CENTRE COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Dear Centre County Resident,

On behalf of the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the ***2016 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 2016, the total number of 'subdivision lots' created computes to 179 county-wide and represents a 31% decrease in the number of lots created from the previous year's total of 258 lots. These numbers are lower than last year's numbers and primarily reflect new residential lots created for the Centre Region (116 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 210 lots per year.

Unlike the above, 'land development units' data compiled in 2016 show a total of 384 units. This number represents a 22% increase in land development activity from last year's total of 314 units. These numbers are higher than last year's numbers and primarily reflect new units created for the Centre Region (255 units) and the Nittany Valley Region (123 units). Similar to the above, the county's ten-year totals reflect an average of 439 units per year.

Upon comparison of the data compiled for 2016 with the previous year's numbers, it seems evident that the national, state, and local economic conditions are still having negative effects on growth patterns regarding subdivisions creating new lots; however, the number of residential units created from 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 2017 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 2016 Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Activity Report on file at the following website:

www.centrecountypa.gov

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING CONTROLS
2016

	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
Halfmoon 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
NITTANY 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											
Philipsburg 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		
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			
Worth Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		

NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES 2016

Drilling activity to Centre County's unconventional (Marcellus Shale) natural gas reserves in 2016 was non-existent and the county ended the year with no annual change in drilled wells (N=65) and no new wells in production (N=30). This reduced drilling activity is attributed to the market price of natural gas, the type of Marcellus gas (dry versus wet), the lower production volumes, and the lack of pipeline infrastructure to transport the natural gas to market.

Although drilling activity was non-existent, the expansion of pipeline infrastructure due to the construction of the Superior Appalachian Pipeline, LLC through Snow Shoe and Curtin Townships created the opportunity for increased production from Marcellus wells in that region. At years end, three new permits were issued for drilling but no new drilling occurred.

As a result of the overall decline in the natural gas industry, the Centre County Natural Gas Task Force broached the subject of requesting that the Board of Commissioners place the task force in inactive status.

RELATED NATURAL GAS INITIATIVES 2016

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority CNG Fueling Station completed its first full year of operation. It is one of two publicly accessible CNG fueling stations in Centre County, and is located at 100 Transfer Road, Bellefonte, PA.

New ***CNG fueled vehicles*** were placed into service through PA DEP grant funded opportunities administered by the Planning Office. Four cycles of grant funding over a period of three years provided partial funding for factory installed CNG equipment and/or the conversion of gasoline and/or diesel fueled vehicles. The funding programs concluded in December 2016 and contributed toward the purchase of 47 natural gas vehicles countywide.

The use of ACT 13 PHARE funding provided financial assistance toward the purchase of fuel oil products to income-qualified households experiencing a home heating emergency. Approximately 40 households benefited from this program in 2016.

REGIONAL GAS UTILITIZATION INITIATIVE

The tri-county natural gas cooperative between Centre, Clinton and Mifflin Counties officially formed as the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative, Inc. in April 2016. The cooperative's board of directors held their first meeting in July 2016. The cooperative corporation was the recommended administrative framework identified by the Rural Gas Utilization Initiative Phase I under which natural gas projects would be most successfully realized. Each of the participating counties was originally tasked with identifying targeted investment areas (TIAs), geographic areas where natural gas infrastructure extensions would benefit a concentrated mix of users. Three (3) TIAs were identified in Centre County, and discussions followed for a project that would extend through Centre Hall Borough and Old Fort with a terminus at the Hanover Foods facility. The Capital Projects Committee for the cooperative is now charged with identifying future TIAs, determining project priority, and securing financing. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, in its role as the gas distribution company, will be a partner on the Centre Hall project. The partnership with Columbia Gas ensures that the facilities and infrastructure are engineered, constructed and maintained to adequately supply and safely deliver natural gas for residential and industrial utilization. Centre County Planning Director Robert Jacobs and Assistant Director Sue Hannegan serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

