



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dear Centre County Resident,

On behalf of the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the *2017 Centre County Planning Commission Annual Report*.

This past year, Centre County became the second fastest growing County in the Commonwealth. As the population increases, so does the demand for services. In response, the Planning Office continues to provide a variety of services to our municipalities, local service agencies, and citizens. Staff assisted with numerous activities that included but was not limited to subdivision and land development, grant writing, GIS mapping and data support, development and review of municipal ordinances, public water system upgrades, housing affordability, farmland preservation, source water protection, transportation, and economic development assistance.

In terms of long range planning, the Planning Office continues with its update to the County Comprehensive Plan along with updates to the Nittany Valley and Penns Valley Regional Comprehensive Plans. These plans provide information and guidance that enable the County and our municipalities to make critical decisions that improve our communities and protect life and property.

As we move along in 2017, the Planning Office will work on important projects such as flood mitigation, road safety and bridge repairs, water and sewer improvements, affordable housing, expansion of natural gas service, recreational trail development, and assistance with business development and job retention. We look forward to working with our communities in this great place that we call home – Centre County.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Jacobs, AICP

Planning Director

MISSION STATEMENT:

It is the mission of the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office to provide the citizens of Centre County with professional planning services by promoting a coordinated and cost effective approach to the orderly growth and development of their communities.

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SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

One of the important tasks performed by the Planning & Community Development Office is the administration of the Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). This aspect of ‘county planning’ is done to help ensure that benefits realized by development activity outweigh negative impacts that might result from an increase in the demand on local facilities and services as well as providing assistance concerning developer compliance with applicable local, state and federal land use controls.

To achieve this goal, the Planning & Community Development Office staff is charged with the duty of administering the County’s Ordinance. The staff’s main focus is within the 25 municipalities that fall under the jurisdiction of the County’s SALDO, as well as to receive, review and monitor all plans originating from those municipalities that have adopted their own local subdivision and land development ordinances. The administration of the County’s Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance is the direct responsibility of staff member Chris Schnure.



In an analysis of the subdivision and land development activity data for

2017, the total number of ‘subdivision lots’ created computes to 214 county-wide and represents a 19.6% increase in the number of lots created from the previous year’s total of 179 lots. These numbers are higher than last year’s numbers and primarily reflect new residential lots created within the Nittany Valley Region (102 lots) and the Centre Region (67 lots). This change seems consistent with and reflects the recent effects of the local economic climate. As an example, the county’s ten-year totals reflect an average of 190 lots per year.



Similar to the above, ‘land development units’ data compiled in 2017 show a total of 537 units. This number represents a 40% increase in land development activity from last year’s total of 384 units. These numbers are higher than last year’s numbers and primarily reflect new units created within the Centre Region (474 units). Similar to the above, the county’s ten-year totals reflect an average of 445 units per year.

Upon comparison of the data compiled for 2017 with the previous year’s numbers, the number of newly created subdivided lots as well as the number of land development units both increased; however, the number of multi-family residential units

created last year would seem to indicate that there is a market and growing demand for these type of units, especially within and adjacent to the Centre Region.

In regard to the various indicators that we routinely observe, the low numbers of subdivided lots created coupled with a modest increase in residential units being created seems to indicate that the low water mark may have finally been reached, with a slow but steady resurgence in activity predicted to occur. If our observations are correct, we predict that the 2018 numbers will reflect a slight upward trend in overall development activity.

If you would like to review additional information regarding development activity, please reference the 2017 Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Activity Report on file at the following website:

www.centrecountypa.gov



COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING CONTROLS
2017

	Adopted Comprehensive Plan	Planning Commission	Municipal SALDO Applies	County SALDO Ordinance Applies	Zoning Ordinance	Parkland Dedication Ordinance	Building Permit Ordinance	Federal Flood Insurance Program	Ag Security Area	Official Map	Storm-Water Ordinance
CENTRE COUNTY	X	X		X							X
CENTRE REGION											
State College Borough	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
College Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ferguson Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hallmoon Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Harris Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patton Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOWER BALD EAGLE VALLEY REGION											
Howard Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Milesburg Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Boggs Township	X			X	X		X	X			X
Curtin Township				X			X	X			
Howard Township	X			X			X	X			
Liberty Township	X	X	X		X		X	X			X
NIITTANY VALLEY REGION											
Bellefonte Borough	X	X	X		X		X	X			X
Benner Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
Marion Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Spring Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Walker Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
MOSHANNON VALLEY REGION											
Phillipsburg Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Rush Township	X	X	X		X		X	X			
MOUNTAINTOP REGION											
Snow Shoe Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Burnside Township	X			X			X	X			
Snow Shoe Township	X			X	X		X	X			
PENNS VALLEY REGION											
Centre Hall Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Millheim Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	
Gregg Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Haines Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
Miles Township	X			X			X	X	X		
Penn Township	X	X		X			X	X	X		
Potter Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UPPER BALD EAGLE REGION											
Port Matilda Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Unionville Borough				X	X		X	X			
Huston Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
Taylor Township				X			X	X	X		
Union Township	X	X		X			X	X	X		
Worth Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X

