

COUNTY TOPICS

Wayne County Recreation, Parks & Natural Resources Plan

Woodland Design Associates, Inc. was contracted as the County's consultant for this plan and began work on the project in 2020. Woodland met with all 28 of the County's municipalities and conducted key person interviews in 2021. A comprehensive inventory of existing parks, natural resources, and recreational assets throughout the County was developed along with future planning objectives. The Plan's steering committee also met during 2021 to discuss plan elements and our Department worked closely with Woodland Design to review GIS mapping and plan sections.

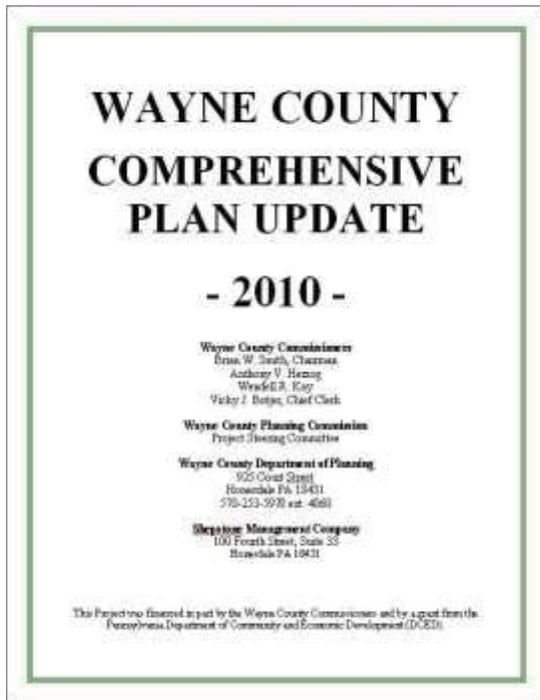


Lackawaxen River Trails segment, canal towpath trail connecting to Hawley from D&H Canal Park at Lock 31. Photo by Woodland Design.

The Wayne County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan will provide broad goals and objectives for the County's future development as it applies to natural and recreational resources. Previous studies including the Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study and other existing municipal and County studies and plans have been incorporated, highlighting related planning efforts and long-term projects such as the proposed Lackawaxen River Trails network that is attempting to connect Honesdale and Hawley by rail, river, and trail along the Lackawaxen River.

Once finalized in 2022, this County Recreation Plan will be a stand-alone document that will satisfy the recreational elements of the next 2022/'23 Wayne County Comprehensive Plan update.

Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update



The previous update to the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Wayne County Commissioners in September of 2010. As required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the County is required to again update its Comprehensive Plan. In mid-2021 Wayne County released a Request for Proposals for this purpose. A deadline of June 30, 2021 was instituted to receive the consultant submissions.

By the end of the stated cut off, two proposals had been received. One submission was from the Urban Research & Development Corporation (URDC) from Bethlehem, PA and the other proposal was received from the cooperative effort of Shepstone Management Company & Woodland Design Associates, Wayne County. A consultant selection committee was formed at the direction of the County Commissioners to evaluate the proposals. After the reviews and subsequent in person interviews, it was

decided that the combined team of Shepstone Management Company & Woodland Design Associates was best qualified to guide the County's update process.

In November of 2021, a contract was executed with the development team and preliminary work commenced. The consultant team met with the Wayne County Planning Commission Board at the regularly scheduled December meeting to outline the expected process and timeline. Overall, it is anticipated that the project will span approximately two years and be ready for adoption by the beginning of 2024.

Also at the December meeting, the consultants indicated such steps as the development of Project Goals and Objectives, Preparation of Background Studies, and the ultimate establishment of Plan Recommendations. The project will require a collaboration of Geographic Information System (GIS) map development and data processing between the consultants and the Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS. Public participation will also be a key component of the process. This will be achieved through the development of surveys, public meetings, attendance by the consultant team at Wayne County Planning Commission meetings, and at Wayne Tomorrow! meetings. Interviews will also be conducted with any other identified key stakeholders. Integral to the plan update will be the results of the recently completed United States Census 2020. This information will be the foundation for the developed studies on Demographics, Housing & Economics. Other studies to be conducted include Existing Land Use, Circulation and Transportation, and Emergency Services Inventories. The Wayne County Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Plan that is currently being developed separately will serve, by reference, as the study and plan for that required component of the Comprehensive Plan Update. As of the date of this writing, in early 2022, work on the plan was beginning in earnest.

