

Community Facilities

Community facilities include public buildings and services that support municipal government and functions, providing for the everyday needs of residents. They include services such as sanitary sewerage and water supply services, police and fire protection, stormwater management, trash collection and recycling, libraries, and recreation programs. The extent to which these services are available depends upon factors such as population, tax base, the traffic circulation system, and location within the region. Community facilities should be considered resources with limited capacities that are to be provided in those places where they can serve the residents of the region most efficiently.

Facilities and public services can be provided in a variety of ways. Issues such as the existing and projected needs of the residents, the philosophy of municipal officials, financial resources, and whether similar services are offered by other agencies in the region all play a role in determining what services are most needed. Financing may be provided through tax revenue, state or federal funding, or through contracts with private or quasi-public agencies, thereby tailoring activities and expenditures for specific needs. Ultimately, a comprehensive approach to providing such facilities and services allows municipal governments to evaluate the cost of these facilities and services and develop an approach for providing them. Figure 16.1, the Community and Recreation Facilities Map depicts the location of the region's facilities including School District and University facilities; Recreation, Open Space, and Public Facilities; Municipal and Emergency services; and Churches and Cemeteries.

PUBLIC SANITARY SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Shippensburg Borough and Shippensburg Township both have public sewer service, but they are served by two different Authorities. The Borough is served by the Shippensburg Borough Authority which operates a treatment facility on Avon Drive. The Township is served by the Cumberland-Franklin Joint Municipal Authority (CFJMA). CFJMA, the Borough of Shippensburg, and the Shippensburg Borough Authority currently have a "conveyance and treatment agreement" for the Borough Authority to provide wastewater conveyance and treatment. Under this agreement, CFJMA agrees to operate, maintain, and repair their portions of the sewer system. The Shippensburg Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant is designed to accept an average flow of 3.3 million gallons per day. The plant is a secondary treatment, biological nitrification facility with chemical treatment for phosphorus. Recent discussion has focused on the need for an additional wastewater treatment plant servicing the northern portion of the Township and Southampton Township (Franklin County). To date, no decision has been made for the construction of such a plant.

There is capacity available at the treatment facility to serve infill development in the Borough and new development in the Township, subject to approval by the Shippensburg Borough Authority. The wastewater treatment plant also has the capability to be expanded. Additional service within the CFMJA service area would need to be coordinated with the Borough and Borough Authority.

Public sewer service areas are shown on Figure 16.2, the Existing and Proposed Sewer Facilities Map.

Figure 16.1 - Community and Recreation Facilities Map Key

SCHOOL DISTRICT/UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

1. Shippensburg Area Senior High School
2. Shippensburg Area Middle School
3. Eckels Field
4. Shippensburg University Alumni House
5. Huber Art Center
6. Little Red Schoolhouse
7. Ezra Lehman Memorial Library
8. Seth Grove Stadium
9. Robb Field
10. Performing Arts Center
11. Franklin Science Center-Planetarium
12. Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School
13. James Burd Elementary School
14. Shippensburg Area School District

RECREATION/OPEN SPACE/ PUBLIC FACILITIES

15. Veterans Memorial Park
16. Community Center
17. PA Department of General Services
18. Shippensburg Township Park
19. Cumberland Valley Proposed Rails-To-Trails Corridor
20. Shippensburg Civic Club
21. Borough Gazebo
22. Fairgrounds
23. Little League Fields
24. Dykeman Spring

MUNICIPAL/EMERGENCY SERVICES

25. Shippensburg Wastewater Treatment Plant
26. Shippensburg Public Library
27. Shippensburg Police Department
28. Shippensburg Post Office
29. Cumberland Valley Hose Company
30. Firefighters Activity Center
31. Vigilant Hose Company #51

32. West end Fire Company
33. Shippensburg Township Building/Maintenance Facility
34. Shippensburg Borough Office
35. Sanitation and Recycling Center

