

# Chapter 7

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES and SERVICES PLAN

### Introduction

Community facilities play an important role in ensuring a quality standard of living for Township residents, as well as impacting the location and type of development that occurs. The Township is directly responsible for and in control of only a few of these services. This Plan however, provides direction and policy for a wide range of community facilities. Therefore, it is important for the Township to maintain a high level of communication with service providers in order to monitor the effectiveness and provision of these services to sustain the quality of life in the community. In terms of water and sewage facilities, the policies of the Township are important to direct public services to the appropriate areas in order to accomplish the goals of the Land Use Plan.

**GOAL: Provide public services and infrastructure to insure the health, welfare and safety of East Goshen's residents.**

**Objective 7A** Provide police, fire and emergency service personnel, equipment and facilities to protect residents, businesses and their properties.

**Objective 7B** Ensure Township sewer, solid waste, and recycling services to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

**Objective 7C** Maintain the Township's infrastructure to provide for the safety of residents and for the protection of the residents and businesses.

**Objective 7D** Provide personnel and resources to meet the administrative needs of the Township, the services required by residents and businesses and legislative mandates by the state and federal governments.

**Objective 7E** Evaluate available resources and programs to exploit economies of scale through regional services and programs.

**Objective 7F** Evaluate the feasibility to develop a program for the operation and maintenance of Township owned stormwater management facilities.

**Objective 7G** Evaluate the feasibility to develop a program for maintenance and preservation of Township owned ponds.

This chapter provides recommendations for maintaining and implementing a high quality of community services and strategies to accomplish the goals of the Land Use Plan.

## Recommendations

**Objective 7A** Provide police, fire and emergency service personnel, equipment and facilities to protect residents, businesses and their properties.

- **Recommendation 7A-1** Monitor staffing levels and response times of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department.

**DISCUSSION:**

Police protection is a primary service provided by East Goshen Township, in terms of financial and material support. The ability of the Regional Police Department to respond to emergencies, calls, and other events in the Township is a cornerstone issue in the continued maintenance of existing police services and the development of future services.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7A-1-1** Provide financial and material support for the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department to ensure police protection.

- **Recommendation 7A-2** Continue to support the Goshen and Malvern Fire Companies.

**DISCUSSION:**

Fire protection and ambulance services are provided by organizations that the Township does not directly control. The Township financially supports the volunteer fire departments that serve the community. Ambulance services are provided by the same volunteer fire departments, along with basic life support emergency medical care.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7A-2-1** Provide financial support to the Goshen and Malvern Fire Companies to ensure their capacity for effective service.

**7A-2-2** Assist with publicity about fundraising events sponsored by the Fire Companies.

**7A-2-3** Proactively acknowledge the efforts of the Fire Companies and assist in informing the public on the need to support them.

- **Recommendation 7A-3** Evaluate response times for the Township's fire and ambulance service providers .

**DISCUSSION:**

Response times are critical not only for the protection of private property but also for the ability to provide effective life support in critical situations.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7A-3-1** Monitor fire and ambulance services response times to ensure the coverage of Township residents and businesses.

**7A-3-2** Evaluate the need for supplemental support to enhance emergency services.

- **Recommendation 7A-4** Review the Township Emergency Operations Plan annually, and update as needed.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township has taken the proactive step of creating its Emergency Operations Plan, which was approved by the County Department of Emergency Services. Annual updates will maintain up-to-date information to effectively coordinate the emergency needs of the Township’s residents and employers.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7A-4-1** Prepare facilities and maintain equipment necessary to meet the needs for potential implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- 7A-4-2** Provide information to residents and businesses about their responsibilities as part of the EOP.
- 7A-4-3** Maintain the most up-to-date information and coordination response issues on a continuous basis, and regularly publish these for the benefit of residents and businesses.
- 7A-4-4** Review and update the EOP on at least an annual basis.

**Objective 7B** Insure Township sewer, solid waste, and recycling services to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

- **Recommendation 7B-1** Continue distributing public information notices and materials on the recycling program.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township coordinates the collection of solid waste as well as recycling, which is a mandatory requirement by the State based on the Township’s total population and density. However, additional information and communication to residents can lessen the impact of solid waste generated in the Township while taking advantage of existing recycling and other waste collection programs.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7B-1-1** Promote the recycling program and County Household Hazardous Materials Collection Program.
- 7B-1-2** Provide information on specific materials that may be recycled and the collection schedule for recycled materials.
- 7B-1-3** Encourage the use of recycled paper products when printing flyers, posters, and other publications.

- **Recommendation 7B-2** Pursue regional approaches to water resource management.

**DISCUSSION:**

The framework of *Watersheds*, Chester County’s Integrated Resource Management Plan, is the belief that water resource management is most effective on a watershed basis. This should carry through to the management of water resources across municipal boundaries, including not only regional water supply but water quality. This is particularly important with respect to stormwater management.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7B-2-1** Continue to be a leader in water resource management by advocating a regional approach with adjacent municipalities.
- 7B-2-2** Participate in regional partnerships with municipalities within the Chester and Ridley Creek watersheds to address the key concerns of water supply and quality, including stormwater management.

