

**Northumberland Borough & Point Township
Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit**



February 2019



Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit
Prepared By:



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Acknowledgements

Many are responsible for the success of the bike-ped community audit for the communities of Northumberland Borough and Point Township. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) continues its leadership in advocating for the economic and community revitalization of the region's River Towns. The SGP recognizes the importance of walkable and bikeable communities to human health, quality of life, a cleaner environment, and for enhancing the economic prospects of town like Northumberland Borough, and rural communities like Point Township.

A plan is only as good as the input and active engagement of its residents. The Study Committee and area residents provided their passions, as well as an intimate understanding of their community, its history, evolving changes, opportunities and challenges. The committee understood their local community very well, and identified the things that work well, as well as those areas needing attention for a better tomorrow.

And finally, an acknowledgement to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR). PA DCNR in its management of our state parks and state forest lands, in addition to its leadership role in recreation and environmental conservation, is a critical player in funding this, and thousands of projects and initiatives that improve the quality of life for all of Pennsylvania's residents.

Funding

The Northumberland Borough & Point Township Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit was made possible by a Peer Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR). The audit and plan was financed in part by a Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant under the administration of PA DCNR, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.



What is the Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit?

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) seeks to build a 500-mile, interconnected greenway along the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The SGP, with funding assistance from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), seeks to empower River Towns throughout the Susquehanna corridor to create more bicycle and pedestrian friendly communities, and contribute to building the greenway.

Northumberland Borough and Point Township is strategically located at the confluence of the North and West Branch Susquehanna River. Northumberland and Point Township seeks to take advantage of its strategic location at the confluence and at the center of the seasonal Lake Augusta – created each summer by the Fiber (Inflatable) Dam owned and operated by DCNR's Shikellamy State park. The communities also seek to enhance the walking and biking experience of residents and visitors to the area.

Audit Objective

The audit is intended to raise awareness about the importance of bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community design for encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. It is also intended to help organize the community around bike/ped issues, identify impediments to safe walking and biking, and identify priority projects for implementation.

Project Description

The *Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit* is a technical assistance service provided through a PA DCNR Peer Grant to communities that are designated Susquehanna Greenway River Towns.

The audit is facilitated by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP), and Brian Auman a local landscape architect. The project will be undertaken in collaboration with PennDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators, representatives from the SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization and County Planning Department, and a diverse local Study Committee.

The planning process results in the development of a community bicycle and pedestrian audit report that includes an inventory, analysis and mapping of existing and desired bicycle and pedestrian facilities, appropriate solutions to address community needs, estimates for funding priority projects, sources of funding, and suggested schedules for engineering and construction. The audit report will empower community leaders and residents to get the funding needed to implement priority bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects.

Eligibility and Match Requirements

Municipalities that are designated Susquehanna Greenway River Towns are eligible to apply. DCNR Peer Grants require a minimum local cash match of \$1,000 to receive \$10,000 in technical assistance.

Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit – Scope of Work

STEP 1 –

Submit Peer Grant Request for Technical Assistance

Contact the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership to request a meeting to discuss your interest and objectives for conducting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit. At the meeting, a SGP representative and your DCNR Regional Advisor will describe in detail how the Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit will be conducted and the Audit Recommendations Report that will be developed for your community.

Describe Community Needs, Potential Improvements and Community Partners

SGP will ask you to:

- Describe the Community's need for the bike/ped audit
- Describe potential bike/ped improvements you would like to make
- Develop a diverse Study Committee representing the following groups and organizations:

Municipal Officials
Planning Commission
Interested Resident
Bike/Ped Advocates
Downtown Business Owners
School District
Police Department
Healthcare Providers
Parks and Recreation
Streets Department
Shade Tree Commission
Local Foundation
Civic Organizations
Youth Groups

- Appoint one person as Bike/Ped Audit point person.
- Rank your objectives from 1 – 10 (1 = Highest, 10 = Lowest) from the list below:
 - ___ Create 'Safe Routes To School' for our children
 - ___ We want to improve the safety of hazardous intersections
 - ___ We want reduce traffic congestion
 - ___ Improve bike/ped connections to the river
 - ___ Improve connections to trails and parks
 - ___ Reduce the need for motor vehicle parking
 - ___ Make our downtown business district more bike/ped friendly
 - ___ Create walking routes to encourage active living
 - ___ Work towards achieving [Bicycle Friendly CommunitySM](#) designation
 - ___ Work towards achieving [Walk Friendly CommunitySM](#) designation
 - ___ Other, please describe: _____

- Gather Data – Compile all relevant comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, sidewalk inventory, streets or sidewalk ordinances, walking / biking audits, homeowner sidewalk program information, assessments and maps.
- Identify Local Cash Match

STEP 2 – Community Bike-Ped Audit

Background Data Gathering and Base Mapping

- ☐ Develop GIS base map for the study area with aerial photography, parcel maps, parks and schools, roads, hydrology / streams.
- ☐ Review all relevant comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, sidewalk inventory, streets or sidewalk ordinances, walking / biking audits, homeowner sidewalk program information, assessments and maps.

Community Involvement –

- ☐ ‘Kick Off Meeting’ – Overview of Planning Process. Public Health case for Bike/Ped Friendly Communities. Using Study Area Map - Identify Key Destinations (beyond those already mapped), Discuss Bike/Ped Issues, and Map Problem Areas (Study Committee Meeting #1)
- ☐ Bike/Ped Field View – Visit 4-5 Strategic Connection or Problem Areas and Discuss Challenges and Possible Solutions. Actively engage MPO and PennDOT members in the field view and discussion of solutions (Study Committee Meeting #2)
- ☐ Vision and Plan – Prepare Draft Inventory & Analysis Map for review and discussion. Create Draft vision for Bike/Ped Friendly community. Building on the revised Inventory & Analysis mapping, Identify key destinations and routes (Study Committee Meeting #3)
- ☐ Plan – Finalize Bike/Ped Vision statement. Present Draft Bike/Ped Plan for committee review and comment. Set Priority Projects (Study Committee Meeting #4)
- ☐ Bike/Ped Plan Presentation – present the plan to Municipal or Multi-Municipal Public Meeting for Official Adoption. (Public Meeting #1)

Inventory & Analysis –

- ☐ Review and Analyze Municipal plans, ordinances and policies and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in supporting a bike and pedestrian friendly community.
- ☐ Map the community’s important destinations such as schools, parks, cafes / restaurants, post office, library, major employers, etc.
- ☐ Identify Hazardous Roads, Areas or Intersections that are a physical or mental barrier to walking and biking.
- ☐ Identify potential regional connections such as the river, public lands, neighboring town, regional recreation destination.
- ☐ Compile all the above information to produce the Inventory & Analysis Site Plan.