CHURCHES/CEMETERIES

36. Our Lady of the Visitation Church
37. Cora I. Grove Spiritual Center
38. Spring Hill Cemetery
39. United Brethren Church
40. Presbyterian Church
41. Prince Street Church of the Brethren in Christ
42. Faith Tabernacle Congregation Church
43. Messiah United Methodist Church
44. Church of God
45. Memorial Lutheran Church
46. St. Peter's AME Church
47. The Community Church
48. Shippensburg Church of God
49. Presbyterian Church
50. Grace United Church of Christ
51. Dutch Grave Yard
52. Mount Pisgah AME Church
53. Assembly of God Church
54. United Presbyterian Church
55. First Church of God
56. Deliverance Temple
57. Shippensburg Church of the Brethren
58. Shippensburg Independent Baptist Church
59. Diocese of Central PA Episcopal Church
60. Church of Christ
61. Shippensburg Church of the Nazarene
62. Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church
63. African American Cemetery

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES

The Shippensburg Water System serves customers in Shippensburg and Orrstown Boroughs as well as portions of Southampton, Shippensburg, and Lurgan Townships in Cumberland and Franklin Counties. Existing water supply sources are three Borough Authority-owned wells, located in Southampton Township, Cumberland County. Two of the wells are currently online, with the third well expected to be in operation within the next few months.

Public water service areas are shown on Figure 16.3, the Existing and Proposed Water Facilities Map.

Water Capacity

The Shippensburg Borough Authority can currently satisfy all domestic demand within its service area. The Authority's policy is to accept demand whenever possible and to serve any additional areas within its service area that request water service. If water capacity is not immediately available, arrangements would be made to secure sufficient capacity. The Authority could sink additional wells or enter into cooperative efforts with other water companies to secure additional water supply.

Water Regionalization Studies

A number of water resource plans have been conducted for the Shippensburg area. The Harrisburg Metropolitan Area Regional Water Supply Study and the Shippensburg Area Regionalization Study for Cumberland County both recommended regionalization as the best long-term solution to local water supply needs. Both studies also recommended that any improvements within the area to water systems should be completed with the understanding that interconnection is the ultimate goal, and that no projects should be undertaken which would inhibit future regionalization efforts.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Shippensburg Area School District provides public education for Borough and Township residents as well as residents from adjacent municipalities. The District covers approximately 129 square miles and provides transportation for about 90% of its 3,200 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The District operates four schools in the planning region, all of them in the Borough:

- James Burd Elementary School (kindergarten through third grade)
- Nancy Grayson Elementary School (kindergarten through third grade)
- Shippensburg Area Middle School (sixth through eighth grade)
- Shippensburg Area High School (ninth through twelfth grade)
- New elementary school* (fourth and fifth grades)

The locations of these schools are shown on Figure 16.1, the Community Facilities and Recreation Map. Each of school features updated technology including automated library circulation systems and computers with internet access in each classroom. Other facilities

* this school had not yet been named at the completion of this document

provided in the schools include gymnasiums, specialized rooms for music and art, library and media facilities to support the curriculum, a modern swimming facility, a planetarium, and general athletic and recreational facilities including an all-weather track. The District and Shippensburg University jointly operate the Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School, a K-5 elementary school on the University campus. Alternative educational programs are available to secondary students through MANITO, a private school, located in nearby Chambersburg. Advanced placement courses are available for the gifted and talented at the high school, as well as, undergraduate courses at Shippensburg University, and community mentorships.

Concerns facing the school district include a lack of classroom space, increased enrollment at the elementary level, projected building maintenance, and improvement projects. The Middle School and Senior High School are nearing capacity, while the elementary schools still have some room for moderate growth. The need for additional facilities is directly related to the rate of population growth in the District.

CHURCHES

Religious resources and services are available at nineteen churches in the Borough and an additional five in the Township. All of the churches can be found on Figure 16.1 the Community and Recreation Facilities Map.

LIBRARY SERVICE

The Shippensburg Public Library, located in the Borough, is part of both the Franklin County Library System and the Cumberland County Library System, and it receives funding from both systems. The library staff consists of a director, twelve librarians, and a varying number of volunteer workers to help with the library programs. The library hosts several programs, including story-time for three to six year olds; the STAR program, which provides books to the elderly; and a summer reading program for the junior high age group. The library also participates in the Access Pennsylvania Program for inter-library loans. There is concern that the current building will soon be unable to house the library's collection.

