

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville provide a wide variety of community facilities and services that are publicly or privately owned or operated. The facilities and services evaluated in this section provide residents with a safe, healthy, educational, and entertaining environment. Some examples of community facilities and services include recreation, education, public utilities, and emergency services.

The Boroughs' small populations and rural settings result in services extending and developing beyond the Boroughs' boundaries. Consequently, this analysis concentrates only on the services that affect the Borough's residents. Evaluation of the facilities provided will include identifying insufficient services and programs that the Boroughs can develop in future years.

Bally and Bechtelsville are similar and different in a variety of aspects. Although the Boroughs are similar in population size, acreage, and housing, their community facilities are drastically different. The Borough of Bally is geographically located within a rural region forcing the Borough to rely on its own facilities. Bechtelsville's location between the Borough of Bally and the Borough of Boyertown, allow Bechtelsville residents to conveniently access a variety of community facilities and services. As a result, Bally has a larger number and more developed community facilities to serve their residents. The following chapter extensively analyzes the aspects of each communities facilities and

clearly shows the Bechtelsville reliance on adjacent community facilities and services and Bally's independence.

Knowledge of community facilities and services, locations and capacities is critical in planning for future development and land use. Community Facilities and Services are shown on the Map at the end of this section.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Bally

Water Facilities

Public water service is provided throughout Bally by the Bally Municipal Authority. The Bally Municipal Authority has two wells located within the Borough's Leonard Melcher Memorial Park near Fourth Street. Both wells have experienced minor ground water contamination which is treatable. One well is currently not in use and the other is being treated by the Sunbeam Corporation. The quality of Bally's water is considered excellent after proper treatment. The Bally Municipal Authority, however, is searching for a new water source that will not require treatment and will produce 350 gpm to meet the Borough's growing needs. The Bally Municipal Authority stores its water at the Crow Hill Reservoir in Washington Township, just to the northwest of the Borough.

The water mains in Bally are in good condition and require little maintenance. The main water pipelines were constructed of ductile iron during the 1920's. These older water mains range from 6-8 inches in diameter and have a low capacity for water flow. Should a large scale fire or emergency occur these water mains may not be able to carry sufficient water to fight the fire. Future growth and development will also increase the need for larger water mains. Currently, the capacity flow and quality of the water are adequate to meet the Borough's typical daily needs.

Sewer Facilities

The Borough of Bally provides public sewer disposal for all of its residents through the Bally Borough Municipal Authority. Collection mains are dated, but in good condition and can handle the Borough's present sewage capacity. Some exceptions do exist and the Borough has embarked on a program to replace sanitary sewer mains in poor condition. One exception is the mains located alongside Route 100. Old clay mains that periodically are in need of repair lie under the sidewalk on both sides of Route 100. Problems occur when the tree roots in these areas wrap around the mains causing a pressure crack or break in the pipe. This prevents the planting of new trees in the area and requires occasional repair of the pipe lines.

The sewage is treated at the Bally Sewage Treatment Plant located outside the southeastern portion of the Borough in Washington Township. The plant is currently running on 75 percent capacity with plans for expansion. The planned expansion is designed to accommodate new wastewater flow

from designated parts of Washington Township. These areas lie north and east of the Borough in an effort to follow the topography of the land and prevent extra costs of pumping stations. New developments, higher density and population growth in the Township have created a need for public sewer in these areas.

Bechtelsville

Water Facilities

Bechtelsville's water is supplied by private on-lot wells. These private water wells provide a high quality water supply for the Borough. Currently no contamination has been found in the Borough's frequently tested ground water. Future plans may include Borough wide supply of public water, but currently well water sufficiently meets the residents needs.

Sewer Facilities

Bechtelsville Borough is a customer of the Berks Montgomery Municipal Authority (BMMA). Public sewer is provided for the entire Borough by BMMA through an interceptor main parallel to the Washington Township boundary. Bechtelsville installed the Borough wide sewer system in the late 1980's. The system is in excellent condition and adequately provides for the Boroughs needs. Along the fringes of the Borough some on-lot septic systems still exist on Cherry and Race Streets, they are privately owned and operated.

