

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities



INTRODUCTION	199
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES	199
LIBRARIES.....	200
EDUCATION.....	201
HEALTHCARE	203
PROTECTIVE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES	207
SOLID WASTE	210
UTILITIES.....	211
RECREATION	212
CEMETERIES.....	214
SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES	214
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.....	214
SOURCE WATER PROTECTION	214
COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS AND POLICIES.....	215

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A. Introduction

The most basic and essential services needed by Berks County residents are provided through community facilities. Community facilities include the buildings, facilities, lands, and services to support the public health, safety, and welfare. Efficient provision of high quality community facilities and services impacts property values, taxes, and economic opportunities, and contributes to the quality of life in Berks County. While many community facilities are provided or administered by local government, others are offered by utilities, hospitals, schools, and nonprofits.

These facilities and services require substantial public and private investment to build and maintain them. As a result, their availability is often determined by the level of demand and need for those facilities and services, and the ability to pay for them.

In addition to infrastructure needs, there are also substantial discussions of service level needs that may arise in your municipality, mostly with protective and emergency services. In 2017, for example, there is considerable debate in Harrisburg in regards to rural municipalities paying for state police service, how to fund escalating costs regarding 911 services and the challenging manpower and funding needs for our fire departments.

As our facilities and infrastructure continue to age, we must focus resources to make proactive investments to fully maintain and enhance the infrastructure to avoid costly full replacement and/or closures/delay of services from neglect.

B. Government Facilities

Governmental facilities house activities, persons, and records used in the operation of a government - whether local, county, state, or federal. The need for additional governmental facilities is directly related to the growth of a community, since the addition of more people, more houses, and additional businesses and industries create the need for new and expanded governmental services. In some cases, increased services can be accommodated using existing space. However, in some cases, a substantial increase in the level and scope of services requires additional operational space.

Please note that cultural and historic facilities owned by federal, state and local government, are discussed in Chapter 5.

Federal

The two most visible types of federal facilities in Berks County are the 46 United States Post Offices operated by the U.S. Postal Service and the 5,000-acre Blue Marsh Lake facility operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Bern Township. Other offices and sites that owned or operated by the federal government in Berks County include, but are not limited to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor, Social Security Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

State

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has numerous buildings, parks, and storage facilities in the county. The largest buildings include the Wernersville State Hospital in South Heidelberg Township; Hamburg Center in Windsor Township (under closure order as of June 2017); the State office building located in downtown Reading and the PennDOT maintenance facility in Muhlenberg Township.

County

Berks County has a number of facilities around the county, with the two largest located in downtown Reading. The Berks County Courthouse has served Berks County since 1932. The tallest building in Berks County and the second tallest municipal building in the state of Pennsylvania, the 22-story facility serves as the primary court for the 23rd Judicial District of Pennsylvania.



Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal	5,662	6,848	6,039	6,299	6,782
Civil	5,725	5,064	4,389	3,866	3,508
Total	11,387	11,912	10,428	10,165	10,290

Source: Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania, 2011-2015 County Caseload Statistics

Type	#
Judges	13
Criminal Cases Processed	6,782
Most Cases Processed by:	Guilty Plea, 62%
Civil Cases Processed	3,508
Most Cases Processed by:	Default Judgement, 41%
Mailed Jury Summons	34,810
Impaneled/Sworn In:	1,336

Source: Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania, 2015 County Caseload Statistics

The 16-story, 372,250 square foot Berks County Services Center, located adjacent to the Courthouse has served county residents since 1992. Numerous county agencies and departments are located in this building.

The Berks County Jail is located in Bern Township and has a population of 1,037 inmates as of September 2016. The inmate population has decreased 13.5% between 2013 and 2016. The Community Reentry Center, located near the Jail, opened in 2010.

Year	Inmates
2013	1,199
2014	1,187
2015	1,171
2016	1,037

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Corrections for 2013-2015, November 2016 Prison Board meeting minutes

The county's nursing home, fire training center, parks and recycling center are discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

Municipal

Municipal buildings serve as the administrative and legislative centers of the county's city, boroughs and townships. They may include ancillary uses such as police stations, libraries, firehouses, public works facilities and ambulance stations.

C. Libraries

Nineteen (19) public libraries serve Berks County residents. The Berks County Public Library System (BCPL), established in 1986, is a department of county government that oversees the network of 19 public libraries. The BCPL and each library have appointed boards. An important responsibility of the BCPL Board is to approve the formula for distributing county and state funds to libraries within the system.

The libraries have nearly 900,000 cataloged items. The Reading Public Library is the oldest and largest library in the county, founded originally in 1762 and as of 2014, has nearly 317,000 cataloged items. The Exeter Community and Sinking Spring libraries are the most used libraries in the county by Circulation/Capita and Turnover metrics shown below.

Berks County Public Libraries - 2014				
System	Population Served	Cataloged Items	Circ./Capita	Turnover
Exeter Community	27,359	51,602	9.73	5.16
Bethel/Tulpehocken	7,386	23,733	15.17	4.72
Spring Township	27,119	34,890	5.65	4.39
Kutztown Community	17,121	28,595	6.34	3.8
Boyertown Community	15,634	39,944	9.65	3.78
Hamburg Public	15,891	17,938	4.17	3.69
Mifflin Community	26,340	32,456	4.51	3.66
Sinking Spring Public	4,008	20,984	17.04	3.25
Wernersville Public	15,278	20,320	3.93	2.95
Boone Area	21,249	27,122	3.74	2.93
Muhlenberg Community	27,290	33,588	3.29	2.67
Wyomissing Public	10,461	34,083	7.94	2.44
Fleetwood Area	16,608	25,291	3.59	2.36
Schuylkill Valley Community	14,784	16,734	2.63	2.32
Brandywine Community	12,863	33,317	5.86	2.26
Robesonia Community	4,999	21,808	9.77	2.24
Womelsdorf Community	2,810	19,678	15.53	2.22
Bernville Area Community	4,881	20,912	8.98	2.1
Village Library of Morgantown	11,293	32,928	6.03	2.07
Reading Public	88,082	316,776	5.14	1.43
Berks County Public Libraries	39,986	28,515	0.24	0.33
Total	411,442	881,214	5.34	2.49

Circ. /Capita: indicates the average number of loans made to each resident annually.
 Turnover: Indicates how often each item in the collection was lent, thus this measure is relevant to use of the collection.
 Source: Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Public Library Statistics, Berks County 2014

Other Libraries

In addition to the public libraries, private or special interest libraries also serve the population within the county. Academic libraries provided by the public school districts and institutions of higher education serve their respective student populations. The Law Library, located in the Berks County Courthouse, is a department of the 23rd District Court of Common Pleas with over 30,000 cataloged items and serves the judges of the Court, the members of the bar, county departmental staff, and the public. The Berks County Historical Society’s Henry Janssen library contains a wealth of historical materials and data. Wernersville State Hospital and the Hamburg Center have libraries that serve their respective institutions.

D. Education

There is a wide range of educational opportunities available for people of all ages in Berks County. The county must continue to encourage education service providers to establish new opportunities to provide people with the skills they need for changing and emerging employment and career opportunities.

Public Schools

Berks County has 19 public school districts as shown in Figure 33. As of 2016, they educate over 70,000 students with nearly 4,600 classroom teachers. The Reading School District with 17,388 students is the largest district in the county. The Antietam School District is the smallest district in the county with 1,043 students. Countywide, there has been a 4.7% decrease in student enrollment since 2009, with 15 of the 19 districts seeing declines.

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

The Boyertown, Twin Valley and Upper Perkiomen school districts* include municipalities outside of Berks County. Hereford Township, Berks County is part of the Upper Perkiomen School District in Montgomery County.

