



PLANNING FOR STORMS, FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCY IN PENNSYLVANIA

August 20, 2024

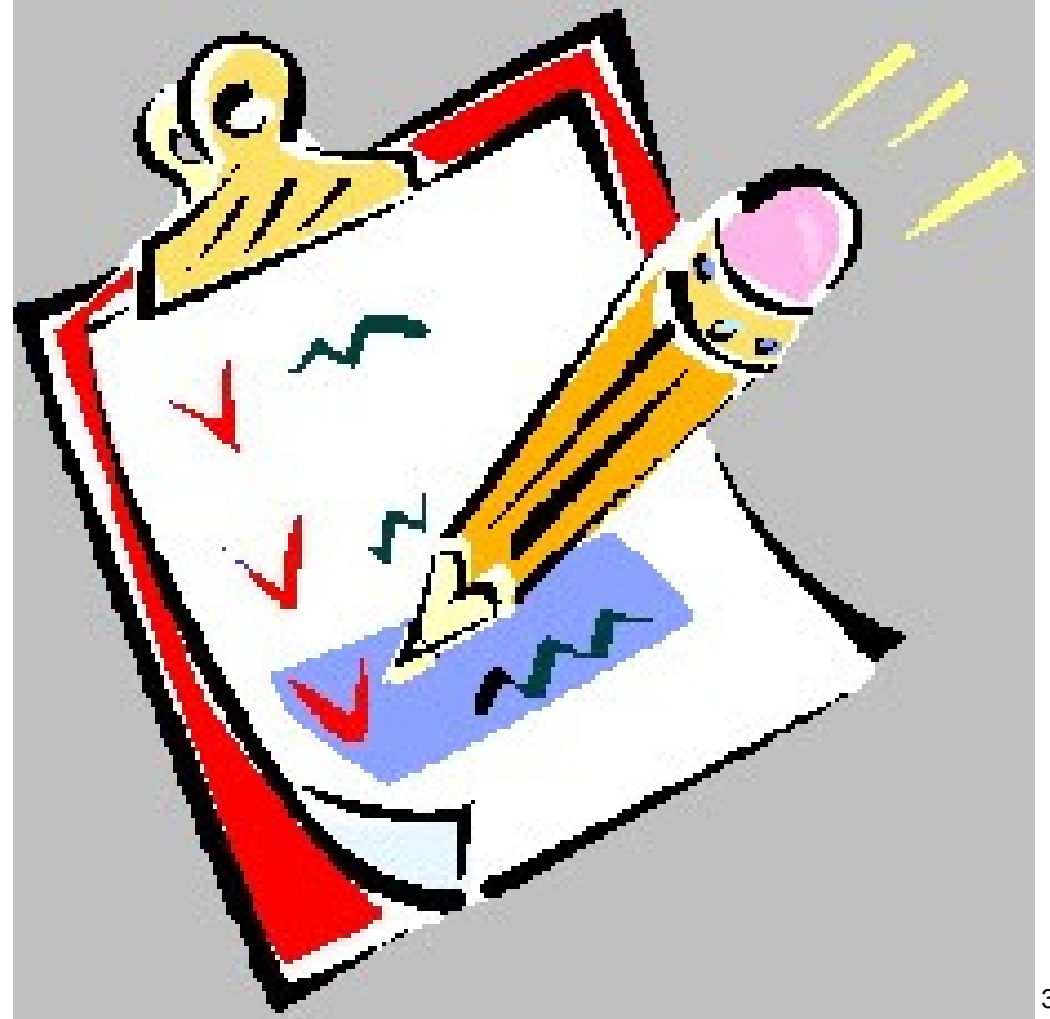
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AGENDA

- Impacts & Considerations of Climate Change
- PA MPC, Act 247
 - Comprehensive plans
 - Implementing ordinances
- Other Plans & Ordinances
 - Stormwater management
 - Hazard mitigation plans
 - Flood hazard ordinances
- Questions & Answers



IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

- Increased frequency of extreme weather events
 - Heavy precipitation, flooding, heavy winds, storms
- Rising Temperatures
 - Water shortages, degraded air quality, wildfires
- Economic
 - Storm damage, disruption of businesses
- Environmental Impacts
 - Agriculture, wildlife habitats
- Social Impacts
 - Vulnerable populations, public health & safety