TABLE VII-1
PERCENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES 1990
 Both Boroughs - Township - County

AREA	% PUBLIC WATER OR PRIVATE COMPANY	% PUBLIC SEWER
BALLY	98.9 %	97.8 %
BECHTELSTVILLE	13.1 %	96.9 %
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP	8.4 %	8.4 %
BERKS COUNTY	70.0 %	71.1 %

SOURCE: Census of Population and Housing

OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

Both boroughs are provided with electricity by Metropolitan Edison Electric Company. The Conestoga Telephone Company located in Birdsboro provides telephone services for both Boroughs. Suburban Cable in Pottstown services the Boroughs with cable television.

SOLID WASTE

Collection

The residents in the Boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville are responsible for their own garbage collection and hauling. Individuals are free to chose any hauler that best suits their needs and covers the Borough's area. The Boroughs do not license or otherwise regulate trash haulers.

Recycling

Bally

Bally Borough Council organizes a group of volunteers to pick up curb side recyclables once a month. The items collected include: aluminum cans, tin cans, colored, and clear glass. Operating the recycling program with volunteers helps to slow down the increase of local tax while reducing the amount of solid waste.

In addition to this program, there are scheduled drop-off points which are periodically designated throughout the year in Bally Borough. There is also a quarterly newspaper collection which helps promote recycling and environmental awareness.

Bechtelsville

Bechtelsville does not have an active recycling program. A recycling committee was formed in the Spring of 1993 to study the possibilities of recycling in the community.

Currently, there is no project start date set, but there is a strong interest among the residents.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Bally

Bally Borough has a storm water system that has been developing over a number of years. Periodically, additions are made to the system that help control storm water runoff throughout the Borough. Some flooding occurs because the original system was not designed to meet current needs and future development. The underground lines that extend under Route 100 are found at the following streets: N. Church, Chestnut, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th. With the exception of 9th Street, all of the storm water flows into an unnamed tributary of the Northwest Branch of the Perkiomen Stream that runs through the center of the Borough. Minor flooding and erosion occurs along this drainageway because of the amount of storm water runoff which is drained in. Future plans to alleviate the flooding of the drainageway include:

1. Directing storm water from the streets located in the southwestern corner of the Borough to the old stream bed that was redirected in the 1800's for manufacturing purposes.
2. Redirecting storm water runoff from future development into adjacent minor drainage basin of the Perkiomen Creek.

Bechtelsville

A minor storm water sewer system exists in Bechtelsville Borough at the intersection of North Main and Chestnut Streets. The Borough has no trouble with flooding and currently has no need for additional storm water improvements.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Bally

Bally Borough includes two public recreation areas: 1) The Borough of Bally Swimming Pool and 2) Leonard Melcher Memorial Park. Bally also has two private recreation areas: the Community Rod and Gun Club and the Goodwill Fire Company Ballfield. These four areas are described below.

Borough of Bally Swimming Pool and Leonard Melcher Memorial Park - the pool is located adjacent to the memorial park next to Chestnut Street near the Borough Hall. The park and pool span 4.6 acres on the eastern side of the Borough. The Leonard Melcher Memorial Park contains the following facilities: 1 basketball court, 1 baseball/ softball field, 2 outdoor volleyball courts, 1 playground area, 1 adult pool, 1 children's pool, 2 tennis courts, 3 pavilions and open space areas including benches and more than a dozen picnic tables. This park is conveniently located and serves as a community-wide park.

Community Rod and Gun Club - Located outside the eastern boundary of the Borough this Club is in Washington Township. Fishing and Trap Shooting activities take place on twenty acres of the Club's facility. This private club is located to the east of Bally.

Goodwill Fire Co. Ballfield - This field which provides the area residents with a facility for large field activities is owned by the Goodwill Fire Company. The Fire Co. administers and funds the operations of the field. The ballfields are along the eastern boundary of the Borough behind the fire and ambulance stations near Bally's community park.

Bechtelsville

Bechtelsville has one public recreation park and a private Community Rod and Gun Club.