Berks County School District Enrollment				
School District	2008-2009	2015-2016	Change	% Change
Antietam School District	1,084	1,043	-41	-3.8%
Boyertown Area School District*	7,134	6,954	-180	-2.5%
Brandywine Heights Area School District	1,855	1,462	-393	-21.2%
Conrad Weiser Area School District	2,987	2,668	-319	-10.7%
Daniel Boone Area School District	3,977	3,438	-539	-13.5%
Exeter Township School District	4,438	4,004	-434	-9.8%
Fleetwood Area School District	2,709	2,568	-141	-5.2%
Governor Mifflin School District	4,269	4,083	-186	-4.4%
Hamburg Area School District	2,556	2,172	-384	-15.0%
Kutztown Area School District	1,658	1,337	-321	-19.3%
Muhlenberg School District	3,500	3,685	185	5.3%
Oley Valley School District	2,010	1,662	-348	-17.3%
Reading School District	17,917	17,388	-529	-3.0%
Schuylkill Valley School District	1,965	2,022	57	2.9%
Tulpehocken Area School District	1,639	1,413	-226	-13.8%
Twin Valley School District*	3,525	3,364	-161	-4.6%
Upper Perkiomen School District*	3,131	3,295	164	5.2%
Wilson School District	5,787	6,031	244	4.2%
Wyomissing Area School District	1,893	1,949	56	3.0%
TOTAL	74,035	70,538	-3,497	-4.7%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education Public School Enrollment Reports

Berks County School District Staff in the 2015-2016 School Year	
Administrators	267
Teachers	4,726
Coordinators	587
Other Professional Personnel	113
Total	5,693

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education Professional Staff Summary Reports

The Berks County Intermediate Unit offers a wealth of services, including alternative and special education, early intervention, childcare, services to at-risk students and students with disabilities, business and information management services, instructional media services, public relations services, pupil transportation, and many other varied services to the private and public schools in the county. The BCIU operates 37 Head Start classrooms, 18 Early Intervention classrooms and 13 Pre-K Counts classrooms at 16 sites across the county.

Three (3) vocational-technical schools serve the county. These schools work together with the Berks County Workforce Development Board to keep the curriculum contemporary to changing industry and technological trends. The curriculum covers a wide range of vocations including automotive subjects, cosmetology, graphic arts, millwork/carpentry/cabinet making, masonry, and welding. Berks Vo-Tech East and Berks Vo-Tech West serve 16 school districts. The Reading and Muhlenberg school districts cooperatively run the Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech School in Muhlenberg Township. Curriculum at the Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech is similar to that at the other two schools.

Private Schools

As of 2016, there are 80 private schools educating 6,039 students in the county. Berks Catholic High School (762 students), Holy Guardian Regional School (412 students) and the Saint Ignatius Loyola School (325 students) are the largest, by enrolment, of the private schools.

Child Care and Senior Care Facilities

Caring for children and elderly parents can present challenges for working age Berks County residents who can be in the position of caring for children and their elderly parents simultaneously. There are 118 childcare, 9 adult day care, and 10 senior citizen centers in Berks County. Further, Berks County has an overall high proportion of single parent households and an even higher proportion of single parent households in poverty, the provision of child care is an increasingly important community and economic resource as it enables parents to work and/or update their skills by attending trade school or college.



Senior citizen centers and private “adult day care” facilities provide older adults an opportunity to socialize outside of the home and give caregivers an opportunity to work. These facilities generally have services are comprehensive social and health care programs specially tailored to adults who need supervision and assistance during the day.

Higher Education

The county has a diverse array of higher education opportunities ranging from business and trade schools to four year colleges offering baccalaureate, graduate and doctoral degrees. Kutztown University is the largest institution by enrollment with nearly 9,000 students.

Berks County - Institutions of Higher Education - 2015					
Institution	Type	Enrollment	Graduation Rate	“Typical” Tuition	Receiving Aid
Albright College	4+	2,267	53%	\$39,850	87%
Alvernia University	4+	2,856	53%	\$31,100	85%
Berks Technical Institute	2-4 years	938	51%	\$10,120	87%
East-West School of Massage Therapy	Less Than 2	*	*	\$7,825	*
Empire Beauty School	Less than 2	100	67%	\$15,429	67%
European Medical School of Massage	Less than 2	*	*	\$6,875	*
Kutztown University	4+	8,995	55%	\$9,411	50%
New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Reading	Less than 2	*	*	\$4,995	*
Penn State - Berks	4+	2,906	57%	\$14,160	82%
Reading Area Community College	2-4 years	4,090	10%	\$8,850	67%
Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences	2-4 years	362	48%	\$16,875	58%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS Data Center, Institutional Profiles; Pennsylvania Department of Education, Private Licensed Schools Database
 * means data is unavailable.

E. Healthcare

Due to the aging of the county’s population, advances in medical technologies and the extension of life expectancies, all types of health care facilities ranging from urgent care to hospitals are in demand. The county’s aging population will play a major role in shaping health care employment and the location and number of facilities in coming decades. Health care use varies by age and gender, and as the county’s demographics continue to shift, the health care needs and demands will change accordingly.

Berks County has two (2) primary acute care hospitals shown below. Reading Hospital’s primary facility is located in West Reading and Wyomissing boroughs. Reading Hospital is now part of the Tower Health System, which owns and operates

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

a number of facilities in South East Pennsylvania and has various campuses throughout Berks County. The Penn State-Health - St. Joseph's facility is located in Bern Township. Each hospital has a system of physicians, outpatient centers, and diagnostic facilities in the county. St. Joseph's is currently working with Good Shepard Rehabilitation to add a rehabilitation center to their facility. Nearly 62% of the admissions to the hospitals in 2015 were for treatment and recovery from a broad range of illnesses, injuries, and surgeries. Penn State Health - St. Joseph also operates other facilities around the county including the St. Joseph Downtown Medical Center in the City of Reading. Given Reading's young and ethnically diverse population the major healthcare focus of the Downtown Campus is on ambulatory and primary type, (family practice, immunizations, prevention and wellness, diabetic care, etc.) In addition to the hospitals shown below, the Lehigh Valley Region based Lehigh Valley Hospital Network and St. Luke's University Health Network have several facilities each located in the county.

Berks County General Acute Care Hospitals - 2015								
Facility	Total Staff	Physicians	Beds S/S	Admissions	Discharges	Days of Care	Avg. Length of Stay	Occupancy Rates
Reading Hospital	6,206	247	630	29,678	29,718	148,415	5.14	64.5
Penn State Health - St. Joseph	1,638	68	180	7,645	7,715	33,553	4.33	51.5
TOTAL	7,844	315	810	37,323	37,433	181,968	4.97	61.5

Note: Beds S/S means beds that are set up and staffed.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics

Berks County General Acute Care Hospital Admissions and Days of Care - 2015		
Type	Admissions	Days of Care
Medical Surgical	23,073	105,424
Medical Rehab.	1,529	17,479
Obstetrics	4,554	11,848
Psychiatric (17 and Older)	1,314	11,776
Special Care 1	1,888	11,171
Intensive Care	2,542	9,095
Neonatal Level 2	382	6,780
Mixed ICU/CCU	645	3,746
Pediatric	1,373	3,255
Neonatal Level 3	23	1,394
Total	37,323	181,968

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics

Other major hospital facilities in the county include the Commonwealth's 266-bed Wernersville State Hospital and 121-bed Hamburg Center that provide housing and treatment services to mentally ill and mentally disabled individuals. The Hamburg Center is slated for permanent closure in 2018.