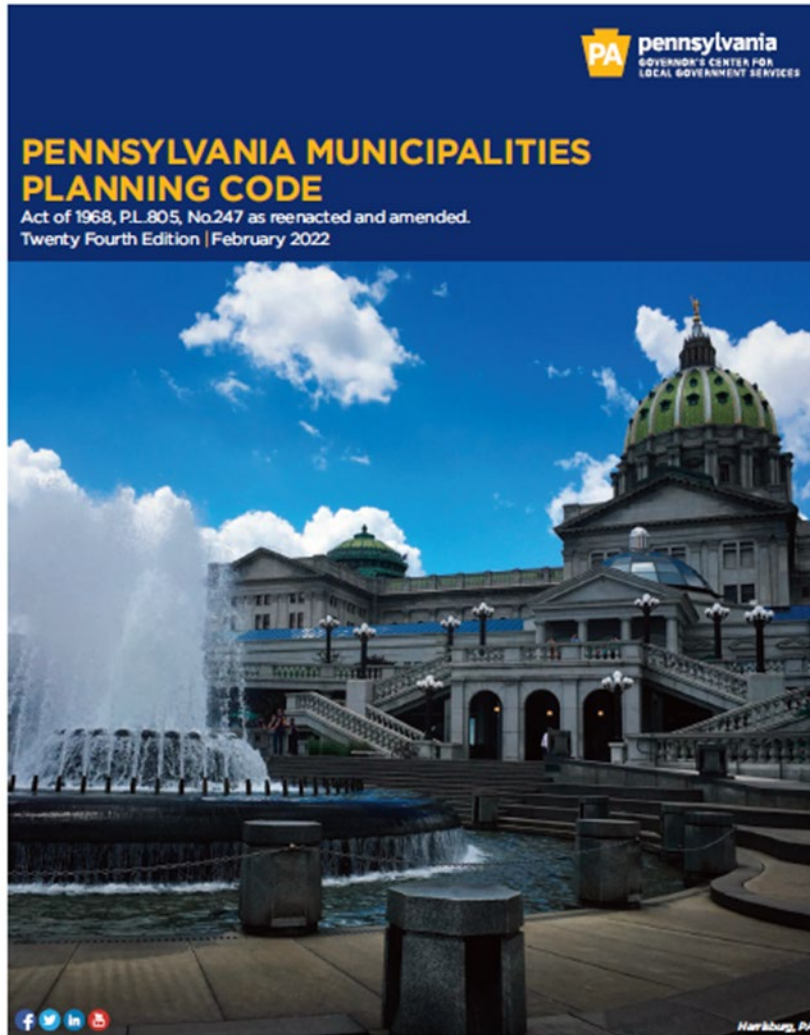


CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS FACED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Transportation infrastructure
- Utility infrastructure & facilities
- Provision of water
- Increased demand for electricity & telecommunications
- Loss of wetlands
- Public health & safety
- And others.....



PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE, ACT 247 OF 1968



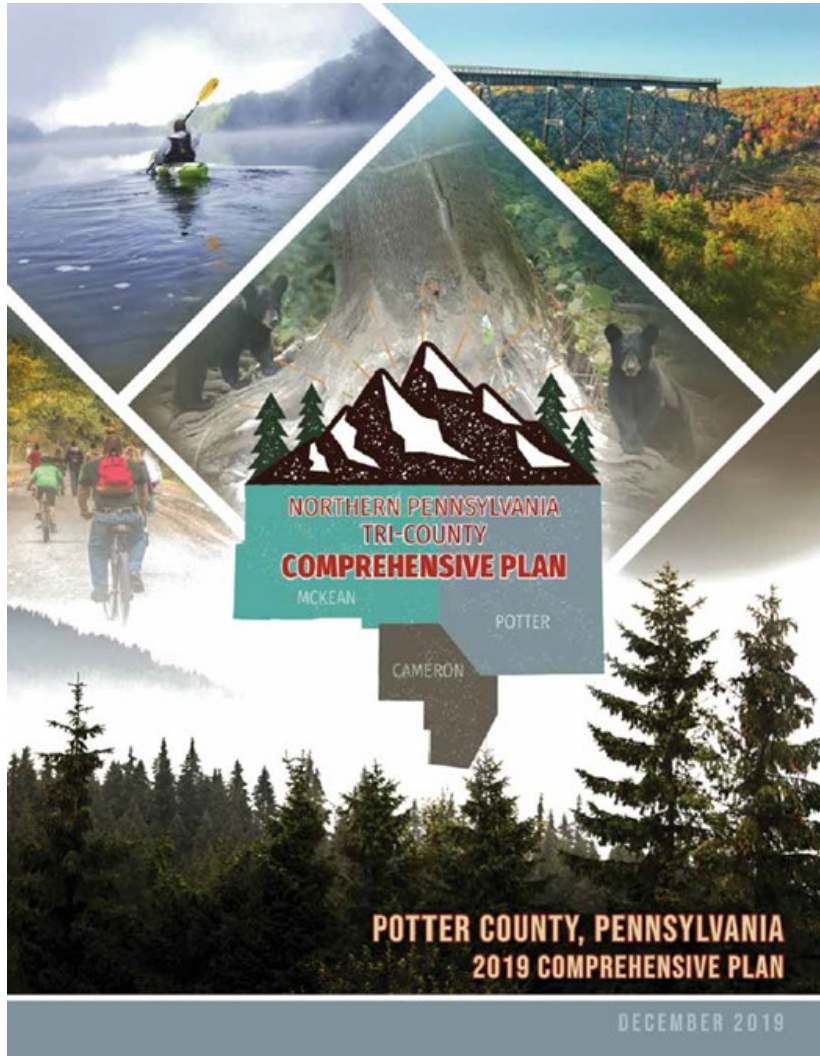
- Referenced as the MPC.
- Governing law for planning in Pennsylvania.
- Identifies tools, requirements and restrictions for planning.
- Vests authority in local governments and their elected officials.
- Local governments are also required to follow the body of law established by court decisions.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- Decision making guide
- Guides future actions of a community
- Reflects community's vision for the future
- Addresses all activities affecting local gov't
- Goals & Objectives
- *Not Regulatory*