Vision and Goals –

- ☐ Study Committee Brainstorm’s a description of the future Bike and Pedestrian Friendly Community.
- ☐ Synthesize ideas into a Vision statement, refine and finalize with the Study Committee.
- ☐ Produce Bike/Ped Vision Statement
- ☐ Goals
- ☐ Performance Measures

Bike/Ped Plan and Report –

- ☐ Building upon the Inventory & Analysis mapping – identify priority origins and destinations (hubs) and priority and alternative connections (spokes) to build the ped-bike greenway network.
- ☐ Review Bike/Ped Improvement ‘Tools’, both projects and programs, for Study Committee and Transportation Planners to have a common language.
- ☐ Select appropriate solutions to address the community’s needs. Produce a plan identifying a network of designated routes.
- ☐ Create Draft Bike/Ped Plan for Study Committee Review and Comment
- ☐ Refine the Bike/Ped Plan factoring engineering feasibility and construction cost factors. (Value engineering a cost effective solution).
- ☐ Identify the Priority Project(s), funding partners, and schedule for engineering, design and construction.
- ☐ Produce a Report documenting the planning process, describing the existing condition (Inventory & Analysis), and proposed future conditions (Bike/Ped Plan). Describe and prioritize the improvements – giving a general cost estimate, potential funding sources and project schedule.
- ☐ Produce Bike/Ped Plan and Report

STEP 3 – Plan Integration and Implementation

- ☐ Municipal Adoption of Bike/Ped Plan
- ☐ Present Bike/Ped Plan to legislators, MPO Transportation Planners, and Municipal Engineer.
- ☐ Implement projects, policies, and/or programs.
- ☐ Integrate Projects into long-range transportation plans.

Bike/Ped Audit - Project Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs -

- ☐ Organization – a minimum of 20 key stakeholders convened and organized as part of the project Study Committee.
- ☐ Outreach and Education - create a regional forum to raise awareness of the link between a bike/pedestrian friendly community and one or more of the following:
 - Public Health and Built Environment – improve public health by providing a bike/ped friendly environment, and improve access to public health programming reaching 50 residents in two communities.
 - Creating Safe Routes to School – implement encouragement programs and projects to create bike-ped friendly routes to school, encouraging 50 students, teachers and staff to bike or walk to school.
 - Economic Development – create a bike-ped friendly downtown through programs and projects that achieves 20% increase in foot traffic in the downtown business district.
 - Tourism – link the community to a regional destination trail, providing the basic needs and amenities for the trail user (access, restrooms, trail head, parking, food, café / restaurant, water, overnight accommodations) to achieve a 20% increase in revenue from tourism.
- ☐ Inventory and Analysis – perform a Community Bike / Pedestrian Audit for the community, analyzing the built environment and identifying challenges and opportunities for safe walking and biking.

- ☐ Vision – produce a vision statement that concisely described the town’s bicycle and pedestrian friendly future.
- ☐ Create a Bike / Pedestrian Plan and Report – mapping and describing a network of routes interconnecting the community.
- ☐ Priority Project – compile a list of all bike / pedestrian improvements captured in the plan, and identify the top three priority projects.

Outcomes -

- ☐ Health Event - partnering with a regional health care providers, host an educational outreach event that will raise awareness of the bike/ped plan and result in an increased use of the community park or greenway for active living.
- ☐ Bicycle / Pedestrian Plan completed and integrated into municipal plans and policies and PennDOT long-range transportation plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Community –

- ☐ Apply – Submit request for Technical Assistance to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
- ☐ Assemble Diverse, 20 Member, Study Committee
- ☐ Goal Setting – What are your goals and objectives in developing a Community Bike / Pedestrian Plan – prioritize objectives.
- ☐ Data Gathering – Compile all relevant comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, sidewalk inventory, streets or sidewalk ordinances, walking / biking audits, homeowner sidewalk program information, assessments and maps.
- ☐ Project Contact – Appoint one person as Bike/Ped Audit project point person.
- ☐ Provide Meeting Room Facilities and Meeting Logistic Support
- ☐ Active Participation in all meetings and activities

SEDA-COG GIS

- ☐ Produce GIS Base Map for Inventory and Analysis and Bike/Ped Plan
- ☐ Integrate Final Bike/Ped Plan into GIS
- ☐ Printing / Plotting of Base Map, Inventory & Analysis and Bike/Ped working maps

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership – River Town Coordinator and Staff (\$1,500)

- ☐ Organize Study Committee and Public Meeting
- ☐ Assist in Facilitating Study Committee and Public Meetings
- ☐ Printing of meeting agenda and handouts
- ☐ Assist in the production of the Bike/Ped Report

Bike/Ped Planning Consultant

- ☐ Background Data Gathering and Review, Project Coordination
- ☐ Lead Facilitator for all Study Committee and Public Meetings
- ☐ Draft and Final Vision Statement, Goals, Inventory & Analysis Plan, Priority Projects, Policy and Programs
- ☐ Draft Implementation Strategies – funding sources, timeline for engineering & construction
- ☐ Draft and Final Bike/Ped Report

**Northumberland Borough and Point Township
Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit
Study Committee and Community Members**

Ann August	Northumberland Borough Secretary
Jan Bowman	Northumberland Borough Manager
Tali MacArthur	SGP Executive Director
Jerry Walls	SGP Board Chair
Dan Rathfon	Point Township Resident
Barbara Kistner	Northumberland Borough Resident
Margaret Wenrick	Northumberland Borough Resident
Robert Row	Northumberland Borough Resident
Lou Latsha	Northumberland Borough Resident
Paul Raune	Northumberland Borough Resident
Bill Merlavage	Northumberland Borough Resident
Noelle Long	Northumberland Borough Resident
Ty Sees	Northumberland Borough Resident
Jim Troup	Northumberland Borough Resident
Helen Martin	Northumberland Borough Resident
Dr. Ralph Cianflone	Northumberland Borough Resident
Liz Deitrich	Northumberland Borough Resident
Gary Shaffer	Northumberland Borough Resident
Paul Boyer	Northumberland Borough Resident
Ann Rull	Northumberland Borough Resident

Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit

Background Data Gathering and Base Mapping

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and SEDA-COG GIS assisted with preparing the base map for the bike-ped audit. Base maps were prepared to show the detail of Northumberland Borough (Scale: 1" = 350'), as well as a regional context map showing the Borough, Point Township, as well important resources and communities such as Packer Island, Sunbury, Lake Augusta, and Shikellamy State Park - both the marina and the overlook areas (Scale: 1" = 1000'). Base maps displayed aerial photos, parcels*, roads and streams / rivers.

*Parcel information only displaced on the detailed Northumberland Inventory and Analysis Mapping

Plan and Policy Review

For the Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit, the following plans were reviewed: Northumberland County Comprehensive Plan; Northumberland County Greenway and Open Space Plan; Northumberland Borough and Point Township Joint Comprehensive Plan; Northumberland Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance; Northumberland Borough Zoning Ordinance; Point Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and; Point Township Zoning Ordinance. The various plans and policies were reviewed to identify recreational, trail and alternative transportation policies previously advocated, as well as review for outdated or missing elements that support bicycle and pedestrian friendly community design.

Community Involvement

The community involvement process for the bike-ped audit consisted of a series of 3 meetings in the fall of 2018. The first meeting focused on identifying problem / safety areas in the community, as well as important origins and destination. At the second meeting – study committee members reviewed the site inventory and analysis map, as well as providing input into a concept bike – ped plan. The third meeting featured review of a draft vision statement and review of the revised bike-ped concept plan.