Bechtelsville Community Park - Bechtelsville recreation area is located along the abandoned railroad in the center of the Borough from Mill to Spring Street. There are seven acres that contain: 2 outdoor basketball courts, playground equipment, baseball/softball fields, 1 tennis court, 3 pavilions and open space areas equipped with picnic tables and benches. The tennis and basketball courts have recently been resurfaced along with the newly renovated pavilions.

The Borough is looking into acquiring land to extend the recreation area from Mill Street, south. Along with this expansion, Borough council is looking into developing a bike path that would travel along the right of way of the abandoned railroad.

Community Rod and Gun Club - The Club is a private club containing eight acres. The Community Rod and Gun Club is used for fishing and trap shooting and is located to the northwest of Bechtelsville in Washington Township.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bally

Churches

Two churches are found within Bally, the Most Blessed Sacrament Church on Pine Street in the northeast and Hereford Mennonite Church on Route 100 towards the southern part of the Borough. A museum is located between Most Blessed Sacrament Church and the Elementary School. This museum is owned and operated by the church and is open to the public.

Senior Citizen Center

Bally Borough Council dedicated part of the newly renovated Borough Hall to the senior residents of Bally in the summer of 1989. The building was remodeled and

made handicap accessible with a ramp along the outside. Independent of Borough Council the seniors organized programs with their own financing efforts consisting of fund-raising and donations. The senior citizens which use the facility come from the Borough and surrounding areas and must be over the age of 55.

Bally Community Center/Youth Center

The Mennonite Church founded the Bally Community Center in the early 1970's and the church still runs the events with the help of volunteer chaperons from the community. The Center is located next to the church on the corner of Main and Third Streets. Bally Community Center provides the following services: a game room with pool tables, a study center with tutors when needed, sports such as basketball and soccer, but most important is the support group, safe environment, and constant positive role models that are present at Bally Community Center. The Center has installed a new floor to provide a safer, quieter location for indoor activities. The Community Center will reopen in the middle of September. Periodically the Center will sponsor special activities such as musical concerts or sports events.

Bechtelsville

Churches

Bechtelsville has two churches in different parts of the Borough. Trinity Lutheran Church lies across the street from the community park on Main Street. Morning Star Fellow-

ship recently constructed a large hall on the northern edge of the Borough at Main Street and Limekiln Road. The Morning Star Fellowship currently uses the hall as its church, but is planning to construct a church at this site in the near future.

EDUCATION

Bally and Bechtelsville both belong to the Boyertown Area School District. In addition there is a parochial school, St. Francis Academy, in the Bally Borough and numerous private schools located in the area.

Public Schools

Elementary

There are no Boyertown School District school buildings located within either of the boroughs. Children from the Borough attend Washington and Colebrookdale Elementary Schools. Washington Elementary School is located in Washington Township, to the Southeast of Bally Borough. Colebrookdale Elementary School lies in Colebrookdale Township directly north of Boyertown Borough, east of Montgomery Avenue. Bally's public school children attend Washington Elementary, and Bechtelsville's children are divided between Washington and Colebrookdale Elementary Schools.

Junior High

There are two Junior Highs in the Boyertown School District. Residents of Bally and Bechtelsville attend both schools. Boyertown Junior High East is located in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County. Boyertown Junior High West in Colebrookdale Township, is adjacent to Boyertown Borough. Junior high schools in the Boyertown School District are attended by grades seven through nine.

High School

The Senior High School for Boyertown School District lies on the Colebrookdale, Boyertown Borough boundary. Students in grades ten through twelve attend this facility.

Private Schools

Bally's Most Blessed Sacrament Elementary school, now known as the St. Francis Academy, is the only private school in either borough. The Most Blessed Sacrament Church runs the facility and recently changed the name to increase enrollment and popularity of the parochial school. Kindergarten through eighth grade students are educated at this facility.

Three other private schools exist around the Bally-Bechtelsville area are: Montessori Academy and Wayside

TABLE VII-2
BOYERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Enrollment - Capacity

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	CAPACITY
<i>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</i>		
Boyertown Elementary	746	658
Colebrookdale Elementary *	388	725
Earl Elementary	357	375
Gilbertsville Elementary	453	350
New Hanov./Upper Fred. Elem.	858	875
Pine Forge Elementary	329	350
Washington Elementary *	371	350
<i>JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS</i>		
Junior High East	802	913
Junior High West	665	760
<i>HIGH SCHOOL</i>		
Boyertown Senior High	1304	2000

Source: Superintendent Office Boyertown Area School District

NOTE: Enrollment exceeds capacity in some schools because capacity number does not include space in rooms used for Kindergarten, Special Education, and additional activities - art, music, and gym. Enrollment number does include children in these classrooms.

