



Catasauqua Borough | East Allen Township | Hanover Township
North Catasauqua Borough | Northampton Borough

Northampton Borough is currently part of the River Central Multi-municipal Planning Area. See Planrivercentral.org The remainder of this paper is devoted to a definition of a Comprehensive Plan as per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code which provides the enabling legislation for municipalities and multi-municipalities to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans.

ARTICLE III Comprehensive Plan

Section 301. Preparation of Comprehensive Plan--

(a) The municipal, multi-municipal or county comprehensive plan, consisting of maps, charts and textual matter, shall include, but need not be limited to, the following related basic elements:

- (1) A statement of objectives of the municipality concerning its future development, including, but not limited to, the location, character and timing of future development, that may also serve as a statement of community development objectives as provided in section 606.
- (2) A plan for land use, which may include provisions for the amount, intensity, character and timing of land use proposed for residence, industry, business, agriculture, major traffic and transit facilities, utilities, community facilities, public grounds, parks and recreation, preservation of prime agricultural lands, flood plains and other areas of special hazards and other similar uses.
 - (2.1) A plan to meet the housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality, which may include conservation of presently sound housing, rehabilitation of housing in declining neighborhoods and the accommodation of expected new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels.
- (3) A plan for movement of people and goods, which may include expressways, highways, local street systems, parking facilities, pedestrian and bikeway systems, public transit routes, terminals, airfields, port facilities, railroad facilities and other similar facilities or uses.
- (4) A plan for community facilities and utilities, which may include public and private education, recreation, municipal buildings, fire and police stations, libraries, hospitals, water supply and distribution, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste management, storm drainage, and flood plain management, utility corridors and associated facilities, and other similar facilities or uses.
 - (4.1) A statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components, which may include an estimate of the environmental, energy conservation, fiscal, economic development and social consequences on the municipality.
 - (4.2) A discussion of short- and long-range plan implementation strategies, which may include implications for capital improvements programming, new or updated development regulations, and identification of public funds potentially available.
- (5) A statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is compatible with the existing and proposed development and plans in contiguous portions of neighboring municipalities, or a statement indicating measures which have been taken to provide

buffers or other transitional devices between disparate uses, and a statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is generally consistent with the objectives and plans of the county comprehensive plan.

(6) A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by Federal or State law. This clause includes, but is not limited to, wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, flood plains, unique natural areas and historic sites. The plan shall be consistent with and may not exceed those requirements imposed under the following:

(i) act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394), known as "The Clean Streams Law";

(ii) act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the "Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act";

(iii) act of April 27, 1966 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.31, No.1), known as "The Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act";

(iv) act of September 24, 1968 (P.L.1040, No.318), known as the "Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act";

(v) act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the "Oil and Gas Act";

(vi) act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1093, No.219) known as the "Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act";

(vii) act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the "Agricultural Area Security Law";

(viii) act of June 10, 1982 (P.L.454, No.133), entitled "An act protecting agricultural operations from nuisance suits and ordinances under certain circumstances"; and

(ix) act of May 20, 1993 (P.L.12, No.6), known as the "Nutrient Management Act," regardless of whether any agricultural operation within the area to be affected by the plan is a concentrated animal operation as defined under the act.

(7) In addition to any other requirements of this act, a county comprehensive plan shall:

(i) Identify land uses as they relate to important natural resources and appropriate utilization of existing minerals.

(ii) Identify current and proposed land uses which have a regional impact and significance, such as large shopping centers, major industrial parks, mines and related activities, office parks, storage facilities, large residential developments, regional entertainment and recreational complexes, hospitals, airports and port facilities.

(iii) Identify a plan for the preservation and enhancement of prime agricultural land and encourage the compatibility of land use regulation with existing agricultural operations.

(iv) Identify a plan for historic preservation.

(b) The comprehensive plan shall include 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. Any such plan shall be generally consistent with the State Water Plan and any applicable water resources plan adopted by a river basin commission. It shall also contain a statement recognizing that:

(1) Lawful activities such as extraction of minerals may impact water supply sources and such activities are governed by statutes regulating mineral extraction that specify replacement and restoration of water supplies affected by such activities.

Source: The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 as amended.