

## CHAPTER 14

# Community Facilities Plan

*The Future Land Use Chapter (Chapter 8) illustrates proposed land use categories throughout the county. This chapter is intended to provide recommendations to support such land use activities through recreation, utilities, police, fire protection, and solid waste collection.*

### **Introduction**

In order to effectively coordinate these activities it is critical to identify the agencies responsible for providing the services. Generally, the implementation of community services is handled at the local level. Responsibilities for various services are listed below:

*Parks and Recreation* – Facilities and programs can be provided by many entities including developers, local government, county state, and federal governments.

*Education* – The school system is the responsibility of the local school districts, which are assigned this task by state law.

*Sewer and Water Services* – The implementation for sewer and water services is the responsibility of the municipal authorities, water companies, and developers, subject to approval by the state.

*Emergency Response and Protective Services* – The County coordinates emergency response through administration of the public emergency response communications network. The County also provides emergency personnel training. The direct implementations of police, fire, and ambulance services is a primary role of local municipalities and organizations. Pennsylvania State Police provide service for municipalities lacking a local police department.

*Solid Waste Management* – County government is designated to prepare a plan for the disposal of municipal waste, as well as, direct the flow of waste to designated disposal sites. The responsibility for the collection and transportation of municipal waste and recyclables is delegated to local municipalities.

*Stormwater Management* – Counties are required to prepare a stormwater management plan for each designated watershed in their jurisdiction. Municipalities are responsible for adopting and enforcing stormwater ordinances consistent with prepared plans.

*General Utilities (Gas, Electric, Telephone)* – Provided by private companies under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

The role of Cumberland County in community facilities and services consists primarily of planning, advisory, and coordination. The County's planning responsibilities in solid waste management and stormwater management are required by state legislation. In all cases, though, actual implementation by ordinance or contract is handled at the local level.

The County does play a major role in the provision of human services type programs and facilities. These types of services though, are not traditionally included in the scope of a county comprehensive plan.

## **Parks, Recreation, Greenways and Open Space Preservation**

### *Standards for Active Parkland*

Over the past 30 years, it has been the accepted practice within the park and recreation profession to adopt a uniform land standard for active parkland. Such standards are often expressed as acres of parkland necessary for every thousand people. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the prevailing standard for active parkland is 10 acres of parkland for every one thousand people.<sup>1</sup> Parkland standards provide a goal for communities to strive for and provide a means to compare municipalities across the county. These standards may not apply equally in every community, but rather provide a uniform basis for comparison.

The park and recreation facilities of each Cumberland County municipality were analyzed to determine if adequate parkland is currently being provided. Game lands, state forests and other natural areas were not included in the analysis because they do not represent active parkland. Utilizing 2000 population data, the prevailing standard of 10 acres of active parkland per thousand people was applied to each municipality (Table 14.1). This data was then compared to existing parkland acreages. As such, it was determined that only 6 of the 33 municipalities in the County reach or exceed the minimum acreage for parkland. The following municipalities met or exceeded the standard: Camp Hill Borough, Lower Allen Township, Middlesex Township, Mt. Holly Springs Borough, Silver Spring Township and South Middleton Township. Conversely stated, over 89% of all Cumberland County municipalities were determined to have insufficient acres of park facilities for the existing population. In total, over 300 acres of additional active parkland would be required throughout the deficient municipalities to meet the minimum standard.

To predict future park and recreation needs, the above standard was applied to each municipality utilizing 2010 and 2020 population projections (Table 14.1). This data was then compared with existing park acreages. If no additional parkland facilities are acquired by 2010, only 4 municipalities in the County will meet minimum standards for parkland acreage. In total, nearly 700 additional acres of parkland will be necessary across the County to accommodate the growing population by 2010, and by 2020 991.97 acres will be needed. Given the rapid pace of development and the escalating cost of land it is essential that local municipalities begin planning for the park and recreation needs of the community immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> Mertes, James D. and James R. Hall (1995). *Park, Recreation and Open Space Guidelines*. National Recreation and Park Service.