CENTRE COUNTY ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT 2017

In 2017, in conjunction with Penn State Extension, the Center for Economic and Community Development (CECD), & the Department of Agricultural Economic, Sociology and Education (AESE), Centre County initiated an assessment of the economic conditions in the County. The study provided a profile of Centre County economic data, a summary of the agricultural economy in the County, and a number of considerations to guide the interpretation and implications of the data presented. Key points were:

- **Centre County is clearly dominated by several important industries: government and government related enterprises (42.3%); health care and social assistance (8.4%); retail trade (8.3%); accommodations and food services (5.9%); professional, scientific and technical services (5.4%); manufacturing (3.9%); and construction (3.8%).**
 - Health Care provides 23% of all net new jobs in the County.
 - Accommodations and food is the third largest private sector employer in the County.
- **Agriculture is largest employer in PA, yet represents only 1% of employment in Centre County. Only 1% - 2% of Centre County farm products are consumed in the County.**
- **Dairy products generated roughly 47% of the County's agricultural product sales in 2012, followed by oilseed and grain farming (23.9%), cattle and calves (12.3%), and other crop farming (3.6%).**
- **In 2015, retail trade, accommodations and food service provided 14% of County's total employment.**
- **Eighty-one percent (81%/64,045) of individuals employed in Centre County are residents of the County. Eleven percent (11%) of the employees in the county travel from three surrounding counties; Clearfield County (6%), Huntingdon County (3%) and Mifflin County (2%).**
- **Farm employment; forestry and fishing; real estate, rentals and leasing; administrative and waste services; health care and social assistance; military; and other suppressed industries had a local comparative advantage.**

More details are available in the full report,

<http://www.centrecountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4646>.



REGIONAL GAS UTILITIZATION INITIATIVE

The SEDA-COG Natural Gas Non-Profit Cooperative grew to a five (5) county membership to include Centre, Clinton, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry. In early 2017, the Board of Directors and the Projects Committee began narrowing the potential 'targeted investment areas' from the Regional Gas Utilization Initiative Study to focus efforts in the Centre Hall area. Centre Hall and Potter Township showed the most project viability because Hanover Foods could serve as the industrial anchor user and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania could incentivize the effort by investing match dollars. Securing the POD, or point of departure, from the transcontinental gas line and locating a natural gas decompressor station was critical to ensuring that the project would take shape. In late 2017, a PIPE grant request was submitted to the Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) for partial funding of the POD tap and station; that funding was awarded in January 2018. The natural gas line extension which will connect the transcontinental to Hanover Foods will also serve homes and businesses along the line. The full news release is available on SEDA-COG's website at <http://www.seda-cog.org/Pages/Home.aspx> under "Regional Spotlight". The project has an anticipated completion date in mid-2019.



