# COUNTY TOPICS

Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update

For the past two years, Wayne County has been working on an update to its Comprehensive Plan. The existing plan was last amended and adopted by the Wayne County Commissioners in 2010. The consulting firms of Woodland Design Associates, Inc. and Shepstone Management Company were retained to assist the County in this effort.

As noted in the Plan 'Introduction', *"The Wayne County Comprehensive Plan is a framework for assessing existing conditions, reviewing projections from the past Comprehensive planning efforts that resulted from it along with addressing the needs of the County looking towards the future."*

The early first steps of the project were to develop Goals and Objectives and to solicit involvement and input from the public via the release of surveys, which were available through the summer months of 2022. The results and data obtained from the surveys were compiled by the consultant team and became a basis for the report. In addition, the consultant team met with the Wayne Tomorrow! group and, on a monthly basis, the Wayne County Planning Commission Board. A series of public meetings were also hosted to garner public input on a broad variety of topics, following a presentation from the development team. From these sources of public input, collected background data, and other sources and analyses, plan sections were created to form and update the plan.

WAYNE COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Wayne County Commissioners
Brian Smith, Chairman
Jocelyn Cramer, Vice Chair
James Shook, Commissioner

Wayne County Department of Planning
925 Court Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-5970 x4060

Prepared by:

Woodland Design Associates, Inc.
116 Lincoln Street, Honesdale PA 18431

Shepstone Management Company
100th Fourth Street, Suite 33, Honesdale, PA 18431

Among the developed sections of the update are studies and plans on Transportation, Housing, Population and Demographics, Community Facilities, Economics, and Land Use, among others. Also, a component of the final plan update is the Wayne County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan, which was adopted by the Wayne County Commissioners in September of 2022.

This resulting plan update will serve as a reference and a guide for all of Wayne County for the next decade, and as stated, *"…will be available to assist municipal, County, and private sector decision makers in creating the conditions for healthy growth of the area that preserves what is best about our past while looking to the future."*

The Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update was completed in late 2023 and was subsequently posted for public viewing and comment. The plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Wayne County Commissioners in late February, 2024.
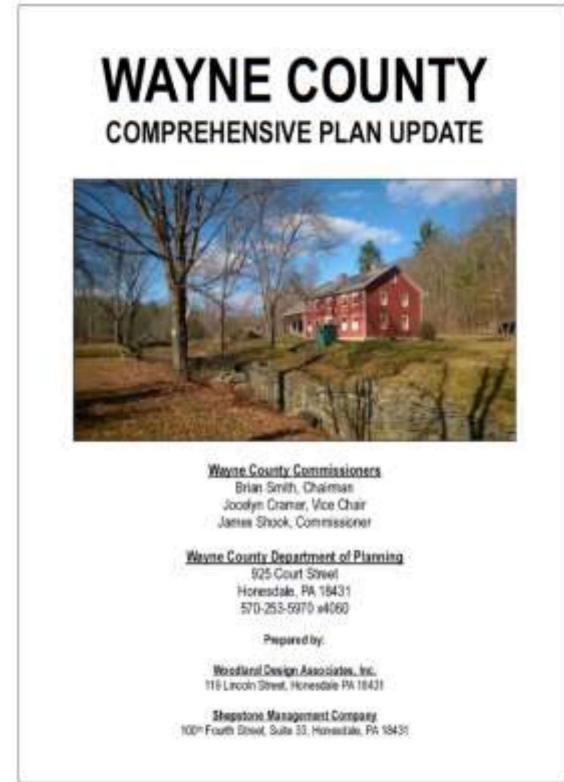
Wayne County GIS

The Wayne County Planning/GIS Department works on many GIS (Geographic Information Systems) projects each year including setting physical 911 addresses, amending building footprints, maintaining road centerlines, revising tax parcel boundaries, and updating the data that supports the County 911 dispatch system.

In addition, the Department regularly supports other County offices with their GIS needs. The public is also served through data requests, custom cartography, aerial mapping products, and interactive publicly accessible online mapping applications.