There are numerous urgent care facilities located around the county. Also, the Berks Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center, operates two facilities within Reading and is in the process of opening a 3rd facility on Rockland Street in North East Reading. The health center has grown from 5,969 patients in 2013 to 10,991 patients in 2017 and cares for all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Over 80 percent of their patients live in households at or below the poverty level. They are headquartered on Penn Street in Reading.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are major facilities that provide outpatient surgical services. They may be either hospital-operated or independently owned. ASCs may perform surgeries in several specialties or dedicate their services to one specialty, such as eye care or sports medicine. Of the nearly 54,000 surgeries and procedures conducted in 2016, nearly 33% of them were related to digestive issues at the Berks Center for Digestive Health.

Berks County - Ambulatory Surgery Centers - 2016		
Facility	Visits	Operating Rooms
Berks Ambulatory Surgery Center	618	1
Berks Center For Digestive Health	17,356	0
Berks Urologic Surgery Center	4,904	1
Berkshire Eye Surgery Center	3,209	2
Pennsylvania Eye and Ear Surgery Center	5,466	3
Premier Podiatric Surgery Center	119	1
Progressive Laser Surgical Institute	1,238	1
Prosperi-Schlechter Center for Plastic Surgery	203	1
Reading Hospital Surgicenter at Spring Ridge	8,289	8
Reading Surgery Center of the Surgical Institute of Reading	7,376	3
State Hill Surgicenter	1,298	1
Wyomissing Surgical Services	3,334	2
Total	53,410	24

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facilities

There are 18 licensed drug and alcohol treatment facilities in the county, 12 of which are outpatient only facilities. These facilities treated nearly 1,490 individuals in 2015. Over 60% sought treatment for alcohol abuse, 37% for drug abuse, and 3% for treatment of other conditions.

Long Term Care Facilities

As the “baby boom” generation ages, the amount of elderly population in the region will increase which will have a significant impact on community facilities, especially healthcare facilities, as discussed in Chapter 6.

As of 2016, the county has 15 registered long-term care facilities with nearly 2,400 beds that provide short- and long-term skilled nursing and rehabilitative care. The overall occupancy rate of the facilities is high – at nearly 96% and features a variety of public and privately owned facilities. The largest and most utilized facility is Berks Heim, owned by Berks County and located on the county’s North Campus in Bern Township. Constructed in 2005, the 420-bed facility has the second highest occupancy rate of all long-term care facilities in the county at 98.2%.

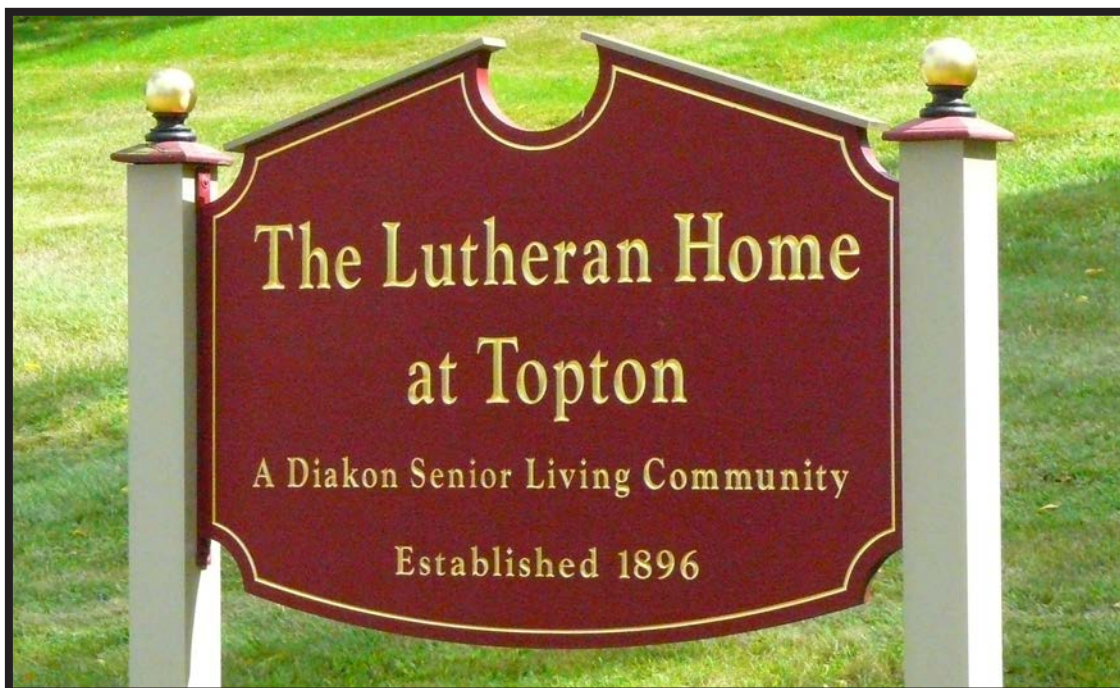
Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

Berks County Long Term Care Facilities - 2016			
Facility	Licensed Beds	Patient Days	Occupancy Rate
Berks Heim	420	150,999	98.2%
Berkshire Center	130	46,214	97.1%
Golden Living Center - Reading	124	37,860	100.0%
Highlands at Wyomissing	80	27,441	93.7%
Kutztown Manor	140	49,784	97.2%
Laurel Center	130	45,828	96.3%
Lutheran Home at Topton	194	69,277	97.6%
Manorcare Laureldale	198	67,340	92.9%
Manorcare Sinking Spring	214	73,760	94.4%
Manorcare West Reading	176	61,082	94.8%
Mifflin Center	136	46,247	92.9%
Phoebe Berks Health Care Center	120	34,059	97.6%
Spruce Manor	184	63,928	94.9%
Transitional Sub-Acute Unit	50	17,500	95.6%
Wyomissing Health and Rehab	103	31,743	84.2%
TOTAL	2,399	823,062	95.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics

Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Communities

There are 30 facilities in Berks County that provide a range of elder and nursing care ranging from personal care to assisted living. A Personal Care Home is a facility for people who do not require the services in or of a licensed long-term care facility, but who do require assistance or supervision in activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living. These types of facilities, unlike the long-term facilities listed above; do not provide acute medical care.



Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - 2016	
Facility	Capacity
Amity Place	100
Berks Leisure Living	49
Berkshire Commons	75
Buehrle Center at Lutheran Home at Topton	92
Chestnut Knoll	119
Columbia Cottage	50
Country Meadows of Wyomissing	246
Colonial Manor Adult Home	20
Elmcroft Senior Living of Reading	70
Evans Retirement Center	28
Evergreen Eldercare at The Villa St. Elizabeth	92
Grand View Manor	54
Green Hills Manor	80
Harmony Crest Personal Care	12
Harmony Hill Personal Care Home	17
The Hawthorne	48
Highlands at Wyomissing	75
Keystone Villa at Douglassville	168
Keystone Villa at Fleetwood	65
Laurel Center	38
Liberty Square	19
Maidencreek Place	75
Manor at Market Square	65
Mifflin Court	67
Miller Personal Care Home	18
Morris Pace Personal Care Home	63
Phoebe Berks Village Commons	91
Rittenhouse Village at Muhlenberg	104
Sacred Heart Villa	100
Stabon Manor	160
Total	2,260

Source: Berks County Area on Aging, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

F. Protective and Emergency Services

The personnel, facilities, equipment, and services established to protect the safety and property of the public are among the most essential community resources. The Berks County Department of Emergency Services oversees emergency management coordination and response. The county’s Communications Center employs a form of computer-assisted-dispatch to send the appropriate response units. Approximately 40 municipal/regional Police Departments, 12 federal, state, and county law departments, and 65 fire companies are dispatched from the Berks County Communications Center in Bern Township. The City of Reading maintains its own 911 service.