TABLE 14.1

ACREAGE STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE PARKLAND, CUMBERLAND COUNTY – 2000 to 2020

Municipality	2000 Population	2000 Acreage	2000 Recommended Acreage	2000 Additional Acreage Required	2010 Population Projection	2010 Recommended Acreage	2010 Additional Acreage Required	2020 Population Projection	2020 Recommended Acreage	2020 Additional Acreage Required
CAMP HILL BOROUGH	7,636	104.00	76.36	*	7,904	79.04	*	8,049	80.49	*
CARLISLE BOROUGH	17,970	148.00	179.70	31.70	19,675	196.75	48.75	20,598	205.98	57.98
COOKE TOWNSHIP	117	-	1.17	1.17	166	1.66	1.66	192	1.92	1.92
DICKINSON TOWNSHIP	4,702	20.00	47.02	27.02	5,827	58.27	38.27	6,436	64.36	44.36
EAST PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP	18,254	157.00	182.54	25.54	21,485	214.85	57.85	23,234	232.34	75.34
HAMPDEN TOWNSHIP	24,135	226.00	241.35	15.35	29,940	299.40	73.40	33,082	330.82	104.82
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP	2,096	-	20.96	20.96	2,576	25.76	25.76	2,836	28.36	28.36
LEMOYNE BOROUGH	3,995	35.00	39.95	4.95	4,279	42.79	7.79	4,432	44.32	9.32
LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP	17,437	187.20	174.37	*	19,851	198.51	11.31	21,158	211.58	24.38
LOWER FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP	1,823	-	18.23	18.23	2,227	22.27	22.27	2,446	24.46	24.46
LOWER MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP	1,620	-	16.20	16.20	1,936	19.36	19.36	2,107	21.07	21.07
MECHANICSBURG BOROUGH	9,042	61.00	90.42	29.42	9,769	97.69	36.69	10,163	101.63	40.63
MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP	6,669	128.00	66.69	*	8,039	80.39	*	8,781	87.81	*
MONROE TOWNSHIP	5,530	38.00	55.30	17.30	6,449	64.49	26.49	6,946	69.46	31.46
MT HOLLY SPRINGS BOROUGH	1,925	36.00	19.25	*	2,165	21.65	*	2,295	22.95	*
NEWBURG BOROUGH	372	-	3.72	3.72	426	4.26	4.26	455	4.55	4.55
NEW CUMBERLAND BOROUGH	7,349	33.50	73.49	39.99	7,603	76.03	42.53	7,740	77.40	43.90
NEWVILLE BOROUGH	1,367	2.00	13.67	11.67	1,475	14.75	12.75	1,533	15.33	13.33
NORTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP	10,197	40.00	101.97	61.97	11,815	118.15	78.15	12,690	126.90	86.90
NORTH NEWTON TOWNSHIP	2,169	-	21.69	21.69	2,625	26.25	26.25	2,871	28.71	28.71
PENN TOWNSHIP	2,807	-	28.07	28.07	3,416	34.16	34.16	3,746	37.46	37.46
SHIPPENSBURG BOROUGH	4,467	40.00	44.67	4.67	4,960	49.60	9.60	5,227	52.27	12.27
SHIPPENSBURG TOWNSHIP	4,504	23.00	45.04	22.04	5,129	51.29	28.29	5,468	54.68	31.68
SHIREMANSTOWN BOROUGH	1,521	3.00	15.21	12.21	1,603	16.03	13.03	1,647	16.47	13.47
SILVER SPRING TOWNSHIP	10,592	193.00	105.92	*	13,204	132.04	*	14,618	146.18	*
SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP	4,787	40.00	47.87	7.87	6,069	60.69	20.69	6,763	67.63	27.63
SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP	12,939	154.33	129.39	*	15,769	157.69	3.36	17,300	173.00	18.67
SOUTH NEWTON TOWNSHIP	1,290	-	12.90	12.90	1,901	19.01	19.01	2,232	22.32	22.32
UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP	15,338	116.32	153.38	37.06	18,628	186.28	69.96	20,409	204.09	87.77
UPPER FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP	1,807	-	18.07	18.07	2,182	21.82	21.82	2,385	23.85	23.85
UPPER MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP	1,347	-	13.47	13.47	1,675	16.75	16.75	1,852	18.52	18.52
WEST PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP	5,263	16.00	52.63	36.63	6,311	63.11	47.11	6,878	68.78	52.78
WORMLEYSBURG BOROUGH	2,607	24.00	26.07	2.07	2,735	27.35	3.35	2,804	28.04	4.04
	<b>213,674</b>	<b>1,825.35</b>	<b>2,136.74</b>	<b>311.39</b>	<b>249,813</b>	<b>2,498.13</b>	<b>672.78</b>	<b>269,375</b>	<b>2,693.75</b>	<b>991.97</b>

Sources:

- (1) 2000 US Bureau of Census
- (2) TCRPC Municipal Recreation Survey. 2002
- (3)(6) Utilizing standard 10 Acres/1,000 Population (1995 National Park & Recreation Association: *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, p.59)
- (4)(7) Recommended Acreage - 2000 Acreage = Acreage Needed
- (5) Population Projections prepared by TCRPC. 2002.