Source Water Protection (SWP) Planning by Region — 2016

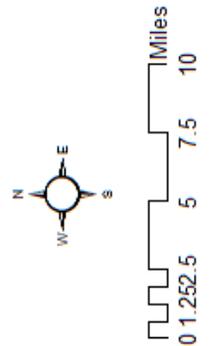
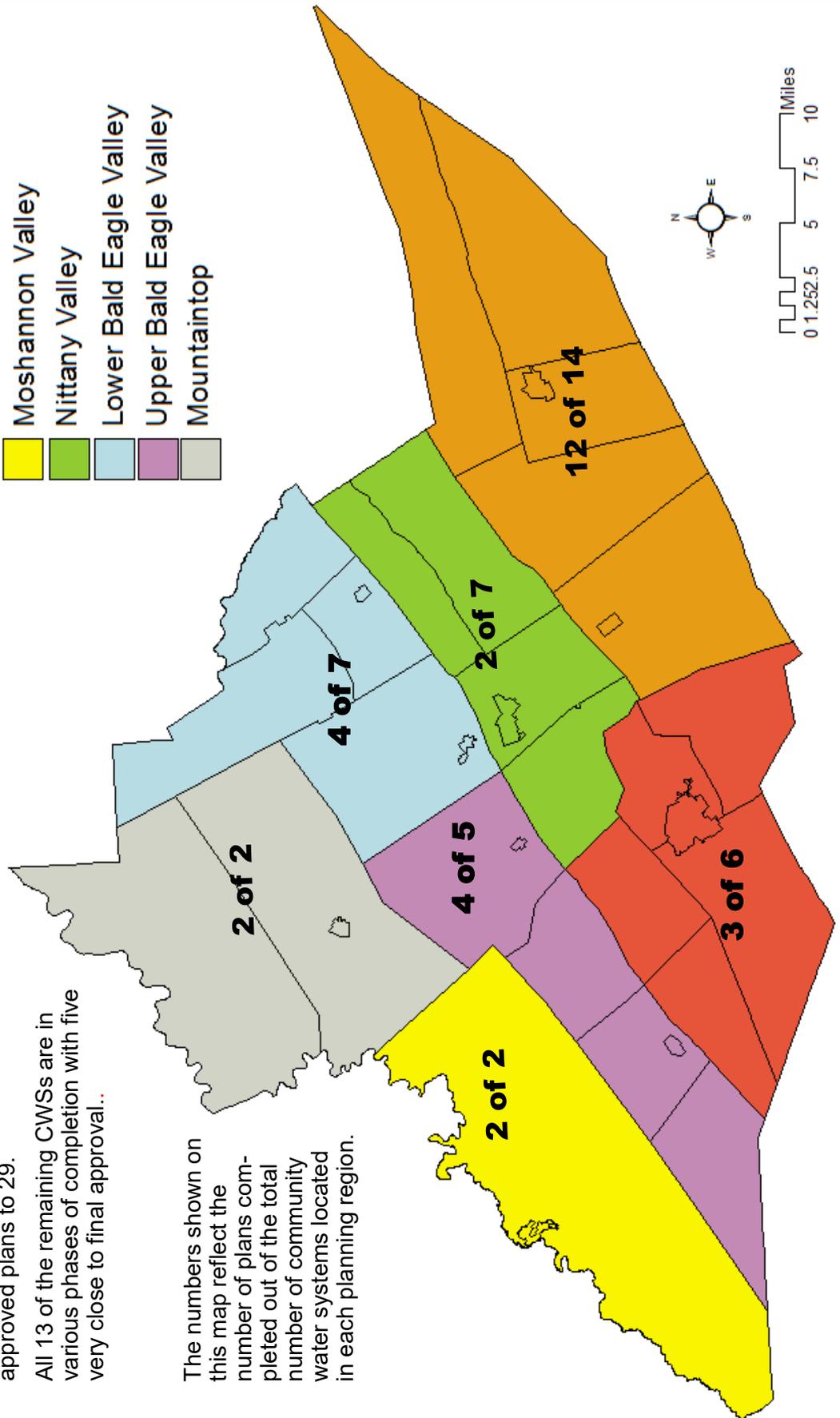
Centre County's Planning Regions

Of the 43 Community Water Systems (CWSs) in the County, two systems completed their Source Water Protection Plans in 2017, bringing the total of approved plans to 29.

All 13 of the remaining CWSs are in various phases of completion with five very close to final approval.

The numbers shown on this map reflect the number of plans completed out of the total number of community water systems located in each planning region.

- Centre Region
- Penns Valley
- Moshannon Valley
- Nittany Valley
- Lower Bald Eagle Valley
- Upper Bald Eagle Valley
- Mountaintop



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

CCPCDO staff continues to take a proactive approach to the coordination of land use and transportation infrastructure development. In conjunction with the Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA), the CCPCDO provides staff support to the federally governed Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO).

The CCMPO is the lead entity responsible for developing the county's transportation plans and allocating federal, state and some local transportation funds toward priority projects such as the following:

Potters Mills Gap

The purpose of the Potters Mills Gap (PMG) Transportation Project is to improve safety, reduce congestion, and alleviate access concerns along the section of Route 322 from the Centre County/Mifflin County line to west of the Route 322/Route 144 intersection at Potters Mills located in Potter Township.

Potters Mills Gap is comprised of three phases:

- Section B04, which consisted of the new bridge spanning SR 322 near Sand Mountain Road was completed on September 23, 2015.
- Section B05, which is the Sand Mountain Road Interchange at Seven Mountains was completed in late 2017.
- Construction of Section B06, which is the 4-Lane Extension and Western Interchange, will commence in May 2018.

SR 322/144/45 Corridor Data Refresh

In 2004, the South Central Centre County Transportation Study (SCCCTS) was one of many projects stopped due to lack of funding. The SCCCTS was an evaluation of alternatives to address safety and congestion needs in the SR 322, SR 144 and SR 45 corridors.

