoretically, this sector could add almost 1,000 jobs, if national trends are the only factor operating. This outcome is unlikely because *Retail*, unlike Manufacturing, serves only a local market. For several decades Blair County's *Retail* employment has increased as the County became a major regional retail center. Retail growth in Centre, Clearfield, and Bedford Counties will significantly restrict further growth of Blair's retail market area. Therefore, only modest growth of about one-percent per year can be predicted, this would still add about 600 jobs in the sector by 2010.

Based on national growth trends only two other sectors are expected to add over 500 jobs by 2010. *Transportation and warehousing* should continue to grow and may be given even further impetus by the completion of I-99. This sector should add just over 500 new employees by 2010. Also, if the Lodging and food service industries in the economic base of Blair County continue their current upward trend, the sector should add almost 600 jobs by 2010.

Employment change in the basic industries of all other sectors Overall, the County's economic base may be expected to grow by about 1,500 to 2,000 jobs by the end of the decade. If the local multiplier stays essentially the same, this would lead to the potential of 2,610 to 3,480 total jobs created.

It must be remembered that in order for these new employment opportunities to be filled, new in-commuters or new in-migrants would be necessary unless the labor force participation rate goes up significantly.

IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND USE

The expected changes in the economy will generate land demands for commercial and industrial uses. However, in the next twenty years the demand for land is likely to be modest. The decline in population, relative stagnation in the size of the labor force, and the current structure of the economy will minimize the demand for new land. Of particular importance is the likelihood that some land currently in use for manufacturing facilities will be released for reuse. Some plants will close down and these "brownfield" sites will be available for re-development.

While it is unlikely that net new land will be required for manufacturing, the County will still need an additional 100+ acres in business/industrial parks. This expectation is based on trends in plant location across the US. Even if net employment is falling in manufacturing, some firms will out grow their current space and choose to locate their new facilities in a designated industrial park. New or relocating manufacturing firms will locate their facilities in a Blair County park and, most importantly, the current trend is for economic activities much removed from manufacturing to find such parks preferable to standalone sites.

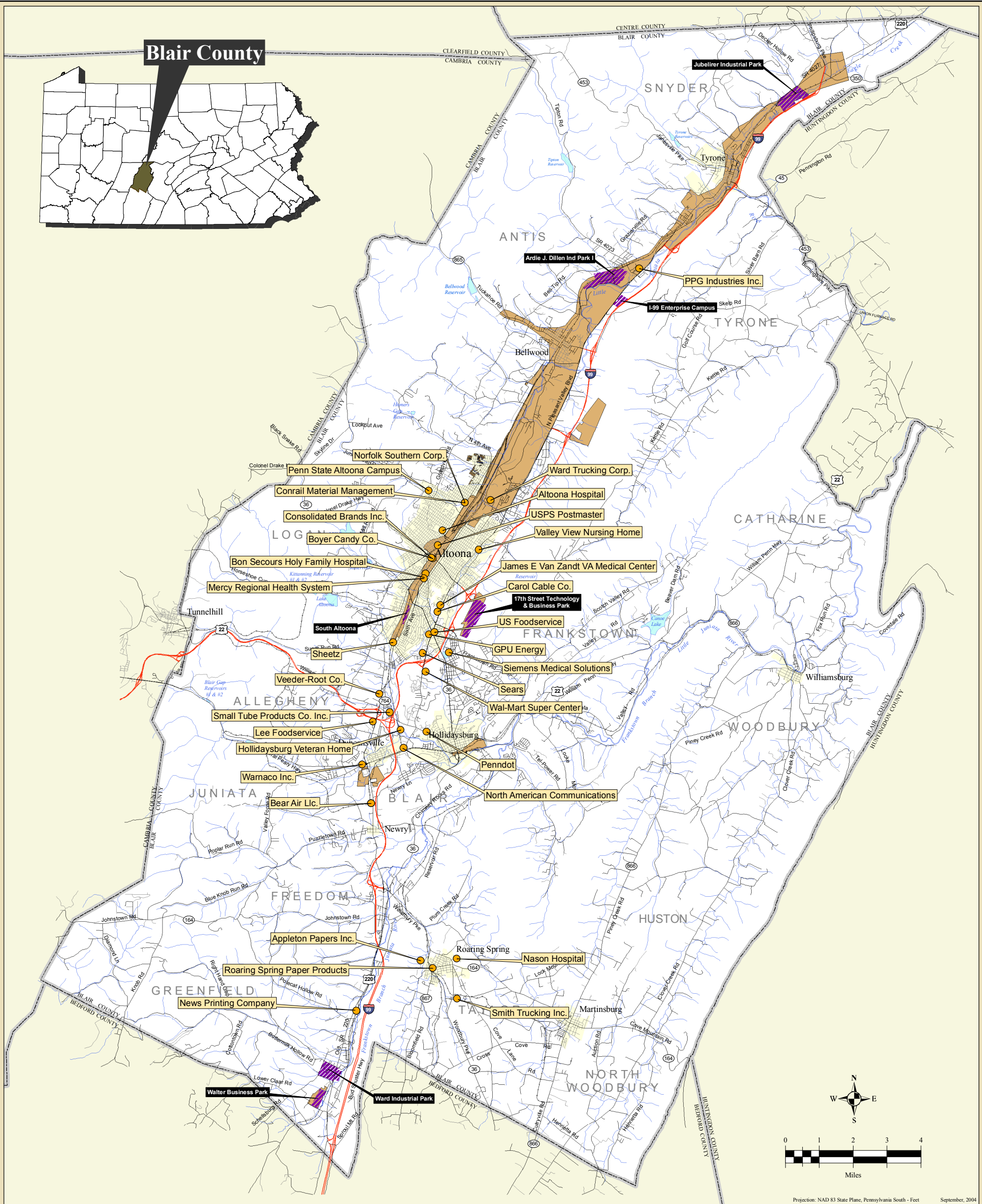
Health care and social services activities will grow strongly during the next few years and will add at least 1,500 new employees in Blair County. This translates to at least 100 acres of new land to support the increase. Some of this sector's demand for land may be met in industrial/business parks.

The process of decentralization of housing will probably continue and will spark the demand for new neighborhood shopping centers. Each center tends to require about 10 to 15 acres and three of four centers are likely. In total, about 50 acres of neighborhood commercial will be required.

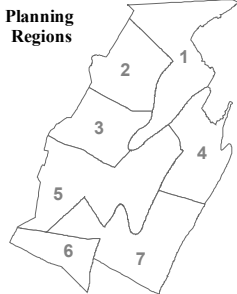
Transportation and warehousing is a growing sector and one that uses prodigious amounts of land. It is likely that 100 to 200 acres should be devoted to this need.

Lodging and food service will grow with the completion of I-99. Expect an increase in demand, especially near the interchanges and along the major arterials. Fifty to 100 acres seems a plausible quantity.

Although office space for all other sectors will be in some demand, much of this requirement may be met by reuse of existing facilities and by land in business parks.



Projection: NAD 83 State Plane, Pennsylvania South - Feet September, 2004



Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| County Boundary | Lake/Reservoir | Industrial Parks |
| Interstate | River/Creek/Stream | Major Employers |
| State Route | City/Borough | KOZ Areas |
| Local Road | Township | |
| Railroad | | |

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



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Map Sources:
Transportation and Boundaries - Blair County 911 Data
Hydrology - ERII Networked Streams (PASDA)
Places - USGS Geographic Name Information System

An Areawide Comprehensive Plan
for
Blair County, Pennsylvania

Industrial Parks,
Major Employers & KOZ Areas