Inventory & Analysis

The Bike-Ped Audit Consultant made 4 trips to the study area to review conditions for walking and biking. Specific areas of focus for the site visits included the high volume routes that divide the community (Route 147 / Duke Street, Route 11 / Water and Front Street), roadways for connecting town and township (The Old Danville Highway, Strawbridge Road, Cannery Road), access to the elementary and middle school campuses, Pineknott Park, ACORN Fields and the river access points, and the existing rail road corridors.

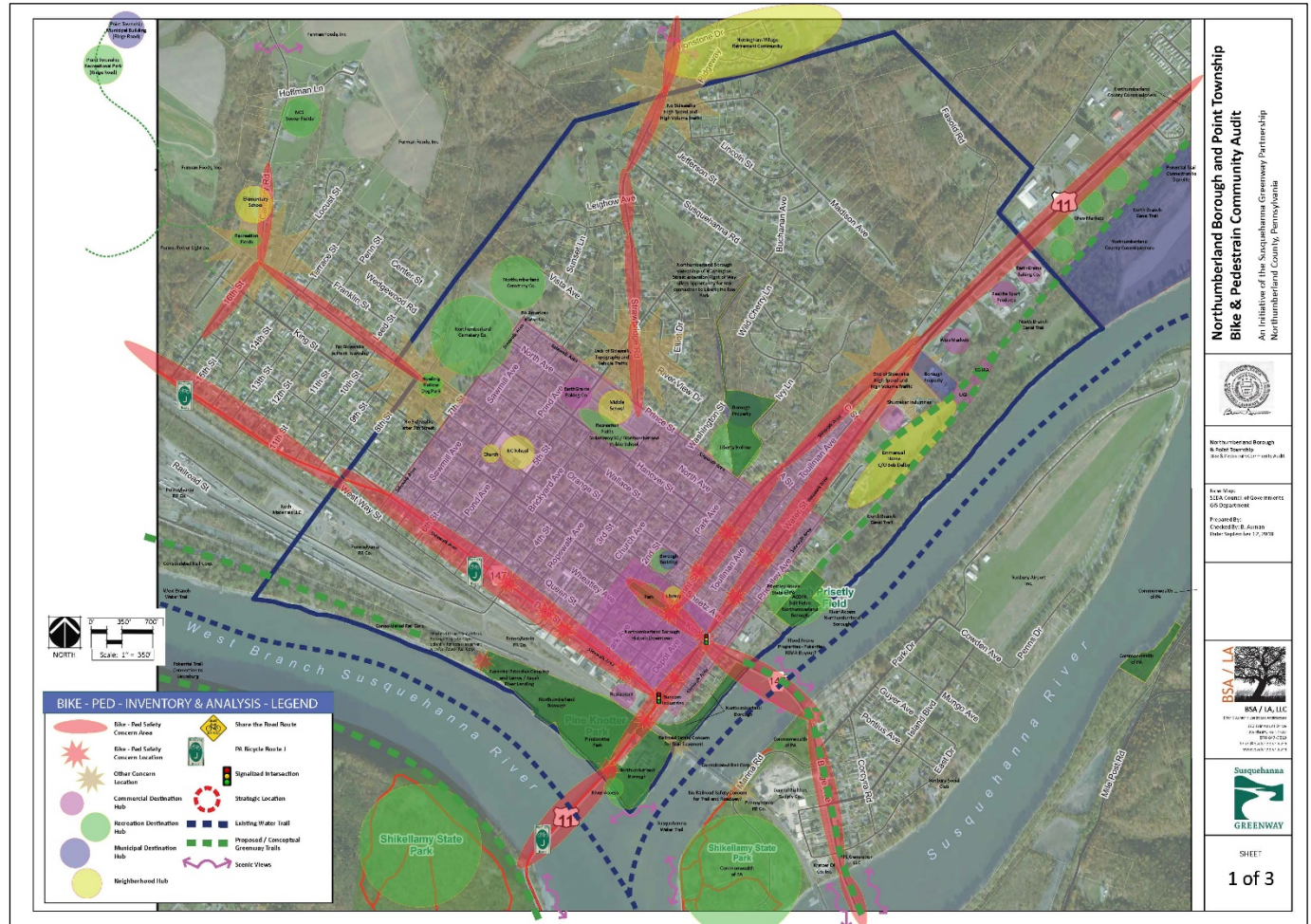
The Study Committee and community members identified areas of concern for bike-ped safety, as well as areas of limitations due to private property. The Study Committee responded to the mapping of existing community destinations such as schools, municipal buildings, parks and library – and proposed other key destinations such as businesses, large employers, restaurants and historic sites.

The Study Committee and community members discussed Northumberland and Point Township's strategic location at the confluence of the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River and the community's location on (seasonal) Lake Augusta. The committee recognizes the recreation and quality of life opportunities afforded by this location and expressed disappointment that not enough has been done to realize this potential. The Study Committee also recognized the importance of being a 'hub' on the evolving Susquehanna Greenway and advocating for the Lake Augusta greenway and open space plan.

