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Resolution here



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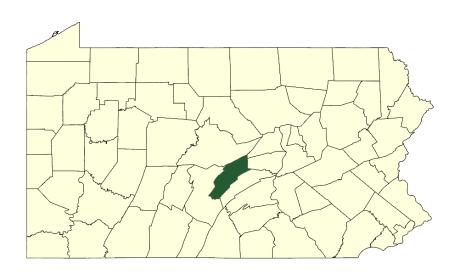
MIFFLIN COUNTY: WHO WE ARE

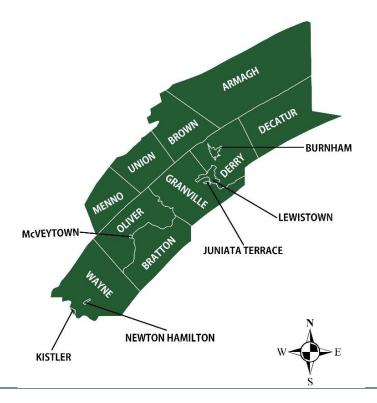
Our Community

Mifflin County is a scenic, rural county located in central Pennsylvania, 30 miles southwest of State College and 60 miles northwest of Harrisburg and nestled between the Appalachian Ridge and Valley region. Named after Pennsylvania's first governor, Thomas Mifflin, the county is regionally renowned for its natural beauty and historic communities dotted throughout. Natural features, such as the Juniata River, combined with small-town charm and a strong manufacturing base, make Mifflin an attractive place for families, young or old. Mifflin County is made

up of the following townships: Armagh, Bratton, Brown, Decatur, Derry, Granville, Menno, Oliver, Union, Wayne; and the following boroughs: Burnham, Juniata Terrace, Kistler, Lewistown, McVeytown, and Newton Hamilton (See Figure 1). Lewistown is the county seat. US 322, US 522, and PA 655 are the primary roadways that traverse the county.

Figure 1: Mifflin County Municipalities

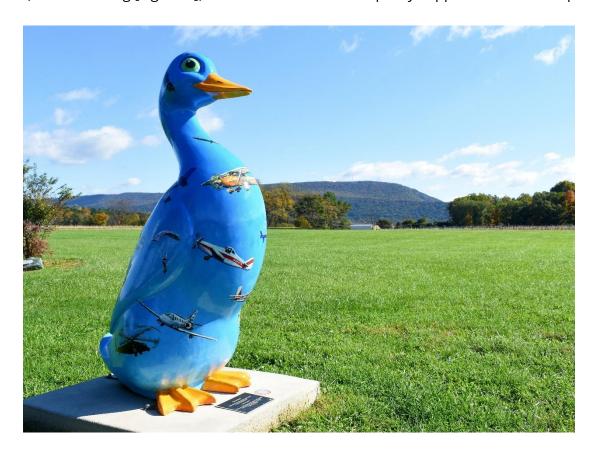






MIFFLIN COUNTY 2035: A DECADE OF PROGRESS

The Mifflin County 2035 Comprehensive Plan serves as an official policy guide for making short-term and long-term decisions regarding priority investments in our County over the next decade. At its core, a comprehensive plan is necessary to answer the question, "What is our game plan moving forward?". The comprehensive planning process enables public officials, staff, and residents to step back and consider the bigger picture, ultimately forming a strategic plan for local investments and initiatives. The Comprehensive Plan does not usurp local land use authority, which is relegated to the municipalities, but rather serves to support those local plans and ordinances (such as zoning [Figure 2]) and offers technical and policy support to the municipalities.



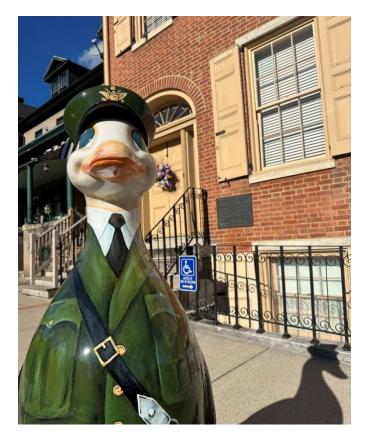
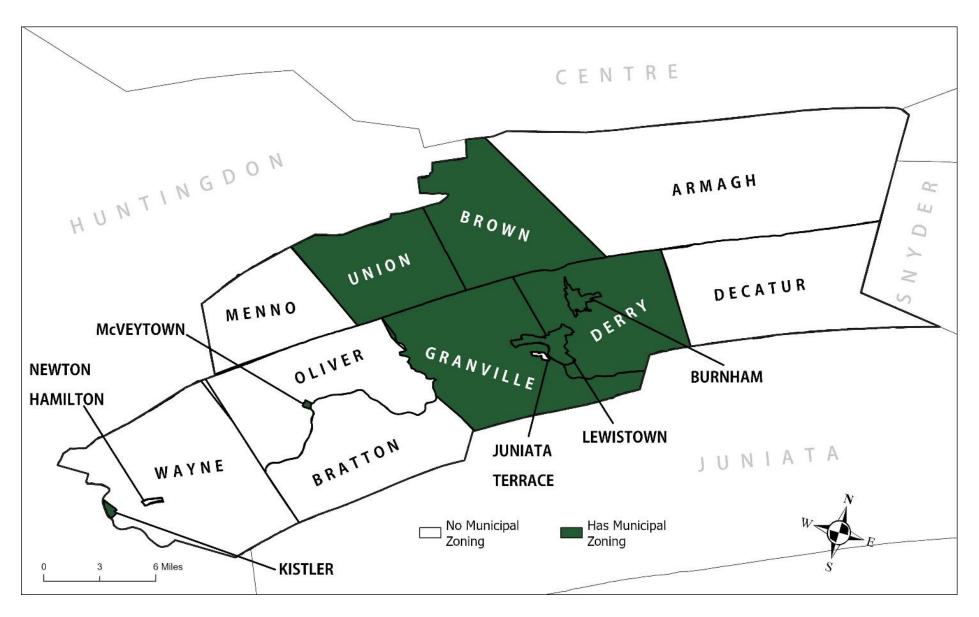




Figure 2: Zoning in Mifflin County





VISION STATEMENT

Mifflin County will be a place known for its preserved history and rural character; its outdoor recreation, healthy communities, and vibrant economy achieved through collaboration



νετεrans Memorial Circle Photo courtesy of Michael Baker Internationa



MISSION STATEMENT

Mifflin County will offer an inviting and favorable environment by:

- Redeveloping and restoring old or blighted homes and neighborhoods in the local communities for housing and other uses, rather than building on agricultural land or open space.
- Promoting access to attainable housing by allowing for the construction of more diverse housing types, such as duplexes, townhouses, and small (4-8) unit apartment buildings.
- Supporting local businesses over national chains to encourage growth in the local economy by devoting more resources to educate and guide residents and entrepreneurs to start their own business in the County.
- Investing in transportation to create an environment that supports alternative modes such as walking or bicycling.
- Connecting municipalities to sustainable funding sources to support the provision of basic services to residents.

Photo courtesy of Michael Baker International



Statement of Interrelationships

This plan includes a great deal of data about Mifflin County, combined with a series of recommendations designed to set forth the strategies for dealing with growth and change in the county. It stresses five goals that serve to link its various components:

- 1. Strengthening Basic Services
- 2. Housing
- 3. Transportation

The recommendations and strategies outlined in this plan were developed using an implementable planning approach that focuses on the five areas that are most pressing for the county. Those areas include:

- 4. Land Use and Natural Resources
- 5. Entrepreneurship and Small Business

Consistency with the State Water Plan

Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress is generally consistent with the State Water Plan, and the plan recognizes the following:

- 1. Lawful activities such as the extraction of minerals impact water supply sources, and such activities are governed by statutes regulating mineral extraction that specify replacement and restoration of water supplies affected by such activities.
- 2. Commercial agriculture production is an integral part of Mifflin County's economy, and such activities rely on community water supply sources. Ensuring that such water supply sources are well-managed and used in a sustainable way is imperative to the county's future growth and development.

Statement of Consistency with Surrounding Communities

The proposed and existing development contained with Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress is generally consistent with the surrounding communities.







OVERVIEW OF PLAN FOCUS

The goal statements and implementation action items as presented in this plan are based on public input, engagement with local businesses, and feedback from community and economic development partners. This effort created continuous feedback over the lifecycle of the plan development process.

Public input demonstrated high satisfaction with the County's sense of community, economic community, parks and recreation, and community services and organizations. Largely, plan recommendations are focused on increasing access to affordable housing, alongside revitalizing a variety of existing services since many have been downsizing due to negative trends in investment, limiting the County's ability to provide supporting resources.

Critical Issues

The following critical issues were identified through extensive input from the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), targeted stakeholder interviews, and public engagement. These issues represent the highest priorities of community members and stakeholders. The critical issues are further supported by the existing conditions of the County related to housing, economic development, transportation and other categories contained within the "Today Report" [Appendix A]. Compiling a list of critical issues is an extremely advantageous planning strategy because it lays the framework for the development of plan goals and action strategies. Each of the critical issues listed below directly relates to a plan goal, named the "Five Connections."





CRITICAL ISSUES

OUR COMMUNITIES LACK SUFFICIENT FUNDING 👼



Many municipalities in Mifflin County have small budgets and can sometimes struggle to provide basic services to residents, in addition to being unable to provide local matching funds for the state or federal grants, which at times are required for implementing the recommendations of this plan.

OUR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK DOESN'T WORK FOR EVERYONE 2

There are few transportation options available for residents in Mifflin County who don't own a private car, making it challenging for older residents and low-income families to access jobs, housing, education, and other essential amenities.

OUR HOUSING IS OUT OF REACH 🏗



Housing in Mifflin County has become unaffordable for many residents. The shortage of housing for seniors, workers, and young families is especially acute, impacting the ability of local companies to hire and retain employees and making it challenging for older and younger residents to stay in their communities.

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

Access to Mifflin County's abundant natural resources are challenging for some residents and visitors to enjoy due to lack of developed infrastructure, incomplete information about access points, and unrealized potential for recreation-oriented businesses and services.

OUR ENTREPRENEURS NEED MORE SUPPORT

Mifflin County has an active and growing scene of small businesses and entrepreneurs, but residents currently have few and inconsistent resources to help guide them through the challenges of starting new enterprises or expanding existing ones.



The "Five Connections" - Plan Goals

Our plan goals, dubbed the "Five Connections," are attainable and measurable targets that accomplish the vision statement and seek to directly address the critical issues. These goals take Mifflin County's unique natural features, neighborhoods, and characteristics into account. Like our critical issues, the "Five Connections" were developed with heavy input from the Planning Advisory Committee, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and the public engagement efforts.

MUNICIPALITIES CONNECTED TO SUSTAINABLE FUNDING



Boroughs and townships in the county can adequately provide basic services to residents and fund infrastructure improvements through a mixture of regional cooperation, long-term fiscal planning, and support from state and federal sources.

WORKERS, FAMILIES, AND SENIORS CONNECTED TO ATTAINABLE HOUSING



The County will incentivize the creation of new housing for seniors, young families, and the local workforce through regional land use planning, incentivizing redevelopment, and developing partnerships to meet local housing needs.

RESIDENTS CONNECTED TO THEIR NEEDS THROUGH BETTER MOBILITY



The County will work to create a vibrant multi-modal transportation network that serves all residents by working with local and state partners to address traffic safety issues, build out sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure networks, and improve public transit services.

ENTREPRENEURS & BUSINESS OWNERS CONNECTED TO THE RESOURCES THEY NEED



The County will encourage the growth of local businesses and entrepreneurship by developing partnerships with local economic development organizations to provide supporting resources, working with state agencies to identify and make investments to support potential economic growth areas, and coordinate with regional and state tourism organizations to promote local businesses.

RESIDENTS ARE CONNECTED TO THE COUNTY'S ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES



The County will work to create additional opportunities for residents and visitors to experience local natural resources by coordinating with state agencies and local governments to invest in trails and other infrastructure, developing information about local recreation resources, such as wayfinding, encouraging tourism, and the development of recreation-oriented businesses.



