

# Paupack Township

## Wayne County Agricultural Land Use/Land Cover Study

A study examining the change of agricultural land use and land cover  
in Wayne County from 1959 to 2002

*This is report M-19, Paupack Township; in a series of reports examining land use and land cover change in Wayne County's 28 municipalities, particularly agricultural land between 1959 and 2002. For a detail of the study procedures, see the Project Narrative.*



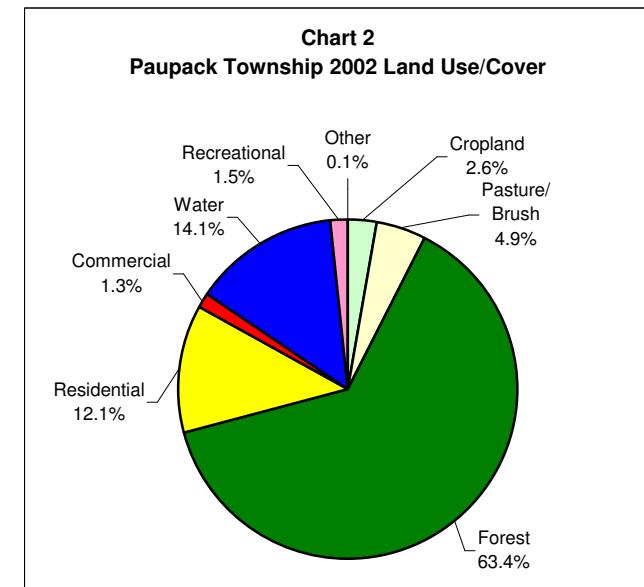
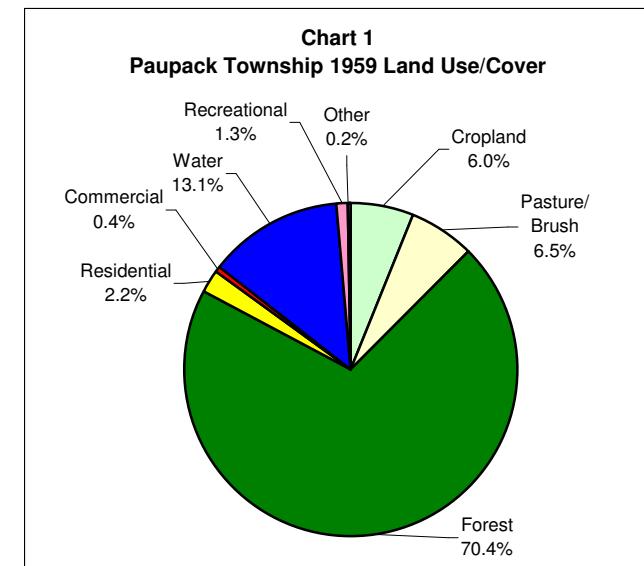
### Overview

Paupack Township is located along the southeast border of Wayne County. The entire southeastern boundary of the Township itself is comprised of Lake Wallenpaupack. The total land area of the Township is about 20,874 acres or 32.6 square miles. As seen in Table 1 {below} and Charts 1 and 2 {right}, the amount of agricultural land, namely cropland, farmsteads and pasture/brush all decreased over the study period. On a percentage basis, the agricultural types of land use/cover comprised 5.3% less of the Township by the end of the study period. The majority of the Township was forested in both 1959 and 2002. However, the amount of forest cover declined slightly over the period and comprised 7% less of the total Township land area by 2002. The residential land use increased substantially in the forty-plus year time frame. Additionally, commercial land use increased, but only slightly, relative to the total land area.

**Table 1 - Paupack Township Land Use/Land Cover**

Land Use/Land Cover	Paupack 1959 Acres	Category Percent of Total	Paupack 2002 Acres	Category Percent of Total
Residential	339.08	1.6%	2,476.25	11.9%
Commercial	84.28	0.4%	277.58	1.3%
Industrial	-	0%	-	0%
Transportation	26.61	0.1%	-	0%
Utilities	0.79	0.0%	3.12	0.0%
Religious	4.53	0.0%	5.56	0.0%
Government/Institution	-	0%	7.78	0.0%
Recreational	271.12	1.3%	317.02	1.5%
Cropland	1,262.48	6.0%	551.78	2.6%
Farmstead	114.20	0.5%	44.39	0.2%
Pasture/Brush	1,354.29	6.5%	1,018.37	4.9%
Forest	14,685.85	70.4%	13,231.90	63.4%
Water	2,730.72	13.1%	2,940.91	14.1%
Mining/Extraction	0.70	0.0%	-	0%
Total	20,874.65	100.0%	20,874.66	100.0%

The charts below show the percent values for the land use/land cover categories in Paupack Township for 1959 and 2002. The residential category includes farmsteads in each chart's total throughout this report, and the category "other" includes land use/land cover categories that were too small to illustrate individually.