* Elementary Schools attended by Bally and Bechtelsville residents.

Chapel Christian School near Boyertown; The Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge and the Perkiomen School in Pennsburg.

Additional parochial schools in the region include: Westmont Christian School, Salem Christian School, Gateway Christian School, Berks Christian School, Hill School, Wyndcroft, Christopher Dock, St. Pius X, and Allentown Central Catholic

Higher Education

There is no higher education facility located within the Boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville, but the following are Private Four-Year Colleges and Universities located in the surrounding area: Albright College, Reading; Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, Center Valley; Alvernia College, Reading; Cedar Crest College, Allentown; Lafayette College, Easton; Lehigh University, Bethlehem; Moravian College, Bethlehem; Muhlenberg College, Allentown; Ursinus College, Colleagueville.

State colleges and universities are as follows: Kutztown University, Kutztown; and Pennsylvania State University - Allentown Campus in Fogelsville and Berks County Campus in Spring Township (near Reading).

Other schools servicing the Bally Bechtelsville area are: Reading Area Community College, Reading; Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown; Lehigh County Community College, Schnecksville; and Northampton County Community College, Bethlehem.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bally

Police

Bally Police Department is located within the Borough Hall and occasionally joins forces with County and State Police when needed. The station owns two vehicles and hires one full-time and one part-time police officers. Two additional police are available if needed. Bally Borough Police work in conjunction with the state police located in Reading barracks.

Fire

Goodwill Fire Company in Bally houses seven vehicles to provide services to an extended coverage area including adjacent townships and counties.

Ambulance

Bally Community Ambulance Association serves the Boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville, Washington township and surrounding townships and counties when dispatched by Berks County. The Goodwill Fire Company shares their facilities with the Ambulance Association which maintains three vehicles.

BechtelsvillePolice

Bechtelsville does not have its own police department. Instead they have a contract agreement with the Colebrookdale Township to provide police service and additional service can be obtained from Bally Borough Police and the state police to handle any problems.

Fire

Bechtelsville's Keystone Fire Company has a wide coverage area including: Bechtelsville Borough, parts of Washington, Pike, and District Townships. The Fire Company houses three vehicles. The Company has twenty-five volunteer residents who are active fire fighters. Keystone Fire Company has been praised by the Boyertown Base for having the best response time in the surrounding areas.

Ambulance

Bechtelsville has no ambulance service of its own and relies on the Bally Community Ambulance Association for these services.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Both Bally and Bechtelsville have recently renovated their borough halls.

Bally

Bally Borough Hall has a more than adequate facility due to recent renovations. Excess space has allowed the Borough to share its facilities with the senior residents in the area, as previously mentioned.