The Potters Mills Gap project is

intended to address needs in a portion of the study area. However, there remain questions on how best to address needs in the remainder of the study area.

In 2017, efforts to update the traffic and land use data associated with the former SCCCTS commenced. The Data Refresh is viewed as the first step in evaluating the current needs in the larger study area. Upon completion of the Data Refresh, the CCMPO will investigate funding options to advance the next phases of the project.

Safety Projects

The CCMPO and PennDOT District 2-0 conducted safety field audits of several intersections that exhibited concerning crash history.

From this effort, four locations received funding through the CCMPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The SR 26/45 Shinglestown Road Intersection in Ferguson Township, the SR 64/550 "Y at

Zion" intersection in Walker Township and the I-80 Exit 161 Westbound ramp intersection with SR 26 Jacksonville Road intersection in Marion Township advanced through the early design phases during 2017 and will continue through development in 2018.

The fourth location involves a study to find potential solutions to the safety issues present at the SR 26/150 Howard Divide Intersection in Howard Township. The scope of work for this study was finalized in 2017 and data collection will commence in the Spring of 2018.

To Learn More:

To learn more about the CCMPO and transportation planning initiatives underway in Centre County, please visit: www.ccmppo.net



I-80 & I-99 INTERSTATE CONNECTION

In November 2017, PennDOT in cooperation with the CCMPO submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to the US Department of Transportation for the I-80 & I-99 Interstate Connection. The I-80 & I-99 Interstate Connection includes three district projects that will address the challenges facing the existing I-80 Exit 161 Bellefonte Interchange.

- The I-80 Local Access Interchange section will construct a diamond interchange that will maintain the existing connection from SR 26 to I-80. PennDOT requested approximately \$43 million in INFRA funds for the construction phase of this project.
- The Jacksonville Road Betterment section will reconstruct and widen SR 26 to maintain and support the State Roadway network. The construction phase of this project will be programmed with State funds from the CCMPO's TIP.
- The I-80 High Speed Interchange section will construct a high-speed interchange to directly connect I-80 to I-99. This project will be programmed with funds from PennDOT's Interstate TIP.

The community is rallying to support efforts to secure funding for this and other major transportation improvements through a newly formed coalition. **Drive Forward** is a growing group of concerned businesses, individuals, and government and community leaders dedicated to ensuring a safe and efficient local transportation system to the benefit of Centre County and the surrounding central Pennsylvania region. To learn more about Drive Forward, please visit: www.driveforwardcc.com.

DRIVEforward

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Office made recommendation in 2016 that communities merge historic preservation efforts with hazard mitigation planning. The Federal Emergency Management Agency made the same recommendation several years ago in a "how-to" guide for state and local mitigation planning. The premise behind merging hazard mitigation with historic preservation is that many older, significant structures and sites are at risk for natural disaster and, if destroyed by fire or flood, these historic resources can never be replaced, simply replicated at best. Many community officials and residents are unaware of their community's historic buildings because no prior assessment or inventory of these structures was conducted. In turn, without a hazard mitigation plan, officials and residents have less knowledge of natural disaster risk and their community's vulnerability.

In the fall of 2017, Penn State History Department intern Nick Labecki joined staff to update the statewide historic inventory of resources in Wingate and Runville (Boggs Township). Nick was in charge of merging historic documentation and flood hazard mitigation planning for properties located near Bald Eagle Creek and Wallace Run. Nick's research concluded by assessing over 50 properties with a dozen located in high-risk, flood-prone areas. The updated inventory will be provided to the township and to the residents whose properties were surveyed.

Also of note, Pennsylvania is updating the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2018. More information is available at <http://pahmp.com>.



CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The mission of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board is to preserve the County's prime agricultural land. The nine member board was established in 1989 and has purchased Agricultural Conservation Easements on 46 farms in seven townships totaling 7,065 acres. Funding for easement purchases comes from the Bureau of Farmland Preservation, Centre County Government, and the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

In 2017, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board initiated preservation on two farms. The PACE ranking criteria also underwent major revisions in 2014, and was utilized along with an updated LESA system in 2016 to score and rank applicants for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program in 2017 and 2018.

The Municipal Partnership Program (MPP) leveraged \$279,698 in additional funding from Halfmoon, Ferguson, and Potter Townships for State Matching Funding.

CENTRE COUNTY FARMLAND TRUST



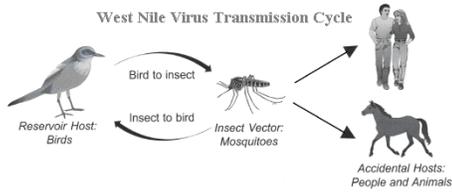
The Centre County Farmland Trust is a publicly supported, tax exempt, nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)]. The trust is authorized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Pennsylvania Department of State to accept, hold and administer conservation easements. Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees established in 1996, the Trust has preserved 13 farms totaling nearly 1,300 acres. Two easements were in progress in 2017.