Wayne County GIS

Throughout the year, the Wayne County Planning/GIS Department works on GIS (Geographic Information Systems) projects. These include daily maintenance tasks such as setting physical 911 addresses, amending building footprints, maintaining road centerlines, revising tax parcel boundaries and updating the County 911 dispatch system.

In addition, the Department regularly supports other County offices that either use GIS directly or rely on GIS data for their projects and workflows. We also serve the public through data requests, custom cartography, aerial mapping products and an interactive public accessible online mapping application. The following are examples of County GIS projects during 2021.

Wayne County Interactive Map

The Planning/GIS Department's interactive web map provides tax parcels/ownership information, public/private roads, and verified 9-1-1 addresses within Wayne County. The total yearly view count for 2021 was 226,923 with an average of 622 views per day. This represents the highest total and daily views recorded in a calendar year since the interactive map's launch in 2016. Since its launch, this mapping application has been viewed nearly one million times.

With continual interest and such regular usage, our office places a priority on updating this interactive map (found on the Wayne County website (<http://waynecountypa.gov/>) on a regular basis.



Interactive map viewership numbers for 2021.

Property Mailing Lists

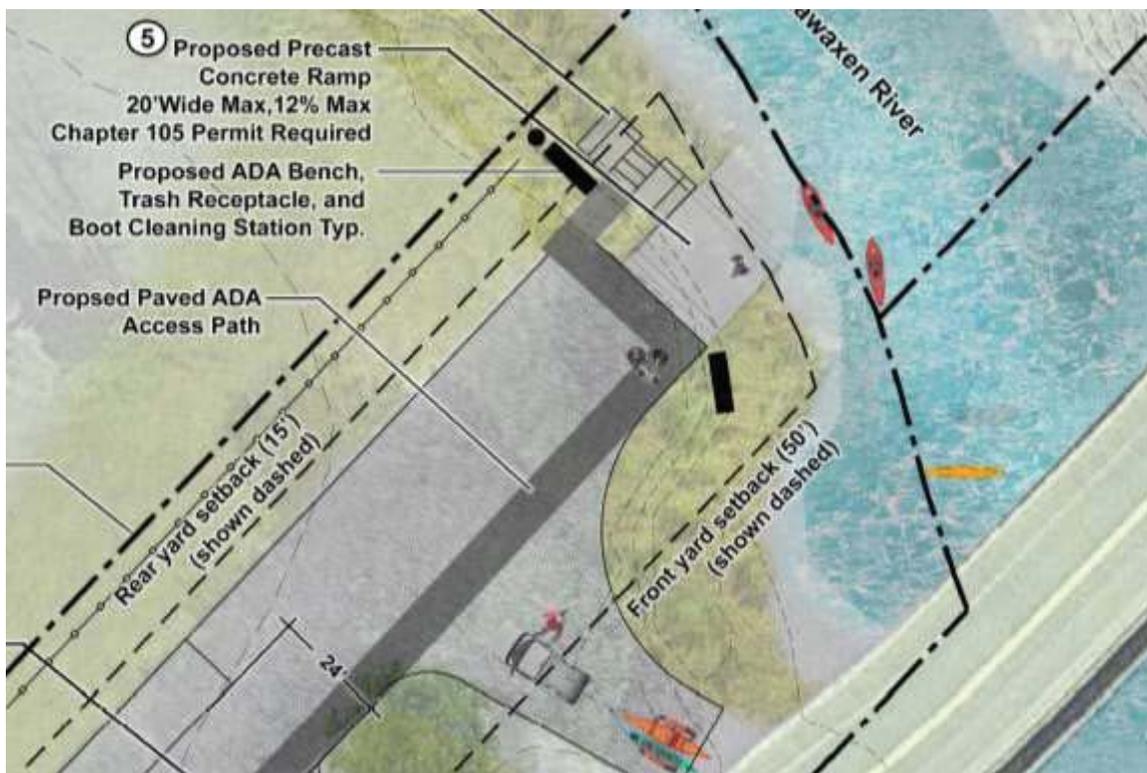
The Planning/GIS Department provides regular assistance to municipalities and organizations looking to identify various tax parcels. For instance, if a township needs a mailing address list for property owners neighboring a parcel where a conditional use is proposed, our office can generate that list. Likewise, if a watershed management group needs a similar list for parcels within a given watershed, we can provide the same.