Wayne County Interactive Parcel Viewing Map

The Planning/GIS Department's interactive web map provides the public access to tax parcels with ownership information, public/private roads, and verified 911 addresses in Wayne County. This year, to better serve the public, the Department added additional layers such as school districts, voting districts, polling places, soils information, and contour lines. The Interactive Parcel Viewing Map received 201,227 views in 2023 with an average of over 500 views per day.

Wayne County Cultural and Recreation Opportunities Map

Using the information gathered in the **Wayne County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan**, the GIS Department created a public web mapping application to help connect residents and visitors to different cultural and outdoor recreation opportunities in the County such as the location of libraries, cultural sites, museums, hiking trails, parks, and boat launches located throughout the County.

Screenshot of the Cultural and Recreational Opportunities Web Mapping Application.

Wayne County 911 and GIS

The Planning/GIS Department creates and updates address points, road centerlines, and driveways, as well as Fire, EMS, and Police coverage areas in the 911's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

Telephone records are also maintained daily for the County. New numbers are connected to address points, changes to telephone record information are recorded, and numbers no longer in use are disconnected from addresses. In 2023, 3,675 telephone records were reviewed and 1,863 were updated by the Planning/GIS Department which was down significantly from 6,553 records in 2022. This decline is due to fewer people having landline telephone numbers and the switch from traditional telephone service to VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) telephone service.

The Planning/GIS Department also prepared data for integration into the statewide Next Generation 911 (NG911) system. Deployment of the NG911 system, which is a GIS driven system, will be completed in 2024 and will improve emergency response.

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, and the County's Act 319 Clean and Green Program (preferential tax abatement). GIS staff update parcel geometry after a land subdivision or merger. Data produced and maintained by the Planning/GIS department is used by assessors in their daily work.

Property Mailing Lists

The Planning/GIS Department provides regular assistance to municipalities and organizations looking to identify various tax parcels and ownership information. For instance, GIS can generate a list of adjacent property owners where a conditional use is being proposed, a list of mailing addresses for property owners served by a particular fire company, or a list of properties within a specific watershed for a watershed management organization.

In-County Mapping Assistance

GIS supports many offices and organizations within the County. This year, the Planning/GIS office offered mapping and data analytics support to WEDCO for grant applications that hope to bring broadband to parts of the County that have long been lacking in reliable internet access.
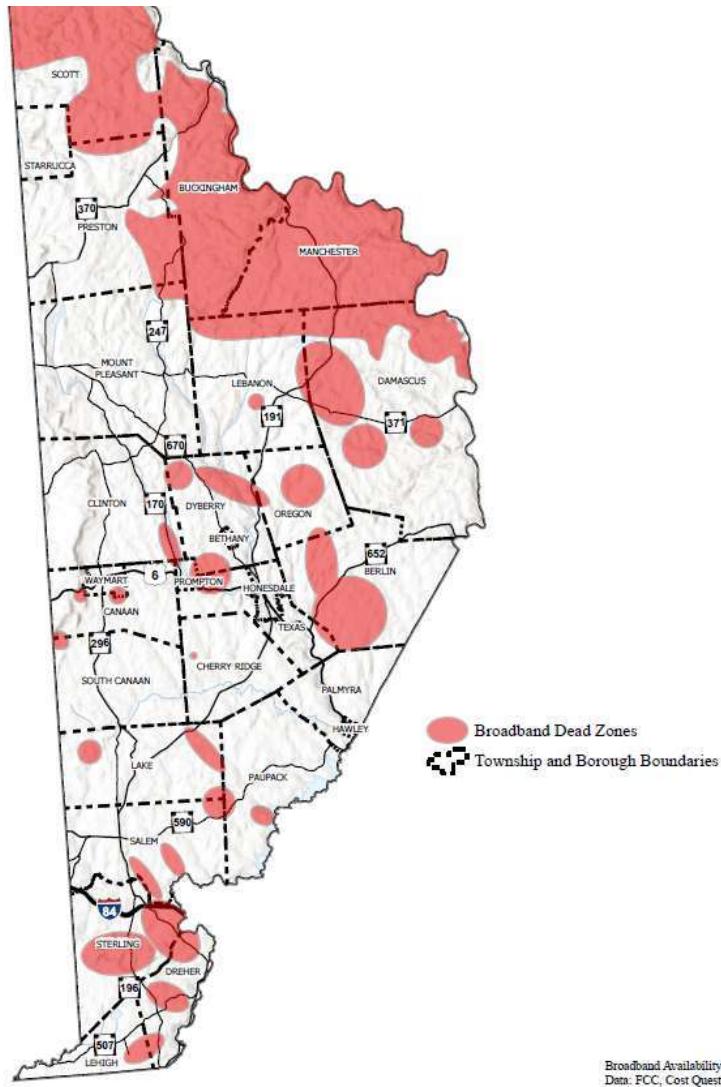