ACTION STRATEGIES

The action strategies listed below were developed in support of the identified critical issues and plan goals. While goals tend to be broad aspirations, action strategies are specific tasks that lead to the accomplishment of a goal, and therefore, the vision statement. At the public open house, attendees provided feedback and engaged with the action strategies in the chart below.

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MC = Mifflin County

SC = SEDA-COG

HA = Mifflin County Housing Authority

JRVCC = Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce

CD = Mifflin County Conservation District

IDC = Mifflin County Industrial Development Cooperation

PC = Mifflin County Planning Commission

JRVVB = Juniata River Valley Visitor's Bureau

PA-DCED = Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

PA-BDS = Pennsylvania Broadband Development Services

SRO = State Representative's Office

FRO = Federal Representative's Office

LP = Local internet providers

LR = Local realtors

MLS = Multiple Listing Services

HC = Mifflin County Housing Coalition

HSD = Human Services Department

PDOT = Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

JC = Juniata County

PA-W = Pennsylvania WalkWorks

SEDA-COG MPO = SEDA-COG Municipal Planning Organization

DLI = Downtown Lewistown Incorporated



Table 1: Action Strategies and their related connections, responsible parties, and implementation

Action Strategy	Related Connection	Responsible Parties	Affiliated Parties	Timeframe
Work with municipalities to explore opportunities to share the costs of providing basic services at a regional level.	\$	• MC • M	• PA-DCED	Ongoing
Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to help municipalities develop long-range fiscal planning programs.	3	• MC • M	• PA-DCED	Ongoing
Provide direct assistance to municipalities with applying to state and federal grant programs by helping to complete applications and providing funding to meet local match requirements.	3	• MC • M • IDC	SROFRODLI	Ongoing
Communicate and collaborate with state economic development agencies to identify barriers and needed investments to take advantage of future economic growth opportunities.	5	• MC • M • IDC	PA-DCEDDLI	Ongoing
Further assist with the expansion and implementation of broadband services to underserved areas and communities within the County.	5	• MC	PA-BDSLP	Ongoing
Conduct zoning and subdivision ordinance desk-top audits with volunteering municipalities to ensure local codes strive to meet the goals of the comprehensive plan.	5	• MC • M	• M	Ongoing
Provide technical assistance and support to municipalities looking to adopt the County's model Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance.	3	• MC • M	• M	Ongoing



Action Strategy	Related Connection	Responsible Parties	Affiliated Parties	Timeframe
Encourage municipalities to provide incentives through their zoning ordinance to reduce regulatory barriers to housing construction.		MCMHA	LRMLSHCHSDDLI	Ongoing
Coordinate resources through a County Redevelopment Authority to address blight and encourage residential and commercial construction in existing developed areas.		MCIDCHA	• DLI	Ongoing
Develop partnerships among municipalities, county and state agencies, and local non-profits to assemble additional resources for residents who lack stable housing.		MCMIDCHA	PA-DCEDHCDLI	Ongoing
Work with regional, state, and local partners to implement the recommendations, especially the six pilot projects, of the Mifflin Moves County Active Transportation Plan.	50	PCSCM	SEDA- COG MPOPDOT	1-4 years
Work with municipalities and property owners to identify key gaps in local sidewalk networks and assist with assembling the funding needed to address them.	5.9	• M • PC • SC	PDOTPA-DCED	Ongoing
Coordinate with local, regional, and state partners to develop improved transportation services in key areas.	50	• M • PC • SC	SEDA- COG MPOPDOT	Ongoing



Action Strategy	Related Connection	Responsible Parties	Affiliated Parties	Timeframe
Continue to actively participate in the transportation planning process by continuing to engage with SEDA-COG and other agencies.	50	MMCSC	• SEDA- COG MPO	Ongoing
Update the Juniata/Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan to identify needed improvements to local trail networks, water access points, parking areas, restrooms, and other key infrastructure in local parks and recreational areas.	TRAIL →	• CD • JRVCC • PC	PA-DCNRJCPA-W	1-4 years
Continue to work with local and regional partners to develop comprehensive guides and promotional materials to trails, watercourses, parks, and recreational areas in the County.	TRAIL →	PCCDJRVVBIDC	PA-DCED	Ongoing
Coordinate with state and local economic development agencies to identify opportunities for and encourage the growth of businesses.		• JRVCC • IDC	• DLI	Ongoing
Coordinate with local economic development agencies and state organizations to connect local businesses entrepreneurs with information and resources.		• JRVCC • IDC	• DLI	Ongoing
Work with local and regional tourism organizations to create promotional guides and materials for local businesses and locally made products.		• JRVCC • JRVVB		Ongoing



FUTURE CHARACTER AREA MAPPING (FCAM)

The Future Character Area Map (FCAM) (See Figure 3) was developed in collaboration with the PAC and incorporated with feedback from the public open house. Also available to view through an interactive webapp, the FCAM visualizes the land use for the entire county over the next 10 years. There are two categories of character areas for this map: planned development areas and planned conservation areas. *Mifflin County 2035* embraces both progress and preservation; planned development areas are expecting to see residential or commercial development, and or investment. Planned conservation areas focus on preserving Mifflin County's charming rural character. For detailed municipal maps, please see Appendix D.

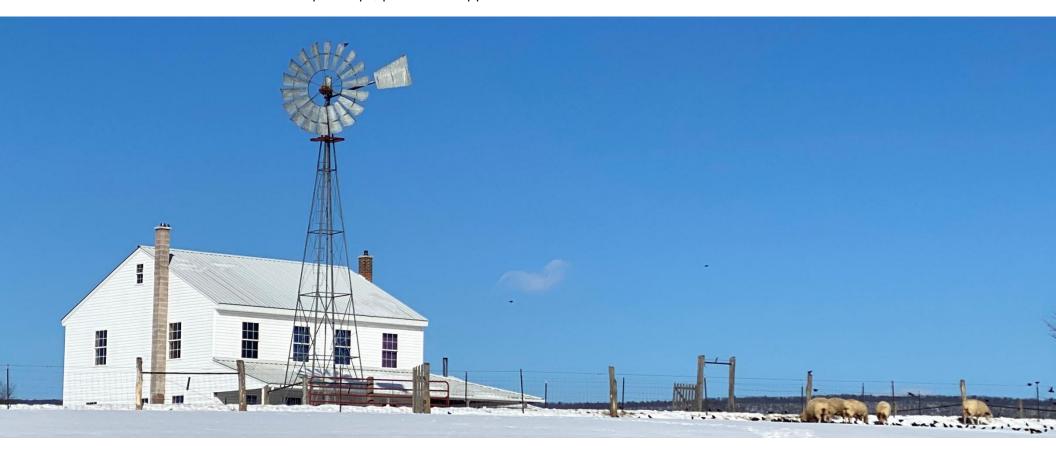
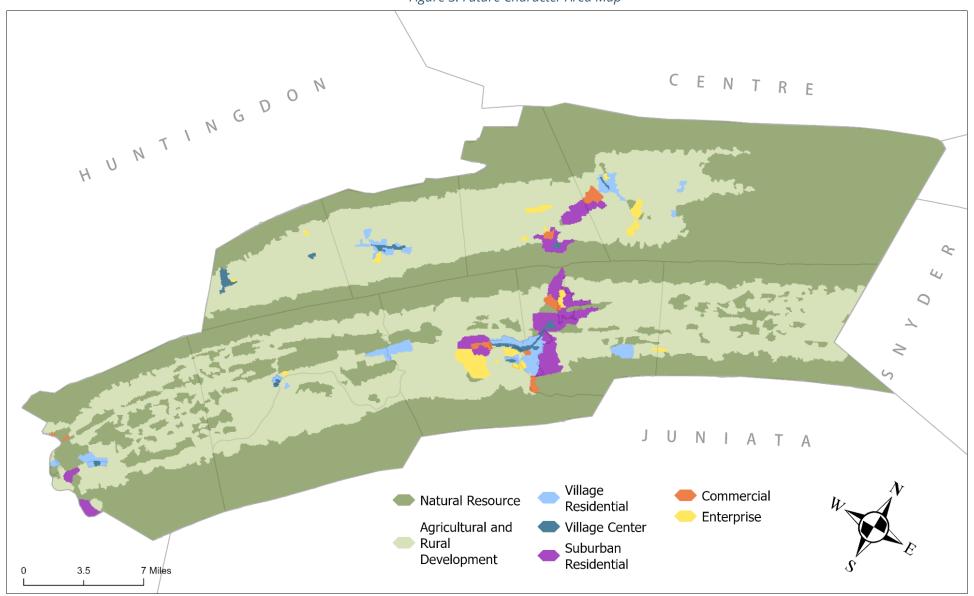




Figure 3: Future Character Area Map





Planned Development Areas

VILLAGE CENTER

Areas that feature a development pattern combining residential and commercial uses. These areas include both older neighborhoods and main streets built prior to the creation of zoning codes that mandated the separation of land uses. Additionally, new construction has been constructed in these areas to introduce more walkable and/or transit-friendly development patterns into previously suburban areas. Village Center areas often feature connected sidewalk infrastructure, parking behind buildings or in parking structures, parks or community gathering spaces, and are served with public water, sewer, and infrastructure. This character area can be found in the boroughs of Lewistown, Juniata Terrace, McVeytown, Newton Hamilton, and Oliver and Union Townships.





VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL

Residential areas that are pedestrian-friendly with smaller setbacks and served by public infrastructure. Residential uses are on smaller lots and include a wider variety of housing types, like duplexes and rowhouses. They also feature some neighborhood-scale commercial uses, like corner stores and barber shops, integrated into predominantly residential streets in mixed-use buildings. Small institutional uses, like churches, are integrated into this area. Streets have more complete sidewalk networks and are more comfortable for use by pedestrians and bicycle users. These areas tend to be in downtown areas.





SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL

Primarily residential, low-density areas served by public infrastructure, built adjacent to larger population centers. Detached single-family homes with larger setbacks are the main building type here, though there are neighborhood-scale institutional uses like churches integrated into this area. Transportation infrastructure is designed around the automobile and often lacks consistent infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycle users. Future growth is expected to be limited, mainly consisting of small-scale uses, such as home-based businesses and accessory dwelling units. These areas can be found on the outskirts of downtown areas in higher populated areas.







COMMERCIAL

Areas that feature a concentration of commercial uses, served by public infrastructure, oriented towards meeting the daily needs of residents, such as grocery stores, banks, and big-box retailers. The development pattern here is strongly oriented towards single-use, low-rise retail buildings featuring large setbacks from the street and surface parking lots. These areas are designed to be accessed primarily by automobile, with infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycle lacking.





ENTERPRISE

Areas tailored to support a diverse range of enterprises, from manufacturing and light industrial operations to commercial and hospitality uses. Designed to encourage investment and job creation, and respond to the evolving needs of businesses, ensuring that the area remains competitive and attractive to new ventures. Older properties can be, depending on location, candidates for redevelopment into residential or mixed-use. Future growth will include expansions of existing facilities and the redevelopment of old vacant properties with similar uses and updated infrastructure, as well as new development concentrated along U.S. 322. Older locations adjacent to major population centers will also be candidates for redevelopment into residential or mixed-use properties.







Planned Conservation Areas

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Areas are often permanently preserved and designed to recharge groundwater, reduce flooding, filter air, offer recreational opportunities, and protect important plant and animal habitats. These areas include parks and nature preserves, wooded steep slopes, stream corridors, and privately owned woodlands (such as state parks, state forests, and state game lands). Growth in these areas is typically very limited to protect sensitive natural ecosystems and maintain a rural feel. It mainly consists of infrastructure and development that support open spaces and recreation, like parking lots, restrooms, pavilions, and off-road trails. There is also allowance for additional growth on private land, which can include timber harvesting, farming, and standalone single-family homes or seasonal cabins.





AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Primarily agricultural landscapes with limited infrastructure, characterized by scattered low-density residential and commercial development. Development opportunities focus on sustaining farmers and the agricultural economy, including farm support businesses and retail stores selling agricultural products. Rural areas can only accommodate very low-density development with limited residential and commercial growth, due to the lack of water and sewer infrastructure and the predominance of agricultural land uses. Any new development should be carefully planned to avoid compromising the rural quality of life.

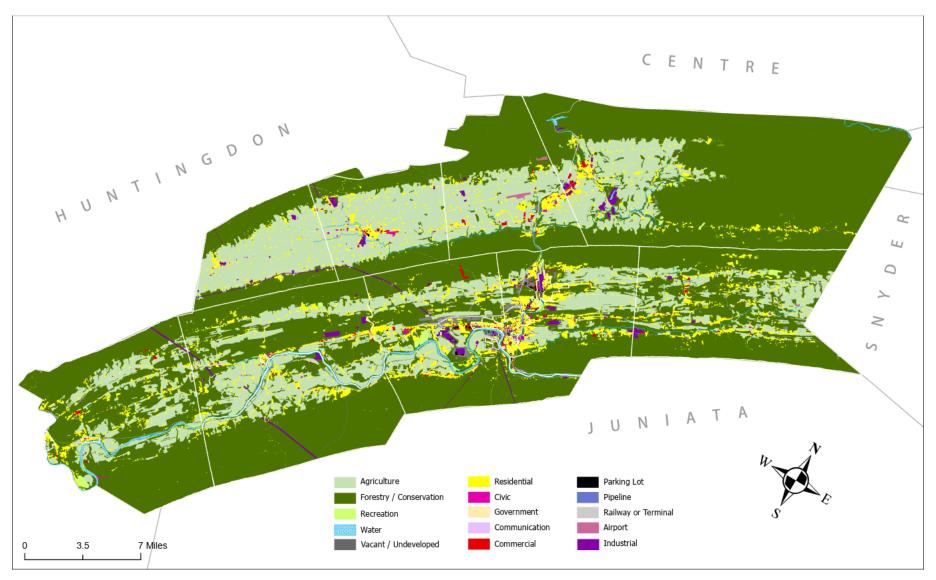




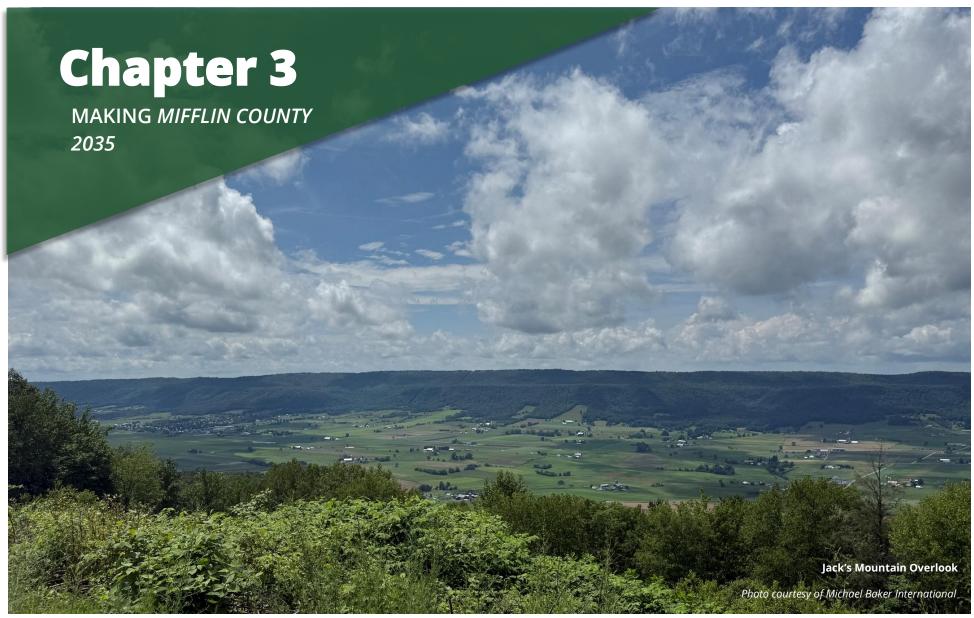
For more in-depth character descriptions and design regulations, please see Appendix D.



Figure 4: Existing Land Use Map









PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Why We Plan

By formal definition, a comprehensive plan is a land use and growth management plan that establishes broad goals and criteria for municipalities to use in land use regulation. In other words, it is a formal strategy that helps to identify challenges, weaknesses, and opportunities that should be addressed over the next decade within a county, municipality, or multimunicipality. In compliance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968), county comprehensive plans must be updated every 10 years.

While comprehensive plans enable legislation, they are not absolute check lists. Rather, they set the intention and provide

priorities and recommendations. Plans are not adopted by ordinance and are not legislative in nature; instead, they are adopted by Resolution. A resolution is a formal statement by the governing body supporting the components in the plan.

The planning process provides the public with the unique opportunity to have a direct impact or say in the future of their community. *Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress* celebrates the successes of yesterday while embracing the challenges of tomorrow. It's a time to ask ourselves: what do we want to take with us into the next decade... and what do we want to leave in the past?

Planning Process & Timeline

Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress is the product of perspectives and shared feedback. Over the course of 15 months, diverse stakeholder collaboration and robust public engagement identified concerns, ideas, and solutions that were integral to the development of this plan. Participation between the County and the public fosters trust, understanding, and an overall united community.

The creation of this plan was broken into eight tasks (See Figure 5). Task one officially began in July 2024 at the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan 10 Year Update Kick-off Meeting. Here, the project team met with the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for the



first time and discussed the planning approach (See Figure 6), key milestones and deliverables (See Figure 7), and a planning process timeline (See Figure 8). PAC meetings would continue throughout the lifecycle of the planning process to ensure that the evolution of the plan occurred in a way desired by the County and the PAC.

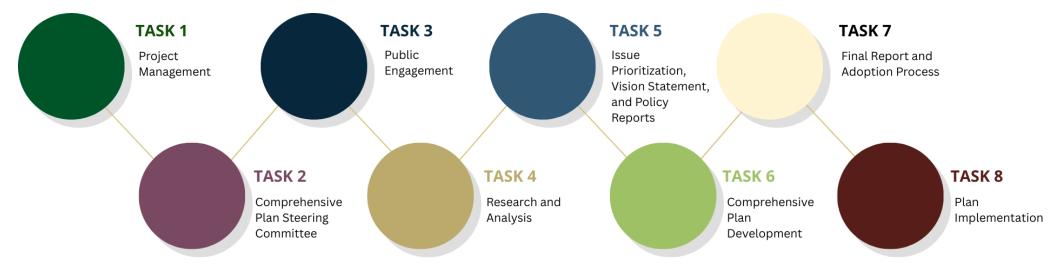


Figure 5: Planning Process Breakdown



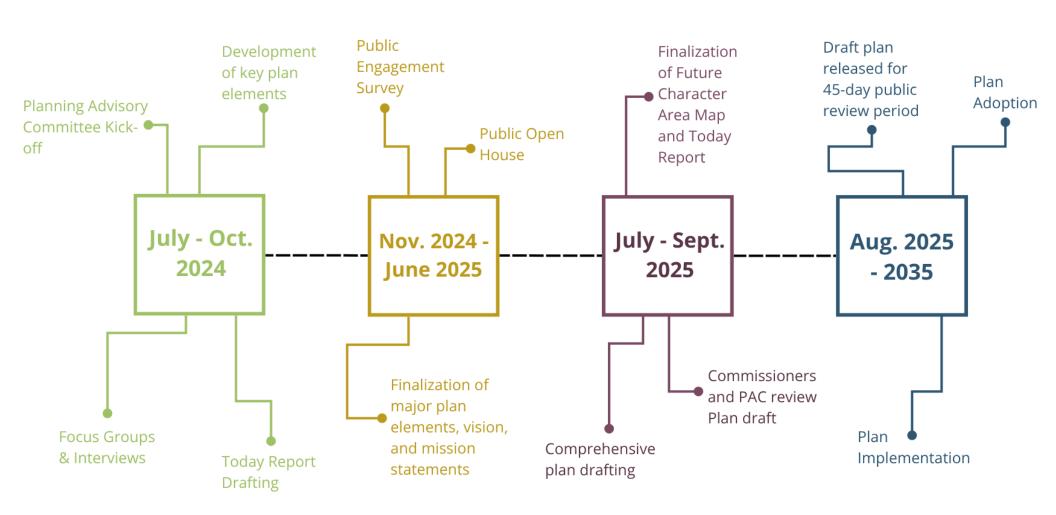
Figure 6: Implementable Plan Approach Provide the **Build community** Focus on real Organize the Devise workable relevant issues plan the way recommendations capacity for ownership implementation. and commitment. officials and with action plans. citizens think. **Implementable** Plan Approach

Figure 7: Key Milestones / Deliverables





Figure 8: Planning process timeline





Planning Advisory Committee

Mifflin County's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) joined together for the sake of steering the comprehensive planning process for Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress. The committee was made up of individuals from many relevant organizations and groups such as the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce (JRVCC), Mifflin County School District, the Mifflin County Conservation District (MCCD), and local municipalities. The committee's diverse representation of stakeholder groups was key to properly advising Michael Baker International, Inc. throughout the planning process. Ultimately, the PAC served as a liaison between the project team and the groups being represented by PAC members. Not only did they represent the interests of their groups or townships, but they also ensured that the process was transparent and inclusive to their community's residents. Additionally, the PAC was responsible for reviewing all final deliverables before they were sent to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners for final adoption and approval. The PAC and Michael Baker's project team met a total of seven times from July 2024 to September 2025.

On August 28, 2024, the PAC and project team from Michael Baker International held their first official meeting at the Mifflin County Courthouse to lay the framework for the rest of the comprehensive planning process. They discussed the timeline

for the project, public engagement strategy and process, and the schedule for remaining meetings. During the next meeting on October 20, 2024, the project team went over the public survey that would be released and worked with the committee to develop strategies to optimize engagement with county residents. Committee members also participated in a focus group exercise to develop an idea of key strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within the county that the new plan should address. The project team also went through a draft of *Mifflin County Today Report* to fill in any missing gaps and make appropriate edits with the PAC.

The PAC did not meet again until March 5, 2025, to review the findings from the public engagement survey. During this meeting, the project team also went over their findings from stakeholder interviews and collaborated with the PAC to develop a vision statement for the plan.

On May 7, 2025, the PAC and project team worked together to name the plan, revise the critical issues that the plan would seek to address, develop goals and action strategies to address these issues, and receive feedback on the Future Character Area Map. They also planned the next step of the public engagement process; an open house to be held in June. By the time that the PAC and project team reconvened virtually on



August 6, 2025, they were ready to finalize the Mifflin County Today Report and Future Character Area Map and begin drafting the final plan.

On September 24, 2025, the PAC met for the last time to review the draft Plan. The committee provided valuable feedback for the consulting team to implement into the final draft.

Public Engagement

PUBLIC SURVEY

A public engagement survey was conducted from November 11, 2024, to March 7, 2025. The survey collected a total of 778 responses with a 68% completion rate. Of survey takers, approximately 97% were white or Caucasian, over half were between the ages 35-54, 83.4% had lived in the county for over 10 years, and 82.8% were Mifflin County homeowners. The following table (Table 2) displays key takeaways from the public survey. The margin of error is a statistical measure used to quantify the uncertainty or variability in survey results. For the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan public survey, with a confidence level of 99%, the margin of error is 5%. For a confidence level of 95%, the margin of error is 3%, and with a confidence level of 80%, the margin of error is 2%.

Table 2: Public engagement survey key takeaways

Topic	Takeaways
Development	 Residents are overall in favor of development, favoring residential, business/industry, and commercial development 57% would prefer the redevelopment of vacant buildings to accommodate new growth Nearly all residents agree that the development of vocational schools, downtown/small business centers, and entertainment centers would have a "Positive" to "Very Positive" impact on Mifflin County.