Emergency response to natural/man-made disasters and declared emergencies are directed from the department and coordinated with municipal emergency management coordinators, police, fire, and ambulance services. In addition, the

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

department oversees disaster/hazard mitigation and preparedness, civil defense and emergency response activities with both PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Police Service

Part 1 crimes include murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson decreased slightly between 2011 and 2015. Of the two categories, property crimes decreased 24%.

Berks County Part 1 Offenses - 2011-2015				
Year	Total	Rate per 100,000	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
2011	10,458	2,416	1,270	9,188
2012	10,979	2,531	1,381	9,598
2013	8,982	2,171	1,221	7,761
2014	8,739	2,112	1,356	7,383
2015	8,300	2,005	1,282	7,018

Source: Pennsylvania State Police, Crime in Pennsylvania: Annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR), 2011-2015

Note: Part 1 crimes include murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Part 2 offenses (e.g. forgery, stolen property, vandalism, DUI and disorderly conduct) reported in the county have remained consistent from 2011-2015 with a marginal 1.6% decrease in offenses.

Berks County Part 2 Offenses - 2011-2015		
Year	Total	Rate per 100,000
2011	19,658	4,541
2012	19,515	4,499
2013	19,227	4,646
2014	18,812	4,545
2015	19,347	4,673

Source: Pennsylvania State Police, Crime in Pennsylvania: Annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR), 2011-2015

Note: Part 2 crimes include all other offenses not classified as Part 1 offenses.

There are four types of police organization in Berks County – municipal, county, state and university. The majority of Berks County municipalities have either municipal (individually funded or contracted with another municipality) or regional municipal police coverage. Only 28 of the 72 municipalities in Berks County rely on the Pennsylvania State Police for coverage as of 2015. Most municipal police departments have formal mutual aid agreements with neighboring police departments. Practical, real time coordination of mutual aid is handled by the Berks County Communications Center.

The Reading Police Bomb Squad serves the entire county. Forty officers from several Berks County police departments and the county Sheriff's Office staff the Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT).

Berks County Police Coverage by Type - 2015		
Type	# of Municipalities	% of Municipalities
Own Municipal Service	32	44.4%
State Police	28	38.9%
Regional	8	11.1%
Contract	4	5.6%
Total	72	100.0%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Municipal Statistics

As of 2015, there are 823 police officers in Berks County, a 3% increase from 2011 levels.

Berks County Police Officers - 2011-2015			
Year	Total	Male	Female
2011	799	747	52
2012	808	760	48
2013	763	717	46
2014	801	748	53
2015	823	767	56

Source: Pennsylvania State Police, Crime in Pennsylvania: Annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR), 2011-2015

The Berks County Sheriff’s Office provides security to the courts and all county agencies/ offices and is responsible for serving civil and criminal court warrants, transporting prisoners, issuing permits for firearms, and conducting the sale of tax delinquent real estate and personal property.

The Berks County Office of the District Attorney provides law enforcement services at the county level. The Office of the District Attorney prosecutes criminal court cases and has a Detectives Bureau within it that conducts investigations, assists local police and provides training for local police officers.

Troop L of the Pennsylvania State Police is headquartered in Berks County. Troop L has five stations, with two in Berks - Reading, Hamburg, Jonestown, Frackville and Schuylkill Haven. With 259 officers, it provides full-time police services to 57 municipalities and part-time services to 47 municipalities; spread over 2,000 square miles in Berks, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties.



Kutztown University’s Public Safety and Police Services Unit police the campus grounds. The unit has 19 police officers who are commissioned as police officers in Pennsylvania. The Penn State Berks campus is policed by the Police and Safety Services Department. The department has nine officers who are also commissioned as police officers in Pennsylvania. Albright College employs 14 full-time officers and 25 auxiliary officers in their department of Public Safety. Four of those officers are commissioned as police officers in Pennsylvania. Alvernia University employs public safety officers but they are not commissioned police officers.

Fire Service

Fire protection in Berks County is provided by 57 fire departments. Most departments are primarily staffed by volunteers. The City of Reading Fire Department is mostly staffed by full-time career service firefighters.

These departments, deployed from 83 fire stations, respond to a variety of emergencies that include structure fires, forest fires, and crashes involving all modes of transportation and natural disasters such as severe storms and flooding. Most fire departments are not directly affiliated with, or fully funded by the municipalities they serve. Municipalities may provide some funding to the fire companies but the volunteer fire departments in Berks County raise funds through private donations and grants.

Berks County Fire Departments by Type - 2016	
Type	#
Mostly Career	1
Mostly Volunteer	7
Volunteer	49
Total	57

Source: United States Fire Administration, National Fire Department Registry

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

Firefighter response to incidents is handled through the Berks County Communications Center and the Reading 911 system for incidents in the city. The Center will dispatch additional departments if the incident warrants additional manpower and equipment. Although the majority of the companies are equipped and trained to handle most incidents, hazardous materials spills require the assistance of specialized Hazmat Teams. The Berks County's response team is rated at the highest category, Level III, and is qualified to handle emergencies involving large quantities of hazardous materials. The county also has four (4) Level II teams at local departments.

The Berks County Department of Emergency Services operates the Berks County Fire Training Center, which trains and certifies firefighters in the county and from surrounding counties. The Center, located on Morgantown Road, has a variety of structures and simulations available to train firefighting personnel in live fire exercises.

Ambulance/EMS

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided both privately and publicly in Berks County. There are 18 providers of EMS in the county. Public service operates similarly to fire protection service, usually in the form of volunteer departments. EMS units are often located in fire department facilities. Units are dispatched to emergencies through the county's Communication Center.

Besides ambulance service, advanced emergency medical assistance is provided through paramedic and emergency air transport services. Paramedics, while able to offer varying degrees of medical assistance are usually unable to transport victims and are dispatched in conjunction with an ambulance. Reading Hospital (PennSTAR 4), Penn State Health - St. Joseph's (Life Lion) and the Lehigh Valley Hospital (MedEvac) all have heliports in Berks County. Emergency air transport is provided primarily through helicopters. These units are dispatched to situations where a victim is in immediate need of medical assistance at a hospital but cannot be accessed or transported quickly enough by ambulance.

G. Solid Waste

Berks County has an overabundance of landfill capacity. Berks County has more landfills than any other county in Pennsylvania, and there is not a public need for additional waste disposal capacity in Berks County. Currently, there are four landfills within Berks County, and they accept waste from the county, other counties and/or from outside Pennsylvania. With the exception of the Western Berks Community Landfill, all landfills within Berks County accept the majority of waste from other counties and/or states. In 2018, for example, the Conestoga Landfill accepted 1,134,819 total tons of waste, 996,995 tons (88%) of which came from outside Berks County. Additionally, there are concerns related to heavy truck traffic through vital economic corridors, odors and the loss of farmland and open spaces as a result of landfill activities and proposed expansions of landfill facilities. The solid waste disposal facilities within Berks County have more than enough capacity to serve the county for the life of this plan. Due to this fact, no further expansion of landfill facilities is needed. We would encourage municipalities to implement joint zoning ordinances limiting the expansion of landfill facilities. We would also encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to consider this Berks County Comprehensive Plan Update 2030 when reviewing applications for the funding or permitting of landfill facilities as required by the Municipalities Planning Code.

Berks County Solid Waste Authority is the primary agency charged with waste planning in Berks County. The Solid Waste Plan of 2014 guides countywide planning of both waste and recycling operations. For detail in excess of what is provided below on solid waste operations, the reader is referred to this document.