- **Recommendation 7B-3** Evaluate the Township Act 537 Plan (1997) and update as needed to address areas lacking service in the Township.

**DISCUSSION:**

Public sewers serve 63% of all dwellings in East Goshen. An additional 22% of dwellings are accommodated through the private sewer system at Hershey’s Mill Village. The Township has adopted a program requiring the regular pumping of existing on-lot sewer systems. The Township encourages the hookup of dwelling units to the public sewer system. The development of the remaining undeveloped lands in the Township may require extensions of the public sewer system.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7B-3-1** Review the Township Act 537 Plan to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.
- 7B-3-2** Based on the review of the Act 537 Plan, implement recommendations and updates as necessary.
- 7B-3-3** Review the Township Act 537 Plan at a minimum of bi-annually or as often as necessary.

- **Recommendation 7B-4** Evaluate the need to provide sewer service across Township boundaries.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township is already coordinating the transmission and treatment of wastewater with the West Goshen Municipal Authority. The provision of additional services across boundaries (in the form of actual sewer service lines) should be a consideration if adjacent lands along the Township border are in need of service, consistent with the needs and objectives of neighboring municipalities.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7B-4-1** Consider the cost-effectiveness of extending services to areas outside the Township.

- **Recommendation 7B-5** Provide for the upgrading of existing public sewer lines and wastewater treatment facilities.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township, through the Municipal Authority, already provides for the continual maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility and existing system lines and connections. Technological improvements and equipment upgrades can continue the long-term service life of the wastewater treatment facility.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7B-5-1** Evaluate new technologies and existing equipment needs.
- 7B-5-2** Evaluate the existing sewer system lines and connections to ensure the system is free of stormwater infiltration and other problems.

**Objective 7C** Maintain the Township's infrastructure to provide for the safety of residents and for the protection of the residents and businesses.

- **Recommendation 7C-1** Encourage programs that reduce use of solid waste-generating products.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township coordinates the collection of solid waste as well as recycling, which is a mandatory requirement by the State based on the Township's total population and density. However, additional information and communication to residents can lessen the impact of solid waste generation by the Township while taking advantage of existing recycling and other waste collection programs.

The Township should establish a program, complete with informational materials and reference sources, to encourage residents and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generation. This type of program would serve to lower the overall cost of solid waste collection, but would also serve to extend the life of the landfill collection sites to which East Goshen solid waste is hauled.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7C-1-1** Inform residents of methods and consumption patterns that reduce the overall generation of solid waste.

- **Recommendation 7C-2** Encourage residential composting.

**DISCUSSION:**

As an additional method to reduce waste generation, the Township should continue to promote composting of natural materials (tree clippings, grass clippings, etc.) either by individual property owners or through a collection program including hauling of natural fiber refuse to a centralized composting facility. This type of program further promotes the reduction of overall solid waste in terms of cost and maintenance.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7C-2-1** Provide information to residents on methods to compost on-site.

**Objective 7D** Provide personnel and resources to meet the administrative needs of the Township, the services required by residents and businesses and legislative mandates by the state and federal governments.

Administrative and other municipal services are based at the Township building and facilities located on Paoli Pike. The Township continues to be administered by the Township supervisors with primary administration conducted under the direction of the Township Manager aided by Township administrative staff.

- **Recommendation 7D-1** Annually prepare the Budget and Four-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is the framework for financing identified capital improvements each year for a four-year timeframe. The CIP is beneficial in prioritizing and budgeting large capital expenditures such as vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

Unlike a CIP, which is voluntary, the Township is required to prepare an annual budget and a long-range (5-year) budget plan. The annual budget sets the real estate tax rate for the Township, and is a critical vehicle for the addition of capital improvements as well as non-capital and staff-related costs.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7D-1-1** Maintain the CIP to budget for equipment replacement and upgrades.
- 7D-1-2** Review and consider non-capital and staffing needs during the budget process.
- 7D-1-3** Prepare and approve the annual budget, and factor CIP costs into the long-range budget plan.

**Objective 7E** Evaluate available resources and programs to exploit economies of scale through regional services and programs.

- **Recommendation 7E-1** Continue involvement in regional planning efforts and participation in the West Chester Regional Planning Commission (WCRPC).

**DISCUSSION:**

East Goshen Township has participated in planning studies with the WCRPC since its formation in 1959. Most recent efforts included a Regional Zoning Study, completed in 1993, to examine border area zoning compatibility between municipalities and provide recommendations to address incompatible development, and a Regional Functional Classification Study, completed in 1995, to address the coordination of the functional classification of major roads in the West Chester Region. The WCRPC is currently undertaking a study related to the development of additional measures to the Route 322/Route 202 interchange and to address congestion along the south side of West Chester at Route 52 and Route 100.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7E-1-1** Ensure representation at the WCRPC meetings.
- **Recommendation 7E-2** Maintain active dialogue with the West Chester Area School District (WCASD).