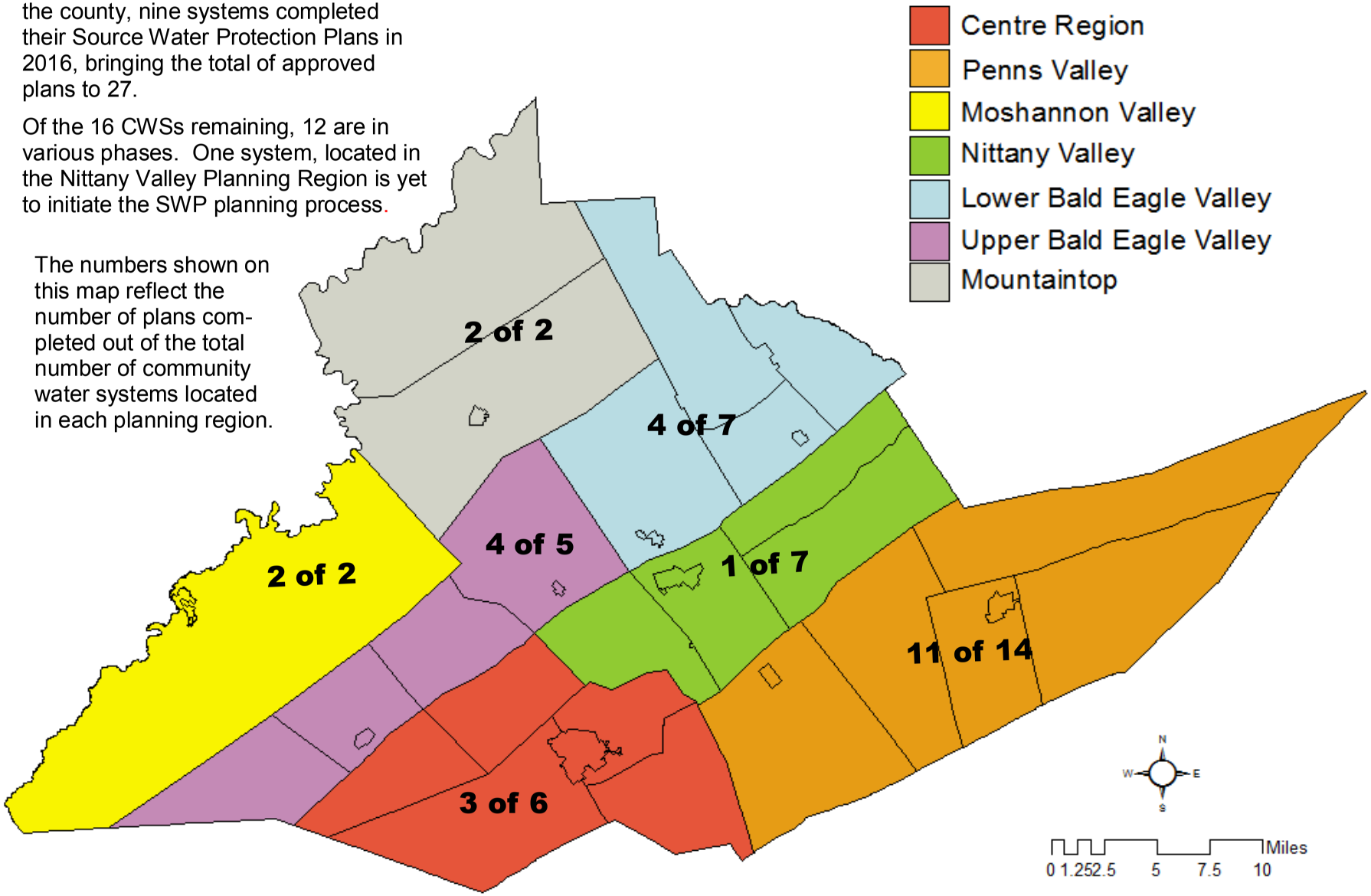
Source Water Protection (SWP) Planning by Region — 2016

Centre County's Planning Regions

Of the 43 Community Water Systems in the county, nine systems completed their Source Water Protection Plans in 2016, bringing the total of approved plans to 27.

Of the 16 CWSs remaining, 12 are in various phases. One system, located in the Nittany Valley Planning Region is yet to initiate the SWP planning process.

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.



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.

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the FAST Act into law. The new legislation is a five-year bill that authorizes federal funding at slightly higher levels than the former Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) legislation . A few highlights of the legislation include:

- Continues the previous approach of not including earmarks.
- Maintains the primary funding programs from MAP-21, with a few changes:.
- Maintains the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
- Expands key discretionary programs for transit.
- Expands freight programs, and designates a National Highway Freight Network.
- Adds a few new factors in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

More information about the FAST Act:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/

2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Every two years, the CCMPO is responsible for developing and adopting a short-range, four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Centre County TIP details the planned expenditure of federal funds and some state capital funds for specific projects within specified limits of fiscal constraint. In order to be included on the TIP, projects must also be included on the CCMPO's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The TIP years are based on the federal fiscal year, which extends from October 1 to September 30, and reflect the first four years of Pennsylvania's Twelve Year Program.