**Northumberland Borough & Point Township
Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit**

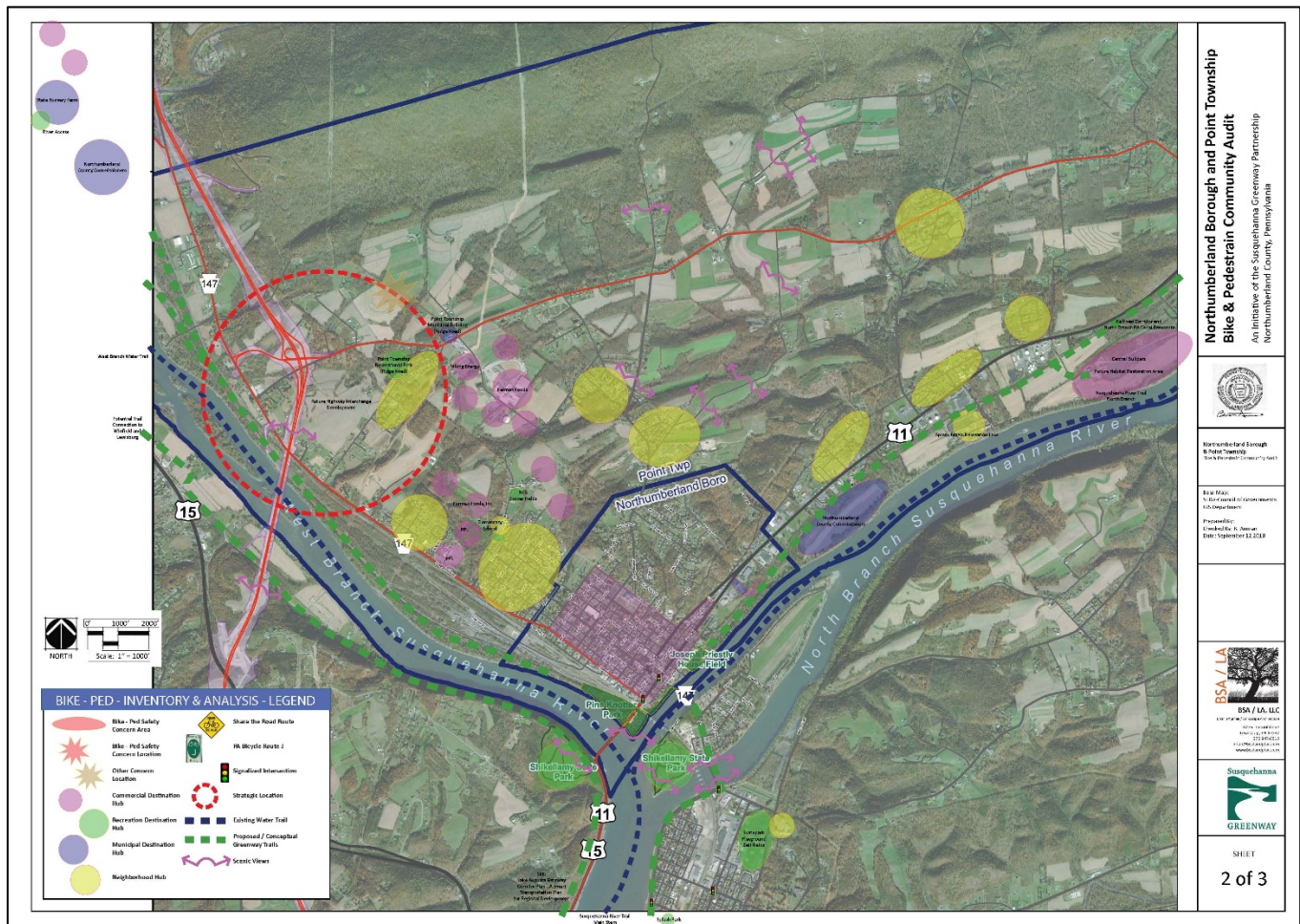
Bike-Ped Inventory Plan and Policy Review

Northumberland Borough Bike-Ped Inventory



Inventory Mapping of Northumberland Borough depicting key community destinations (commercial, recreation, municipal and neighborhood), as well as areas of safety concern.

Point Township Regional Bike-Ped Inventory



Inventory Mapping of Point Township depicting regional connectivity corridors such as the North and West Branch Water Trails, North Branch Canal corridor, and proposed greenway trail connections for the West Branch and Lake Augusta. This mapping also depicts concentrated neighborhoods in the township that may seek improved bike-ped connections with the town. Also depicted (purple circles) are strategic properties owned by corporations that could create a network of trails connecting rural parts of Point Township, with Northumberland Borough.

Review and Analyze Municipal Plans and Ordinances

Below are the plans and policies reviews as part of the Bike-Ped audit, including relevant sections supporting (directly or indirectly) the proposed bike-ped improvements. The review will also identify the plan's outdated information and weaknesses in support of bike-ped issues, alternative transportation, smart growth / smart transportation, sustainability and pedestrian friendly community design.

The various plans and policies were reviewed to identify recreational, trail and alternative transportation policies previously advocated, as well as review for outdated or missing elements that support bicycle and pedestrian friendly community design.

Northumberland County Comprehensive Plan (2005)

Link to full document here:

http://elibrary.pacounties.org/Documents/Northumberland_County/124;%20NORTHUMBERLAND/4209700000c cp.pdf

Land Use Objectives:

- Direct new development to areas adjacent to existing development, with adequate sewer, water and transportation capacities.
- Maintain and rehabilitate existing urban areas
- Integrate non-residential uses with the residential community ensuring the uses do not negatively impact the residential uses.
- Discourage development of areas lacking infrastructure that supports the use.
- Preserve agricultural land in order to maintain the agricultural economy and agricultural community.
- Provide sufficient, well located growth centers to provide employment, homes, and goods and services to County residents with emphasis on design, convenience and safety.

Environment and Open Space Objectives:

- Preserve and protect wetlands and floodplains.
- Conserve forested lands and steep slopes.
- Use natural features and environmental and physical factors and development boundaries.

- Establish a continuous, interconnected network of stream valleys, slopes, and wooded areas as an open space system.
- Provide adequate open space in residential areas, particularly in the densely settled communities in Northumberland County.

Community Identity Objectives:

- Implement development designs that foster connections within each development and with the larger community.
- Promote and enhance community volunteer groups that both identify with the community and provide service to the community.
- Develop plans and controls that are sensitive to the landscape and visual character of each community.
- Advance programs to preserve County and community archives, records, memorabilia and other artifacts that illustrate the community's culture and history.

Land Use Plan – Permanent Open Space and Recreation - Issues:

- Tourism is an important industry in Northumberland County and a vital part of the economy. Recreation, park and open space resources are recognized as valuable community assets and essential to meeting quality of life values. The need for relaxation and change from the pressures and fast pace of jobs and modern daily life influence the need and desire for recreation. The quality of life considerations; areas of natural resources, park and recreation areas; cultural institutions; and visual attractiveness can be important factors in a business or industry's decision to develop or expand within a region.
- A major responsibility of public agencies is to preserve and protect natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations. As population's desire for new forms of recreation facilities grows, so will the need for government at all levels, to provide adequate and diversified open space, park, and recreation opportunities. This includes maximizing the use of existing facilities and acquiring land and developing new facilities.
- Areas of Northumberland County, are deficient in recreation and open space opportunities. Natural, scenic and historical areas suitable for recreation and open space are being lost to development. Also many existing park and recreation resources are in need of rehabilitation because of overuse, vandalism or poor maintenance practices.

Land Use Plan – Permanent Open Space and Recreation – Policies:

Recognize the importance of Permanent Open Space and Recreation, as these areas provide:

- Recreation opportunities that accommodate physical and psychological human needs.
- Ecological benefits through the protection of natural resources such as air, water, soil, plants, animals.
- Direct and indirect economic development such as tourism, positive real estate values, attraction of business and industry, and recreation related business.
- Buffers between incompatible land uses.
- Habitat for wildlife.
- Irreplaceable contribution to the character and individuality of the communities in Northumberland County.
- Attractive settings for public holdings, historic resources.
- Aesthetic value and scenic beauty.
- Educational resources.

Promote the preservation and creation of a permanent network of adequate and diverse open space, park and recreation resources for the use and enjoyment by present and future County residents. Encourage an acquisition and development program that furthers the specifics of Northumberland County's Open Space and Recreation Plan. A wide range of recreational experiences spread throughout Northumberland County should be promoted, which consist of active and passive recreational facilities, natural open space and conservation environments, or a combination of both.

Provide for an adequate amount of active recreation and passive park opportunities. Acquisition of land for the recreation purposes should occur in areas showing a deficiency of parkland according to accepted recreation standards and in areas experiencing development.

Provide for the protection of unspoiled and undeveloped open space areas throughout Northumberland County. Emphasis should be placed on the acquisition of those lands for open space and conservation purposes that secure irreplaceable, unique or threatened natural features and environmentally sensitive resources, or serve as buffer areas for other public open space and recreational holdings.