Quality of Life & Safety	 Perception of Image & Identity was selected as the County's greatest weakness 35% of survey takers consider themselves satisfied with the overall quality of life in Mifflin County; 22% consider themselves to be dissatisfied. 56% stated that they feel safe where they live "Improve Local School Systems," "Provide Affordable Housing Options," and "Expand Entertainment Options" as the top three ways to retain and recruit young people and families into the county
Recreation	 Parks, Recreation, & Environment was selected as the County's greatest strength Increasing accessibility to green space was ranked as the top environmental priority 46% stated that recreational facilities are a weakness 85% agree that more activities for young people are needed 52% of participants selected facilities are the greatest weakness of county parks.
Transportation	 Over 92% use a private car as their primary mode of transportation 38% stated that "Improving Roadway State of Repair" should be the County's priority transportation investment 72% would be "Likely" or "Very Likely" to walk or ride a bicycle to destinations near their home if there was a safe sidewalk or trail 34% are "Somewhat Satisfied" and 39% are "Not Satisfied" with bicycle and pedestrian safety in the County 29% would like to see the county add a local transportation service 43% do not feel safe walking or biking around their community
Housing	 64% felt housing state of repair is a weakness in the county Single-family homes and affordable housing were selected as the types of residential development that would most benefit the county. Approximately 50% agree that large apartment complexes (greater than 8 units) would be perceived to be the most negatively impacting type of residential development.



OPEN HOUSE

Poster boards scattered around the gymnasium at Mifflin County Middle School officially introduced *Mifflin County 2035: A Decade of Progress* to the public at an open house held in June 2025. The open house was designed to actively educate and engage attendees in the comprehensive planning process. One posterboard offered attendees the opportunity to place stickers and vote for their top priority action items that they wanted incorporated in the plan. In another corner of the gymnasium, Michael Baker staff operated an interactive digital Future Character Area Map. This feature invited attendees to zoom in and explore the projected land use for their neighborhood, office park, or local park.

Some informational poster boards defined the comprehensive planning process, plan vision statement, critical issues, and goals. Others outlined key findings from the public survey.





eedback on future plans

BY SIERRA BOLGER Sentinel reporter sbolger(a)

EWISTOWN - Comnity members were comed at the Mifflin anty Middle School dnesday to discuss the inty's plan for progress er the next 10 years. The Mifflin County Committee ned by Michael Baker ernational, the coun-: Comprehensive Plan displayed ormation the project m gathered through a research and pub-engagement and they red their insight as il as shared their conns about the draft elents of the final plan. 'he purpose of this n house was to engage h the public to learn re about the develop-

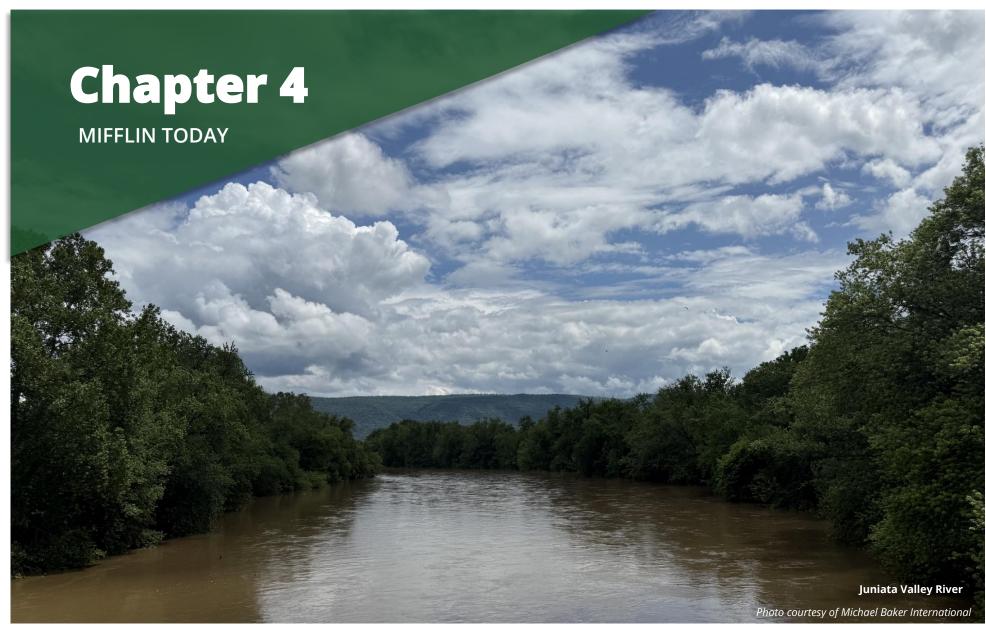


Sentinel photo by SIERRA BOLGER



Photos courtesy of Michael Baker International







MIFFLIN TODAY: AN OVERVIEW

Population

Over the past decade, Mifflin County has experienced a decline in population. In 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau recorded roughly 46,146 residents, a 1.19% decrease since the year 2013. This trend is displayed in Figure 9.

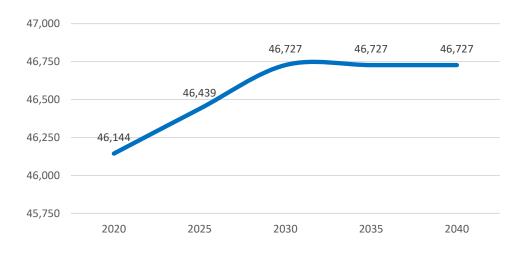
This population decline is reflected regionally, with the eleven (11) counties within SEDA-COG experiencing negative population growth earlier than Mifflin County. Statewide and nationally, population growth is slowing, but not at the rate of Mifflin County and SEDA-COG.

By the end of the next decade, the population of Mifflin County is expected to grow by less than 1,000 individuals (See Figure 10).

48,000 47,500 47,000 46.698 46,675 46,500 46,179 46,146 46,000 45,500 45,000 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Figure 9: Mifflin County Population from 2013 to 2022

Figure 10: Mifflin County Projected Population from 2020-2040



Source: United States Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022



Mifflin County is a rural county, with residents spread across the Census Block Groups (See Figure 11). The northeastern part of the county has the fewest residents, due in large part to the presence of state parks, forests, and game lands.

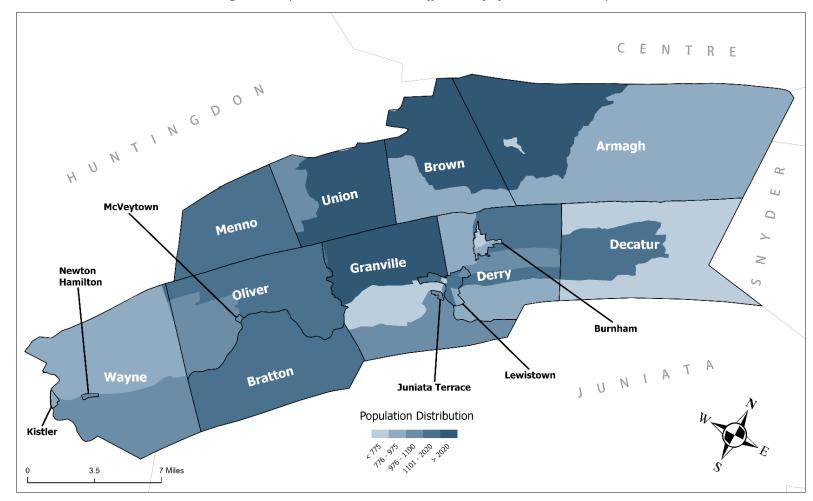


Figure 11: Population Distribution in Mifflin County by Census Block Groups

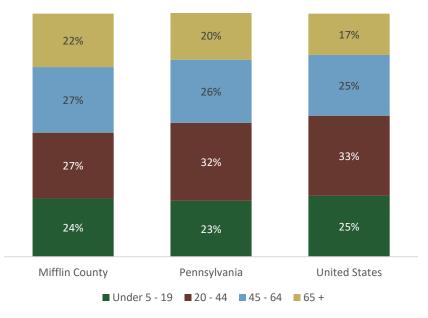
Source: United States Census Bureau, 2020



AGE

Mifflin County has a similar, although slightly larger, share of the population which is 65 and older when compared to Pennsylvania – 22% compared to 20%, as seen in Figure 12. Nationally, this age cohort, which makes up 17% of the national demographic, accounts for 5 percentage points less of the overall population than Mifflin County does. The overall population that is younger than 44 years is also the smallest for Mifflin County, with 51% of the population made up of age cohorts 20-44 and under 5-19. For Pennsylvania, these cohorts account for 55% and 58%, respectively. The median age in Mifflin County, 43.3 years, is also greater than the state and nation.

Figure 12: Age Distribution in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and the Nation in 2022



Source: United States Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022

RACE AND ETHNICITY

The 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the United States Census Bureau shows that Mifflin County is not very racially diverse, although it is becoming more diverse over time. In 2022, 96% of the population in Mifflin County identified as white.

A decade ago, people who identified as white made up 98% of the county's population. The largest non-white demographic in Mifflin County is now multiracial, accounting for nearly 3% of the local population. This is an increase from 2013, when less than 1% of the population identified as multiracial.



Housing

The 2022 U.S. Census Bureau ACS estimates show that there are 18,612 households in Mifflin County. About 11.7% of these households are vacant, which is roughly 2,000 units, exceeding the average rates for Pennsylvania (9.3%) and the United States (9.7%). It is important to note that the vacancy rate in Mifflin County decreased from 13% in 2010. Nearly one-third of the occupied housing units in Mifflin County are renter-occupied, 28.5% in 2022, which is an increase from 26.4% a decade earlier, in 2013.

AFFORDABILITY

Housing costs are lower in the County, especially for renters, than many of the local and national averages. The median home value in Mifflin County in 2022 was \$126,400. This is significantly lower than the average home price in Pennsylvania, \$266,800, and the national average home value, \$320,900. It should also be noted that among all counties in the SEDA-COG region—which includes Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming,

Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union—Mifflin County has the lowest median house value, followed by Clinton County with a median home value of \$177,700.

Income & Employment

INCOME

Mifflin County has below-average income levels and relatively high poverty rates. In 2022, the median household income in Mifflin County was \$58,012 (Table 3). This is significantly lower than the median income for Pennsylvania (\$73,170) and the national median (\$75,149). Despite this, it remains well above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for 2022, which the U.S. Census set at \$23,556 for a family of two adults and one child. However, 18.5%, or about 3,443 households, live at or below the FPL in Mifflin County. This is higher than 16.5% of households below the FPL across the state in 2022.



Table 3: Median and Mean Incomes Across Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and the Nation for 2022

2022 Household Income				
Median Mean				
Mifflin	\$58,012	\$70,553		
Pennsylvania	\$73,170	\$100,837		
United States	\$75,149	\$105,833		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

EMPLOYMENT

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD) data, Mifflin County has 21,100 people in the labor force. Of those, only about 3.4% are unemployed, which is not dissimilar with the state's unemployment rate of 4% as of September 2025. Mifflin County has more net workers than jobs, which indicates that more residents commute outside the county for work than those that both live and work in the county (Figure 13).



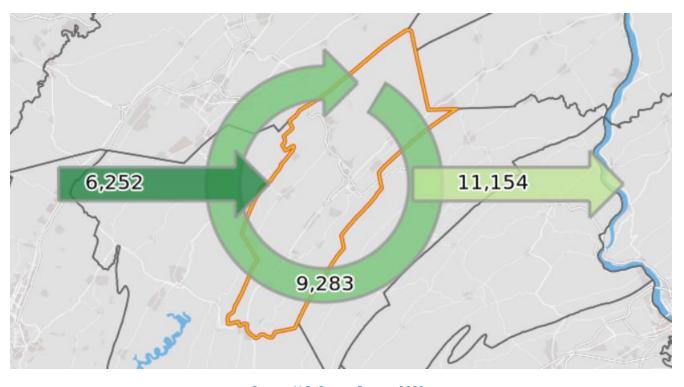


Figure 13: Mifflin County Commuter Patterns

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2022

The following tables show that Mifflin County residents primarily work in Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, and Educational Services, with over 58% of all jobs in those sectors; see Table 4 below. Table 5 displays the available jobs within the county. Notably, there are more jobs in accommodations and food service, transportation and warehousing, and construction than there are residents employed in those fields. This suggests that people commuting into the County for work are most likely working in those sectors. Conversely, those commuting outside of the county for work mainly travel to jobs in manufacturing, construction, and health care.



