

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.

## COMMUNITY UTILITIES are ...

- Sewage disposal facilities
- Water supply and distribution
- Stormwater management
- Utility corridors (electricity, gas)
- Communications (e.g., telephone, internet, cable)

How are **COMMUNITY  
UTILITIES** relevant  
to the plan and  
the community?





## COMMUNITY UTILITIES are relevant to the plan because...

- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires a plan for community utilities, which may include water supply and distribution, sewerage and waste treatment, storm drainage, utility corridors and associated facilities and other similar uses.
- A comprehensive plan must include a plan for the reliable supply of water.
- A comprehensive plan may identify areas where growth will occur to adequately plan and provide for public infrastructure, including sewer and water, among others.
- A comprehensive plan provides goals, policies and strategies related to the health and safety of the public.
- Urban development areas for the plan are based on the availability of community utilities and transportation infrastructure.

## COMMUNITY UTILITIES are relevant to the community because:

- Community utilities are needed to provide for the basic, everyday needs of Lehigh Valley residents.
- Costs associated with community utilities are directly related to the density and distribution of land use.
- The health, safety and welfare of Lehigh Valley residents are directly impacted by community utilities.



## 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 14, 2017**  
STRATEGY LAB: Agriculture  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM

**March 14, 2017**  
STRATEGY LAB: Parks + Recreation  
10:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

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

Visit [lvpc.org/futurelv.html](http://lvpc.org/futurelv.html) for a full listing of our 2017 events and for links to register!