Advocate a County-wide greenbelt system interconnecting Northumberland County's parks, recreation and open space resources through a network of open space corridors and linear parks and trails. The greenbelt network should be designed to link urban communities to each other and to the rural areas. Emphasis should be on assembling lands conforming to the stream-valley park concept, including stream and river corridors, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, utility rights-of-way, except high voltage transmission right-of-way, and canal beds.

Northumberland County Greenway and Open Space Plan

Link to full document here:

http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/DCNR_20028549.pdf

The County Greenway and Open Space Plan identifies Northumberland Borough as a 'Major Hub' and identifies Greenways / Trails extending from the Borough up the North and West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Develop a greenway system that includes both recreation and conservation greenways.

Objective 1a: Connect activity centers, as identified in the background studies, using linear, natural corridors wherever possible.

Objective 1b: Protect and expand existing open space as part of the Northumberland County greenways network.

Goal 2: Expand the county's existing trail and open space system.

Objective 2a: Work with stakeholders—including land owners, government agencies, conservation and recreation organizations, developers, volunteers, and others—to develop trail segments and preserve open space.

Objective 2b: Build upon existing trail and pathway efforts, such as the Warrior Run Pathways Partnership and the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA), to develop and support the greenway system.

Objective 2c: Encourage municipalities to require— through local zoning and subdivision ordinances—that developers incorporate trails and open space into all new developments.

Objective 2d: Explore the use of utility corridors and railroad rights-of-way as part of the county trail network.

Goal 3: Protect natural features, cultural, scenic, and historic areas of Northumberland County.

Objective 3a: Identify conservation greenways as a means of preserving lands for a variety of reasons throughout the county.

Objective 3b: Use the boroughs and other activity centers as hubs within the greenways network.

Northumberland Borough and Point Township Joint Comprehensive Plan and Joint Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Link to full document here:

[http://new.northumberlandborough.com/sites/default/files/Public%20Documents/Comprehensive%20Plan/Joint Comprehensive Plan 2009 smaller.pdf](http://new.northumberlandborough.com/sites/default/files/Public%20Documents/Comprehensive%20Plan/Joint%20Comprehensive%20Plan%202009%20smaller.pdf)

Vision for Parks, Recreation & Open Space:

Northumberland Borough and Point Township will be recognized as a special place known far and wide for its scenic beauty, lovely riverfront, conserved natural resources, interesting cultural features, and vibrant town center. Diverse, year round recreation opportunities make our community a healthy, active and economically vital locale in which to live, work, visit and play.

Mission:

Northumberland borough and Point Township are dedicated to enriching the lives of the people who live, work, or visit here by providing attractive parks and recreation facilities and diverse recreation opportunities. Through our working partnership, the Borough and the Township will make the best use of its financial and human resources through partnerships with community organizations and the private sector, the pursuit of outside funding sources and support, and excellent public service.

Goals:

Goal 1: Provide parkland that is sufficient in acreage, location, suitability, and configuration to serve the citizens of Northumberland Borough and Point Township.

Goal 2: Insure that recreation facilities offer safety, accessibility, variety, appearance, availability, beauty, and function to meet the needs of the community.

Goal 3: Connect the community and to the region beyond through a system of greenways and trails, making the best use of the Susquehanna River possible.

Goal 4: Manage a joint parks and recreation system in a professional manner that conveys the greatest possible benefit to the public through a partnership of the borough and the township.

Goal 5: Provide recreation opportunities for people who live, work and visit here by focusing on providing facilities and working in partnership with others to offer organized programs and events.

Goal 6: Invest in parks and recreation to sustain and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Goal 7: Increase public awareness and support about parks, recreation greenways, trails and natural resource conservation in Northumberland Borough and Point Township.

Park, Recreation and Community Trends:

Changes in lifestyle, health and interests affect the kinds of recreation facilities that communities need. Consider the broad national trends:

- Walking is the number one recreational activity and chief form of exercise.
- Trails are the most preferred recreation facility.
- The availability of parks and recreation opportunities is a major factor in business decisions about where to locate or expand operations and their consequent jobs.
- The top public health issue in the United States is the lack of physical activity as cited in the U.S. Surgeon General's report entitled "Physical Activity and Health." The lack of physical activity among Americans has led to heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure. The consequences are escalating health care costs and decreasing life span. The current generation of children is the first that may not live as long as their parents.
- People are living longer and remaining active longer.
- Persons with disabilities are to have full access to public programs, including recreation.
- The decline of the rail industry and increase in recreation birthed the rail-to-trail movement. Many opportunities are available for rail trails in the Northumberland Borough and Point Township community.
- Interest in outdoor, nature based non-consumptive recreation has increased as consumptive sports such as hunting and fishing are on the decline. Pennsylvania has begun to address attracting responsible use and interest in the state's parks, forests and game lands through outreach, advertising, and major planning initiatives. Despite increasing participation in recreation, new sports and activities, and a broadening of the participation base, obesity and the lack of physical activity in the United States is at an all-time high.

Trends in the Northumberland Borough and Point Township community include the following:

- The Borough population is declining. The area is losing the prized demographic age group of 25 to 40.
- Both municipalities have strong volunteerism and public support. The level of involvement of the residents and community organizations in parks and recreation is notable.
- Volunteers have contributed much toward public recreation ranging from volunteer time in league sports to major donations such as the playground at Second Street. Liberty Splashland is a thriving operation due to collaborative effort driven by a dedicated citizen with support from Borough council.
- Major community needs are jobs and economic development.
- The community is supportive of recreation initiatives such as undertaking the development of the community recreation center on Second Street.
- The past is present, from the history and heritage of the area in facilities that have been preserved such as the Priestley House to the rich transportation heritage of rails and the canal that has not yet been fully conserved and in some cases lost.
- The private sector has played a crucial role in delivering recreation services such as special events and programs under the auspices of community groups and the Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA.
- Due to the lack of sufficient parkland, community sports groups use private lands for fields.
- Northumberland Borough and Point Township have a positive collaborative working relationship.
- Both municipalities are financially distressed.
- The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership efforts are working towards more recreation in the area and in the revitalization of the river towns including Northumberland Borough.
- Regional initiatives are underway that should help Northumberland Borough and Point Township including the Susquehanna Greenway partnership, SEDA-COG's River Towns program and PADCNR's goal of having a greenway plan for every county which will spur Northumberland County to move ahead on a county plan here

Northumberland Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (1991)

Link to full document here: <http://elibrary.pacounties.org/Pages/Northumberland.aspx>

Northumberland Borough SALDO-

Sidewalk and Street Tree provision – page 30 – 31

There are significant limitation to the sidewalk requirement and street trees are optimal. Decisions on sidewalks at the north end of the Borough and not connecting to the elementary school were made by previous planning commission and elected officials.

Recreation and Open Space provision – Page 34

States that it “may require the reservation of open or recreation space in subdivisions containing twenty-five (25) or more lots. This area shall consist of a minimum of five (5) percent of the total area of all lots and shall be suitable for various outdoor recreational uses.”