In 2018, nearly 79% of trash disposed of in Berks County was from out of county sources. All waste is deposited in one of the four (4) active landfills in Berks County. The Conestoga Landfill near Morgantown took in the most waste.

Berks County Landfills - 2018 Activity					
Facility	Total Tons	Berks County Tons	Out of County Tons	% of County Tons	% of Out of County Tons
Conestoga Landfill	1,134,819	137,864	996,995	12%	88%
Western Berks Community Landfill	236,738	118,571	118,571	50%	50%
Rolling Hills	770,263	148,438	621,825	29%	71%
Pioneer Crossing	317,596	115,540	202,056	36%	64%
Total	2,459,416	520,413	1,939,447		

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management, 2018 County Waste Destinations Report

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

Berks County receives host fees from the Conestoga, Rolling Hills and Western Berks landfills. The Conestoga and Western Berks Landfills pay the County \$3.00 per ton for all waste generated outside of Berks County with Rolling Hills paying \$2.00 per ton for all waste generated outside the county.

Berks County Landfill Waste Breakdown 2018		
Waste Type	Tons	% of Total
Municipal	259,317	50%
Residual	192,439	37%
Construction	30,615	6%
Medical	15,219	3%
WTE Ash	0	
Sewage Sludge	22,179	4%
Asbestos	644	<1%
Total	520,413	100%

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management, 2018 County Waste Destinations Report

Between 2013 and 2018, the amount of waste generated in Berks County increased 12.1%.

Berks County Waste Generation 2013 - 2018		
Year	Tons	Annual % Change
2013	463,986	*
2014	521,990	12.50%
2015	512,084	-1.90%
2016	440,106	-14.10%
2017	580,192	31.80%
2018	520,413	-10.30%

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management, 2013-2018 County Waste Destinations Reports

Recycling

The majority of Berks County municipalities offer recycling services as shown below and the county, as a whole, recycled 62.5% of its waste stream as of 2018. The county manages seven (7) of the 11 drop off facilities, including the county recycling center on Hilltop Road in Bern Township.

Berks County Recycling 2018		
Facility	#	% of Municipalities
Curbside Pickup	35	48.6%
Drop Off Facilities	11	15.3%
No Recycling Program	26	36.1%
Total	72	100.0%

Source: Berks County Solid Waste Authority 2018 Annual Report

H. Utilities

Berks County is served by electric, natural gas, land and cellular telephone, broadband Internet, and satellite/cable television; however, not all services are available in all parts of the County. It is anticipated that many of these services will continue to be provided by the private sector.

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

Many small businesses in the rural areas have expressed the need for additional broadband coverage due to the changing market and reliance on the internet to conduct business. The Federal and PA State Government are beginning to address the lack of access to high-speed internet in rural areas through incentive programs.

National carriers provide cellular service throughout the county. Cell towers and transmitters are located on private and government property. Due to the varied topography of Berks County, there are areas with no or marginal coverage within the county, an issue which is being addressed in most areas. As residents become increasingly dependent on cellular service for timely communication and data, communications companies are seeking to increase service and signal quality through the upgrade of existing towers and installation of new cellular towers. To ensure that existing communications towers are utilized to their maximum extent, it is important that Berks County municipalities continue to encourage communications companies to co-locate their equipment on existing or shared towers.

Verizon, Frontier Communications, and Windstream Communications provide the majority of landline telephone services. Regional carriers Comcast and Service Electric, provide the majority of cable and internet services throughout the county. Each municipality is responsible for approving cable franchise agreements with providers.

First Energy/Met-Ed serves 59 or 82% of county municipalities with electricity. Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) serves 12 municipalities and Kutztown Borough, dba as Hometown Utilitcom, is one of 35 municipally owned electric providers in the state, providing electricity to borough residents.

Natural gas for heating and other uses in the county is largely supplied by the United Gas Improvement Corporation (UGI). The Reading Gas Division of UGI Corporation serves the demand within the City of Reading, 24 Boroughs, and 26 townships surrounding the City with low- (up to 1 psi), medium- (to 60 psi), and high- (400 psi) pressure gas for various residential and industrial customers. The Central Penn division of UGI Corporation supplies natural gas and liquid petroleum (LP) gas to customers in the northern section of Berks, in Hamburg and Shoemakersville boroughs and Centre, Perry, Tilden and Windsor townships.

Four (4) existing facilities in the County generate electricity. The fifth, the 450 MW Birdsboro Power plant, is proposed for construction in the Borough of Birdsboro on the former Armorcast property and is expected to be operational in 2019.

Electric Generating Facilities in Berks County - 2016			
Facility	Operating Capacity (MW)	Online	Fuel Type
Ontelaunee Energy Center	599	2002	Gas
Birdsboro Power (Proposed)	450	2019	Gas
Evergreen Community Power Plant	25	2009	Biomass
Pioneer Crossing Landfill	8	2008	Biomass
Morgantown Solar Park	1.6	2011	Solar

Source: Pennsylvania Utilities Commission, Electric Power Outlook for Pennsylvania, 2015-2020

I. Recreation

Berks County's system of nearly 72,000 acres of parks and recreational facilities is one of its greatest assets. The county's image and character are defined largely by the high quality of these resources. Recreation in Berks County is a mixture of public and privately owned resources and includes both active and passive recreational areas. A network of 420 miles of regional and local trails is anchored by the Schuylkill River Trail, the Appalachian Trail, the Union Canal Trail and the Horse-Shoe Trail, which form the foundation for this trail network. These recreation trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, span the county creating an outlet for residents and visitors to enjoy. In 2015, the Schuylkill River Trail was voted "Best Urban Trail" by USA Today. It is the backbone of the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area which was designated through an Act of Congress in 2000. Also in 2015, the Greater Reading Trail System was named a Bronze Level Ride Center recipient from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) in recognition of extensive trail network for mountain bikers combined with community amenities and services, and the City of Reading was named a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owns nearly 43% of the recreation assets in the county. State gamelands and the Nolde and French Creek State parks are large facilities, mostly managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Recreation Facilities by Type in Berks County - 2017		
Ownership	Acres	% of Total
State	30,670	42.9%
Municipal	16,285	22.8%
Non-Profit	8,167	11.4%
Federal	7,501	10.5%
Private	6,316	8.8%
County	1,440	2.0%
School	1,169	1.6%
Total	71,548	100.0%

Source: Berks County Planning Commission

Listed below are the largest facilities by type in the county.

Largest Recreation Facilities by Type in Berks County - 2017		
Ownership	Facility	Acres
State	French Creek State Park	6,292
Federal	Blue Marsh Lake	5,360
Municipal	Lake Ontelaunee	3,304
Non-Profit	Hawk Mountain Sanctuary	1,624
School	Schuylkill Valley Ed. Complex	1,169
County	Antietam Lake Park	650
Private	Maple Grove Raceway	450

Source: Berks County Planning Commission

The Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan, adopted in 2007, set specific goals for the direction the county should take to provide future open space, greenways, and recreation for its citizens. The Plan is adopted as an addendum to the Berks County Comprehensive Plan. The Plan also provides recommendations for the identification, protection, and preservation of the county’s historic sites, historic districts, and ecological resources.

New recreational trends are constantly emerging. While interest in golf and swimming are on the decline with golf courses proposed for redevelopment and pools being closed due to lack of membership and escalating costs of maintenance, interest in biking, hiking and skateboarding are rising. To address the need for new facilities, additional study is required. When testing the potential of new types of facilities, it is recommended that a limited number be constructed in order to observe how they are used before committing to large-scale development. This approach will allow the county and its municipalities to move slowly and methodically toward meeting demand, thereby reducing the possibility of creating underused facilities or acquiring land not desirable for recreation.