Map showing areas in Wayne County where broadband internet is limited or unavailable.

The GIS staff was also asked by Western Wayne School District to provide a map with all of the roads in the district so the bussing routes could be evaluated and adjusted, if necessary, to provide more efficient transportation service to the district students.

Community Organizational Assistance

The Planning/GIS Department is often asked to help community organizations by providing mapping products and data for various causes. The Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary asked for a map of the stops on their Garden Tour that will be included in their brochure. The WMH Auxiliary provided the stop locations, and the GIS staff produced a map that will help guide patrons on the tour.
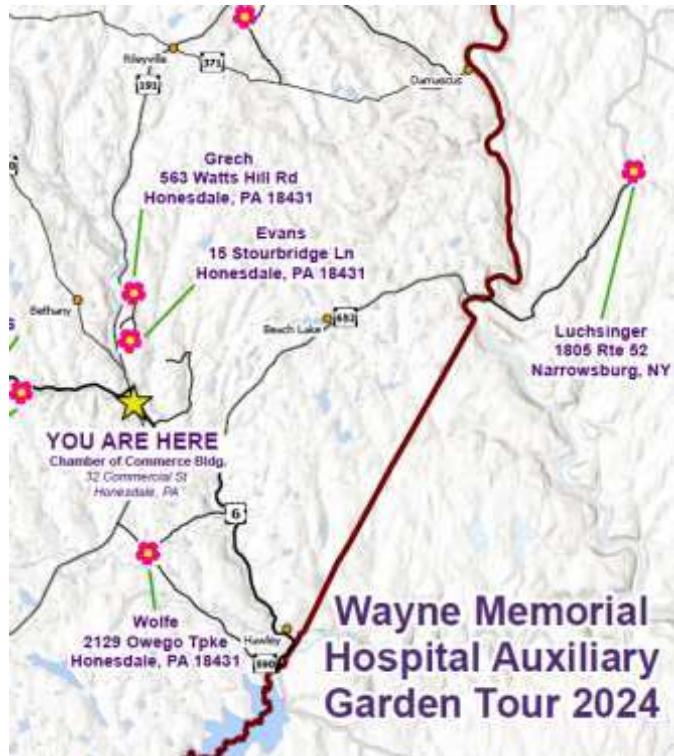
Excerpt from the map for the WMH Auxiliary Garden Tour.

Other GIS Initiatives

The GIS Department transitioned to a new GIS platform this year, ArcGIS Pro, which is the latest GIS software suite from ESRI. The GIS staff edited workflows previously done in ArcGIS Desktop to fit the new software platform, rewrote data models used to calculate Act 319 (Clean and Green) values for Tax Assessment, and updated documentation of those workflows.