On June, 28, 2016, the CCMPO adopted the new 2017-2020 TIP.

To Learn More:

To learn more about the CCMPO, the TIP or any of the other transportation planning initiatives underway in Centre County, please visit: www.ccmpo.net

CENTRE COUNTY MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POTTERS MILLS GAP TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

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.

The first of three sections of the PMG project, Section B04, which consisted of the new bridge spanning SR 322 near Sand Mountain Road (pictured below) was completed on September 23, 2015.

Construction on Section B05, the Sand Mountain Road Interchange at Seven Mountains, commenced on August 8, 2016.

The last section, Section B06(4-Lane Extension and Western Interchange) is currently in Final Design and is scheduled for a Spring 2018 construction start.

Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

A detailed project overview can be found at:

http://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-2/ConstructionsProjectsAndRoadwork/Documents/PMG_Homepage.pdf

As part of this project, a Story Map was created by the project partners to serve as mitigation for any adverse effects to the National Register of Historic Places eligible Penns/Brush Valley Rural Historic District.

The Story Map can be viewed at:

https://www.paprojectpath.org/storymap.html

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. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) made the same recommendation several years ago (Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning, 2005, FEMA circular 386-6) 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 fall of 2016, Penn State History Department Intern Program Director Mike Milligan approached the Planning Office regarding a potential project for a history major student. Mr. Milligan identified the merging of historic resources with hazard mitigation planning as the best focus for a potential intern. Planning Office staff, based on previous flood risk assessments, chose to apply this merging of hazard planning and historic resources for Milesburg Borough and Boggs Township; both municipalities are at greater flood risk and are participating in a joint comprehensive plan update for which this effort would fulfill multiple elements. Penn State Senior Carver Murphy applied for and was offered an internship. Mr. Murphy will be conducting a historic resources inventory of high-risk, flood-prone properties in the borough and the township. The inventory will support other statewide historic surveys. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) provided survey forms and inventory guidelines to ensure consistency and compliance with other historic surveys. Carver will be in the planning office through the end of April which, upon completing the internship, he will graduate with honors from Penn State.

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 2016, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board initiated preservation on three 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) introduced in 2014 leveraged $20,000 in additional funding from Potter Township for State Matching Funding.

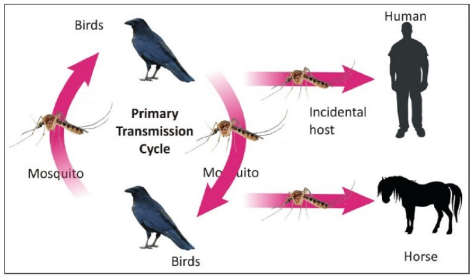
CENTRE COUNTY FARMLAND TRUST

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 farms were preserved in 2016.

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 Bureau of Farmland Preservation, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

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.

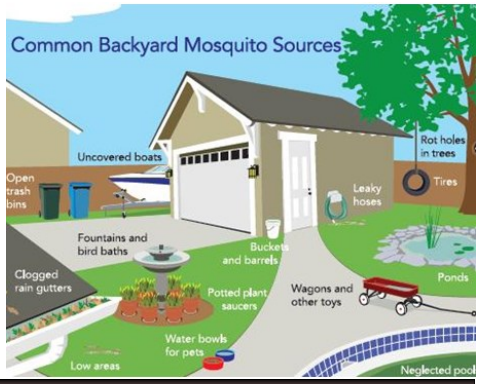
Additionally, County WNV staff responded to 23 citizen requests for information, dead bird collection, or mosquito surveillance and control.

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 2016, the County, through its participating lenders, assisted fourteen home buyers. Since the inception of the program, 340 home buyers have taken advantage of the program totaling over $2.75 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 2016.

At the end of 2016, 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.

Staff is involved with the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition in an effort to increase awareness of affordable housing issues in our communities.