Land owners wishing to donate a conservation easement as a charitable gift must meet the minimum criteria established by the Internal Revenue Service and the Trust. Land owners must have a current survey and legal description of the property along with an appraisal by a Certified General Appraiser who determines the easement value. Once approved by the trustees, an easement deed is prepared along with extensive documentation that establishes the condition of the land at the time the easement deed is recorded.

Land owners who qualify may be able to claim their donation as a charitable gift and take advantage of federal tax reductions. Eased properties are inspected annually by the Board to ensure that the easement deed is being observed. Conservation easements are permanent and become part of the deed when land is sold or transferred. The land owner still owns the land but has donated the right of present and future land owners to develop the property.

Funding comes from annual memberships of individuals, families and corporate sponsors. Grants to support specific projects have come from the Hamer Foundation, Centre Foundation, the Land Trust Alliance, and The Bureau of Farmland Preservation.

CENTRE COUNTY 2016 WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM



West Nile Virus is a disease that resides in bird populations and can be transmitted to humans through the bite of a mosquito that has previously bitten an infected bird. While most cases of West Nile Virus in humans are mild or even undetected, in some instances the virus can result in inflammation of the brain or spinal cord, and can result in death.

Since mid-year 2000, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has made funds available in the form of annual grants to Pennsylvania Counties for the purpose of monitoring the local mosquito population for the presence of West Nile Virus, for the purchase of equipment and pesticide products for controlling mosquito numbers, and for public outreach to teach citizens how to protect themselves from becoming infected by West Nile Virus.

In Centre County the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program is administered by the CCPCDO. In 2016 the staffing consisted of a County Coordinator and one field assistant, both of whom are part time County employees.

Funding:

The Centre County West Nile Virus (WNV) Program expended \$39,805 in grant funding in 2016. Centre County’s PADEP funding for the 2017 WNV Program will be \$44,000.

Surveillance and Control:

During the surveillance season from early April until the end of September, larval and adult mosquitoes from 250 test sites throughout the County are captured and sent to PADEP in Harrisburg for identification. The adult mosquitoes are further tested for West Nile Virus if they are found to be a species that can infect humans with the virus. In 2016 there were 592 sampling events in Centre County that resulted in 15,534 mosquitoes being shipped for identification and possible testing. There were 193 West Nile Virus tests performed on test pools of adult Centre County mosquitoes, with 4 positive results. The County’s WNV Program is also responsible for collecting and shipping dead birds for virus testing. Fifteen birds from Centre County were tested in 2016, with two testing positive for West Nile Virus.

Unlike 2012, when a human case of WNV was confirmed in Centre County, there were none in the County in 2016, although there were two cases of horses reported by veterinarians as being infected with the virus in 2016.

The presence of a positive mosquito or the presence of large numbers of a mosquito species that can transmit the virus to humans can result in the application of pesticides to reduce the population of these “disease vectors”. In 2016, Centre County West Nile Virus staff conducted 160 pesticide applications to control mosquito numbers.

Additionally, County WNV staff responded to 23 citizen requests for information, dead bird collection, or mosquito surveillance

and control.

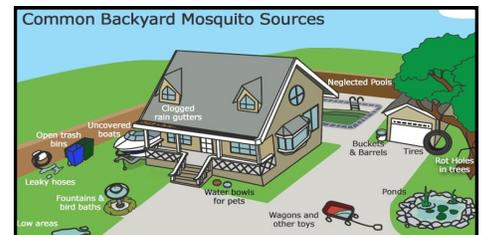
Public Education:

Public education is also a component of the West Nile Virus Program. In 2016, the County West Nile Virus Program distributed mosquito dunks to promote homeowner awareness and also maintained an educational booth at the Grange Fair in Centre Hall.



Protect Yourself:

Following several years of declining positive mosquito results, in 2010 West Nile Virus began a significant return to Pennsylvania. By 2012 there were 3,410 positive mosquito results statewide, along with 135 birds and 51 veterinary (horse) cases. Sixty human cases of WNV were confirmed in 2012, with 4 deaths. In 2016 there were sixteen human cases with no deaths. Residents should take reasonable precautions to avoid mosquito bites, such as wearing long sleeves and pants where mosquitoes are active, and using insect repellants containing DEET. Elimination of standing water around the home is the single most important thing residents can do to reduce breeding populations. Rain gutters, swimming pool covers, bird baths, ornamental ponds, and especially tires are all capable of breeding large amounts of mosquitoes.