## *Greenway Planning - 2000 Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study*

In 2000, Cumberland County completed a Countywide Greenway Study. The purpose of the Greenway Study was to examine ways in which Cumberland County can create greenways and provide a framework for the establishment of greenways through a collaborative effort of public-private partnerships.<sup>2</sup> The 2000 Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study shall be considered a functional component of this County Comprehensive Plan. A full copy of the Study can be obtained from the Cumberland County Planning Commission or online at [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net).

The Greenway Study has four major components. The first component was a public participation process; which included four elements: a task force, countywide public opinion survey, key person interviews and public forums. The public opinion survey indicated that the overwhelming majority of respondents supported greenway initiatives:

- 91% supported greenways.
- 81% answered that it is important to have greenways throughout the County.
- 66.5% thought greenways were so important that County funds should be used for greenways.

Phase two of the 2000 Cumberland County Countywide Greenway Study included a comprehensive inventory and analysis of existing natural and manmade resources. These resources provide a framework for a countywide greenway network. The third phase of the study involved identification of the greenway corridors. Corridors were designed to align with the resources and link community destinations together. Eight regional greenway corridors were identified in the study (Table 14.2):

- Conodoguinet Creek Greenway
- Yellow Breeches Creek Greenway
- Cumberland Valley Trail Greenway
- Appalachian Trail Greenway
- Big Spring Creek/Doubling Gap Creek Greenway
- Letort Spring Run/Mountain Creek/Hiker-Biker Trail Greenway
- Trindle Spring Run/Trolley Line Greenway
- Susquehanna River Greenway

The final phase of the Greenway Study included an action plan. The Cumberland Countywide Greenway Action Plan outlined the following six recommendations:

- Establish an effective greenway planning system
- Organize a management system for greenways
- Create partnerships for greenway development
- Establish a funding program to support greenways
- Develop a public education program about greenways
- Develop a pilot greenway project

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<sup>2</sup> Prepared by RETTEW Associates, YSM and Toole Recreation Planning for the Cumberland County Planning Commission (2000). *Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study*.

**TABLE 14.2  
REGIONAL GREENWAY CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION**

<b>Regional Greenway</b>	<b>Approximate Length (mi.)</b>	<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Key Features</b>	<b>Other Planning/Development Initiatives</b>
<b>Conodoguinet Creek</b>				
Laughlin Run to Carlisle	25.26	Hopewell, Upper Frankford, North Newton, Lower Frankford, West Pennsboro, Upper Mifflin, Lower Mifflin, North Middleton	State Game Lands 169, Doubling Gap, Opossum Lake	
Carlisle to Trindle Spring Run	3.54	North Middleton, Middlesex	North Middleton Park, Cave Hill Nature Center	Middle Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Study
Trindle Spring Run to Susquehanna River	24.87	Middlesex, Silver Spring, Hampden, East Pennsboro, Camp Hill, Wormleysburg	Carlisle County Club, Silver Spring Golf Course, Cumberland Perry Vo-Tech, Armitage Golf Club, Adams Ricci Park	
<b>Yellow Breeches Creek</b>				
Michaux State Forest to Mountain Creek	13.86	South Newton, Penn, Dickinson, South Middleton	Michaux State Forest, Huntsdale Fish Hatchery, Kings Gap Environmental Center	
Mountain Creek to Trolley Line	7.82	South Middleton, Monroe	South Middleton Twp. Park, Wittlinger Preserve, Children's Lake	
Trolley Line to Camp Hill Correction Facility	12.59	Monroe, Upper Allen, Lower Allen	Messiah College, Lower Allen Community Park	
Camp Hill Correction Facility to Susquehanna River	4.41	Lower Allen, New Cumberland	New Cumberland Borough Park	
<b>Cumberland Valley Trail</b>				
Shippensburg to Newville	7.56	Shippensburg Boro., Shippensburg Twp., Southampton, North Newton, Newville	Shippensburg Twp. Park, Shippensburg University, Newville Community Center	Cumberland Valley Trail Master Plan
Newville to Carlisle	8.56	Newville, West Pennsboro, Carlisle	Big Spring High School, Big Spring Middle School	