Wayne County Conservation District

As part of our County-wide work assisting other offices with mapping resources, we provided historical aerial photo maps to the Wayne Conservation District showing areas of potential stormwater runoff generation.

Lackawaxen River Trails

Continuing the work of the Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study, which was identified by community interest and feasibility for a trail network along the Lackawaxen River corridor (with connections along PA Route 6, PA Bicycle Route Y, the old D&H Canal Towpath, the Stourbridge Line Railroad, and the Lackawaxen River itself) between Hawley and Honesdale Boroughs, our office provided mapping support for the County Commissioners as grants were pursued to develop trail connections and river access locations along Park Street and Industrial Point in Honesdale Borough and White Mills in Texas Township. For more information on this planning effort, those interested can visit <https://lackawaxenrivertrails.org/>.



Proposed Plan, White Mills River Access. Rendering by Woodland Design.

Wayne County Planning/GIS continues to assist all community stakeholders with mapping and planning project assistance with respect to trail connections and recreational development along the Lackawaxen River. Such assistance includes participating as a guest steering committee member of the Pike County Trails Feasibility Study currently in progress. This study picks up where the Wayne County study left off, with a plan to lengthen the planning area along the Lackawaxen River to the Delaware River.

Additionally, our planning partners over at the Pike County Office of Community Planning were looking at mapping trails within the region in 2021. The Planning/GIS Department shared Wayne County trails data to support their effort. Future planning efforts may allow for a joint trails map/app project highlighting the various recreational opportunities that our neighboring counties offer.

WEDCO

Each year, we contribute to the Wayne Economic Development Corporation's (WEDCO) development efforts by providing mapping and resource gathering support. This past year, assistance included providing Census Block data and mapping WEDCO's Sterling Business & Technology Park and neighboring parcels.



Portion of map showing active (green) and vacant (red) business properties in the vicinity of the Sterling Business and Technology Park highlighted in purple.

Wayne County Assessment and GIS

The Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS works closely with the County Tax Assessment Office to help maintain tax parcel data, rights-of-way, building footprints, the County's Act 319 clean and green program (preferential tax abatement) and more.

Wayne County 911 and GIS

The Planning/GIS Department updates address points, roads, and driveways in the emergency service areas of the 911's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Additional maintenance involves processing daily telephone record changes and revisions to emergency response area boundaries.

Maintaining telephone records and response boundaries is a vital part to the County's 911 system. In 2021, a total of 2,808 telephone number records were reviewed and processed through this required maintenance. Additionally, the County continued working with consultant Geo-Comm last year to coordinate data updates to meet next generation 911 standards.



Snapshot of fire response area boundaries in northern Wayne County.

GIS and 911 staff work together on a daily basis to maintain and support the CAD and overall 911 system to the best of their combined abilities.

Municipal Assistance

As requested, our office assists Wayne County municipalities with assorted mapping needs. Two such requests for Honesdale Borough were a visual representation of Irving Cliff trail network access options from Riverside Drive and Watts Hill Road and the digitizing of a Downtown Honesdale Historic Preservation Area for the Borough's Zoning Ordinance amendment considerations and for the Greater Honesdale Partnership's (GHP) pursuit of a downtown designation for Honesdale.



Portion of a map noted above.