In 2014, Centre County was awarded a PHARE (Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement) Fund Grant was awarded in the amount of $33,250. The funds are being used to provide heating assistance and support to households in the Marcellus Shale region and contiguous municipalities. The Centre County Board of Commissioners approved a $50,000 match for each of the PHARE grants using the monies from the Centre County Housing Trust Fund. This program is being continued through a PHARE Grant of $15,000 awarded in 2015. The Centre County Commissioners are providing a match of $35,000 from the Housing Trust Fund. Both programs are being administered by Interfaith Human Services, Inc. The 2014 PHARE Program ended in January 2017.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

The Planning and Community Development Office staff have a great working relationship with the County's municipalities. The support provided helps municipalities reduce their overall costs.

In 2016, the Planning Office provided support to the following municipalities: Bellefonte Borough, Benner Township, Centre Hall Borough, Curtin Township, Ferguson Township, Gregg Township, Haines Township, Halfmoon Township, Howard Township, Howard Borough, Huston Township, Liberty Township, Milesburg Borough, Miles Township, Millheim Borough, Patton Township, Penn Township, Potter Township, Philipsburg Borough, Port Matilda Borough, Rush Township, Snow Shoe Borough, Snow Shoe Township, Taylor Township, Union Township, Unionville Borough, Walker Township, and Worth Township.

The Planning Office continues to provide staff support to the following regional municipal planning groups: Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission, Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission, and the Upper Bald Eagle/ Halfmoon COG. These planning groups meet on a regular basis to collaborate on important issues, share ideas, address public safety concerns, share land uses, and provide cost effective 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 early 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
Economic Development Completed March 2016	US Economic Development Administration (EDA)	$160,000	Natural gas infrastructure expansion projects
Economic Development Completed June 2016	Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)	$7,931,554	Fraser Centre, State College foundation and below ground utilities
Historic Preservation	PA Historical and Museum Commission — Keystone Construction Grant	$98,950	Restoration of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial and Curtin Monument, Bellefonte
Housing	PHARE	$133,250	Home Heating Assistance
Recreation and Open Space	DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)	$40,000	Old Gregg School Playground
Recreation and Open Space	DCNR / C2P2	$40,000	Potter Run Playground
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 September 2016	DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG)	$70,146	16 light weight natural gas vehicles
Transportation Completed December 2016	DEP / AFIG	$160,545	11 heavy weight natural gas vehicles

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 2016, the Centre County CDBG program identified 2 projects for funding: Replacement of a section of the water transmission main in the Borough of Millheim; and the provision of Sewer Lateral Assistance to LMI homeowners in Potters Mills, Potter Twp.

Bellefonte Borough Grant Administration

In 2015, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) implemented a significant change in its overall administration of the CDBG program in PA designed to improve regulatory compliance. 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 Entitlement CDBG program for 2015 and all subsequent years. So 2016 was the second year the County's CDBG application included Bellefonte Borough's Funding. The County's application identified funds for the installation of fire sprinklers in downtown Bellefonte Historic Structure, a continuation of a project first identified in the 2015 application.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM… CONTINUED

Centre County and Bellefonte Borough executed an Administrative Agreement to effectuate this relationship and County CDBG staff will work closely with Borough staff in jointly administering the Borough's program.

Program Monitoring and Compliance

PA DCED periodically monitors grantee compliance with state and federal regulations by conducting remote monitoring. In 2016 Centre County maintained compliance by responding to 5 requests for financial documentation of expenditures and 3 requests for County administrative capacity. One issue was identified where Centre County had missed a required step in the invoice process and was remedied in a simple Corrective Action Plan approved by DCED. DCED will continue random monitoring of all grantees for the foreseeable future.