**TABLE 14.2 (Cont.)  
REGIONAL GREENWAY CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION**

<b>Appalachian Trail</b>				
Michaux State Forest to Yellow Breeches	22.31	Southampton, South Newton, Cooke, South Middleton, Monroe	Michaux State Forest, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, State Game Lands 305, Children's Lake	
Yellow Breeches to Conodoguinet Creek	6.56	Monroe, South Middleton, Middlesex, Silver Spring		
Conodoguinet Creek to County border	3.16	Middlesex, Silver Spring	Darlington Trail, Tuscarora State Forest	
<b>Big Spring Creek/Doubling Gap Creek</b>				
Big Spring Creek	3.36	North Newton, West Pennsboro, Newville, West Pennsboro	Oak Flat Elementary, Big Spring Culture Station	
Doubling Gap Creek	5.11	Lower Mifflin	Colonel Denning State Park, Tuscarora State Forest	
<b>Letort Spring Run/Mountain Creek/Biker-Hiker Trail</b>				
Conodoguinet Creek to Yellow Breeches	6.04	Middlesex, Carlisle, South Middleton	US Army War College, Letort Park, Letort Elementary, Letort Spring Run Nature Trail	Letort Spring Run Watershed Study
Yellow Breeches to Pine Grove Furnace	9.09	South Middleton, Mt. Holly Springs, Dickinson, Cooke	Holly Gap Preserve, Biker-Hiker Trail, Pine Grove Furnace State Park	
<b>Trindle Spring Run/Trolley Line</b>				
Trindle Spring Run	2.83	Mechanicsburg, Silver Spring, Hampden	Mechanicsburg Memorial Park	
Trolley Line	3.58	Monroe, Mechanicsburg		
<b>Susquehanna River</b>				
Susquehanna River	6.61	East Pennsboro, Wormleysburg, New Cumberland	River Front Park	
<b>SOURCE:</b> Prepared by RETTEW Associates, YSM and Toole Recreation Planning for the Cumberland County Planning Commission (2000). <i>Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study.</i>				

## *Pilot Greenway Project – Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail*

One recommendation of the Greenway Study was to develop a County sponsored pilot greenway project. A successful pilot project can serve to demonstrate the benefits of greenways as well as lead to the development of more greenways, both land and water based. With the guidance of the Cumberland County Open Space Preservation Steering Committee, the Cumberland County Planning Commission initiated the development of a water trail on the Conodoguinet Creek as the County's first greenway project.

Water trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft. Like conventional land trails, water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of access points, boat launches and day use sites. Water trail guides show "trailheads" (boat launch and take-out points) and provide background about the scenic, historic and geologic points of interest along the way.

The goal of the Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail is to highlight existing public recreation facilities and to encourage stewardship and recreation of the Conodoguinet Creek. Water trails offer opportunities to boat, fish, watch wildlife and explore the natural creek community.

The Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail will utilize existing public recreation facilities as access points to the creek. Examples of potential trailheads include: North Middleton Park in North Middleton Township, the Fry Tract in Silver Spring Township and Acri Meadows Park in East Pennsboro Township. Each of these sites is municipally owned and operated and currently permits residents to launch a canoe or kayak. The County does not plan to purchase land or construct new facilities to develop the water trail.

The Conodoguinet Creek has been officially designated "navigable" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This status further defines the ownership of the water and land along the water course. Given this designation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania maintains ownership of the water and stream bank to the low water mark, thus allowing public use.

The final products of the water trail will include trailhead signs and trail maps. Funding to develop and purchase trail maps and signs has been obtained by the County through a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The total cost to complete the project is estimated to be approximately \$15,000-\$20,000.

While the pilot project is being initiated by the Cumberland County Planning Commission, the water trail will be a cooperative effort on the part of state, county and local government. The PA Fish and Boat Commission will provide technical assistance and expertise throughout the project. Municipal support and cooperation at each trailhead will be essential to the success of the project. The goal is to have the local municipalities install and maintain the trail head signs in their respective parks. In return, residents of each community will benefit from the many opportunities the water trail will provide. The project is expected to be complete by Spring 2004.

## *Open Space Preservation Planning*

The 2000 Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study determined that the emphasis on greenway planning may be too narrow to meet the ultimate needs of Cumberland County. The findings indicated that the larger issue of open space planning should be addressed at the County level. Accordingly, in 2002, the Cumberland County Planning Commission initiated the development of a countywide open space plan.

Cumberland County is fortunate to have many unique natural and cultural resources. Preserving them, however, is a major challenge. Already some special places have been lost or severely altered, and if action is not taken soon, others may too succumb to the pressures of development. These local treasures should be protected, but before this can happen, they need to be identified and evaluated in a way that helps the County and its municipalities to plan for their preservation.

The foundation for development of the Cumberland County Open Space Preservation Plan will be public participation. A 23 member steering committee has been formed which includes planning commission members, community leaders and the general public. The committee will provide input from the community and serve as a sounding board during the planning process. In addition, numerous public forums and a community survey will be conducted to obtain additional input.

The Cumberland County Open Space Preservation Plan will address preservation of open space, protection of natural resources, farmland protection and development of a comprehensive greenway network. An inventory of natural and manmade resources will be completed to supplement to the County's existing GIS information. The Plan will examine the current status of open space in the County and develop strategies for long-term open space preservation through various means including land acquisition, partnerships and non-acquisition land preservation techniques such as conservation subdivisions. Financing, a potential bond issue, operation and management of open space will also be studied. The final product of this Open Space Plan will include a formal document with recommendations and implementation steps for the County and municipalities. When the plan is completed, the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan will be updated to reflect the recommendations of the Open Space Preservation Plan.

## **Sewage Services**

Local governments are required by the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act to adopt a plan for sewage services (on-lot management districts and public sewage service districts) for areas within their jurisdiction. These plans must comply with the Act and implement the rules and regulations of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It is strongly recommended that all local governments in the County comply with this requirement, conduct appropriate updates, and coordinate regionalized sewage service planning with adjacent municipalities where needed.

The Cumberland County Official Sewerage Plan was prepared in 1969, and last updated in 1995. A current plan is necessary for the County Planning Commission to provide effective review and comment on sewage modules for land development. This review and comment activity is required input, intended to assist local governments and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in their sewerage plan implementation decision-making process.

## Water Supply Services

The Goals and Objectives chapter of this Plan indicates priorities for community facilities and services. Water issues ranked very high in the list of priorities. The top countywide priority concerning community facilities is determining water supply needs generated by development. Also ranking high is allocation of water resources, sharing of utility services between municipalities, and updating the County's Water Supply Plan.

During the last 30 years the County has experienced an enormous amount of development activity and there has been a continuing concern with water supply. Initially, the concern was mostly water quality. As development intensified though, water quantity has become just as important an issue. Development has placed a burden on the major surface water supplies of the Conodoguinet and Yellow Breeches creeks. During periods of low rainfall, water levels in these streams have dropped severely.

Cumberland County has long recognized the importance of its water resources and has prepared several water supply studies for planning purposes. The data and conclusions of these studies are part of this Comprehensive Plan and are to be considered when determining planning policies. Cumberland County adopted a Water Supply Plan in 1969. That Plan evaluated the major public water suppliers and projected water needs through 1990. In 1992, a Regional Water Supply Study was completed for the Harrisburg Metropolitan area. The study area included all of Cumberland County and portions of Lebanon, Dauphin, York, Perry, and Franklin counties. The Study was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

The purpose of the 1992 Regional Water Supply Study was to determine how well the Harrisburg Metropolitan Area will be able to meet its water supply needs through the year 2030. Water demands were projected for the six major suppliers in Cumberland County. The study identified potential problems and alternative methods for meeting projected demand. The six water suppliers that were evaluated included:

1. Carlisle Borough
2. Carlisle Suburban
3. Mechanicsburg
4. Riverton (PA American)
5. Shippensburg
6. South Middleton

The Regional Water Supply Study provided the following observations:

1. The major water suppliers in the region should be able to meet future water needs through 2030 using local water sources.
2. The major water systems have anticipated growth and have made plans to expand their systems to meet demand.
3. Small systems (fewer than 1,000 connections) are likely to be impacted by new EPA water quality standards.
4. Recommend a more detailed assessment of the effect of EPA's requirements on small systems in the region. In particular, the small systems in the Shippensburg Area need further investigation because of its anticipated population growth.