The Ezra Lehman Memorial Library at Shippensburg University is available for use by the general public either in-house or via a community patron card that is available for purchase. This library houses a wide variety of items, including more than 1.5 million volumes, microform pieces, government documents, and audio-visual titles.

POLICE PROTECTION

Shippensburg Borough maintains a police force of eight full-time officers, as well as a variable number of part-time officers, and is located on West Burd Street. The Department owns five vehicles and operates on a 24-hour basis with three shifts and a minimum of two officers per shift. Current facilities include three offices, three jail cells, and two large rooms used for processing and interrogation. Police calls are dispatched through three different sources since the Borough is located in two counties. Shippensburg Borough Police practice mutual aid with Shippensburg University Police and with the Pennsylvania State Police.

FIRE PROTECTION / AMBULANCE SERVICE

Three volunteer fire companies are located in the Borough: the Cumberland Valley Hose Company, the West End Fire and Rescue Company, and the Vigilant Hose Company. These companies provide fire protection to the Borough, Shippensburg Township, and both

Southampton Townships; mutual aid is provided to surrounding municipalities. The three fire companies have a membership of close to 100 active volunteer firemen.

A continuing concern for volunteer fire companies is whether there will continue to be a sufficient number of volunteers to allow them to provide adequate fire protection. Fire companies provide mutual assistance to each other in fire emergencies, but it may be necessary for the fire companies and municipalities to increase cooperative efforts in the future to assure continued adequate fire protection.

Ambulance service to the region is provided by the Cumberland Valley Emergency Medical Service, which is a private organization.

HOSPITALS / HEALTH CENTERS

Summithealth operates Shippensburg Health Services, 46 Walnut Bottom Road, a non-profit outpatient satellite of Chambersburg Hospital. Its services include physical and occupational therapy, general radiology, mammography, therapeutic massage, cardiac rehabilitation, and laboratory services.

Shippensburg Family Practice, at the same location, is a joint venture between doctors and the Chambersburg Hospital. It provides traditional family care, employer services, and a walk-in care facility.

Valley Medical Group, located at 411 South Fayette Street, offers newborn and pediatric care, gynecology, minor surgery, and internal medicine.

The nearest hospitals to the Shippensburg region are located in Chambersburg and Carlisle. A new hospital, the Carlisle Regional Medical Center, is currently under construction in South Middleton Township.

SOLID WASTE

Trash disposal - or "solid waste management," to use the formal term - in Shippensburg Borough is regulated by the Shippensburg Borough Solid Waste Management Ordinance. The Borough maintains a number of collection vehicles and provides municipal collection of residential, commercial, and industrial waste. The Township is served by three private waste disposal companies. Waste is hauled to the Cumberland County Landfill in North Newton and Hopewell Townships. The landfill expects to reach capacity in approximately 5 years; however, the landfill owns property adjacent to the current facility and has proposed rezoning land to provide a soil borrow area, with the potential to expand the disposal area of the landfill in the future.

Act 101, enacted in 1988, requires municipalities with between 5,000 and 10,000 residents to establish a recycling program. Shippensburg Borough was required to establish an active recycling program in September 1991. The Borough currently maintains a community-wide recycling program with weekly pickup of newspaper, plastic, clear and colored glass, and steel, bimetal, and aluminum cans. These items are sorted into recycling containers provided to homeowners. The Shippensburg Recycling Center is at the former Shippensburg Borough Incinerator near the intersection of Dykeman Road and South Penn Street. The Township does not currently operate a recycling program.

The Borough operates a fall leaf-collection program and a spring clean-up program. The collection of leaves begins in mid-October and continues for four weeks. The west end and the east end of the Borough alternate pick-up weeks. The Borough owns and operates a leaf vacuum, which is used to collect the loose leaves from the curbside. Leaves are then hauled to the Borough's leaf composting site located across from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The compost is used as a soil conditioner on Borough properties. The Borough is also mandated to do a twice a year yard waste pickup.