Table 4: Mifflin County Jobs held by Residents, 2021

Jobs for Mifflin County Residents, 2021		
Occupation		Percent of Workforce
Manufacturing	4343	21.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3454	17.2%
Retail Trade	2339	11.6%
Educational Services	1515	7.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	1404	7.0%
Construction	1242	6.2%
Public Administration	957	4.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	933	4.6%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation		3.0%
Finance and Insurance		2.9%
Wholesale Trade	571	2.8%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	547	2.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	527	2.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	270	1.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	252	1.3%
Information	170	0.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	127	0.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation		0.5%
Utilities		0.4%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	39	0.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021



Table 5: Mifflin County Jobs located in the County, 2021

Jobs Located in Mifflin County, 2021		
Occupation		Percent of Workforce
Manufacturing	3698	24.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3027	20.2%
Retail Trade	2026	13.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	1180	7.9%
Educational Services	1129	7.5%
Construction	720	4.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	532	3.6%
Public Administration	466	3.1%
Finance and Insurance	458	3.1%
Wholesale Trade		2.8%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)		2.3%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation		2.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting		1.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	153	1.0%
Information	102	0.7%
Utilities	76	0.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	0.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises		0.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	31	0.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021



Transportation

ROADWAYS

Mifflin County has 667 miles of roadway, with 35% owned and maintained by PennDOT and about 57% owned by local governments. Only 156 miles are part of the Federal-Aid System. Mifflin County is not directly served by an interstate, as shown in Figure 14. In 2022, the total daily vehicle miles traveled (DVMT) reached 1,086,866.

Traffic volumes

US 322 has a very high Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of nearly 30,000 vehicles, making it the busiest route in Mifflin County. In contrast, Front Mountain Road east of Allensville has the lowest AADT in the county at 120. Other segments with high AADT are located around Lewistown and Burnham.

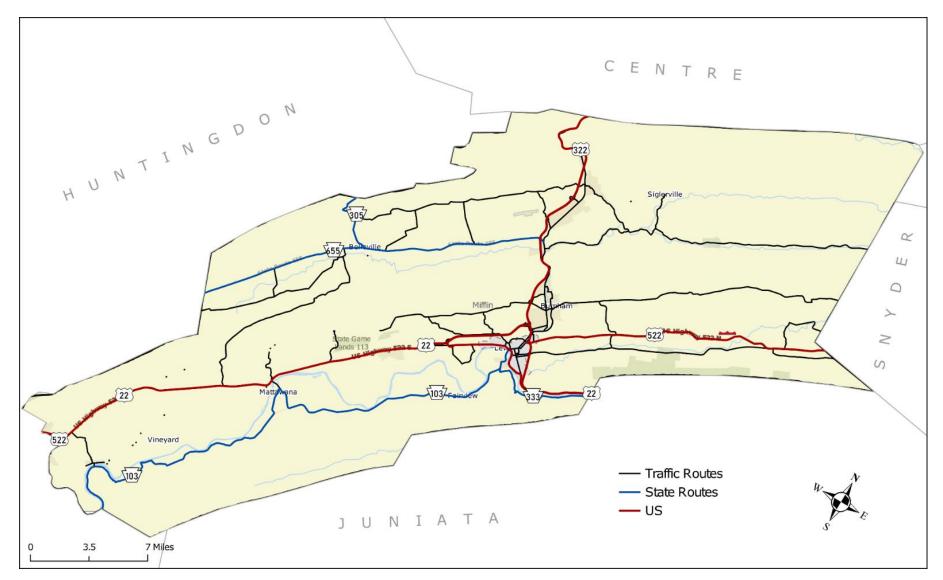
The county's additional roads, like PA 655 (a minor arterial) and PA 103 (a major collector), are strategically designed to promote both mobility and access to residential and commercial areas. These routes also connect motorists to major highways, including US 322, US 22, and US 522.

Conditions

As of 2022, the condition of state-owned pavements is generally good, with nearly 70 percent of pavement miles rated as "excellent" or "good" based on the International Roughness Index (IRI) (See Figure 15). Roads improved after the 2022 data source are not reflected.



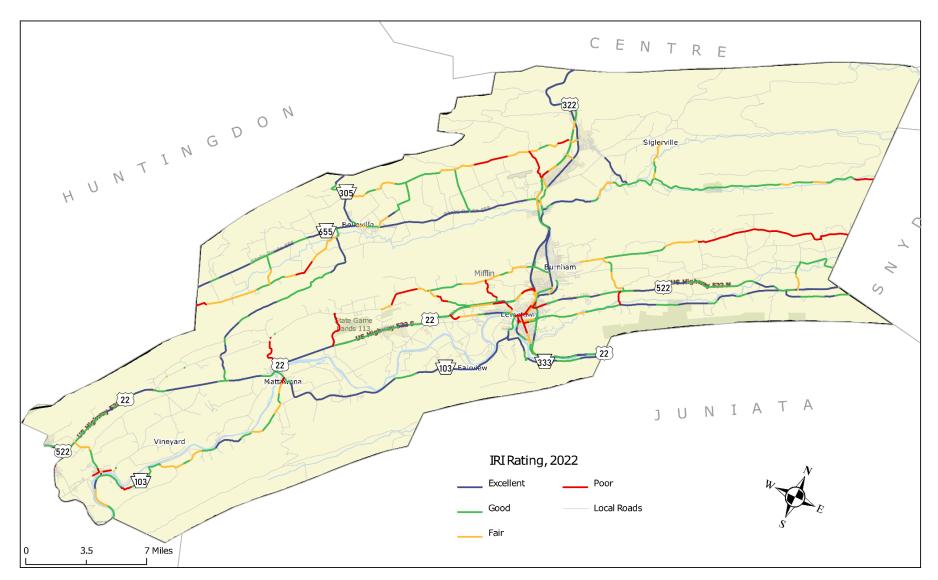
Figure 14: Mifflin County Major Roadways



Source: PennDOT Pavement Condition, 2022



Figure 15: IRI Ratings



Source: PennDOT Pavement Condition, 2022



BRIDGES

State-owned bridges

There are 184 state-owned bridges longer than 8 feet within the county. Of these, one is posted, and none are closed. Out of the 184 bridges, nine are in poor condition. In terms of deck area, these bridges in poor condition account for 2.76 percent (See Figure 16). The average age of state-owned bridges in the county is 48 years old. The oldest one in the County is found in Armagh Township, three miles Northeast of Reedsville, SR-1012 over Honey Creek. It was built in 1908, making it 116 years old.



Local bridges

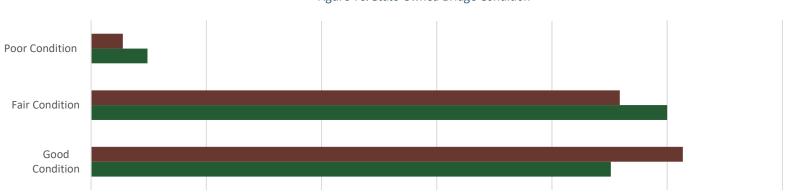
Mifflin County has 53 locally owned bridges longer than 20 feet, seven of which are posted and two are closed. The county's locally owned bridges have a significantly higher proportion of poorly rated bridges compared to the state-owned bridges, both in terms of count and deck area. When looking at the count, about 35 percent of local bridges are in poor condition, and this percentage is approximately 33 percent when considering deck area. The average age of the locally owned bridges in the county is 62 years old. The oldest municipally owned bridge in the County is owned by Brown Township and traverses over Kishacoquillas Creek, 4,500' S. of intersection of T-458 and SR 655. It was built in 1900, making it 124 years old. Additionally, the oldest County owned bridge is in Derry Township and was constructed in 1909. This bridge also crosses over Kishacoquillas Creek and is located 500' E. of intersection LR 29 and T-420.

0.00%

10.00%



60.00%



20.00%

Figure 16: State-Owned Bridge Condition

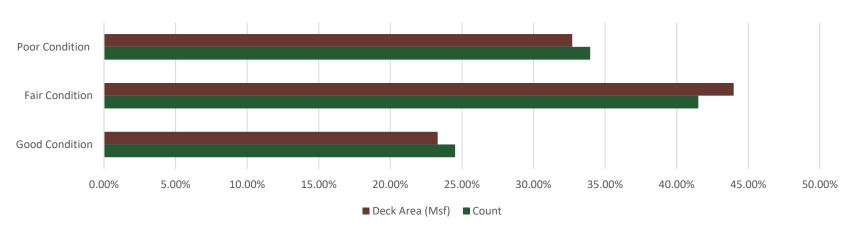
Figure 17: Locally Owned Bridge Conditions

30.00%

■ Deck Area (Msf) ■ Count

40.00%

50.00%



Source: PennDOT, 2022



HIGHWAY SAFETY

Crash trends

The following Crash Trends have been reported through PennDOT's Crash Information Tool (PCIT) for a five-year period (2019-2023) (See Figures 18 and 19):

- During the five-year period ending in 2023, the county averaged 393 crashes, 7 fatalities, and 27 suspected serious injuries per year. The total number of crashes decreased over this period.
- In the analysis of crash severity, the reportable crash data from 2023 shows that 56 percent of all county crashes were classified as "property damage only," indicating incidents that required vehicle towing but involved no fatalities or injuries.
- In 2023, "suspected minor injury" crashes comprised the second largest share of the county's total crashes (25.4%), followed by "possible injury" crashes (7.3%). In 2023, the county experienced 8 traffic fatalities.
- In the five-year period ending in 2023, the county experienced only 5 crashes (1.3%) involving a horse and buggy.
- With the increasing number of people aged 65 and older, there has also been a corresponding increase in crash rates, accounting
 for 25 percent of all crashes in 2023. Additionally, there has been an 8 percent rise in the proportion of crashes involving
 individuals aged 65 and older since 2014.
- In 2023, bicycle and pedestrian crashes accounted for 3% of the total crashes in the county, with 2 incidents involving bicycles and 9 involving pedestrians.

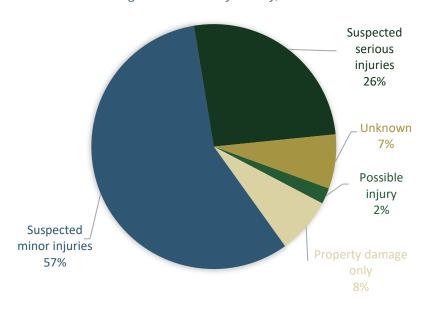


Crash hot spots

Six crash hot spots were identified based on PennDOT reportable crash data from the five-year period spanning 2019 to 2023. These locations have direct connections to US Routes 22 and 322, as well as other Pennsylvania routes, including PA 655 and PA 103. These hotspots are in:

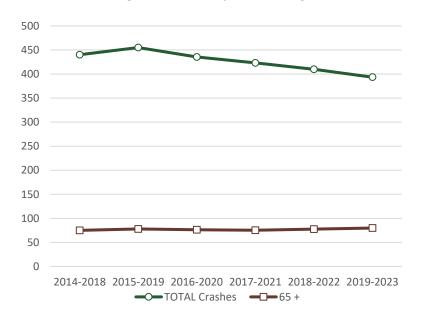
- Reedsville US 322 and PA 655
- Burnham Logan Boulevard / Freedom Ave
- Burnham Walnut Street / Freedom Ave

Figure 18: Crashes by Severity, 2023



- Lewistown Electric Avenue
- Lewistown Juniata Street / Market Street / PA 103
- Mount Union US 522 / US 22

Figure 19: Crashes by 5-Year Averages



Source: PennDOT PCIT 2019-2023



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Existing infrastructure

In June of 2023, Mifflin County adopted *Mifflin Moves!* (See Appendix D), a robust active transportation plan that encourages active transportation as a safe and healthy way to move around the county. This plan explores opportunities to improve safety and access, strengthen connections, and expand community amenities for walking, biking, and other forms of human-powered travel.