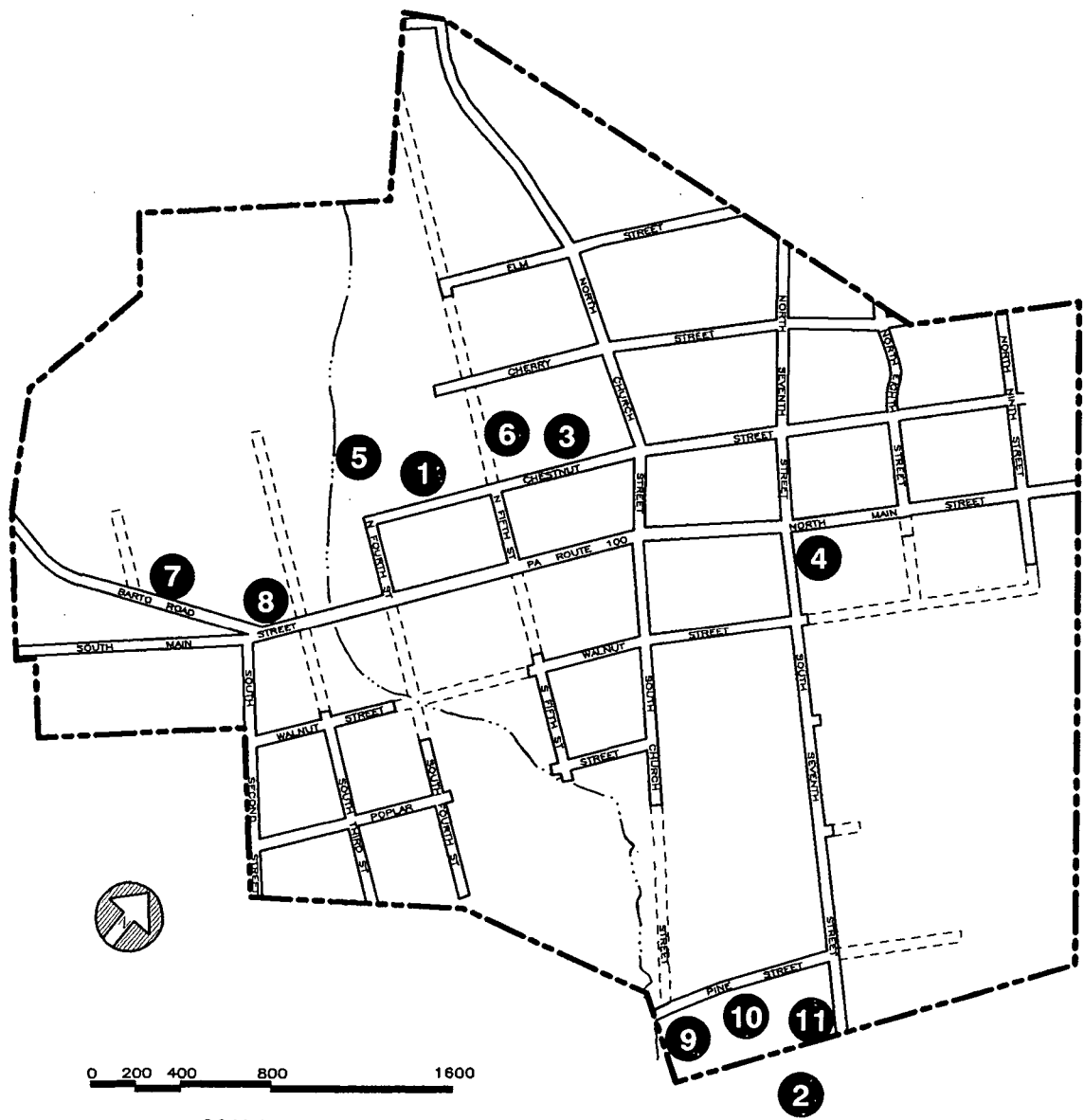
Bechtelsville

Bechtelsville has begun to move into its recently renovated Borough Hall from its old Borough Hall on Race Street. The new facility is located in the renovated historic Bechtelsville Railroad Station. This new facility has sufficient interior space, ample parking and plenty of room for expansion to meet the Borough's present and future needs.

OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS


Bally and Bechtelsville each have their own U.S. Post Office and corresponding zip codes for the Boroughs. Bally's post office is located at the corner of Seventh and Main Street. Bechtelsville is located at the corner of Main and Race Streets.