ZIKA VIRUS

In 2016 PADEP awarded an additional \$16,524 grant to the Centre County West Nile Virus Program for the surveillance and control of *Aedes albopictus*, a mosquito species thought to be especially capable of transmitting Zika Virus among humans. *Albopictus* is known to exist in southern Pennsylvania, and the purpose of the grant is to see if their range extends into Centre County, and to collect adult samples for Zika Virus testing if any are found.

Using traps designed especially for *albopictus*, surveillance was conducted in Centre County from July through the end of October, with none of the target species being detected. The effort will continue in 2017, as the grant is in effect through June 30th. Nevertheless, residents should still take precautions against mosquito bites, as there is always the possibility of travelers bringing Zika Virus to Centre County, and the ability of our resident mosquitoes to transmit Zika Virus has not yet been ruled out by researchers.

HOUSING



Centre County offers a First Time Home Buyer Program providing down payment and closing costs assistance in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the purchase price, whichever is less. The assistance is in the form of a zero percent deferred loan that is made payable when the house is sold, when the mortgage is paid off, when the house is no longer used as a principal residence, or is refinanced for more than 100% of the purchase price.

In 2017, the County, through its participating lenders, assisted fourteen home buyers. Since the inception of the program, 348 home buyers have taken advantage of the program totaling over \$2.8 million in loans. For more information visit <http://www.centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?NID=218> or call the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office at 355-6791. It is important to note that Centre County is very grateful for the efforts of the lenders who participated in the program in 2017.

At the end of 2017, the Centre County Board of Commissioners signed an agreement with the Centre County Housing and Land Trust to provide up to 5 hours per week of the Housing Coordinator's staff time to administrative services to the organization. The donation of staff time to the non-profit supplements the work of the part-time Executive Director.

In 2015, Centre County received a PHARE (Pennsylvania Housing and Rehabilitation Enhancement) Grant in the amount of \$15,000 to provide heating assistance and support to households in the Marcellus Shale region and contiguous municipalities. This program is a continuation of the PHARE 2014 Program. The Centre County Commissioners are providing a match of \$35,000 from the Housing Trust Fund. The programs is being administered by Interfaith Human Services, Inc.

Housing affordability continues to be an issue in Centre County. Staff continues to look for tools to address this important issue as well as meet with community partners to work towards creating new opportunities.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Planning and Community Development staff continues to have a great working relationship with the County's municipalities. Staff support helps boroughs and townships reduce overall costs.

In 2017, planning staff provided technical assistance to every municipality outside of the Centre Region. Technical assistance included Community Development Block Grant administration, the TreeVitalize Program, comprehensive plan updates, community and economic revitalization, drafting and revising zoning ordinances, agricultural land preservation, data acquisition, mapping, and many other services. The office provides dedicated staff to the Nittany Valley and Penns Valley Regional Planning Commissions as well as support to the Upper Bald Eagle-Halfmoon COG. These groups meet on a regular basis to address regional-scale issues related to land use, public safety, and cost effective shared services across municipal boundaries.

CENTRE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

Comprehensive planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The outcome of comprehensive planning is the **Comprehensive Plan** which outlines community policy in terms of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing, among other topics. Comprehensive plan updates are in progress for the County, the Nittany Valley and the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commissions, and for municipal-level plans. Boggs Township and Milesburg Borough are coordinating with the Planning Office to prepare a joint municipal plan. The County's Phase I Comprehensive Plan Recommendations (adopted 2003) is being updated under Phase II Implementation Strategies. All the respective plan updates have been adapted to fit the *issues-driven* model where key community problems are identified and achievable goals are determined. The County's Phase II documents are on schedule to be fully adopted by late 2018 with ongoing implementation.

GRANT ASSISTANCE / ADMINISTRATION

Grant writing and grant administration are a major work task for planning staff; with the grants serving a variety of purposes including community and economic development, housing, recreation and transportation.

Centre County Grant Administration 2016			
Type of Funding	Source of Funding	Total Dollar Amount	Project Description
Historic Preservation	PA Historical and Museum Commission — Keystone Construction Grant	\$98,950	Restoration of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial and Curtin Monument, Bellefonte
Housing	PHARE	\$50,000	Home Heating Assistance
Recreation/Transportation Awarded October 2016	DCED/Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenway, Trails & Recreation	\$85,800	Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail Feasibility Study & Pre-Construction Analysis
Transportation Completed December 2016	DEP / ACT 13 Funding for Natural Gas Vehicles	\$160,545	11 NGVs for County Transportation and County Recycling and Refuse Authority

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The Centre County CDBG program is a comprehensive source of federal funding that helps the rural municipalities in Centre County meet their community development needs in Low to Moderate Income communities. Over \$9.7 million of Federal CDBG Funds have gone into improvements for critical public facilities or the provision of needed services in Centre County since the program's inception in 1984.