9.4% of households in Mifflin County do not have access to a car, which is higher than the national average (8.3%). Part of this can be attributed to the significant Amish population that utilizes horse-drawn buggies, scooters, bikes, and walking to travel throughout the County. Other key populations that may rely on active transportation facilities or other modes of transportation include those under 18, adults over 65, and people with disabilities.

22.5% of Mifflin County's population is under 18. Having access to alternative modes of transportation is essential for them to attend school, jobs, and other activities. According to *Mifflin*

Moves! The Mifflin County School District estimates that only 8-10 students walk to school each day, despite approximately 150 students living within the mandated radius of school buildings. A lack of safe road crossings or sidewalks could contribute to the lack of participation.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety

In 2023, according to PennDOT's Crash Information Tool (PCIT), five pedestrians or cyclists were involved in crashes resulting in fatalities or serious injuries. Often, crash data involving bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-car modes of transportation can be inaccurate due to near-misses and unreported incidents to authorities. This suggests that the actual number could be higher.

As shown in Figure 20 from *Mifflin Moves!*, most of the pedestrian and horse-and-buggy crash reports are clustered around municipalities with a significant Amish population. The rest of the reports are concentrated in Lewistown, which is home to many residents of Mifflin County.



PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

BICYCLE CRASHES

HORSE AND BUGGY CRASHES

BUGGING

BUGG

Figure 20: Map of Crash Hot Spots for Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Horse and Buggy Crashes in Mifflin County

Source: Mifflin Moves Active Transportation Plan, 2023

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

As indicated above, an average of 9.4% of households do not have access to a vehicle. These households rely on other modes of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, carpooling, or taxi/ride-hailing companies. For seniors and people with disabilities, however, discounted public transportation offers a more reliable and significantly more affordable option for accessing employment, medical services, and other necessities. Call-a-Ride Service, Inc. (CARS), offers demand-response shared-ride services in Mifflin and Juniata Counties, providing curb-to-curb service with reservations made one day in advance In FY 2022-23, CARS provided over 35,000 shared



ride trips across the two-county region.¹ Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused a sharp decrease in trips in FY20-21, ridership has steadily rebounded, demonstrating the vital importance of public transportation in Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

AVIATION

Mifflin County Airport (RVL) is a general aviation airport located two miles south of Reedsville, PA and is publicly owned and operated by the Mifflin County Airport Authority. According to the 2022 Aviation Economic Impact Survey released by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the airport had a \$1.9 million-dollar economic impact on the region. PennDOT distinguishes this between direct impacts and multiplier impacts, as seen in Table 6 below. PennDOT defines direct impacts as economic activity that is directly generated because of the airport's existence. This includes on-airport businesses and tenants, capital improvements made by the airport or airport tenants, nearby aviation-related businesses, visitor spending, and activities associated with air cargo, aerospace manufacturing, and private hospital heliports.

Multiplier impacts are created when the airport and related businesses purchase goods and services from other businesses (indirect impacts) and when employee payroll is spent in the local economy (induced impacts). For instance, indirect impacts are generated when airport concessionaires purchase food products from local suppliers and induced impacts are generated when staff spend their payroll at their neighborhood grocery store.²

¹ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Public Transportation. *Pennsylvania Public Transportation Performance Report,* FY18-19

through FY22-23.

² Ponnsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation, 2022 Pennsylvania Aviation Economic Impact Study, PennDOT, Kimley Horn, 202

² Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation. *2022 Pennsylvania Aviation Economic Impact Study,* PennDOT, Kimley Horn, 2022.



The airport employs 4 part-time employees, according to the Airport Authority. Mifflin County Airport hosts private flight instructors, provides transportation for local businesses, and recreational flights. Key airport activities include:

- Corporate/Business Activities
- Aerial Inspections
- Police/Law Enforcement
- Medical Transport/Evacuation
- Career Training and Flight Instruction

Table 6: Mifflin County Airport's Economic Impact in 2019

	Employment	Payroll	Output
On-Airport Activity	7	\$288,900	\$790,500
Commercial Service Visitor Spending	0	\$0	\$0
General Aviation Visitor Spending	3	\$80,800	\$227,900
Total Direct Impacts	10	\$369,700	\$1,018,500
Total Multiplier Impacts	5	\$321,800	\$908,900
Total Impacts	16	\$691,400	\$1,927,400

Source: 2022 Pennsylvania Aviation Economic Impact Study, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

FREIGHT RAIL

Mifflin County has a segment of Norfolk Southern rail line that runs concurrent with the Amtrak passenger rail line. The SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (SEDA-COG JRA) owns a portion of the short line rail in Mifflin County as well called the Juniata Valley Railroad (JVRR). The JVRR currently serves 9 customers and handles the following commodities: agriculture, fertilizer, finished steel products, scrap steel, lumber, paper, plastics, and rail car components.



Natural and Historic Resources

Cultural resources in Mifflin County include historic sites and districts, structures, artifacts, and other evidence of human activity that are considered essential for scientific, historical, religious, or other reasons. These resources are recognized for their contributions to community, identity, tourism, economic growth, and quality of life.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND SITES

Before William Penn's arrival, Native Americans lived in the area now called Pennsylvania, where they had made their home for generations. Pennsylvania has played a key role in U.S. history, being one of the original thirteen colonies. The state has been the site of many important historical events, from the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776 to the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

For over 300 years, Pennsylvania's strategic location—positioned between major cities and along the Northeast Corridor—has made it an important hub of commerce and industry. Mifflin County has played a significant role in the state's history, serving as a key center for various transportation networks, including rail, rivers, and roadways. As a result, Mifflin County hosts a wide range of historic properties and sites. Table

7 below provides a brief overview of the listed properties that are included on the National Register of Historic Places.





COUNTY-OWNED HISTORIC SITES

Mifflin County is the owner of the one-acre Stone Arch Bridge Historic Site. The county's ownership allows for the preservation of the historic 1813 stone arch bridge, along with nearby benches and sidewalk connections.

Table 7: Mifflin County National Register of Historic Places: Listed Properties

Historic Site/District	Municipality	Description
Embassy Theatre	Lewistown	Historic theatre (c. 1927), significant for its role in entertainment and
		recreation, was declared in 1998.
Juniata Terrace Historic District	Borough of Juniata Terrace	Historic district (c. 1924) declared in 2024.
Lewistown Armory	Lewistown	The Armory (c. 1925) is significant for its role in defense and was declared in
		1991.
McCoy House	Lewistown	A house (c. 1850) significant for its role in politics/government was declared in
		1973.
Mifflin County Courthouse	Lewistown	The courthouse (c. 1825) is significant for its Greek revival architectural style,
		declared in 1976.
Montgomery Ward Building	Lewistown	A trade center (c. 1925), significant for its role in local commerce, was declared
		in 1984.
Old Hoopes School	Lewistown	School (c. 1850) is significant for its role in education, declared in 1978.
Old Stone Arch Bridge	Lewistown	A bridge (c. 1800) is significant for its role in transportation, declared in 1979.
Pennsylvania Main Line Canal, Juniata	Granville Township	A remaining portion of the PA Mainline Canal (c. 1825), significant for its role in
Division, Canal Section		transportation, was declared in 2002.
Wollner Building	Lewistown	A trade hub (c. 1900) significant for its role in local commerce, declared in
		1984.

Source: Visions for the 21st Century, Mifflin County 2014 Comprehensive Plan



PENNSYLVANIA HISORICAL MARKERS

Table 8: Mifflin County Historical Markers

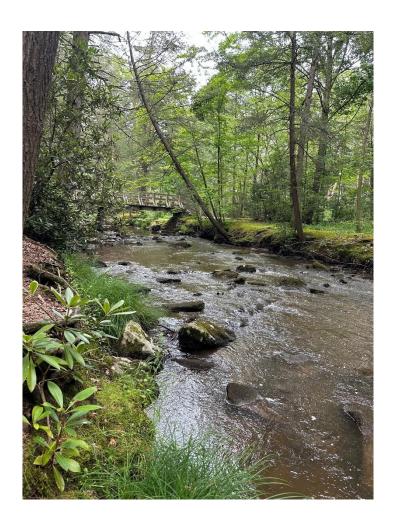
Mifflin County Marker	Location	Description
Three Locks at Strodes Mills	Strodes Mills, near Lewistown	A preserved section of the Pennsylvania Canal with three adjacent locks and stonework, showcasing 19th-century transportation.
Pennsylvania Historical Markers	Mifflin County	Various roadside and town center markers commemorate significant people, places, and events in the county's history.
Chief Logan Marker	North of Reedsville (SR 1005)	Honors Chief Logan, a Mingo leader known for his role in Native- settler relations.
Fort Granville Markers	Near Lewistown	Commemorate a French and Indian War fort destroyed by French and Native forces; includes a plaque and roadside marker.
Freedom Forge Marker	Burnham (SR 1005)	It celebrates over 150 years of iron and steel production, including the first open hearth steel in 1895.
Joseph T. Rothrock Marker	McVeytown (US 22 & 522)	Honors the "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry" for his conservation legacy.
Lewistown Station Marker	Lewistown (PA 103 & Helen St.)	Marks the oldest surviving Pennsylvania Railroad structure, was later converted to a passenger station.
McCoy Home Marker	Lewistown (17 N. Main Street)	Birthplace of Major General Frank R. McCoy and his father, Civil War Brigadier General Thomas F. McCoy.
Mifflin County Marker	Lewistown (Historic Courthouse)	It celebrates the formation of Mifflin County in 1789.
Old (Stone) Arch Bridge Marker	Lewistown	Highlights early 19th-century infrastructure on the Harrisburg– Pittsburgh turnpike.
Three Locks Marker	Strodes Mills (US 22/522)	Notes the rare configuration of three adjacent canal locks and visible stone remnants.
Travel History Marker	East of Lewistown	Reflects on Mifflin County's role as a transportation hub for canals, railroads, and roads.

Source: Visions for the 21st Century, Mifflin County 2014 Comprehensive Plan



Parks and Recreation

Mifflin County, due to its rural setting, provides a wide range of recreational options and resources at the state, county, municipal, and private levels, along with an expanding trail network. While the county owns only a limited amount of parkland, county planning efforts and partnerships are essential for improving recreation access and enhancing residents' quality of life.



STATE-OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

State forests

State forests offer a range of recreational activities to residents of Mifflin County, including but not limited to hiking, hunting, camping, and wildlife viewing (See Figure 22).

- •**Bald Eagle -** Bald Eagle State Forest covers over 33,000 acres in Mifflin County and provides a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, hunting, and scenic driving.
- •**Rothrock** Located mainly in Brown Township, Rothrock State Forest spans over 11,000 acres and is named after Dr. Joseph Rothrock, a pioneer in Pennsylvania forestry.
- •**Tuscarora** Tuscarora State Forest spans Juniata and Mifflin Counties, covering over 36,000 acres of mountainous land and native trout streams.



State game lands

Game lands support hunting, hiking, and seasonal trail use. State Game Lands in Mifflin County include:

- No. 88 Situated in southern Mifflin and Juniata counties, this 6,940-acre game land is part of the Tuscarora Mountain Greenway.
- **No. 107 -** Covering 7,122 acres across parts of Mifflin and Juniata counties, this area is situated along Black Log and Shade Mountains.

No. 113 - Smaller game land of 534 acres located solely in Mifflin County, providing limited yet accessible hunting grounds and wildlife habitat.

