

THE
PLAN
**STRATEGY
LABS**

FUTURELV
FUTURE LIMPCON 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.

WATER is ...

- Rivers
- Streams
- Lakes
- Ponds
- Groundwater
- Wetlands

How is **WATER** relevant
to the plan and
the community?



WATER is relevant to the plan because...

- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires a plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses and limitations, including provisions adequate to protect water supply sources.
- When a comprehensive plan is developed, it is first necessary to determine what needs to be preserved.
- A comprehensive plan provides goals, policies and strategies related to the health and safety of the public.
- Voters have spoken consistently in public opinion surveys that they want to preserve important natural features.

WATER is relevant to the community because:

- Rivers and streams provide some of the most scenic settings in the region and a variety of recreational opportunities.
- High quality rivers and streams are of critical importance for the preservation of water supplies in the region.
- Wetlands moderate stormwater runoff and downstream flood crests because they are natural water storage areas. They help maintain stream flow and groundwater discharge.
- Wetlands provide habitat for many species of plants and animals.
- Wetlands provide the largest economic value of natural system services on a per acre basis.

LVPC Water Studies/Plans

Natural Heritage Inventory of
Lehigh and Northampton Counties
Pennsylvania – Update 2013

Monocacy Creek Watershed
Preliminary Hydrologic Budget
January 1998

Wellhead Protection Demonstration
Project December 1992

Monocacy Creek Watershed Land
Use/Water Quality Assessment
January 1998

Recommended Procedures for Act
167 Drainage Plan Design
December 2006

Water Supply/Wellhead Protection
Plan April 1995

LVPC Water Studies/Plans

Water Supply and Sewage
Facilities Plan December 1995

Lehigh Valley Return on Environment
December 2014

Saucon Creek Water Quality
Alternatives Report 2011, 2012

Monocacy Creek Erosion Restoration
Plan March 2003

Livable Landscapes An Open Space
Plan for Northampton County
December 2015

Bushkill Creek Watershed – Act 167 -
Storm Water Management Plan
May 1992

LVPC Water Studies/Plans

Comprehensive Plan The Lehigh
Valley...2030 April 2005,
Updated 2010

Flood Recovery and Flood
Mitigation Study October 1998

Water Supply Assessment Report
November 2002

Floodplain Guide/Model Regulations
March 2014

LVPC Water Studies/Plans

Hanover Township Lehigh County
Act 537 Plan Update
September 1998

Riparian and Wetland Buffers
Guide/Model Regulations
January 2011

Technical Best Management Practice Manual & Infiltration Feasibility Report:
Infiltration of Stormwater in Areas Underlain by Carbonate Bedrock within the
Little Lehigh Watershed November 2002



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!



February 7, 2017
STRATEGY LAB: Community Utilities
8:30-10:30 AM

February 7, 2017
STRATEGY LAB: Community Facilities
10:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