In 2017, the Centre County CDBG program, following management guidance from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) allocated all of its funding to the Millheim Waterline Replacement Project, which had also received County CDBG funding in 2016.

Bellefonte Borough Grant Administration

In 2015, PA DCED implemented a significant change in its overall administration of the CDBG program in PA. The administrative change implemented by PA DCED was to streamline the number of contracts that DCED has to

administer by mandating that Counties administer CDBG funds on behalf of (OBO) the entitlement communities having a population of less than 10,000. Centre County complied with this mandate by assuming the administration of the Bellefonte Borough CDBG program starting in 2015. So 2017 was the third year the County's CDBG application included Bellefonte Borough's Funding. At Bellefonte's request, the County's application identified the removal of barriers to handicapped access at a restroom facility at Governors Park and Handicapped Stream Access for Fishing in Spring Creek at Masullo Park.

Program Monitoring and Compliance

PA DCED periodically monitors grantee compliance with state and federal regulations by conducting both remote and on-site monitoring. In 2017 Centre County had 3 different financial expenditures monitored remotely and one on-site monitoring visit in

February, which included 3 different contracts covering the documentation for 12 projects. The results of all this monitoring was no Findings, Concerns, or Corrective Actions required. DCED will continue random monitoring of all grantees for the foreseeable future in accordance with DCED's standard financial procedures.

A second area of Grant Compliance is that Grantees are required to have numerous and various written plans, procedures and policies in place. These policies not only govern the administration of the CDBG Grant, but also direct many areas of the conduct of general government. Centre County started an active and aggressive process in 2016 to update existing policies and develop and implement missing policies. An example of this is what is identified as a Section 504 policy. Section 504 relates to equal access to facilities and services by citizens with various disabilities. A self-evaluation of the County was initiated late in 2016 and will continue in 2017.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM... CONTINUED

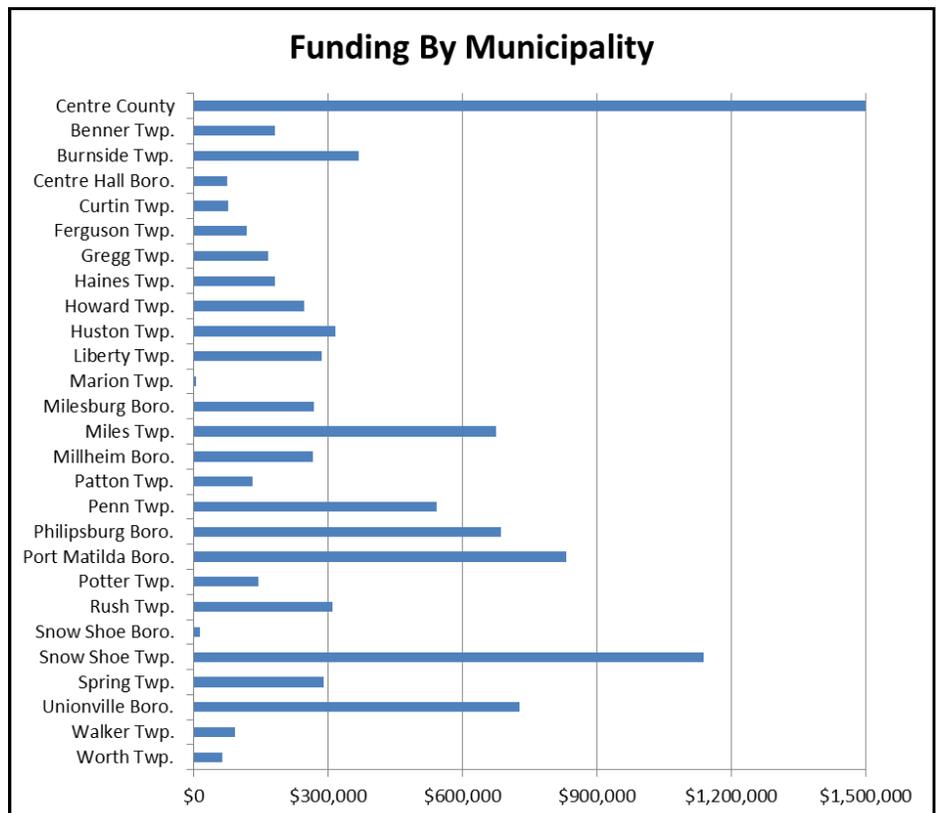
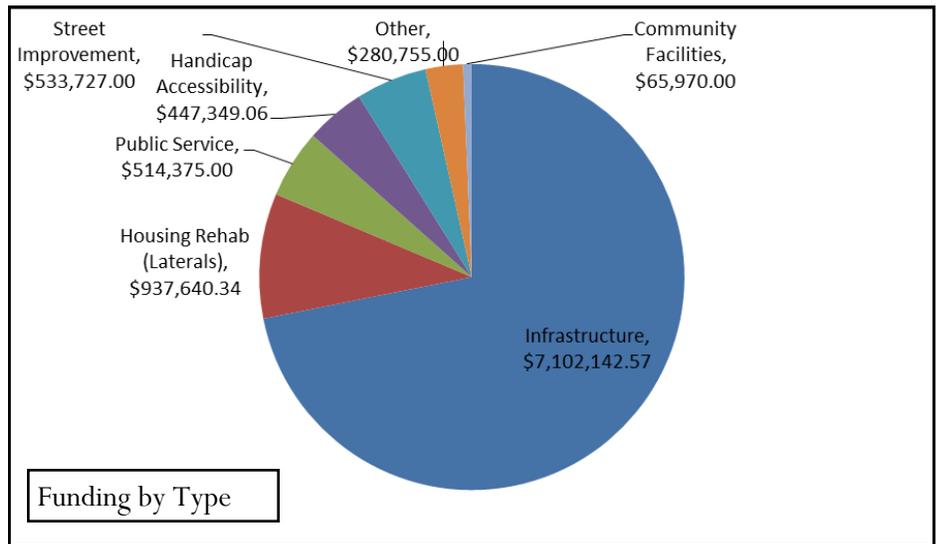
Competitive CDBG Funding