Note the decrease in agricultural land use/cover types, as well as forest and the sizeable increase in residential land use. Also noteworthy is the amount of land area comprised of water.

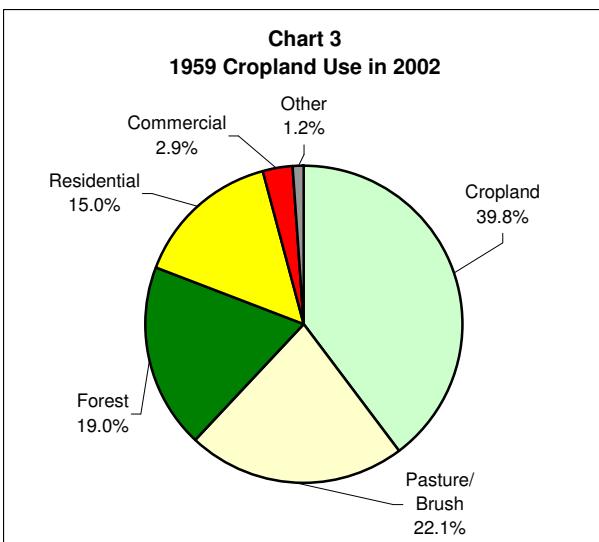
## Cropland

For this study, cropland consists of various types of agricultural products, including but not limited to corn and hay. In 1959, cropland comprised only 6.0% of the total Township land area. {See Table 1} By 2002, the amount of cropland decreased and comprised only 2.6% of the total land area. Over the extent of the study period the amount of cropland decreased from about 1,262 acres to nearly 552 acres. Table 2 {below} and Chart 3 {right} depict what became of the 1959 cropland.

Table 2 - 1959 Cropland Use in 2002

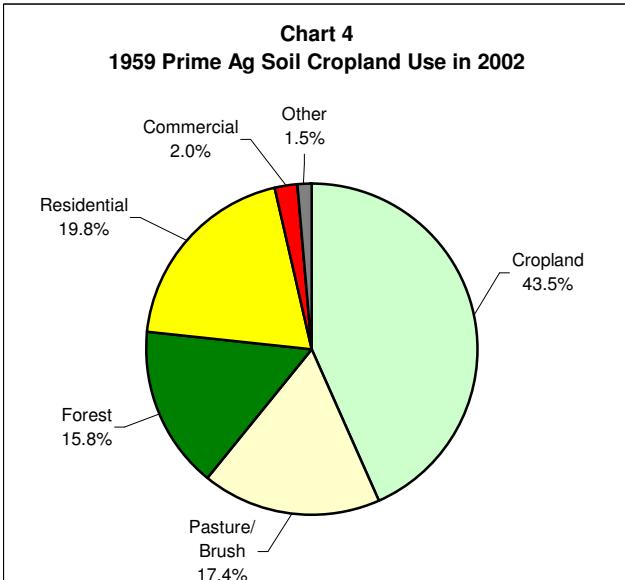
Land Use/Land Cover	1959 Cropland Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent
Residential	179.36	14.2%
Commercial	36.16	2.9%
Industrial	-	0%
Transportation	-	0%
Utilities	2.33	0.18%
Religious	0.35	0.0%
Government/Institution	-	0%
Recreational	8.27	0.7%
Cropland	502.61	39.8%
Farmstead	10.22	0.8%
Pasture/Brush	279.13	22.1%
Forest	239.58	19.0%
Water	4.48	0.4%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%
Total	1,262.49	100.0%

Of the approximately 1,262 acres of 1959 cropland, nearly 40% remained as cropland in 2002. About 22% or 279 acres of the 1959 cropland converted to pasture/brush. Another 19% or nearly 240 acres evolved further to forest cover by the end of the study period in 2002. The latter conversion is likely attributed to cropland that went idle closer to the beginning of the study in 1959. By 2002, 15% and almost 3% converted to residential or commercial uses, respectively. The United States Department of Agriculture classifies soil as prime agricultural soil, farmland of statewide importance or non-prime soil. Details of the three classifications can be found in the County summary. The following sections will analyze soil from a prime versus non-prime perspective.