Visitation to the Berks County Parks and Recreation systems programs and facilities is steadily growing. It is estimated that nearly 715,000 people visit the park system annually looking for closer to home outdoor recreation, events, and fun free family activities. The most attended large events are Go Fly A Kite Day; Heritage Festival, Holiday Lights at Gring’s Mill (month long program), and the Summer Solstice Celebration. Also very popular are environmental education and cultural history programs and hikes. Paddling, kayaking, geo-caching and orienteering programs have seen a marked participation increase as well.

Since 2007, the county has hired a full time Parks Resource Manager, Park Ranger Supervisor and Environmental Educator. These positions are key with the many upgrades that are now completed and proposed in the future for Antietam Lake Park and the Angora Fruit Farm, along with the rest of the county Park System. The county has also divested itself of certain

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

active recreation activities that are better suited for operation by others, along with some outlying facilities that were difficult to maintain due to their location.

J. Cemeteries

There are nearly 500 cemeteries in Berks County. Cemeteries are a unique community facility in that they vary greatly by size by interments and acreage, nearly every municipality has one or more, most are privately owned, and some are historic sites. When planning for the expansion or relocation of infrastructure such as roads or sewer and water utilities, cemeteries often can change the route or design of the utility since cemeteries are extremely difficult to move or relocate.

Largest Cemeteries by Interments - Berks County - 2016		
Name	Interments	Location
Charles Evans Cemetery	44,239	Reading
Gethsemane Cemetery	24,312	Laureldale
Aulenbach's Cemetery	19,378	Mount Penn
Forest Hills Memorial Park	13,511	Reiffton
Laureldale Cemetery	10,710	Laureldale

Source: FindAGrave.com, County Lookup

Note: Interment means the burial or final placement of remains.

K. Sewage Treatment Facilities

The availability of sewer service is critical to supporting higher density residential development, as well as the location or expansion of business and industry. Municipalities in Pennsylvania are required by the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) to adopt a plan for sewage services (on-lot management districts and public sewage service districts) for areas within their jurisdiction. All municipalities in Berks County have adopted Act 537 plans.

The most densely developed portions of Berks County are served by public sanitary sewerage systems, as indicated on Figure 35. Of all utilities, public sanitary sewer service is the most critical for future development in the county. Locations of existing sanitary facilities and planned expansions, will guide the direction of physical growth within the county. Of the 43 plants in the county, the largest sewage treatment facility is owned and operated by the City of Reading. This plant processes 28.5 million gallons a day from twelve municipalities.

Residential and other urban development not served by public sanitary sewerage systems rely on private onsite wastewater treatment systems. There are a number of types of such systems, including but not limited to, small package treatment plants, conventional soil absorption systems, in-ground pressure systems, mound systems, and holding tank systems.

L. Water Supply Systems

Access to water service plays an important role in the development patterns in the county. Many businesses and industries require the reliability and access to water that only a public utility can provide.

Water supply infrastructure consists of public and private systems that serve existing urban and rural land use development. As of 2017, 72 suppliers, municipal and private, provide water in Berks County. The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Larger systems in the county primarily rely on surface water for a source while the smaller systems that serve mobile home parks or subdivisions rely on groundwater sources. In some public systems, fluoride is added. For areas not served by public or private systems, individual, on-lot wells provide water to the use on site.

M. Source Water Protection

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments in 1996 required states to develop and implement a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program. The Pennsylvania SWAP plan was approved in 2000. The plans and programs were designed to evaluate the vulnerability of public drinking water systems to possible sources of contamination, and encourage states to work with water providers in developing local protection and management plans. In Berks County, 16 water systems have individual plans, nine systems have substantially implemented program according to PA DEP and four systems have plans in progress. The Berks County Water and Sewer Association (BCWSA), in conjunction with PA DEP, has prepared a countywide Source Water Protection Program. The Program was finished in June 2017 and is currently being implemented through a Municipal Source Water Protection Committee that is coordinating with the Berks County Conservation District's Watershed Coordinator.

N. Community Facilities Policies**Overall Community Facilities Goals:**

- A. Provide and maintain community facilities and services that meet the basic needs of county residents and support the land use policies of this plan.
- B. Recognize the importance and necessity of emerging utility and community facilities technologies, incorporate these technologies into utilities and community facilities where feasible and appropriate, and develop regulatory measures to ensure benefit to the county and its municipalities.
- C. Consider anticipated demographic changes and the importance of aging in place in all land use, transportation, and community service planning and decisions.

a. Government Facilities**Policies:**

- (1) Encourage co-location of community facilities and services when and where feasible to provide residents and businesses easily accessible and convenient services.
- (2) New government facilities should be located on existing transportation routes, designed, and sited to be accessible and walkable by the residents it serves.
- (3) Prior to the disposal of any existing but obsolete facilities and sites, determine the value of maintaining them for potential reuse by other services and facilities.
- (4) Continue to design and construct public facilities that are energy efficient, environmentally responsible and accessible to all residents.

b. Education**Policies:**

- (1) Expand educational opportunities to meet the need for skilled and professional workers in Berks County.
- (2) Support secondary and higher education curriculums and programs that meet anticipated future careers and employment opportunities.
- (3) Enhance partnerships between the business and education communities to strategically focus educational programs with employment needs.
- (4) Strengthen the use of high quality continuing adult education programs and work retraining programs available through the Berks County Workforce Development Board.
- (5) Explore opportunities for county business, labor, and educational institutions to collaborate to expand career development for county residents.
- (6) Encourage communities and school districts to locate new schools near other community facilities and existing transportation routes.
- (7) Encourage municipalities and school districts to collaborate in the development of the community. Municipalities should regularly inform school districts of planned development areas and pending development proposals and school districts should regularly inform municipalities about enrollment projections and facilities planning.
- (8) Continue to support the Berks County Library System.
- (9) Libraries should monitor technological changes that may offer ways to improve service for patrons in a less expensive way than constructing and operating new libraries.

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

c. Health Care

Policies:

- (1) Encourage health care providers to consider locating near multiple modes of transportation when making decisions about location and siting of facilities.
- (2) Promote transit accessibility for health and human service facilities.
- (3) Plan and provide facilities for safe, affordable, and quality elder care and childcare to meet the needs of Berks County's aging population and families.

d. Emergency Services

Policies:

- (1) The county should work with municipalities to develop mutual aid agreements for fire, police, emergency medical services, and public works.
- (2) The county and municipalities should establish minimum standards for equipment purchases for fire, police, and emergency medical services.
- (3) The county and local municipalities should explore how to help fire companies and emergency medical services improve their financial structure and recruit volunteers.
- (4) Encourage less populated municipalities to explore joint service agreements with neighboring municipalities where consolidating and coordinating services will result in better services and/or cost savings.
- (5) The county should support UCC codes and promote the enforcement of adopted building, maintenance, and rental codes.

e. Solid Waste

Policies:

- (1) Provide and maintain solid waste management facilities sufficient to serve the needs of county residents and business establishments, as well as create a program to address the clean-up of areas that are affected by pollution problems.
- (2) Continue to support the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan processes and recommendations including regular updates to the plan.
- (3) The Authority should continue to operate and expand the household hazardous waste program, tire disposal program, Pharmaceutical program and paper shredding events.
- (4) The Authority should continue to operate and expand the Recycling Center, while researching new markets for recyclable materials including the expansion of the electronic waste recycling facility.
- (5) The county should encourage municipalities to develop programs that will identify illegal dump sites, identify ways to prevent future illegal dumping, and work to clean up existing illegal dump sites with assistance from other organizations such as PA Cleanways and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority.
- (6) The county should actively promote Conservation, Nutrient Management, and Odor and Fly Abatement Plans on all farms.
- (7) Sewage sludge application should only be applied to land within Agricultural Preservation Areas in accordance with appropriate standards.
- (8) The county should continue to track and seek the cleanup of all Superfund sites in the county.
- (9) The county should work with economic development agencies and municipalities to create a listing of all countywide Brownfield sites and identify funding sources available for cleanup and redevelopment.