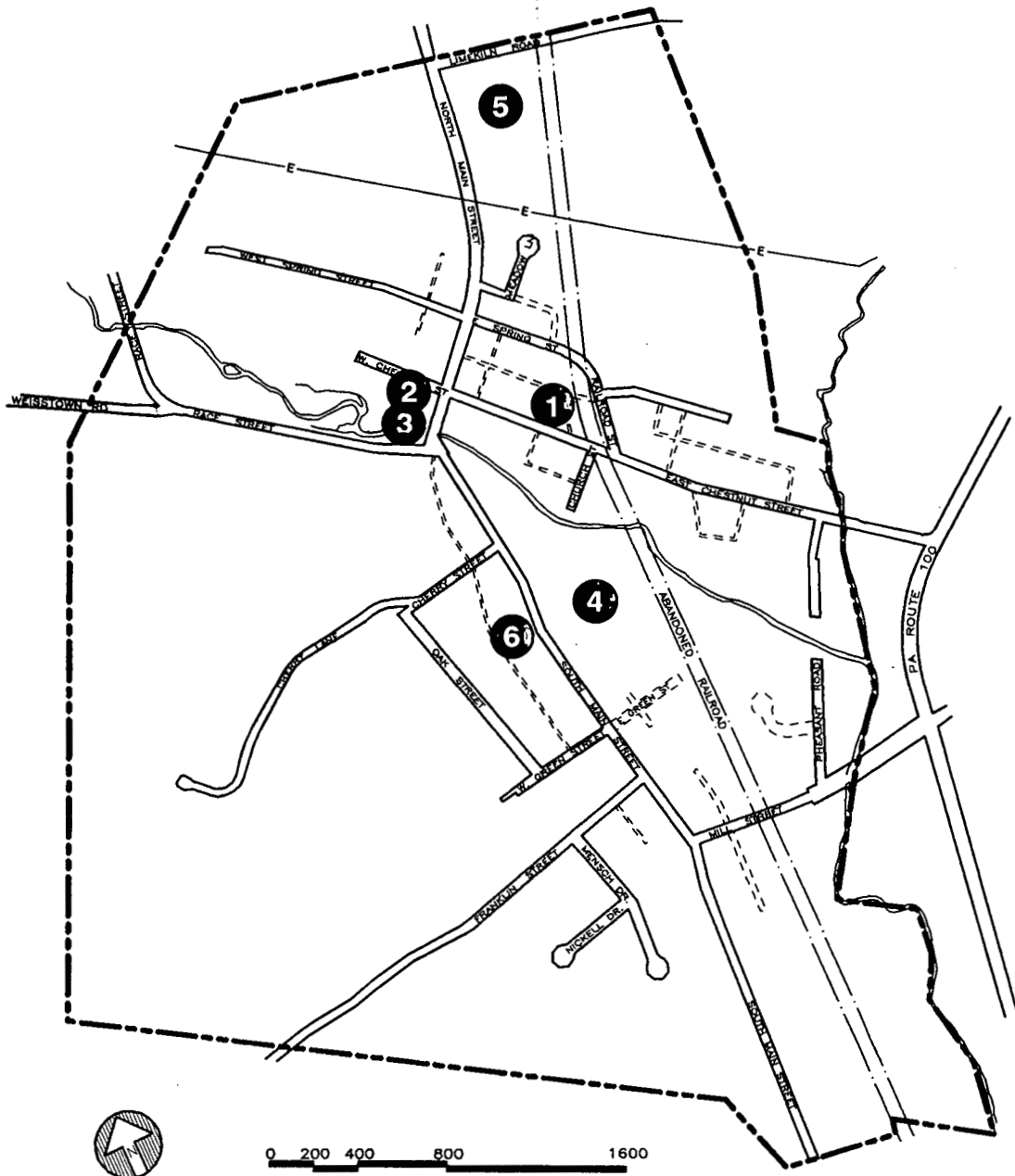
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



- 1 BOROUGH HALL/SENIOR CENTER
- 2 BALLY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT
- 3 GOODWILL FIRE COMPANY/BALLY COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
- 4 U.S. POST OFFICE
- 5 LEONARD MELCHER MEMORIAL PARK/BALLY SWIMMING POOL
- 6 GOODWILL FIRE COMPANY BALLFIELD
- 7 HEREFORD MENNONITE CHURCH
- 8 BALLY YOUTH CENTER
- 9 MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH
- 10 ALTE SCHULE
- 11 SAINT FRANCIS ACADEMY

BALLY/BECHTELSVILLE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 Borough of Bally – Berks County, Pennsylvania
 VII-10

 Landscape Architects . Engineers . Planning Consultants
 Urban Research & Development Corporation
 28 Bethlehem Plaza . Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 1 BOROUGH HALL
- 2 KEYSTONE FIRE COMPANY
- 3 U.S. POST OFFICE
- 4 BECHTELSTVILLE COMMUNITY PARK
- 5 MORNING STAR FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
- 6 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH