

THE
PLAN
**STRATEGY
LABS**

FUTURELV
FUTURE LIMPOH VALLEY

Who is the LVPC?

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission was formed by Lehigh and Northampton counties in 1961 to create a comprehensive plan to **guide orderly growth** in Lehigh and Northampton counties. Since our creation we have been dedicated to providing the best planning possible to the counties and 62 municipalities in the Lehigh Valley. We maintain a professional staff that is able to provide a wide variety of planning services to municipalities in the region.

The purpose of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is to **promote the health, safety and general welfare** of the Lehigh Valley region in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.



COMMUNITY
ECONOMY
INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBDIVISION
PEOPLE + PLACES
TRANSPORTATION
RESOURCES
HIGHWAYS + BRIDGES
ORDINANCES + PLANS
RESEARCH + ANALYSIS
WATER
SEWER
UTILITIES
CARTOGRAPHY
PEDESTRIANS
ENVIRONMENT
PROJECTIONS
HOUSING
PARKS + RECREATION
CULTURE
FARMLAND PRESERVATION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION



What is a Comprehensive Plan?



A Regional Comprehensive Plan...

- is the official and legal strategy guiding the growth, development, redevelopment and preservation of the assets of the Lehigh Valley.
- consolidates all the information we already know about our community into one simple, organized, easy-to-read toolkit.
- articulates community goals and aspirations for the years ahead, based on an understanding of current, on-the-ground conditions and accurate projections and trends.
- demands strong community involvement and citizen participation during the creation process, and, once complete, it encourages further engagement to bring all of its various actions and directives into play.
- informs future decision making on how we shape the land, including changes in existing laws on zoning, land development, subdivision, or other key laws that help determine how our communities will change and grow.
- brings all 62 municipalities, private and non-profit sectors, and the public together to recognize shared objectives and collaborate on implementation.
- is a playbook for the region, guiding official decisions, research, reports and funding.

A Regional Comprehensive Plan is Not...

- the same as zoning or subdivision. It is not an actual code that establishes what is or isn't legal in how we use or develop the land.
- so dense and complicated that it requires a law degree to read and understand.
- a text-only document. Or, at the very least, a good comprehensive plan is not text only! It should also include maps, charts, graphs, tables, graphics and infographics and be accessible on as many platforms as possible.
- an end in itself. It should be MUCH more than a summary of what the region has achieved. In some ways, it's the launch pad for where we would like to go and how we expect to measure our success at getting there.

Public Health is ...

- the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases for populations as small as a local neighborhood or as big as an entire country or region of the world. (CDC Foundation)
- the safeguarding and improvement of the physical, mental, and social well-being of the community as a whole. (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services). Their five priorities are:

Health
Equity

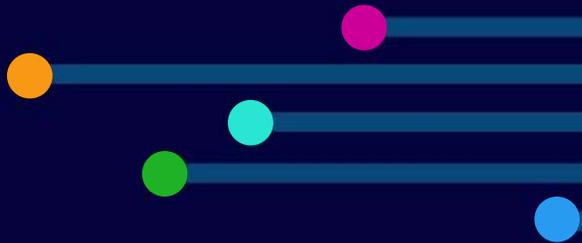
Primary
Care +
Public
Health

Workforce

Research,
Evaluation
+ Data

Collaboration

How is Public Health relevant
to the plan and
the community?



Public Health is relevant to the plan because ...

- one of the intents of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code is to protect and promote health.
- a comprehensive plan provides policies and strategies that inform:
 - future land use** goals of ensuring everyone has access to stores that provide fresh food options and to create/protect land uses for active recreation.
 - transportation** goals of increasing multimodal opportunities for people who wish to travel by means other than a personal vehicle.
 - community design** goals of creating beautiful, functional and walkable places that increase mental well-being, facilitate active lifestyles and improve quality of life.
 - agricultural** goals of protecting farmland so that healthy food can be supported locally and strengthen the local economy.
 - housing options** that meet all kinds of needs (ages, incomes and family size) that reduces financial strain and potential mental stress.

Public Health is relevant to communities because...

- healthy people are more able to work or find employment, thus reducing strain on assistance programs and healthcare facilities.
- healthy communities are attractive to outside visitors who may be interested in establishing a business or re-settling their families, thus contributing to a strong economy and incentive for high quality educational institutions.
- healthy communities equitably meet basic physical and mental needs, greatly reducing the conditions that perpetuate crime and establishes a sense of safety.
- healthy communities instill a sense of pride and stewardship, which makes residents want to engage with and build local organizations and to be neighborly.

Other resources that can help us achieve a high level of public health:

- United Way's (Greater Lehigh Valley) *Alliance on Healthy Aging*
- Pennsylvania Department of Health's *Incorporating Health in All Policies Campaign*
- The American Planning Association's *Plan4Health Movement* and their *Food Systems Toolkit*
- The Population Reference Bureau's *Healthy Aging in Place Campaign*
- Smart Growth America's *Complete Streets Program*

Open Space Health, Economic + Environmental Benefits

**Natural Systems Services Benefits
Property Value Benefits**

**Open Space
Resources**

**Economic
Activity**

**MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY
RECREATIONAL ECONOMY
ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE**

**Stress Reduction
Healthy Lifestyles**

**Productivity
Revitalization**

**Health +
Wellness**



THANK YOU

for joining us on this journey and for contributing to making the Lehigh Valley a place in which we're proud to live and work for years to come!

SEE YOU SOON!

April 13, 2017

STRATEGY LAB: Technology + Future Forces

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

April 13, 2017

STRATEGY LAB: Urban Design + Historic Preservation

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Visit lvpc.org/futurelv.html for a full listing of our 2017 events and for links to register!