MUNICIPAL, MULTI-MUNICIPAL & COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANS



- Governing bodies may adopt and amend comprehensive plans (MPC § 302 (a))
 - Municipal plans - Optional
 - Multi-municipal plans – Optional & Encouraged
 - County plans – Required (MPC § 301.4)
- Municipal plans shall be generally consistent with the county plan (MPC § 301 (a)(5))

REQUIRED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS (MPC § 301)

- Land use plan
- Housing plan
- Transportation plan
- Community facilities & utilities plan
- Natural & historic resources plan
- Water supply plan
- Additional requirements for county plans include:
 - Agriculture plan
 - Historic preservation plan

**Minimum
Requirements**

ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN ELEMENT (MPC § 301.1)

“To promote energy conservation and the effective utilization of renewable energy sources, the comprehensive plan may include an energy conservation plan element...”



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE & REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- County plans shall be **updated** every 10 years. (MPC § 302 (d))
- Municipal or multi-municipal plans shall be **reviewed** at least every 10 years. (MPC § 301 (c))
- Recommendation is for plans to be reviewed annually.



TOOLS FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
- Official Map Ordinance
- Capital Improvement Programs
- Tax Incentives



WHAT DOES ZONING REGULATE? (MPC § 603)



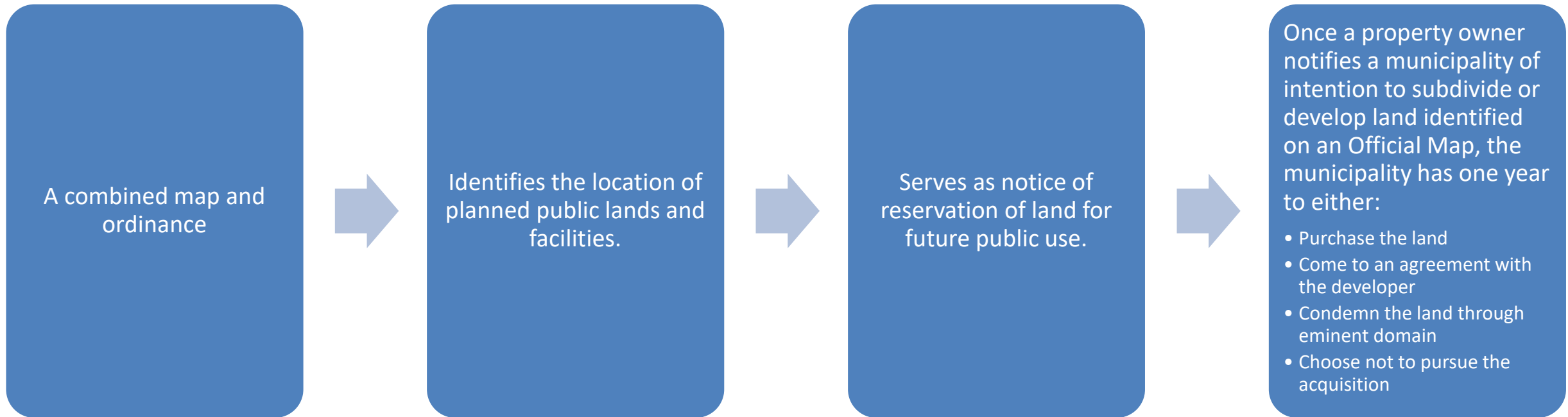
- Uses of land, watercourses and other bodies of water.
- Size, height, bulk, location, erection, construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, razing, removal and use of structures.
- Density and intensity of use.
- Protection and preservation of natural, historic and agricultural resources.

WHAT DOES A SALDO REGULATE?

- Lot layout & design
 - Adequate sites for development
- Design & construction standards for required improvements
 - Streets, sidewalks, lighting, stormwater, landscaping, buffer areas, etc.
- Adequate provision for water & sewage facilities



WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL MAP?