Northumberland Borough Zoning Ordinance (1986, adopted 1991)

Link to full document here: <http://elibrary.pacounties.org/Pages/Northumberland.aspx>

Point Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (1987)

Link to full document here: <http://elibrary.pacounties.org/Pages/Northumberland.aspx>

Point Township Zoning Ordinance

Link to full document here: <http://elibrary.pacounties.org/Pages/Northumberland.aspx>

These 4 documents are quite dated, written in the mid 1980's. The plans predate current focus on greenways, trails, and walkable community design and have weak or no sidewalk or street tree provisions. In light of the construction of the CSVT / Route 147 Interchange the municipalities should consider a review and updating of the SALDO and Zoning Ordinances to anticipate and guide the expected growth and development within the region.

Vision Statement

A Walkable and Bike-able Northumberland Borough and Point Township

Northumberland Borough and Point Township leverage the advantage of its strategic location at the confluence of North and West Branch Susquehanna Rivers, to create an interconnected network of greenways, trails and natural areas, establishing itself as a regional hub on the evolving Susquehanna Greenway. The historic river town of Northumberland is the center for trails connecting up-river destination of Danville and Lewisburg, as well as being the jewel of the Lake Augusta greenway loop trail linking Sunbury and Shamokin Dam. The Norry – Point Township trail network connects residents with each other, the natural world, and the community's unique heritage, improving the quality of life of local residents, while creating a destination for out-of-town visitors.

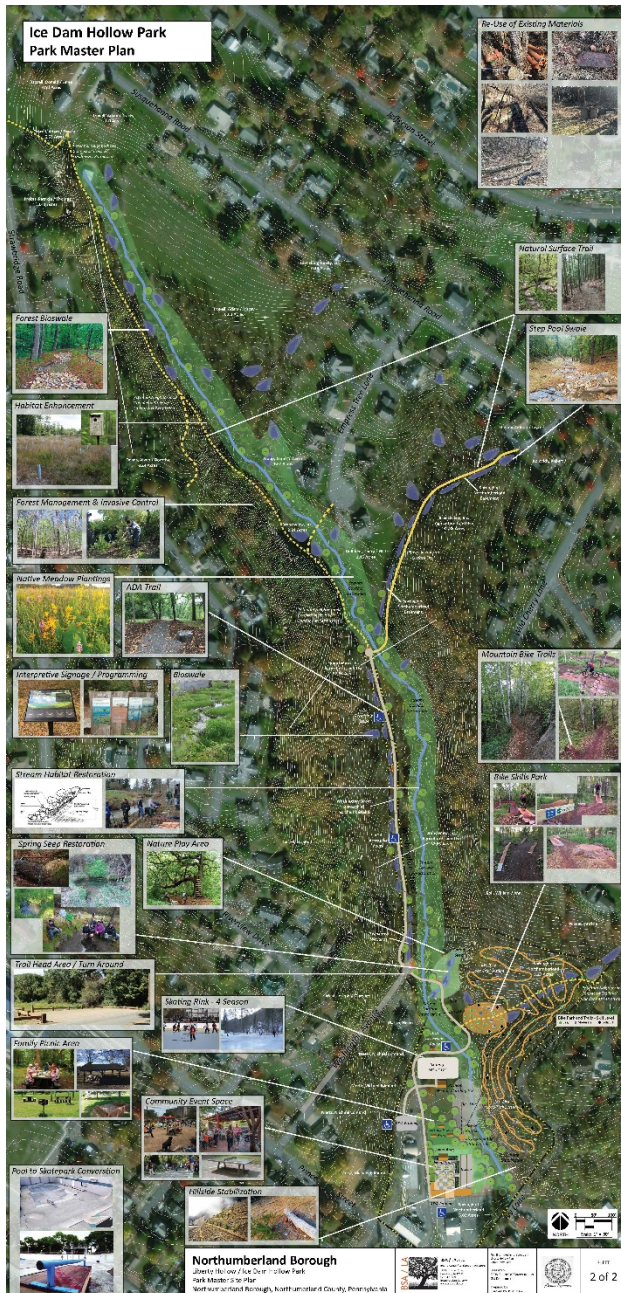
**Northumberland Borough & Point Township
Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit**

Potential Project

Potential Projects – Northumberland Borough

Ice Dam Hollow* Trail and Park Improvements

*(propose renaming the park, from Liberty Hollow, to suggest the park's new identify and re-design)



- Bike and Pedestrian Connector Trail linking the park to Susquehanna Road
- Park Improvements include Mt. Bike Skills Park and Mt. Bike Trails
- Fill in the pool – or Repurpose Pool to Skatepark
- Repurpose pool area to Community Event space
- Redesign lawn area of pool to Create Family Picnic Area – remove fence and make park more ADA accessible

Liberty (Ice Dam) Hollow Park Master Plan proposes bicycle and pedestrian trail connections through the park (left), and Washington Street extension, owned by Northumberland Borough, proposed for future trail alignment (below).



Northumberland Riverfront Park

- Interconnect all Municipally owned riverfront parks including Pineknott Park, The Point / River Access Area, The North Branch Riverfront Park
- Resolve safety concerns with the Railroad for trail easement under railroad bridge
- Work with FEMA / PEMA to acquire flood-prone properties up-river from the Route 147 River Bridge, creating contiguous riverfront trail connections to ACORN ball fields
- Place Making, Art and Heritage Interpretation in Riverfront Park



Northumberland Borough Riverfront Area.

North Branch Canal Trail

- Interpret the history of the town as a center of transportation for the canal, railroad and highway eras
- In collaboration with the North Shore Railroad and the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Establish a rail-with-trail corridor along the remnants of the North Branch PA Canal
- Enroll the various businesses and utilities along the corridor to become private partners in support of the North Branch Canal Trail project

Streetscape Enhancements / Traffic Calming

- Understand and take advantage of changing 'through traffic' volumes and patterns, as a result of the CSVT highway project, to make the community more bicycle and pedestrian friendly
- Improve crosswalks a on Water, Front and Duke Street
- Enhanced sidewalks, signage, crosswalks, ADA curb ramps.