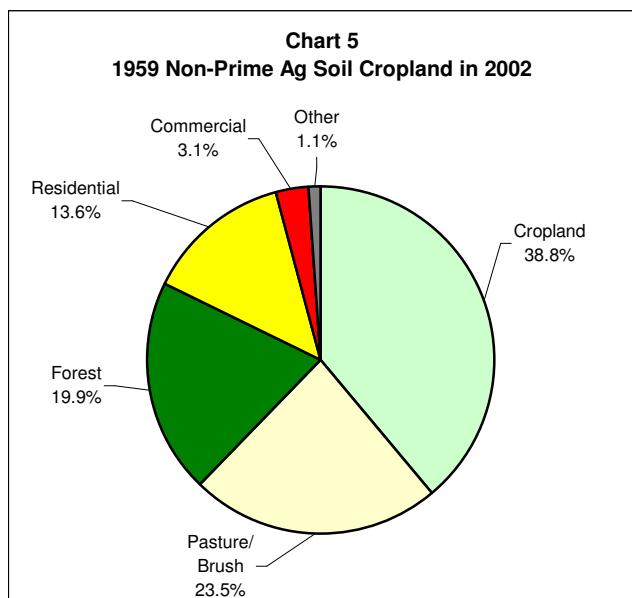
## Prime Agricultural Soil

In 1959, over 22% or 283 acres of the cropland in Paupack Township was situated on prime agricultural soil. Of that prime agricultural soil cropland, nearly 44% remained as cropland by 2002. Of the remaining 1959 prime agricultural soil cropland, about 33% converted to natural types of land use/cover as pasture/brush (17.4%) or forest (15.8%). Another 19.8% and 2.0% converted to residential or commercial land use by 2002, respectively. The remaining area converted to smaller percentages of other types of land use/cover. Chart 4 {below} depicts what became of the 1959 cropland that was utilizing prime agricultural soil.



## Non-Prime Agricultural Soil

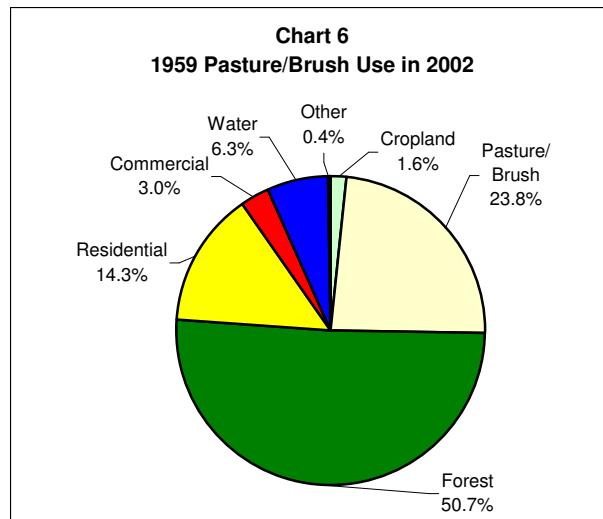
In 1959, approximately 78% or 979 acres of the cropland in Paupack Township was utilizing non-prime agricultural soil. Relative to the 1959 prime agricultural soil cropland, a lesser percentage (nearly 39% or 379.50 acres) of the non-prime agricultural soil cropland was still being used as cropland in 2002 {See Chart 5, below}. Nearly 44% of the 1959 non-prime agricultural soil cropland converted to natural types of land use/cover, either as pasture/brush (23.5%) or forest (19.9%). Another 13.6% and 3.1% converted to residential and commercial types of land use, respectively, by 2002. The remaining area was comprised of relatively smaller percentages of various other types of land use/cover.



## Pasture/Brush

In 1959, the 1,354 acres of pasture/brush accounted for 6.5% of the total Paupack Township land area. By 2002, pasture/brush accounted for 4.9% of the total land area {See Table 1}. Of the 1959 pasture/brush, about 24% remained as that type of land use/cover by 2002. The largest amount of 1959 pasture/brush converted to forest {See Chart 6, above right}. More than 50% or about 686 acres of 1959 pasture/brush converted to forest cover. Another 6.3% converted to water. Residential

and commercial uses in 2002 accounted for 14.3% and 3.0%, respectively. The remaining area of 1959 pasture/brush was comprised of other types of land use/cover.

