

THE
PLAN
**STRATEGY
LABS**

FUTURELV
FUTURE LEARNING 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 (or a billion other degrees) 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.

Agriculture is ...

- The science, art, or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation and marketing of the resulting products (Merriam-Webster)

Agriculture includes ...

- Croplands
- Pasture
- Orchards
- Vineyards
- Tree farms
- Agriculture related businesses

How is Agriculture
relevant to the plan and
the community?



Agriculture is relevant to the plan because ...

- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires a plan for the preservation and enhancement of prime agricultural land.
- A comprehensive plan provides goals, policies and strategies related to agriculture and agricultural preservation.
- Surveys conducted in Lehigh and Northampton Counties have consistently expressed that the protection of farmland is important because of its:
 - Value in local food production
 - Role in maintaining open space and a rural character
 - Contribution to the local economy

Agriculture is relevant to the community because ...

- Economic benefits*
 - Market value of products sold: \$134,329,000
 - Primary occupation for 525 principal farm operators
- Open Space*
 - 142,075 acres
 - 984 farms
- Local Food Sources
- Heritage and Regional Identity

* 2012 USDA Agricultural Census



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!

March 29, 2017
STRATEGY LAB: Housing
8:30-10:30 AM

March 29, 2017
STRATEGY LAB: Public Health
10:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