The GIS staff also worked to automate some of the data update tasks in order to improve efficiency and maintain data accuracy. Models were created to update data sets used by different departments that can be scheduled to run without supervision during off-use hours.
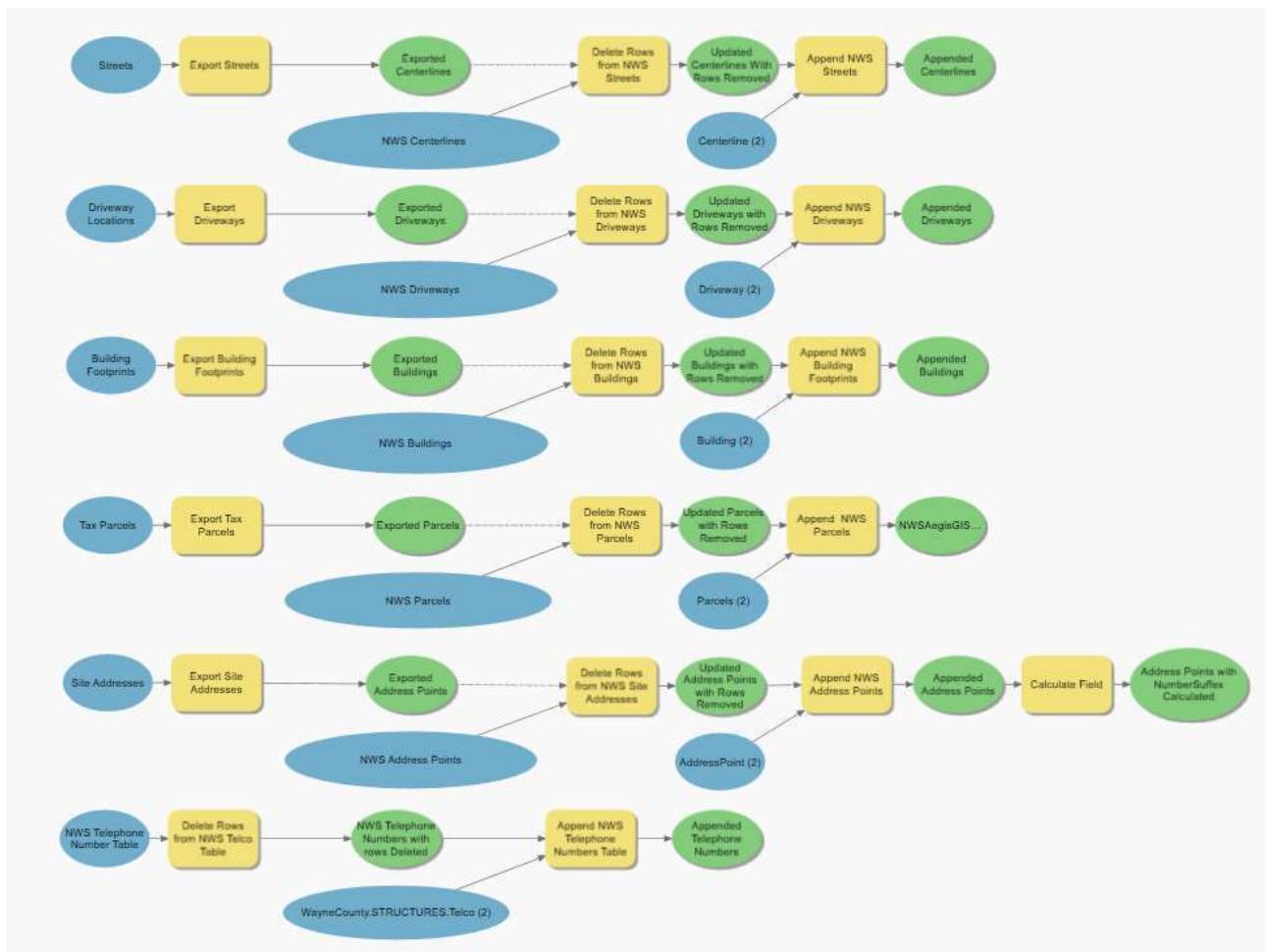
Example of Data Model for updating data sources used by other applications.

The Planning/GIS Department is collaborating with a contractor to transfer the entirety of the County's GIS data to a cloud-based ArcGIS Enterprise Environment. This transition aims to align the County with industry-leading standards, enabling the implementation of quality assurance and quality control measures to uphold the integrity of GIS data and ensures the security of the County's data.