f. Other Utilities

Policies:

- (1) The county and its municipalities should develop procedures and standards to ensure that any future siting decisions for energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities will be evaluated to ensure consistency with local and regional comprehensive plans, and the overall protection of public health, safety and the environment.
- (2) Encourage Berks County municipalities to adopt enforceable guidelines for siting and removing telecommunications facilities.
- (3) The county should investigate programs that will help to bring additional broadband internet services to the rural underserved areas of the county.
- (4) The county should investigate programs that will help to bring expanded public Wi-Fi internet services to the urbanized areas.

g. Recreation

Policies:

- (1) The county and its municipalities should provide an integrated system of public parks, trails, and related open space areas that will provide county residents with adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities that meet or exceed national standards for parkland and open space.
- (2) The county and its municipalities should continue to maintain and improve the existing recreational trail systems and park infrastructure with an emphasis on trails that connect communities and recreation resources.
- (3) The county and its municipalities should develop and support partnerships between federal and state government, municipalities, non-profits, developers, and landowners to implement the *Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan*.
- (4) The county should maintain a current *Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan* and make changes as necessary to maintain the current plan.

h. Cemeteries

Policies:

- (1) Ensure that existing cemeteries, public and private, are protected from development including transportation corridors.
- (2) Municipalities are encouraged to collaborate with their local churches regarding the need for additional cemeteries or cemetery expansion during updates of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

i. Sewer and Water Facilities

Policies:

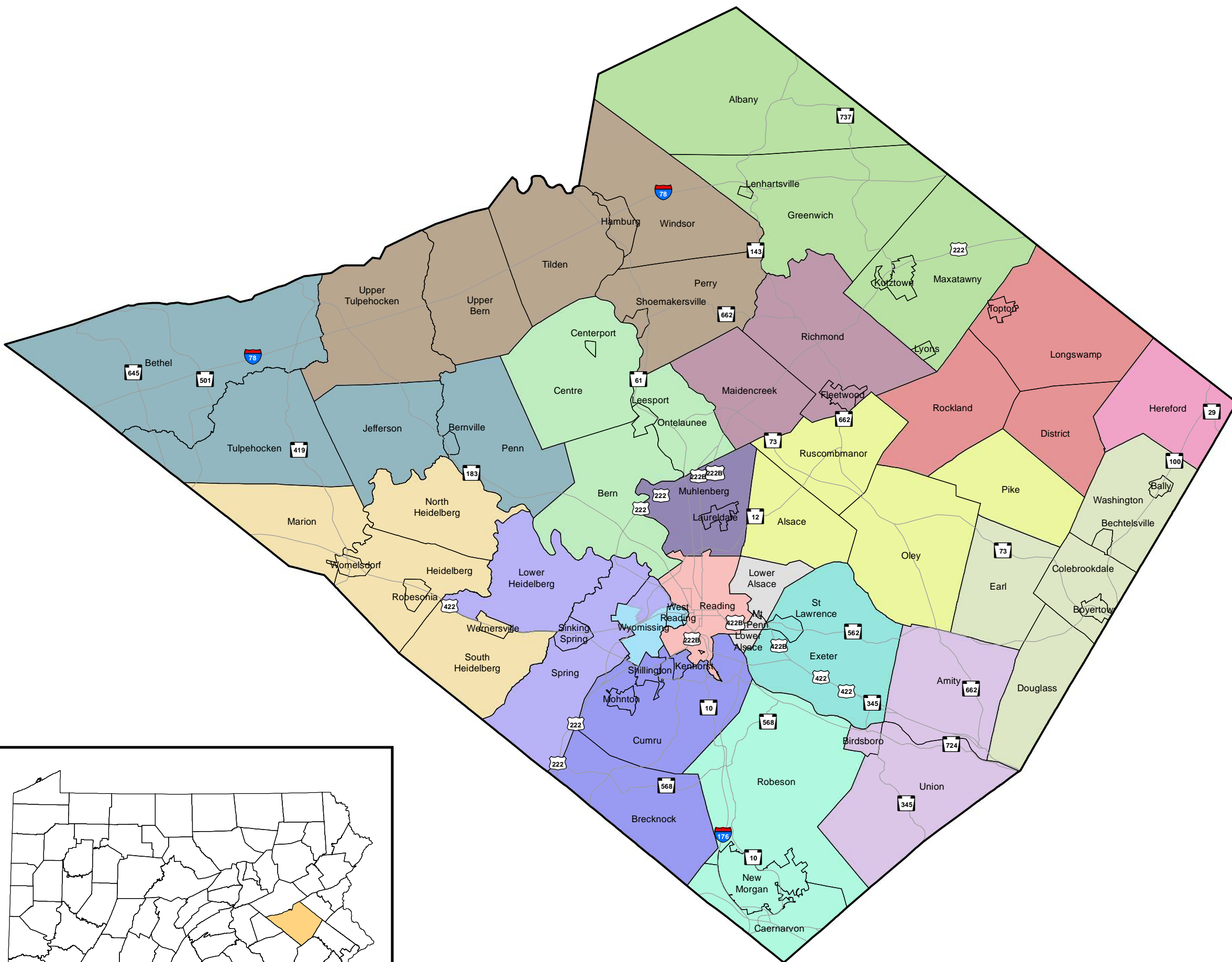
- (1) Improve, maintain, and provide sanitary sewer and water systems in Economic Development Areas, Existing Developed Areas where appropriate, Designated Growth Areas, and Future Growth Areas.
- (2) Continue to implement the policies and recommendations of the Berks County Sewer and Water Regionalization Plan Update, the Berks County Source Water Protection Program and the Pennsylvania State Water Plan.
- (3) The county will encourage the continued implementation of the Berks County Source Water Protection Program through the Berks County Water and Sewer Association.
- (4) Encourage cooperative effort for municipalities and agencies to work closely with one another to plan the extension of infrastructure, so that such services efficiently complement, rather than conflict with one another.
- (5) The county should direct development to areas that currently have public sewer and/or public water, some level of excess capacity, or to areas that can build additional capacity through expansion(s).

Chapter 10 - Community Facilities

- (6) The county will work with municipalities to promote higher density development in areas with existing or proposed sewer systems.
- (7) The Berks County Planning Commission will only endorse new sewer systems or extensions of existing sewer systems into the Agriculture Preservation Areas if the following three requirements for expansion are met:
 - a. The Municipalities Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan identifies the area as having a high concentration of existing mal-functioning septic systems;
 - b. The identified mal-functions cannot be corrected on site;
 - c. Any new sewer system or extension of an existing system will serve only those existing developed areas as identified by the Act 537 Plan, or a regional economic development project;
- (8) The county will encourage connecting areas with malfunctioning on-lot systems, areas with contaminated water supplies, and small privately owned sewer or water systems to existing sewer or water systems where economically and physically possible.
- (9) The county supports municipalities maintaining an up-to-date Sewage Facilities Plan (Act 537). This includes implementation of an On-Lot Disposal Ordinance that promotes the maintenance of on-lot septic systems.
- (10) The county supports the preservation of sewer capacity by maintaining sewer lines, joint facilities, and by following a maintenance schedule for inflow and infiltration.
- (11) The Berks County Planning Commission will not endorse projects that fail to comply with this Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247), the Sewage Facilities Plan (Act 537), and any other review processes.
- (12) The county should work with the appropriate agencies to create a program to provide sewer and water infrastructure for economic development.
- (13) The county will encourage the Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Berks County Conservation District, and other appropriate agencies to work with farms near water sources to develop nutrient management and other plans that minimize nitrates and other contaminants.
- (14) The quality and quantity of existing ground and surface water in Berks County should be protected through source water protection planning and ensuring any proposed water withdrawals are accomplished without adversely affecting water resources.
- (15) Berks County will support water systems that encourage water conservation by maintaining water lines, promoting water conservation, and implementation of an incremental fee schedule.
- (16) The county will encourage small water systems to increase their reliability by adding wells or storage tanks and to complete Surface Water Infiltration Protocol (SWIP) testing on all of their water sources.
- (17) In areas recommended for future growth, the establishment of new privately owned small water companies that only serve a specific development or small geographic area should only be allowed if it is interconnected with a larger, publicly owned public supply or serves as a backup supply to that larger public system.