Fish and Boat Commission sites

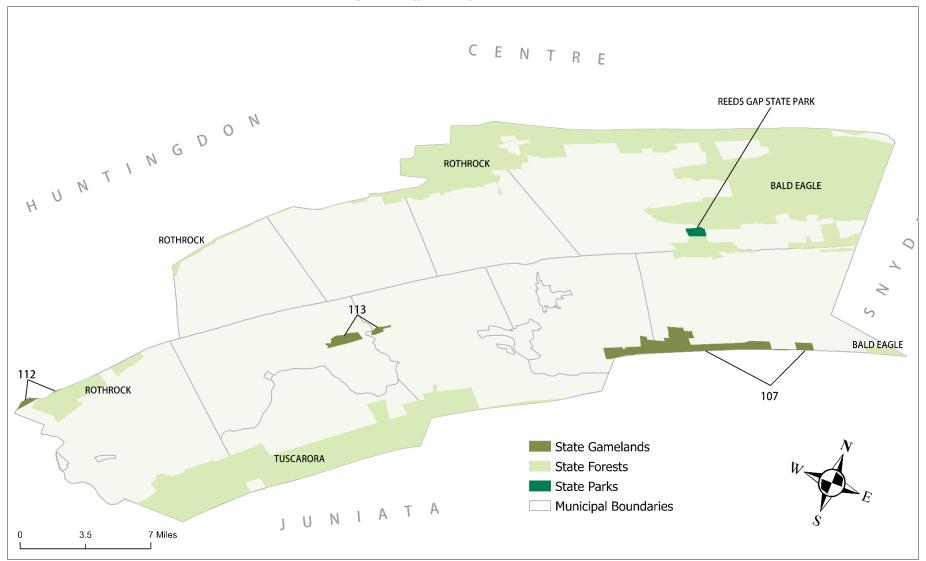
The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) maintains four public access areas across Mifflin County, mainly along the Juniata River, with one site on Tea Creek. The purpose of these sites is to provide access to fishing and boating opportunities for nearby residents.

Reeds Gap State Park

Aside from a small section of Poe Paddy State Park that crosses into Mifflin just south of Penn and Haines Townships in Centre County, Reeds Gap State Park is the only state park entirely within Mifflin County, serving as an important recreational and natural resource for the county.



Figure 22: Mifflin County State Recreation Facilities



Source: Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR)



COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PARKS

Table 9: Mifflin County Municipal Parks

Park Name	Municipality	Amenities
Milroy Park	Armagh Township	2 multipurpose fields, 1 playground
Longfellow Playground	Bratton Township	1 multipurpose field, 1 basketball court
Bender Park	Brown Township	2 ball fields, picnic pavilions
Mifflin County Youth Park	Brown Township	Stage and buildings
Reedsville Playground	Brown Township	1 ball field, 1 basketball court, 2 playgrounds
Burnham Pool & Playground	Burnham Borough	Swimming pool, 1 ball field, 1 basketball court
Kishacoquillas Park	Derry Township	2 multipurpose fields, 5 ball fields, 2 basketball courts, 1 tennis court, miniature golf, camping area
Meadowfield Playground	Derry Township	1 ball field
Yeagertown Hilltop Playground	Derry Township	1 ball field
Malta Park	Granville Township	2 multipurpose fields, 2 ball fields, 1 basketball court
Veteran's Memorial Park	Granville Township	1 multipurpose field, 2 ball fields, 2 basketball courts
Juniata Terrace Playground	Juniata Terrace Borough	1 ball field, 1 basketball court
East End Playground	Juniata Terrace Borough	1 playground
West End Playground	Juniata Terrace Borough	1 playground



Kistler Borough Park	Kistler Borough	1 ball field, 1 basketball court
Kistler Borough Farm	Kistler Borough	2 multipurpose fields
Green Acres	Lewistown Borough	3 ball fields
Woodlawn Playground	Lewistown Borough	1 tennis court, 1 playground
Lewistown Recreation Park	Lewistown Borough	3 multipurpose fields, swimming pool, 3 ball fields, 2 basketball courts, 3 tennis courts, 1
		volleyball court, 1mi walking trail
Victory Park	Lewistown Borough	Fishing pier, boat launch
Fifth Ward	Lewistown Borough	1 multipurpose field
McVeytown Community Park	McVeytown Borough	1 playground
Allensville Playground	Menno Township	1 ball field, 1 basketball court, 2 playgrounds, 1 volleyball court
Newton Hamilton Playground	Newton Hamilton Borough	1 ball field, 1 basketball court, 1 playground
Rothrock Playground	Oliver Township	2 ball fields, 2 basketball courts, 1 playground
Belleville Playground	Union Township	4 ball fields, 1 basketball court, 2 playgrounds, 1 volleyball court
Wayne Township Park	Wayne Township	1 ball field, 1 playground

Source: Juniata/Mifflin County, Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan



Private recreation facilities

There are 43 acres of private parks within the county. These include parks owned and operated by community organizations, churches, and private entities that offer recreational facilities such as ball fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Burnham Lions Club
- Maitland Brethren Church Park
- Siglerville Ballfield

- Sherwood Park
- Holy Communion Lutheran Church
- Paintersville Christian Church

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Mifflin County's trail network includes both official and informal paths, with room for expansion and better connectivity. The County aims to create a comprehensive greenway and trail system that links natural, cultural, and recreational resources across the region.

Existing trails

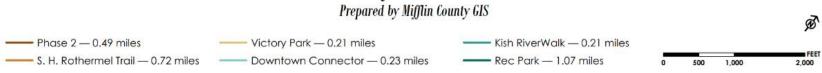
The Juniata River and its tributaries inspire a network of trails that connect the heart of downtown Lewistown to local parks, rural ridgetops, and waterfronts (See Figure 23). Formerly known as the Juniata River Trail Project, Two Chief Trail is made up of four trail segments that add up to just under 3-miles. Table 10 outlines the segments that make up Two Chief Trail and their current conditions and features. The county's active transportation plan outlines possible expansions for the network away from the riverfront and into local communities, such as Reedsville and Waterside Campground. The County is currently studying an expansion of the Kish RiverWalk, the Juniata Riverfront, that will connect Victory Park to the Stone Arch bridge at Jack's Creek.



Figure 23: Mifflin County Juniata Trail Network



Mifflin County Juniata River Trail



Source: Mifflin County GIS



Table 10: Two Chief Trail Existing Segments

Two Chief Trail Segment	Current Conditions and Features
Victory Park Walking Trail	 .21 miles South Juniata Street to River Access Road 1 boat launch, benches, shade trees
Kish RiverWalk	.21 milesConnects the Rec Park Loop to Victory Park
Downtown Connector	 .23 miles On-street Connects Kish RiverWalk to Victory Park
Rothermel Trail	 .72 miles Connects Victory Park Walking Trail to Crystal Springs Avenue .49 mile extension under construction as of 2023

Source: Mifflin Moves! The Mifflin County, PA Active Transportation Plan

Between Juniata and Mifflin County, there are 151-miles of State Forest greenways. These trails guide hikers, bikers, and equestrians through the Appalachian Mountain. Two of the most prominent greenways in Mifflin County are the Mid-State Trail and the Towpath Trail, also known as the Lewistown Narrows. The Mid-State Trail is a long-distance hiking trail that passes through Rothrock and Bald Eagle State Forests, with trailhead access near Milroy and Reeds Gap. A 72-mile trail, appropriately named the Link Trail, connects the Mid-State Trail to the Tuscarora Trail; 8 of these miles traverse through the Rocky Ridge Natural Area in Mifflin County. The Towpath



Trail is a restored section of the historic Pennsylvania Canal towpath, linking Canal Park to the Juniata River public access area. Table 11 provides a full list of the greenway trails found in Mifflin County.





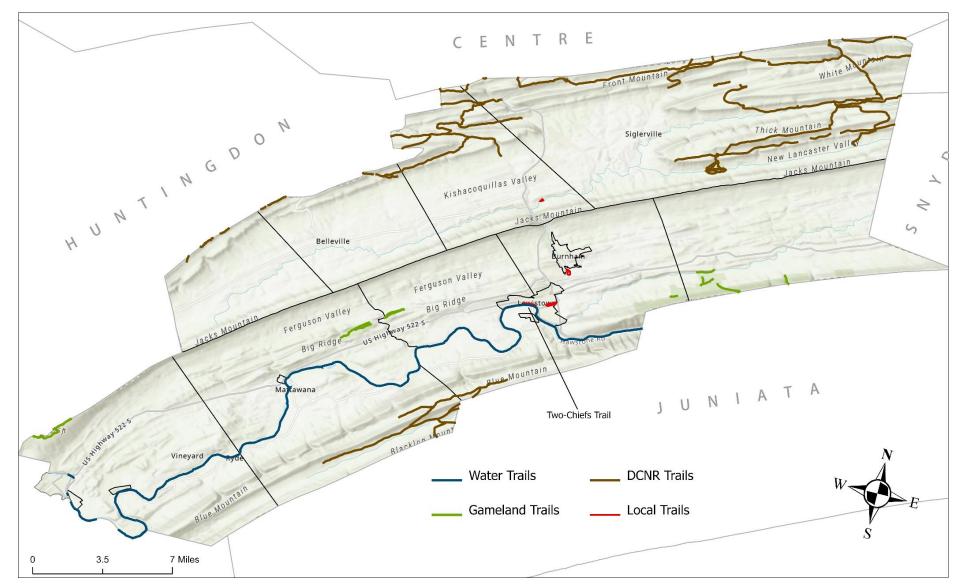
Table 11: Existing Mifflin County Greenway

Other Trails/Greenways/Blueways	Comments	
Mainline Canal Greenway	Along the Juniata River41 miles in Mifflin County	
Mid-State Trail	Traverses Bald Eagle State Forest	
White Mountain Ridge Trail	Traverses White Mountain Wild Area	
Bald Eagle State Forest Trails	 Along Strong Mtn. ridge Along Thick Mtn. ridge Borders White Mountain Wild Area 	
Reeds Gap State Park Trails	Connects to Poe Valley State Park (18 miles)	
Rothrock State Forest Trails		
Tuscarora State Forest Trails		
Link Trail and Greenway	Along Huntingdon/ Mifflin Co. border Connects to Greenwood Furnace S.P. and Rocky Ridge Natural Area in Huntingdon Co. Traverses Rothrock S. F. and S.G.L. 112	

Source: Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan



Figure 23: Mifflin County Existing Trail Network



Source: Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR)



Recreation Programs and Partners

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- <u>United Way of Mifflin-Juniata:</u> Supports youth programs, summer playgrounds, and after-school activities.
- **Juniata Valley YMCA:** Facilities for swimming, fitness, youth sports, and wellness programs, as well as hosting the Silver Sneakers program for seniors.
- **Communities That Care:** Offers youth development and prevention programs.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Public schools

The Mifflin County School District is the primary public school system for most students in the county. Students living in Wayne Township, Kistler Borough, and Newton Hamilton Borough attend Mount Union Area School District in Huntingdon County. Mifflin County Career and Technology Center (MJCTC), located in Lewistown, serves students in grades 10–12 from 5 school districts in Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

Private schools

Mifflin has several private schools, including many small ones that serve the county's Catholic, Mennonite, and Amish communities. Overall, there are 24 private schools in Mifflin County for the 2025 school year. The largest private school is Belleville Mennonite School, which offers a pre-K-12, Christ-centered education and Biblical worldview, available to local Mennonite families.



Utilities

PUBLIC WATER SERVICE FACILITIES

Six public water utilities and six small water systems serve about 64% of Mifflin County residents with domestic water. The locations of plants and representative service areas are shown on Figures 24-25.

The largest system is the Mifflin County Municipal Authority (MCMA). Four of the five small water systems, e.g. serving mobile home parks and apartments, are located near to MCMA's service area and could be connected into the Lewistown system. Funding is being sought to connect the Hillside Terrace Mobile Home Park. In the western part of the County, the Mount Union system could play a similar role.

The remaining systems are scattered, which limits physical interconnection and/or incorporation. These water systems could, however, benefit from cooperative administrative and management alternatives.

An in-depth analysis of these community water systems is provided in the Mifflin County Water Supply Plan.

The infrastructure of all water systems is aging, and the repair, rehabilitation and replacement of water lines is expensive. Service providers have an obligation to existing users to maintain and, where necessary, rehabilitate existing water lines. For example, MCMA maintains nearly 300 miles of pipeline for nearly 11,000 customers. Its historical data shows an estimated cost of \$45 per foot to replace aged waterlines, or about \$250,000/mile, using its staff from construction. MCMA notes that contractor services often double project costs of this kind. The cost of maintenance can be a deterrent to service expansion.