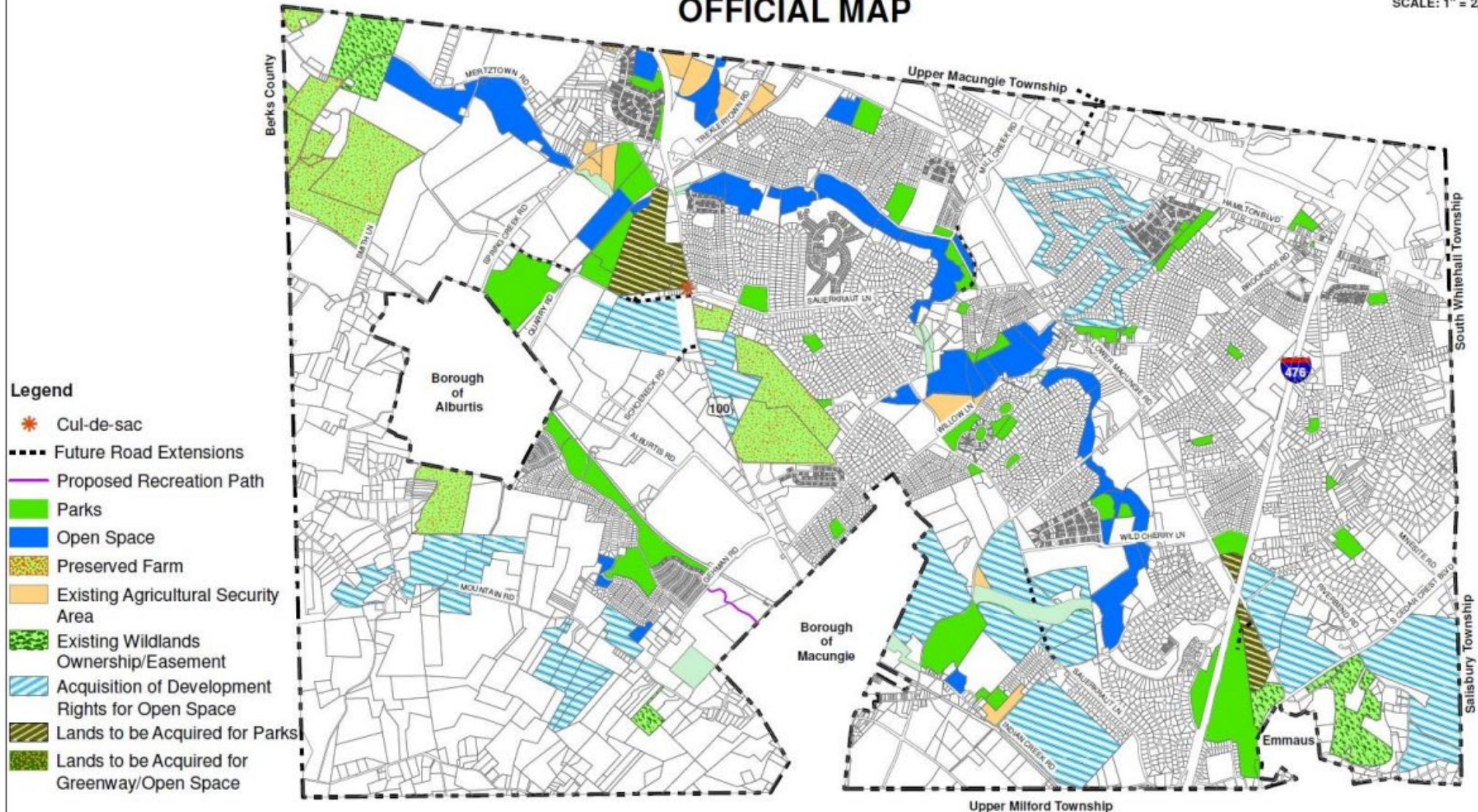
LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP

LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICIAL MAP



SCALE: 1" = 2,600'





pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OTHER PLANS & ORDINANCES

ACT 167 OF 1978, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Counties prepare or update and adopt county-wide, or watershed stormwater management plans.
- Reviewed/approved by PA DEP
- Plans provide municipalities with standards, criteria, and ordinances to regulate and control stormwater.
- Municipalities enact ordinances to implement plan and recommendations.



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

- Identify hazards & risks and develop ways to mitigate losses of life and property.
- Multi-jurisdictional plans prepared every 5 years.
- Reviewed/approved by PEMA & FEMA
- FEMA mitigation grant programs require federally approved HMP for eligibility.
- Guidance provided by PEMA



FLOOD HAZARD ORDINANCES



- The National Flood Insurance Program(NFIP) makes flood insurance available in participating communities.
- To participate, municipalities must adopt a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP criteria.



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