RECREATION

Recreational facilities in the region consist of three parks totaling 40 acres in the Borough and one 44-acre park and natural area in the Township. Figure 16.2 shows the facilities available at each.

FIGURE 16.2: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

	Baseball Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Playground	Multipurpose Field	Swimming Pool	Hiking	Biking	Volleyball Court	Picnicking	Pavilion	Fishing	Other	ACREAGE
BOROUGH																
Dykeman Road Park									X	X		X	X			10
Veterans Memorial Park	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			27
Shippensburg Community Center						X						X	X			3
TOWNSHIP																
Shippensburg Township Community Park	X		X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	44

SOURCE: Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan, 2003.

Shippensburg Area Recreation and Parks Commission

The Shippensburg Area Recreation and Parks Commission is a regional full-time agency that was created in January 2001. The Commission is governed by an intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the following entities: Shippensburg Borough; Shippensburg Area School District; Southampton Township (Cumberland Co.); Southampton Township (Franklin Co.); and Hopewell Township. Shippensburg Township is currently not a member of the Commission.

The Commission administered the production of the 2004 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. The Plan contains detailed recommendations and actions for acquisition, development, and maintenance of the region's recreation facilities. The following bullets are a general synopsis of the Plan's Goals.

- Assess public and municipal attitude toward the development and management of regional parks, acquisition of new land, open space, and outdoor recreation facilities.
- Develop strategies which efficiently manage the resources by utilizing the full capacity of the many existing departments and organizations in the region.
- Connect existing parks and recreation facilities with greenways and trail where possible and to preserve natural and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Inventory available assets, conditions, utilization, and availability of recreation throughout the region.
- Research the implementation of recreation programs which relate to the community priorities and reflect the current demographic composition of the area.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Borough and Township regulate stormwater management through their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances. The current ordinance for the Borough requires that two stormwater management systems be considered in the planning of any land development project. The one system (minor system) is to be designed for the 2-year, 10-year, and 25-year storm event, while the other (major system) is to be designed for the 100-year storm event. The Township requires design for the 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year storm event. Both ordinances specify that the post-development runoff cannot exceed the pre-development runoff. Specifications and standards to be used in the calculation of runoff and in the design of the systems are also included.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - Stormwater discharge is generated by runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events. This runoff often contains pollutants in quantities that adversely affect water quality. Most stormwater discharges from developed areas are considered point sources and require coverage by an NPDES permit. The primary method of controlling stormwater discharge is through the use of best management practices.

The Borough and Township are now required to obtain an NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit for stormwater discharges before certain construction activities can occur. Stormwater runoff from construction sites presents water quality issues beyond those that are relevant for developed sites. As stormwater flows over a construction site, it may pick up pollutants such as sediment, debris, and chemicals. Polluted stormwater runoff can harm or kill fish and other wildlife, and sedimentation can destroy aquatic habitat. High volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion. The NPDES stormwater program requires operators of construction sites of one acre or

larger (including smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development) to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under an NPDES construction stormwater permit. Review of Erosion and Sedimentation Plans is coordinated by the Borough and typically relies upon county conservation districts.

Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's) - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations issued in 1999 established a new permit requirement for stormwater discharges to surface waters from "municipal separate storm sewer systems" (MS4's). Under the NPDES storm water program, operators of large, medium, and regulated small MS4's require authorization to discharge pollutants under an NPDES permit.

Municipalities that are MS4's must permit and oversee the implementation and enforcement of the stormwater management program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The program is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from MS4's to the maximum extent practicable, with the goal of protecting water quality and satisfying the appropriate water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. Such a program must contain an implementation schedule, best management practices (BMP's), and measurable goals for the minimum control measures approved by DEP.

The definition of a MS4 depends on a municipality's location in an "urbanized area" as determined by the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Currently, the Borough and the Township are both outside of the "Harrisburg Urbanized Area" and are not required to follow the new regulations; however, this area continues to grow and the municipalities may need to address the requirements of these regulations in the future.