As a result of the Regional Water Supply study, Cumberland County initiated two studies to evaluate the needs of the County's small water systems. The first study, completed in 1997, analyzed the Shippensburg Area, including several small water systems in Franklin County. The second study, completed in 2000, evaluated the rest of the small systems in Cumberland County. The purpose of the studies was to identify and evaluate alternatives to meet present and future water supply needs of small systems. This also included determining the feasibility of regionalizing the many small systems. Each study evaluated the projected water demand through year 2040.

The Shippensburg Area Regionalization Study provided the following conclusions:

1. Regionalization is the best long-term solution to water needs of the Shippensburg Area.
2. Small systems utilizing ground water suppliers should be tested for surface water infiltration and contamination.
3. Certain mobile home park systems were identified as best candidates to regionalize with neighboring systems.
4. Consider use of Letterkenney Army Depot reservoir by Shippensburg Water Authority.

The second study, which evaluated the rest of the small systems in Cumberland County, examined 22 small water systems. The following conclusions were provided:

1. Several systems were identified as having a potential for inadequate water supply due to the lack of a back-up supply source.
2. Many wells in the study area were found to be in close proximity to possible sources of contamination.
3. Most systems do not have water conservation programs. Recommend conservation programs be implemented to improve systems efficiency.
4. Certain systems were identified as best candidates to regionalize.

Although the above studies have begun to address the County's water supply needs, additional efforts are needed for Cumberland County to properly manage its water resources. A priority is to update the County's Water Supply Plan, which should include and assessment of groundwater capacities and development of a countywide aquifer map.

## **Emergency Response and Protective Services**

The primary role of the County in emergency services activities is emergency personnel training and administering the public emergency response communication network. These functions are carried out by the County Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP). The office functions 24 hours a day and coordinates with local police, fire, and ambulance agencies. The mission of the Cumberland County Office of Emergency Preparedness is:

1. To reduce vulnerability of the population and property to injury and loss.
2. To provide prompt and effective response by alerting and coordinating public safety services.
3. To provide for rapid and orderly restoration and recovery following disasters.
4. To effectively educate the public regarding their responsibilities in responding to disasters.

## *Education and Training*

The OEP develops and administers training and education programs for county and municipal staff, elected officials, and emergency agencies. This training is provided through established committees and teams, which are described below:

*Special Hazards Operations Teams* – This is a State certified hazardous materials response service. It ensures that adequately trained personnel and technical equipment are available to respond to emergencies involving hazardous materials. The Special Hazards Operations Team provides response coverage for Cumberland, Perry, Franklin, Fulton Counties.

*Mass Casualty Incident Response Team* – This service provides technical assistance and guidance to control a mass casualty incident. Involvement may include treatment, transportation and communications. The office of Emergency Preparedness is responsible for training the team members as well as management of the team.

*Joint Fire / Rescue Training Committee* – The purpose of this committee is to conduct courses of instruction in emergency services for the certification of emergency services personnel. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Cumberland County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and Fire Chiefs Association. Staff from OEP heads the committee.

In addition to the training offered through the committees listed above, the OEP also serves as a contact for training offered by Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and other State and Federal agencies. The OEP also offers a course for elementary school students that teach procedures for reporting 9-1-1 and other emergency incidents.

## *9-1-1 Communications Center*

The mission of the Communications Center is to respond to 9-1-1 calls promptly by alerting public safety providers and coordinating their response. In order to accomplish this mission, the Center's goal is to utilize applied technology to maintain an efficient 9-1-1 communication system. The Communication Center utilizes an enhanced 9-1-1 system and has updated its radio system to the 800mhz public safety communication system. The Center also uses an integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) and Computer Aided Dispatched System (CAD).

A mobile Communications Unit is available to provide additional service to County residents. Its primary purpose is to provide a backup site for Cumberland County 9-1-1 service in the event that the primary 9-1-1 Communication Center is evacuated or becomes inoperable. A secondary function of the unit is to provide field support at the scene of emergencies. The Communications Center dispatches calls for all police, fire and emergency medical services within Cumberland County, except the Pennsylvania State Police and Carlisle Borough Police. The Center is located in the Office of Emergency Preparedness and operates 24 hours a day.

## **Solid Waste Management**

The Solid Waste Authority of Cumberland County (Authority) is tasked to carry out County waste management functions, including developing the County Municipal Waste Management Plan (Plan) in accordance with The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, Act 101. Cumberland County adopted the Plan in June of 1991.