Potential Intersections for Improvement Include:

- Duke Street Route 147 / Water Street Route 11
- Queen Street / Water Street Route 11
- Duke Street Route 147 / Water Street Route 11
- King Street / Water Street Route 11
- Orange Street / Water Street Route 11
- Hanover Street / Water Street Route 11
- King Street / Front Street Route 11
- Orange Street / Front Street Route 11
- Hanover Street / Front Street Route 11



Bump-out Pedestrian Crossing concept sketch for Water Street, Northumberland. (SEDA-COG Community Resource Center)

Street Tree Plantings

Street tree plantings have been shown to slow traffic, increase property values and improve the environment to encourage walking and biking. Streets that offer some of the best potential for street tree plantings, to create a network of tree-lined streets interconnecting the community, include:

- King Street
- Water Street
- Front Street
- Duke Street
- Historic Downtown Section
- Queen Street
- Orange Street
- Hanover Street
- Cannery Road*
- 16th Street*

*in Point Township

Potential Projects – Point Township

Safe Routes to School – Priestley Elementary School

- Exploring public / private partnership to create safe walkable / bikeable connections between school and adjacent neighborhoods
- Consider both on-road improvements such as bike lanes and sidewalks, as well as off-road trail connections partnering with individuals, developers, PPL and Furman Foods
- Off road trails could be used as part of physical education, outdoor classroom, environmental studies curriculum for the school

North Branch Canal Trail

- In collaboration with the North Shore Railroad and the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Establish a rail-with-trail corridor along the remnants of the North Branch PA Canal connecting to the Northumberland County land parcel
- Discuss with Central Builders, the long-term potential of the sand and gravel quarry being the site of a nature park – creating an out of town destination for the North Branch Canal Trail

Rural Bike Routes



- Work to improve Cannery and Strawbridge Roads for bicycle use with wide shoulder and extra wide 'fog line' to better delineate bike lane on shoulder
- Designate scenic roads such as Neitz Road, Comfort Road, and Mountain Road, as 'share the road' bike routes

Neitz Road in Point Township – is an example of a rural, scenic, low-volume roadway suitable for bike riding.

Potential Projects – Regional

Route 147 King and Bridge Street Improvements – Access to Shikellamy State Park on Packer Island

- Enhance the quality of the walking and biking route to the most popular walking and biking destination for the region – The Shikellamy State Park Marina
- Improve bridge approach and sidewalk to the river bridge
- Create safe and easy access from bridge into the walking and biking trails of the State Park



Aerial photo of Northumberland Borough, Packer Island and Shikellamy State Park. (photo by WNEP www.wnep.com)

Lake Augusta Loop Greenway Trail

- Create a regional partnership with the municipalities and legislators to advocate for the Lake Augusta Greenway Trail
- Take a leadership role in creating a demonstration project for the Lake Augusta Greenway Trail in Northumberland by creating an interconnected riverfront trail that also makes strategic connections into the historic downtown and neighborhoods of the community
- Advocate for the Susquehanna River Sports Complex – to create a nationally significant destination venue for competitive rowing



Lake Augusta Regional Attractions map, from Lake Augusta Gateway Corridor Plan. (SEDA-COG Community Resource Center)

Additional Bike-Ped Projects

Planning and Policy Tools

- Update Northumberland Borough and Point Township Zoning Ordinances and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances to include improved Bicycle and Pedestrian accommodations.
- Northumberland Borough and Point Township may choose to adopt a 'Complete Streets Ordinance.' 'Complete Streets' refers to the concept that roadways should be designed with all users in mind, not just motorists, and is a policy used by many local governments to create more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly communities.

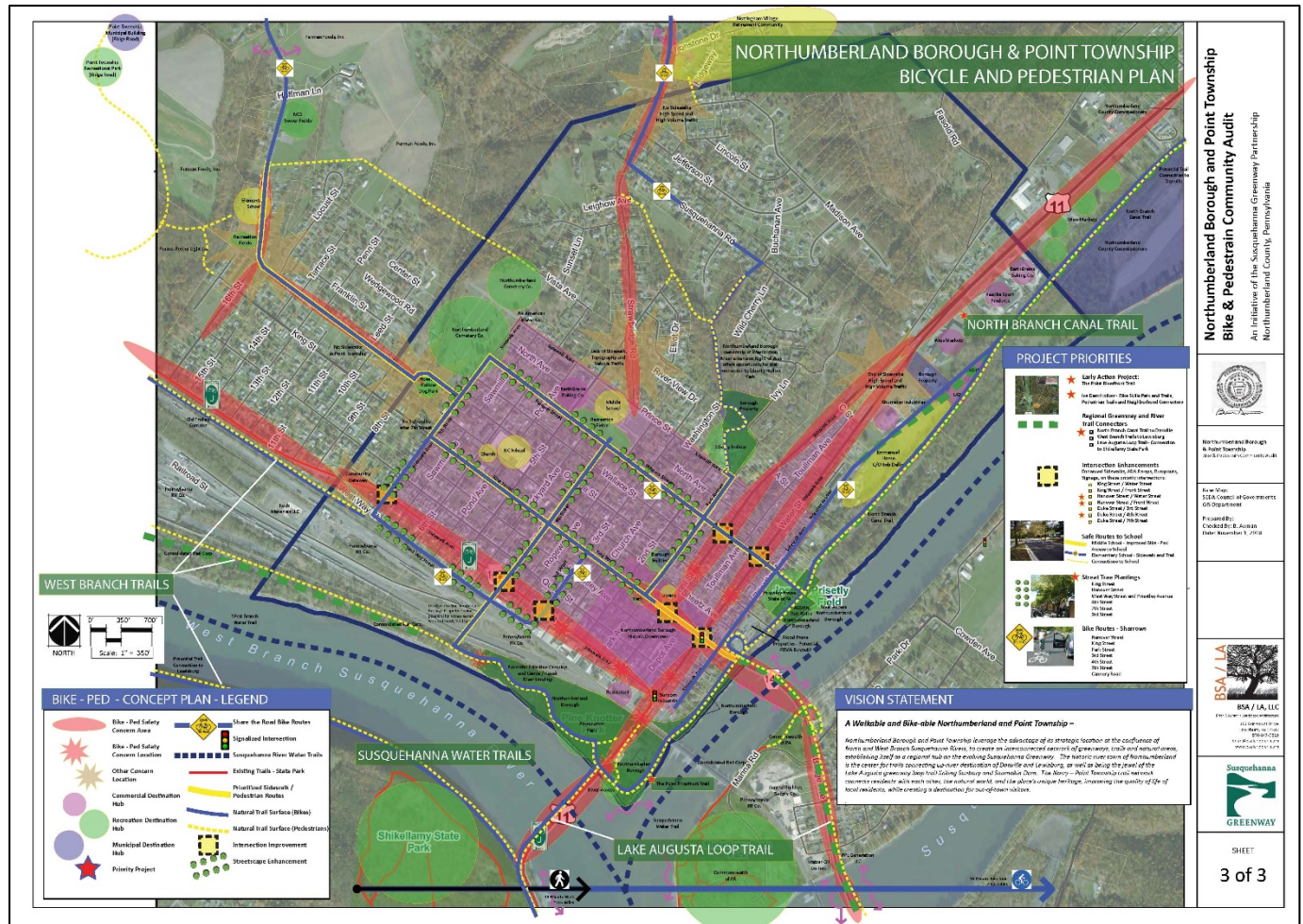
Information on 'Complete Streets, as well as local ordinances and policies examples, can be found here: <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Transportation/Integrating-Transportation-Modes/Complete-Streets-Ordinances.aspx>

- Northumberland Borough and Point Township may choose to adopt an 'Official Map' as a planning tool for future park, recreation and trail development. The 'Official Map' shows the locations of planned future public lands and facilities such as streets, trails, parks and open space. Proactive planning measures must be considered if municipalities are to ensure the preservation of important community resources. The official map is a valuable but underused planning tool that few municipalities have considered as an option to address land use issues. Northumberland Borough and Point Township should consider the use of an 'Official Map' to facilitate development of key greenway and trail connections in the future. Information on the 'Official Map' can be found here: <https://conservationtools.org/guides/60-official-map>

**Northumberland Borough & Point Township
Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
& Priority Projects**

Northumberland Borough & Point Township Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan



The Northumberland Borough & Point Township – Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan depicting the location of potential bike-ped improvement projects to better connect the community.