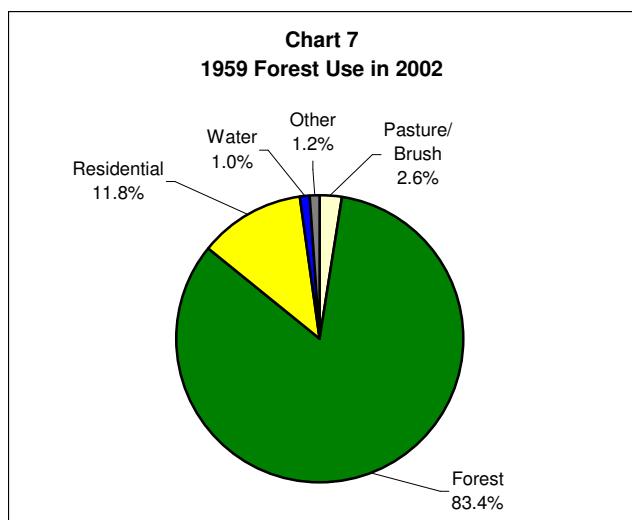


## Forest

As stated earlier, the majority of Paupack Township was forested in both 1959 and 2002. Large, mostly forested, tracts of land exist in the northern section of the Township. These lands are owned by hunting clubs and have a very long history in the Township. Additionally, other large forested parcels of land, owned by the Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation, are located at the southern tip of the Township. However, the amount of forest cover did decrease during the study period from 14,686 acres to about 13,232 acres {See Table 1}. In terms of percentage of the total land area of the Township, the forest decreased by 7% over the course of the study period. Despite the fact that 50.7% of the 1959 land classified as pasture/brush converted to forest by 2002 {See Chart 6 above}, nearly 17% of the 14,686 acres of 1959 land classified as forest converted to other types of land use/cover by 2002 {See Table 3 and Chart 7 on the following page}. Of the 14,686 acres of 1959 forest, approximately 1,740 acres or 11.8% converted to residential uses by 2002. About 382 acres or 2.6% reverted to pasture/brush and another 145 acres or 1% was classified as water by 2002. The remaining area of 1959 forest converted to other land use/cover.

**Table 3 - 1959 Forest Use in 2002**

Land Use/Land Cover	1959 Forestland Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent
Residential	1,739.51	11.8%
Commercial	110.62	0.8%
Industrial	-	0%
Transportation	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%
Religious	0.67	0.0%
Government/Institution	5.09	0.0%
Recreational	33.37	0.2%
Cropland	20.49	0.1%
Farmstead	6.14	0.0%
Pasture/Brush	381.96	2.6%
Forest	12,241.77	83.4%
Water	145.46	1.0%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,685.08</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Residential

Between 1959 and 2002, residential land use/cover in Paupack Township increased from about 339 acres to approximately 2,476 acres {See Table 1}. By 2002 the percentage of Township land area devoted to residential uses increased to 11.9%. As one might expect, the population of Paupack Township also increased, from 411 in 1960 to 2,959 at the time of the year 2000 census. In a Township that is about 32.6 square miles, the population increase translates to a change in population density from nearly 13 persons per square mile to about 91 persons per square mile in 2000.

## Commercial

Commercial land increased from about 84 acres to nearly 278 acres between 1959 and 2002. However, in relation to the entire Township land area, the increase in commercial land was still relatively minimal and by 2002 it accounted for only 1.3% of the total land area. {See Table 1}

## Protected Agricultural Land

At the end of the study period in 2002, Paupack Township had about 694 acres enrolled in the Agricultural Security Area Program. Additionally, about 90 acres of farmland was enrolled in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program by 2002. There were also approximately 6,140 acres of land accepted into the Act 319 Program (Clean & Green), which accounts for about one-third of the taxable land in the Township. This tax designation reduces the assessed value of the Township by \$7,760,600 or 1.0%.

## Summary

In total, agricultural land use/cover (cropland, farmsteads and pasture/brush) comprised 13% of the Township land area in 1959. By 2002, the amount of agricultural land use/cover decreased by more than 5% as a percentage of the total land area. Similarly, the amount of forest cover decreased and accounted for 7% less of the Township land area in 2002 than it did in 1959. The residential land use/cover increased most notably over the study period and by 2002 accounted for nearly 12% of the Township land area.

### Wayne County Agricultural Land Use/Cover

This project was funded in part by the Wayne County Commissioners and by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This study examines the change in agricultural land use/cover over 43 years (1959-2002). The base data is 1959 USDA aerial photos which were registered to the state plane coordinate system by Wilkes University's Center for Geographic Information Sciences. This enabled comparison with 1997 aerial photos taken by Wayne County. To aid in the analysis of the data, local municipal volunteers worked with planning department staff members in reviewing the aerial photos and resulting land use maps. A complete list of those community volunteers who aided in the completion of this report can be found in the report summary.

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