The Authority developed Plan's goal/strategies provided for the long-term (10 year) disposal capacity of Cumberland County generated waste in the most environmentally sound methods and as economical as possible; and to develop recycling initiatives to reach an overall County recycling rate of 25%. Additionally, the Plan is viewed as a dynamic and evolving document to further meet the requirements of the County and its residents. Accordingly, and in reaction to market dynamics and case law, the Authority developed a major revision to the County Municipal Waste Management Plan in February of 1997. This major change again provided for an additional long-term (10 Years) disposal capacity of Cumberland County generated waste and encouraged competition for waste disposal. The revision also allowed the Authority and County to develop waste reduction programs, develop and improve recycling programs and initiatives and enhance waste management assistance to municipalities.

Several minor changes have occurred since the major revision. The Authority's short and long range mission and goal regarding waste disposal is to continually evaluate the County's waste disposal requirements, waste disposal options and market dynamics and then change the Plan when necessary to provide for the long-term disposal capacity (10 years) in the most environmentally sound and economical methods available.

In addition to ensuring waste disposal capacity, the Authority has a goal of reaching a 35% County-wide overall recycling rate by 2004. Through both state requirements and Authority encouragement and assistance, 18 municipalities, representing approximately 80% of the population, now provide curbside recycling and waste collection to residents. Additionally, the Authority financially supports two one-day a month recycling drop-off events that are organized and run by two volunteer organizations located in the western part of the County. These events are the only recycling options for recycling opportunities in the western part of the County and are available to all County residents.

With a current overall recycling rate of approximately 25% and a goal of achieving a 35% recycling rate by 2004, the Authority has concluded that several initiatives and/or the expansion of existing programs are required. Foremost is to provide for convenient and accessible recycling options for residents and businesses in the Western half of the County. To provide for this, the Authority has begun initial planning to develop a permanent manned recycling drop-off facility and have it operational within five years. Education is also a key element in reducing waste generation and increasing recycling. The Authority's existing educational programs for schools will be expanded.

Although the County's population will increase over the next 10 years, the Authority does not foresee requirements from the state for any additional municipalities to implement curbside recycling programs. The Authority, however, will continue to encourage municipalities without curbside trash and recycling programs to voluntarily develop programs with Authority assistance.

The Solid Waste Authority has also developed other programs to encourage residential recycling and waste reduction to prevent illegal dumping, as well as programs to divert hazardous and potentially hazardous material from waste disposal facilities. These programs include a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off program, a backyard composting program, a tire and appliance drop-off program and a computer and electronic drop-off program. The Authority's goal is to continue these programs, expand into other areas as demand/requirements arise and if possible incorporate some of these events/programs in the fully developed permanent manned drop-off recycling facility.

## **Stormwater Management Facilities**

The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167) requires counties to prepare a stormwater management plan for each designated watershed in their jurisdiction. The watersheds are designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection, which is responsible for administering the Act. In Cumberland County, the Planning Commission is the agency responsible for developing these watershed stormwater plans. The goal is to have municipalities adopt regulations consistent with the plan in order to coordinate stormwater management on a watershed basis. In some cases, watersheds cross county boundaries and require multi-county coordination to develop a watershed plan.

In Cumberland County there are nine major watersheds that have been designated:

1. Middle Spring Creek
2. Conodoguinet Creek
3. Upper Yellow Breeches Creek
4. Lower Yellow Breeches Creek
5. Mountain Creek
6. Letort Spring Run
7. Hogestown Run/Trundle Spring Run
8. Cedar Run
9. Susquehanna River

Four of the nine watersheds listed above cross county boundaries and require coordination with adjacent counties. These watersheds are:

1. Middle Spring Creek
2. Conodoguinet Creek
3. Lower Yellow Breeches Creek
4. Susquehanna River

In addition to the nine major watersheds, Cumberland County also contains small areas of two other watersheds:

1. Conewago Creek
2. Conococheaque Creek

Cumberland County has completed three stormwater studies of the nine major watersheds in the County. These studies include:

1. Hogestown/Trindle Spring Run – 1994
2. Cedar Run – 2000
3. Upper Yellow Breeches Creek – 2001

Once the County adopts the plan and it is approved by the State, the Act requires governing bodies to adopt stormwater regulations consistent with the standards of the plan. Act 167 also mandates a time frame for adoption by municipalities. These stormwater regulations can be incorporated into existing municipal ordinances or adopted as a separate stormwater management ordinance.