Priority Projects

PROJECT PRIORITIES



Early Action Project:

The Point Riverfront Trail



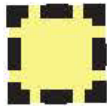
Ice Dam Hollow - Bike Skills Park and Trails,
Pedestrian Trails and Neighborhood Connectors



Regional Greenway and River Trail Connectors



- ❑ North Branch Canal Trail to Danville
- ❑ West Branch Trails to Lewisburg
- ❑ Lake Augusta Loop Trail - Connection to Shikellamy State Park



Intersection Enhancements

Enhanced Sidewalks, ADA Ramps, Bumpouts,
Signage, on these priority intersections:

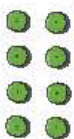
- ❑ King Street / Water Street
- ❑ King Street / Front Street
- ★ ❑ Hanover Street / Water Street
- ★ ❑ Hanover Street / Front Street
- ❑ Duke Street / 3rd Street
- ★ ❑ Duke Street / 4th Street
- ❑ Duke Street / 7th Street



Safe Routes to School



Middle School - Improved Bike - Ped
Access to School
Elementary School - Sidewalk and Trail
Connections to School



Street Tree Plantings

King Street
Hanover Street
West Way Street and Priestley Avenue
4th Street
7th Street
3rd Street



Bike Routes - Sharrows

Hanover Street
King Street
Park Street
3rd Street
4th Street
7th Street
Cannery Road

The Point Riverfront Trail

Project Description: Create a riverfront trail on Northumberland Borough owned property at the confluence of the North Branch and West Branch Susquehanna River.

Trail Distance: 0.60 Miles

Material: Gravel Trail

Estimated Cost: \$200,000*

Design	\$ 20,000
Trail (Gravel)	\$ 140,000
Trail Features	\$ 20,000
Contingency	\$ 20,000

***Additional Cost:** \$380,000 (Estimate) to armor and stabilize the Susquehanna Riverbanks to protect the trail and trail features.

Existing Funding: PA DEP Funding (Riverbank Rock Stabilization), PA DCNR (Trail), Northumberland County Act-13 (Riverbank Rock Stabilization)

Additional Potential Funding Sources: PA DCED – Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GRRP) Grant

Future Phases: Future easements and land acquisitions can extend the riverfront trail to ACORN Little League Field and beyond to the North Branch Canal Trail. FEMA property buy-out program could be used to acquire flood prone properties.

Funding Agency Follow Up: Recommend an on-site agency meeting to discuss the options of funding / funding reallocation to advance one of the priority projects.

Ice Dam Hollow Trail

Project Description: Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail through park and connecting to cul-de-sac and Susquehanna Street. Trail features include ADA Parking Space, Trail Head Kiosk and Benches.

Trail Distance: 0.33 Miles

1056 Feet – 10' Gravel Trail

686 Feet – 4' Natural Surface or Gravel Trail

Estimated Cost: **\$270,000**

Site Prep.	\$ 15,000
Grading	\$ 15,000
Trail (Gravel)	\$120,000
Drainage / GeoFabric	\$ 35,000
Trail Features	\$ 22,000
Design / Permitting	\$ 35,000
Contingency	\$ 28,000

Existing Funding: Northumberland County Act 13 (\$94,000), Luther S. Savidge Fund (\$16,588), Community Aid (\$5,000)

Request PA DCNR Funding for Riverfront Trail (\$96,000) be reallocated to Ice Dam Hollow Project

Additional Funding: PA DCED – Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GRRP) Grant

Schedule / Sequence: One Issue to consider in the timing and sequence of this project, is the condition of the stream running through the corridor. With limited equipment access to the stream for restoration and repairs, it would be necessary for heavy equipment to use the trail corridor. From a project sequencing standpoint it would make sense to first restore / stabilize the stream banks before constructing the trail.

Funding Agency Follow Up: Recommend an on-site agency meeting to discuss the options of funding / funding reallocation to advance one of the priority projects.



Ice Dam Hollow Mt. Bike Trails and Bike Skills Park

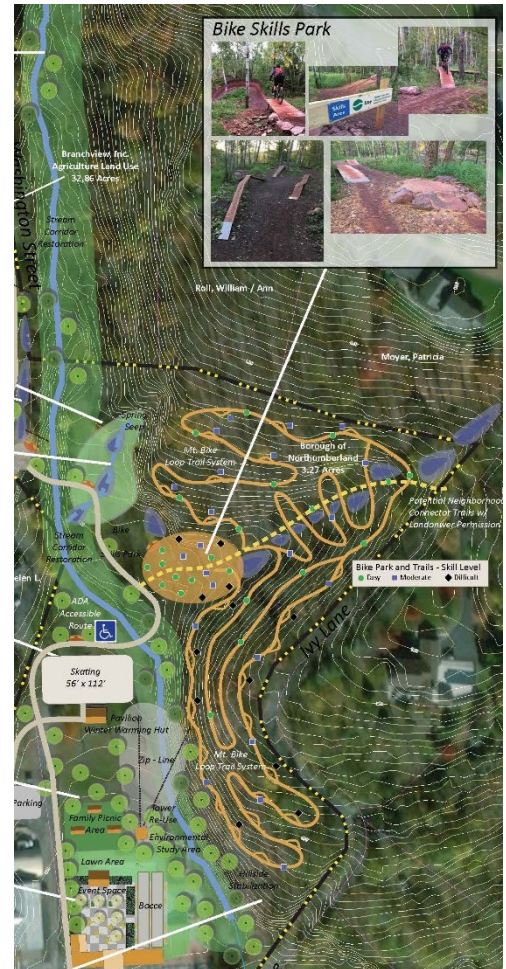
Project Description: Mt. Bike Trails and Bike Skills Park in the Borough owned land northeast of the existing pool site.

Trail Distance: Approximate 1.0 Miles Single Track Trail

Bike Park Features: 6-8 Features using natural and found material such as logs, boulders, earth berms, etc.

Estimated Cost: **\$200,000**

Site Prep.	\$ 12,000
Grading	\$ 25,000
Trail (Natural Surface)	\$ 75,000
Drainage / Geo-Fabric	\$ 18,000
Bike Park Features	\$ 25,000
Design / Permitting	\$ 20,000
Contingency	\$ 25,000



Alternative Funding Strategy: Divert all existing funding for 'Trails' to the Mt. Bike Trails and bike Skills Park project. This includes: Northumberland County Act 13 (\$94,000), Luther S. Savidge Fund (\$16,588), Community Aid (\$5,000), as well as PA DCNR Funding for Riverfront Trail (\$96,000).

Potential Funding Sources: Northumberland County Act 13, PA DCNR, PA DCED, Private Foundations

Funding Agency Follow Up: Recommend an on-site agency meeting to discuss the options of funding / funding reallocation to advance one of the priority projects.



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