In July of 2017, Potter Twp. contacted the Centre County Planning & Community Development Office about assistance with securing an allocation of CDBG funds from the State Competitive CDBG Program towards the construction of a proposed Waste Water Treatment systems for the village of Potters Mills. Potter Twp, had secured some of the needed Funding from Pennvest but over \$1M in additional funds were needed. SEDA-COG was contracted by the County with the completion and submittal of an application for CDBG funds for Potter Twp. The application was submitted in late September requesting \$1M in Competitive CDBG Funds. The County was notified in November that the application was approved by DCED in the amount of \$959,000, one of the largest Competitive CDBG Grants ever awarded by DCED. This critical project is expected to go to bid late in 2018 and be completed by the end of 2019.

The CCPCDO maintains a close working relationship with all the municipalities and municipal Water and Sewer Boards in Centre County. The input of these local officials is what determines how the County allocates its annual allocation of CDBG Funds. Overwhelmingly, local elected officials support continued infrastructure funding in the low income sections of the County. Often, the County’s CDBG funds are used to assist the local communities to leverage other funding sources, such as the Competitive CDBG program to help address the large financial demands for infrastructure upgrades. The funding philosophy of the Centre County Commissioners has been that water and sewer infrastructure improvements contribute both to the immediate health of a community and also provide a solid

base for long term economic development. Centre County communities are encouraged to discuss their infrastructure needs with Planning Office staff to determine CDBG eligibility.

Since the CDBG program’s inception in 1984, Centre County spent \$9,952,958.97 on 149 activities in 27 different municipalities. As shown in the chart below, the vast majority of the funds spent was on infrastructure (water/sewer) projects. (Note that this is only the County’s annual allotment of Entitlement CDBG funds and does not include the approximately \$5M in additional Competitive CDBG funds secured).



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2017 PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Centre County Planning Commission is comprised of elected officials and interested citizens who represent the regions of the County. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Willowbank Office Building. The Commission provides valuable input on the activities of the CCPCDO.

<i>Robert P. Dannaker, Chairman</i>	<i>Nittany Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/19</i>
<i>D. Richard Francke, Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/17</i>
<i>Angelica "Mimi" Wutz, Secretary</i>	<i>Upper Bald Eagle Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/18</i>
<i>Michele L. Barbin</i>	<i>Mountaintop Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/19</i>
<i>Dennis Hameister</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/19</i>
<i>Christopher Kunes</i>	<i>Penns Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/18</i>
<i>Pamela McCloskey</i>	<i>Lower Bald Eagle Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/19</i>
<i>Freddie Persic</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/20</i>
<i>Jack Shannon</i>	<i>Moshannon Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/18</i>

2017 CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chairman
 Mark Higgins
 Steven G. Dershem
 Margaret N. Gray, Administrator

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