## **Recommendations**

### *Parks, Recreation, Greenways and Open Space*

1. Encourage municipalities to develop and adopt a Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan in order to evaluate and plan for the park, recreation and open space needs of the community. Inter-municipal plans are strongly encouraged.
2. Promote the development and adoption of municipal standards for parkland acreage.
3. Support municipalities' efforts to develop and adopt long-term strategic plans to acquire additional acreage of parkland, greenways and open space.
4. Develop a feasibility study to determine if a need exists for a County level park and recreation department. The Cumberland County Planning Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct the feasibility study.
5. Maintain and enhance the two existing County recreation facilities. The County shall promote these facilities and prepare educational materials and trail guides/maps for each site.
6. Implement the six recommendations contained in the 2000 Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study.
7. Support and encourage the preservation and enhancement of the eight regional greenways, as identified in the 2000 Cumberland Countywide Greenway Study and displayed on the Future Land Use Map by encouraging municipalities to develop and adopt ordinances to facilitate preservation and/or enhancement of these greenways.
8. Develop and implement two multi-municipal pilot greenway projects, one water based and one land based, to demonstrate the benefits of greenways and to serve as a model for other municipalities.
9. Complete and adopt the Open Space Preservation Plan by summer 2004. The plan shall include a thorough investigation of a bond issue as a means to finance open space preservation. When complete, this Comprehensive Plan shall be updated to reflect the recommendations and action steps of the plan.
10. Promote the goals and 12 implementation strategies outlined in the "Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections". The County shall encourage and support local greenway projects in order to achieve the statewide goal of a greenway in every community by 2020.

11. Support, coordinate and promote regional greenway initiatives. The County shall maintain active representation on regional greenway advisory committees and provide information and assistance to such organizations as requested.
12. Provide support, technical assistance and outreach to local municipalities, environmental organizations and the general public on park, recreation, greenway and open space planning via workshops, educational materials, outreach meetings, public meetings, etc.

### *Sewage Services*

1. Encourage all municipalities to adopt a sewage facilities plan in accordance with the Pa. Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537).
2. Promote regionalized sewage service planning between adjacent municipalities where appropriate.

### *Water Supply Services*

1. Update the County's Water Supply Plan including assessing groundwater quantity and quality and develop an aquifer map of the County.
2. Address current and future impacts of private wells on groundwater supply the Water Supply Plan.
3. Incorporate provisions into local ordinances requiring developers to determine water needs generated by the development.
4. Encourage adoption of wellhead protection provisions by municipalities.
5. Maintain coordination with watershed organizations including the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Yellow Breeches, Conodoguinet, and Big Spring Watershed Associations, Trout Unlimited, and Letort Spring Run Regional Authority.
6. Encourage a coordinated water supply system including interconnections where possible to improve efficiency.

### *Emergency Response and Protection Services*

1. Encourage the consolidation of the local police departments, fire companies, and emergency medical services on a multi-municipal basis.
2. Contact between neighboring municipalities to provide services, and agreements between municipalities for mutual response assistance.
3. Coordinate with neighboring counties to provide and/or assist with emergency services.

4. Establish local service organizations to provide or support emergency services.
5. Continue to provide quality educational programs to municipal, county elected officials, and public service organizations.
6. Maintain the operation of a countywide 800mhz public safety communication system.
7. Maintain the operation of an integrated county Geographic Information System (GIS) and Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD).
8. Develop a Hazards Mitigation Plan for Cumberland County and appoint a Hazards Mitigation Officer.

### *Solid Waste Management*

1. Achieve a 35% recycling rate by 2004.
2. Develop a permanent manned recycling drop-off facility and have it operational by 2006.
3. Continue and expand the Authority's existing educational programs.
4. Encourage municipalities without curbside trash and recycling programs to voluntarily develop programs.
5. Continue the Authority's existing programs and expand these programs as demands arise.

### *Stormwater Management*

1. Develop priority ranking of major watersheds for stormwater management plan development.
2. Complete stormwater management plans for all designated watersheds in Cumberland County.
3. Review adopted plans every five years for necessary updates.
4. Cooperatively work with adjacent counties in the preparation of plans for shared watersheds.
5. Strongly encourage municipalities to adopt stormwater management provisions that are consistent with adopted watershed plans.