**DISCUSSION:**

East Goshen Township is located within the West Chester Area School District. As development continues, it is important to share information with the school district to aid in the provision of adequate educational facilities. Regular communication with the school district is necessary for issues such as the location of bus stops and bus routes, events that may require police services or cause increased traffic, and roadway maintenance or signs.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7E-2-1** Provide information on development proposals.
- 7E-2-2** Maintain on-going communications with the WCASD.

- **Recommendation 7E-3** Continue to support the services provided by the Chester County Library System.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Township is within driving distance of three libraries of the Chester County Library System: the Malvern Library, the West Chester Library, and the Main Library located in Exton (West Whiteland Township). The Township contributes financially to the Malvern Library and is represented on the Library Board.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7E-3-1** Ensure adequate support to the Malvern Library.

**Objective 7F** Evaluate the feasibility to develop a program for the operation and maintenance of Township owned stormwater management facilities.

- **Recommendation 7F-1** Evaluate the feasibility to develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan for Township-owned stormwater management facilities.

**DISCUSSION:**

East Goshen has identified a total of seven Township-owned stormwater management basins. These basins are in need of maintenance and repair in order to continue to function to collect and release stormwater.

The Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance requires significant procedures and requirements for the maintenance of privately-owned stormwater management basins, and these requirements need to be applied to basins owned by the Township. In addition, the requirements of the Clean Water Acts NPDES Phase II program for stormwater quality apply to all Township-owned facilities. Future upgrading and retrofitting of these basins under the NPDES Phase II permitting requirements could incur significant future expense. Therefore, the Township recognizes the need to comply with existing Township stormwater management regulations, and to prepare for the potential upgrading of these facilities to comply with the NPDES program.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

**7F-1-1** Develop an Operation and Maintenance Plan for each Township-owned stormwater management facility. These plans should comply with the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance and with the requirements of the NPDES Phase II MS4 permit issued to the Township by DEP.

**7F-1-2** Prepare an estimate of capital expenses involved in retrofitting Township-owned stormwater basins in compliance with the restrictions for Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDLs) under the NPDES Phase II permit. These requirements are available through DEP.

**Objective 7G** Evaluate the feasibility to develop a program for maintenance and preservation of Township owned ponds.

- **Recommendation 7G-1** Review existing environmental studies of Township ponds and evaluate the feasibility of recommendations.

**DISCUSSION:**

East Goshen has identified three bodies of water that are classified as ponds: the Reservoir, Hershey’s Mill Pond, and the Bow Tree Farm Pond. In fact, none of these ponds are natural but are all man-made. They are different from stormwater basins in that they were not created to control water runoff but rather to store water for other uses.

The East Goshen Township Resident Survey (2001) asked respondents how they thought the township-owned ponds should be addressed, if cost were not an issue. Approximately 85% of respondents indicated that the treatment of the ponds should be addressed: 44% of respondents would like to rehabilitate the ponds, 28% would like to revert the ponds to wetlands, and 13% would like to treat the ponds for algae problems. This sentiment was reinforced when respondents were asked to consider on an average cost per household, how much additional township expense would the resident be willing to pay yearly to rehabilitate the ponds? Nearly one quarter of all respondents (24%) indicated that \$20.00 a year was acceptable and 36% said at least \$5.00 a year. In other words, Township residents appear to view the rehabilitation of the ponds as a significant issue.

Rehabilitating the ponds is a significant and costly undertaking. To properly clean up and environmentally restore the ponds as functioning bodies of water would like require in excess of \$1 million dollars based on evaluation studies conducted thus far. This amount represents 20% of the Township’s annual budget.

Consideration has been given to improving the Reservoir to convert it into a recreational area. There are a number of issues to overcome in order for this to occur, including parking, water depth, and safety being of highest concern. At this time, it is not seen as feasible to incur the expense to modify the existing Reservoir.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:**

- 7G-1-1** Continue the existing maintenance of the ponds to include algae and insect control.
- 7G-1-2** Provide information to residents on natural maintenance of ponds and best management practices for areas close to ponds.
- 7G-1-3** Continue to monitor the ponds’ status and consider additional actions if conditions warrant.

**REFERENCES:**

*A Toolbox for Managing Change in Chester County* – Volume I. Chester County Planning Commission. 1997.

*A Toolbox for Managing Change in Chester County* – Volume II. Chester County Planning Commission. 1999.

*Watersheds, An Integrated Water Resources Plan for Chester County, Pennsylvania and its Watersheds*, prepared by the Chester County Water Resources Authority, West Chester, Pennsylvania. 2002.

*Linking Landscapes, A Plan for the Protected Open Space Network in Chester County, Pennsylvania*, prepared by the Chester County Planning Commission, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 2002.