MCMA is open to serving future development in the county. However, the cost-of-service extension can be prohibitively high. MCMA does not maintain capital reserves for advanced service extension. Instead, it accepts the dedication of private developer-constructed lines for service. If public water service is necessary to guide future development to desired locations, a plan for water service extension to prioritized locations, along with a funding strategy, would need to be prepared.



WATER SUPPLY

The Mifflin County Water Supply Plan (2000, unadopted) states the following as guidance for managing community water supply systems, working with the industry where feasible, and reserving government action for the protection of public health:

- Discourage the establishment of new small water systems.
- Encourage existing small water systems to create and maintain financial records including annual budget, revenue and expenses.
- Encourage small water systems to take advantage of PADEP programs to assist small water systems: the Monitoring Reimbursement Program, Small Water Systems Regionalization Grant Program, Formation of Water Authorities Program, Small Water System Consolidation Construction Grant Program and Water and Wastewater Assistance and Outreach Program.
- Encourage all individual small water systems to identify, evaluate and implement cooperative/restructuring solutions to water service needs when possible; this would include Lewistown-Forest Hills and Lewistown-North Hills acquisitions and satellite operations.
- Maintain a countywide Water Advisory Committee to identify, monitor, evaluate, encourage, facilitate, etc. water service solutions that are in the public interest.
- The County does not have the authority to require the water systems in Mifflin County to implement the Recommended Water Supply Plan. The County can facilitate the implementations of the Plan through active involvement in the identification, evaluation and discussion of water service needs with existing water systems and PADEP through activities such as a water supply advisory committee, project-specific steering committees, interaction with regulators, education of elected and water system officials, and public education. Close coordination with land use planning is also encouraged.



PUBLIC SEWER SERVICE FACILITIES

Eleven municipalities provide public sewerage service to some portion of the properties in their communities. These 11 municipal systems direct their flows to one of eight wastewater treatment plants. At least 22 pump stations assist in moving flows toward the plants in non-gravity-driven locations.

Public sewer service areas have been significantly expanded over the past 10 years. These seven extensions have provided new service to nearly 800 homes. Locations have included:

- Oliver Township along US 522 (70 homes), 2011
- Back Maitland Road in Derry Township (220 homes),
 2011
- Newton Hamilton-Wayne Township area (460 homes), 2011
- Mifflin County Industrial Park, 2009 (both water and sewer line extensions)

- Jewel St. project in Granville Township (3 homes),
 2007
- Village of Lockport in Oliver Township, (23 homes),
 2006
- Granville Township along Routhe 103 (13 homes),
 2003

In addition to these municipal treatment/collection systems, there are also 10 non-municipal sewage treatment systems. These systems serve various school districts, industrial, and recreational facilities. None are planned for notable expansion and, therefore, are not further analyzed here.

Other properties utilize on-lot disposal systems for treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater. The types of on-lot systems vary and include in- ground systems, elevated sand mound systems, alternate and experimental systems, and holding tanks and privies, as well as wildcat systems not built to standards or with approvals. Soil suitability for on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) is very limited in the County. Over time, soil conditions limited the effectiveness of each system, resulting in failures or malfunctions that can threaten water



quality at the surface and below ground. Failures and malfunctions can be "solved" by installing a second system or connecting to a public sewer collection system. Both are costly alternatives.

Proper management of OLDS can extend the service life of the system. Regular pumping of the septic tank and inspection of the tank and drainage field enable the system to operate efficiently and owners to address minor problems before more costly rehabilitation or replacement is needed. Municipalities can require such management of OLDS in the interest of protecting public health. Where recommended, a municipal sewage facilities plan will outline the owner and municipal responsible.

Private wells

Private wells are common in rural areas of the county and especially in unserved townships (such as Decatur, Menno). The primary risks to the water supply in the county come from malfunctioning septic systems and agricultural runoff. Some rural wells have shown contamination from fecal coliform due to failing OLDS.



Municipal sewer service areas

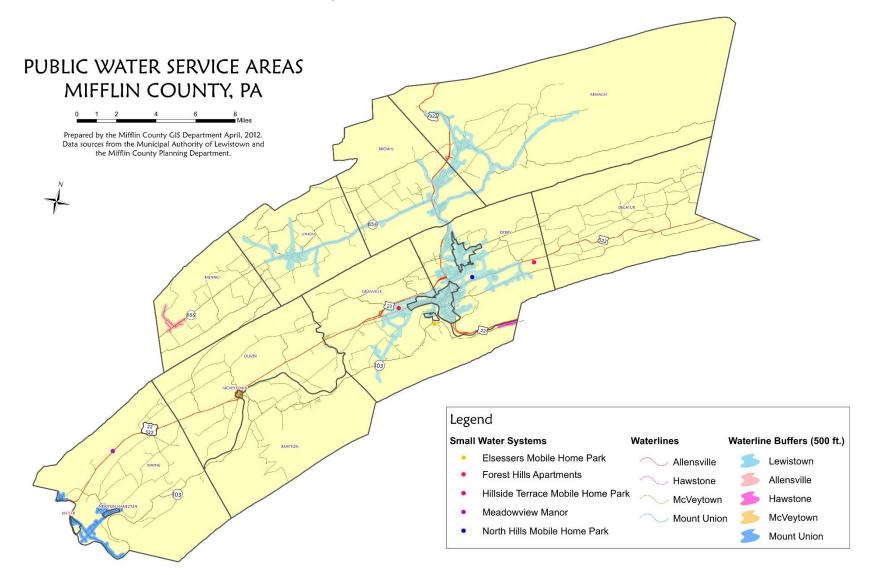
Table 12: Municipal Sewer Service Areas

Municipality	Treatment Provider	Capacity (GPD)	Notes
Armagh Township	Brown Township WWTP	600,000	935 residential, 61 business users
Brown Township	Own WWTP	600,000	Plans to expand to 900,000 GPD
Burnham Borough	Own WWTP	640,000	Serves Burnham + part of Derry Twp
Derry Township	Lewistown & Burnham WWTPs	N/A	2,279 residential, 78 non-residential
Decatur Township	No public sewer	N/A	OLDS only; management program in place
Granville Township	Junction & Strodes Mills SBR Plants	566,000 total	Serves Juniata Terrace, Strodes Mills
Lewistown Borough	Own WWTP	2.8 million	Serves Lewistown, Derry, part of Granville
McVeytown Borough	Own WWTP	85,000	Small system, planned upgrades
Union Township	Own WWTP	650,000	Uses reed beds for biosolids
Wayne Township	Own WWTP (to be decommissioned)	12,000	Scheduled for closure in 2009
Mount Union Borough	Serves Kistler & Wayne Twp (via Shirley)	1.1 million	7 pump stations, 461 EDU expansion

Source: Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan



Figure 24: Public Water Service Areas



Source: Mifflin County GIS



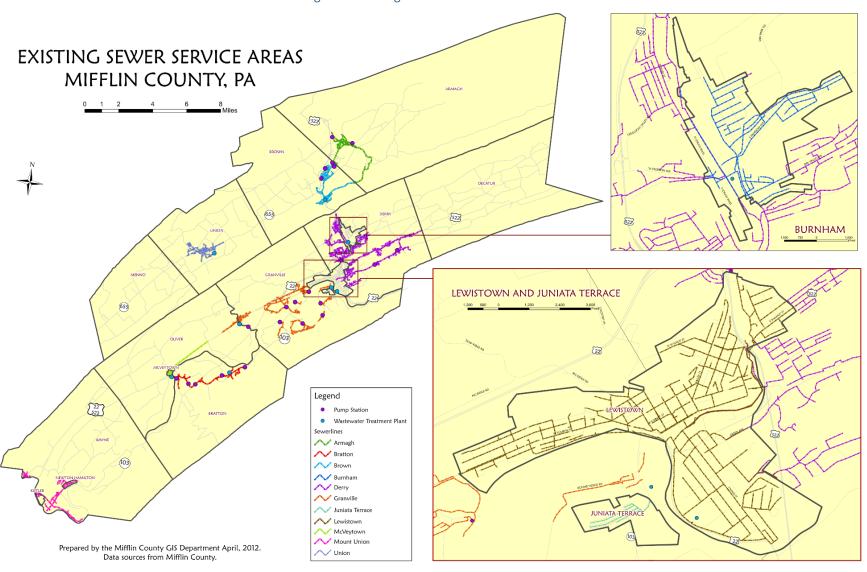


Figure 25: Existing Sewer Service Areas

Source: Mifflin County GIS



Treatment and compliance

In line with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, all major facilities in the county are either planning, implementing, or have already completed upgrades to meet nutrient reduction targets. These upgrades include biological nutrient removal, chemical phosphorus removal, and plant expansions.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

System characteristics

Mifflin County's stormwater system mainly consists of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), but older boroughs like Burnham and Lewistown have legacy combined systems. Several issues are affecting systems across the county. Over 40 stormwater problem areas and obstructions have been identified, including:

- Undersized culverts and bridges
- Streambank erosion

- Flood-prone roads and pump stations
- Inadequate conveyance in rural areas

PLANNING AND REGULATION

Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan (2010)

In 2010, Mifflin County adopted a county-wide Stormwater Management Plan under Pennsylvania's Act 167. The plan was designed to address all issues related to stormwater runoff, infiltration, and inflow. These issues specifically focused on the expected population growth based on projections at the time, which would lead to more development and increased impervious surfaces like roads, rooftops, and parking lots. The plan applies to the entirety of Mifflin County, including all watersheds within its boundaries. Its goal was to establish a regulatory framework for managing stormwater impacts across all municipalities in Mifflin County.



The plan aligns with earlier standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). By adhering to these standards, Mifflin County ensures that local rules meet or exceed state water quality requirements. A model ordinance was created to help municipalities adopt uniform regulations. All 16 municipalities within the county have adopted Act 167.

DESIGN STANDARDS

Mifflin County's stormwater management plan prioritizes protecting natural resources by establishing a set of design standards. These standards focus on low impact development (LID). This approach aims to mimic natural hydrology and minimize the environmental impact of new construction.

LID encourages developers to save vegetation, limit land disturbance, and include green infrastructure like rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements in all future developments. These practices help manage runoff, lower peak flows, and enhance water quality. The current model's ordinance supports LID by providing a Small Project Application process, making compliance easier for small developments while still requiring stormwater management controls.

To protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems, the plan requires riparian buffers of at least 50 feet from the edge of stream banks. Within these buffers, land disturbance is limited, and woodland clearing is discouraged unless done under a certified woodland management plan. For any new impervious surface larger than 5,000 square feet, developers must infiltrate 1 to 2 inches of runoff on-site. This requirement aims to reduce the stormwater volume entering the drainage system and support groundwater recharge. Infiltration can be achieved through systems like infiltration trenches or naturally by preserving open space and using vegetation.



MAINTENANCE

To ensure stormwater system performance meets current requirements, municipalities are encouraged by the county to conduct routine inspections and maintenance regularly. These inspections should ideally be done annually to evaluate the condition and functionality of each municipality's stormwater facilities. Municipalities are also encouraged to require maintenance agreements for privately owned systems and explore shared services for inspections and maintenance to ensure consistent enforcement throughout the county.

ON-LOT SEWAGE DISPOSAL (OLDS)

Many municipalities in Mifflin County have taken steps to manage and maintain OLDS due to their impact on public health and water quality. These efforts help ensure septic systems operate correctly, lower the risk of failure, and prolong the life of existing infrastructure. Three municipalities have established official programs.

County-wide usage and Challenges

Given the rural nature of Mifflin County, a significant portion of households rely on OLDS (37%). OLDS presents several management challenges, such as:

- High failure rates in marginal soils
- Lack of programs and/or enforcement in some townships
- Septic sprawl in rural subdivisions

Existing Recommendations

- 1. Implement countywide OLDS education and inspection programs.
- 2. Institute regional septage management facilities.
- 3. Require easements for areas needing replacement.



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