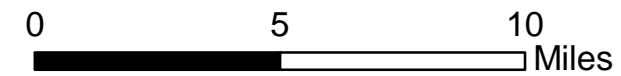
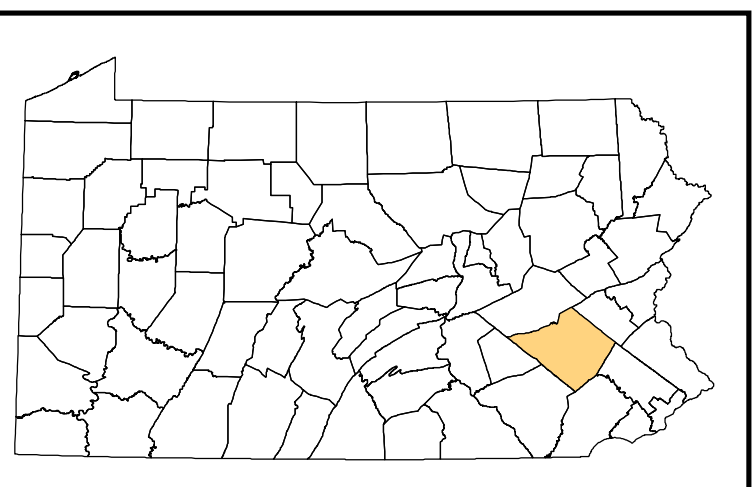
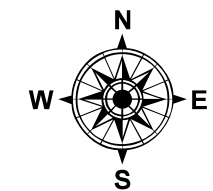
Berks County Comprehensive Plan Update
Adopted: January 23, 2020

School Districts Berks County, Pennsylvania



Legend

- Antietam
- Boyertown Area*
- Brandywine Heights Area
- Conrad Weiser Area
- Daniel Boone Area
- Exeter Township
- Fleetwood Area
- Governor Mifflin
- Hamburg Area
- Kutztown Area
- Muhlenberg
- Oley Valley
- Reading
- Schuylkill Valley
- Tulpehocken Area
- Twin Valley*
- Upper Perkiomen*
- Wilson
- Wyomissing Area
- Berks County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Major Roads



* Berks County portion of the School District only.

Source: Berks County Planning Commission, Berks County GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County Department of Emergency Services

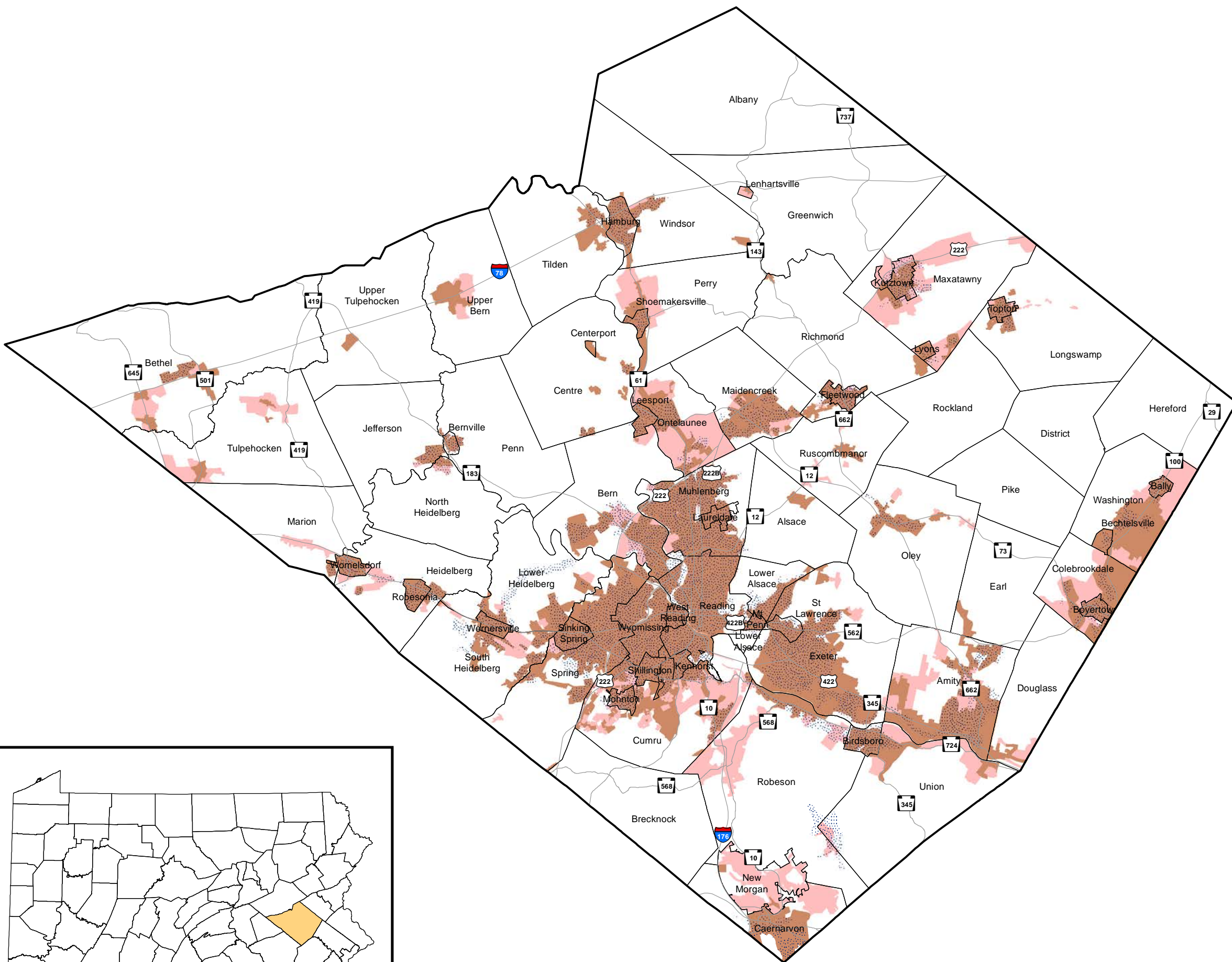
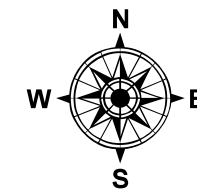
Published by the Berks County Planning Commission

BAB 1/20




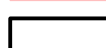
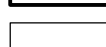



Berks County Comprehensive Plan Update
Adopted: January 23, 2020

Public Sewer and Water Service Areas Berks County, Pennsylvania



Legend

-  Existing Water Service
-  Existing Sewer Service
-  Proposed Sewer Service
-  Berks County Boundary
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Major Roads

Source: Berks County Planning Commission, Berks County GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County Department of Emergency Services
Published by the Berks County Planning Commission

BAB 1/20