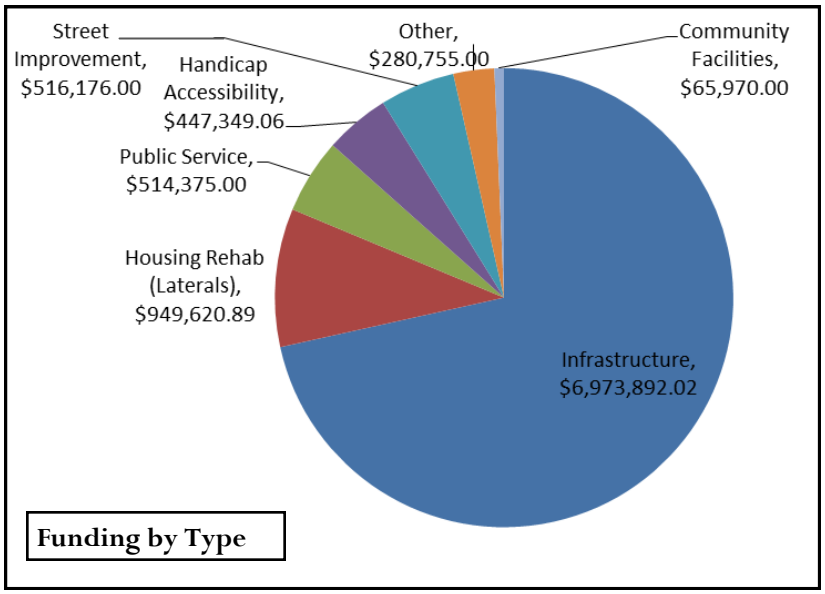
A second area of Grant Compliance is that Grantees are required to have numerous and various written plans, procedures and policies in place. These policies not only govern the administration of the CDBG Grant, but also direct many areas of the conduct of general government. Centre County started an 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.

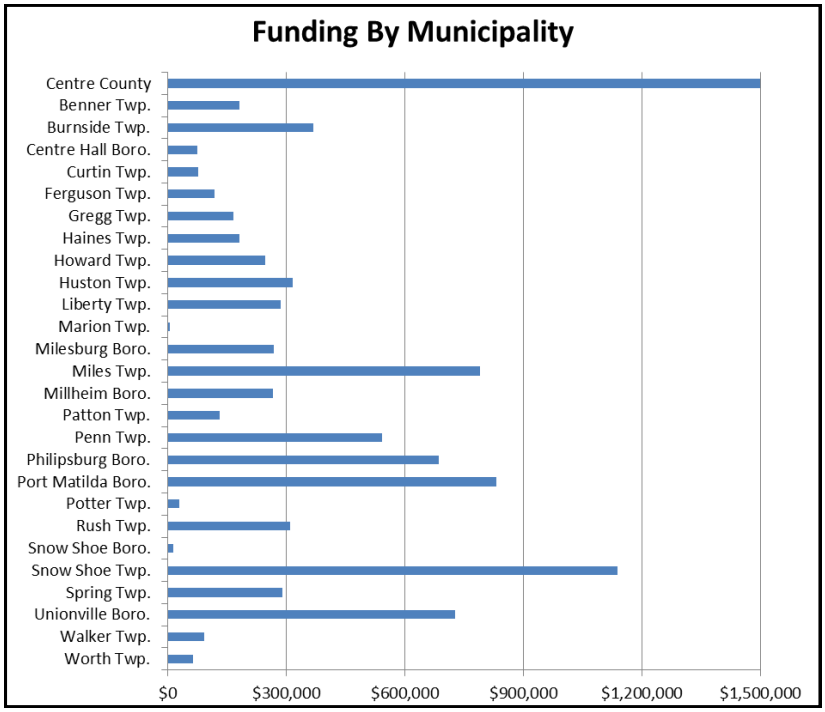
Competitive CDBG Funding

In June of 2015, SEDA-COG submitted a Competitive CDBG application for Centre County requesting $695,700 for a needed water line replacement on the east end of the village of Rebersburg in Miles Twp. The County was notified in December 2015 that the application was approved and officially contracted for the funds in February of 2016. An RFP for Engineering Services was released and a Professional Engineer was contracted within July. The project is expected to go to bid in early 2017, with a substantial completion date of December 2017.

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 $9,748,074.97 on 148 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 additional Competitive CDBG funds secured.





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2016 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.

Freddie Persic, Chairman	*Centre Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/16*
Robert P. Dannaker, Vice-Chairman	*Nittany Valley Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/19*
Angelica "Mimi" Wutz, Secretary	*Upper Bald Eagle Valley Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/18*
Michele L. Barbin	*Mountaintop Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/19*
D. Richard Francke	*Centre Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/17*
Dennis Hameister	*Centre Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/19*
Christopher Kunes	*Penns Valley Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/18*
Jack Shannon	*Moshannon Valley Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/18*
Pamela McCloskey	*Lower Bald Eagle Valley Region*	*Term Expires: 12/31/19*

2016 CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chairman

Mark Higgins

Steven G. Dershem

Denise Elbell, Acting County Administrator

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