

# NEW HANOVER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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# Agenda

- Review of topic: Community facilities and utilities
- Next steps:
  - February discussion topic: Governance
  - Review initial goals, recommendations, and strategies.
  - Begin draft writing of the plan.
  - Development of public engagement opportunities through the spring and summer to obtain feedback on the plan.

# Comp Plan Topic Schedule

## 2019

- May
  - Preliminary issues identification
  - Survey development
- June
  - Housing and Population
  - Survey development
- July
  - Parks and open space
  - Survey development
- August
  - Transportation
  - Survey finalization
- September (Survey launch)
  - Natural and historic resources
- October
  - Economic development
- November (Community Workshop)
  - Workshop preparation
- December
  - Future land use

## 2020

- **January**
  - **Community facilities and utilities**
- February
  - Government/Governance
- March
  - Strategies development
- April
  - Implementation chart development
- May (Open House)
  - Open House preparation
- June
  - Open House feedback review
- July – October
  - Review of draft plan

# Water

- Public water is provided by a franchise branch of Aqua America (formerly Superior Water Company).
  - Comprised of pipe systems, storage tanks, pumps, and wells.
  - Water mains fairly new – oldest were installed in the 1980s with a 50-80 year lifespan.
- Service area is defined by demand and is not limited by pre-set boundaries.
  - Opportunities to expand to up to 3,000 new customers.
  - Currently have additional capacity with capability to add new facilities to further increase capacity.
  - Fire Dpt capacity a main concern re: capacity.
- All areas not connected into the public water systems operate on private wells.

# Water

- Limited concerns with water quality of groundwater.
  - Slight risk contamination from road salt and oil accumulation on roadways, but those contaminants are more problematic for stream health than for groundwater.
- PMRPC Comprehensive Plan recommends:
  - Focus water improvements in growth areas
    - “Water facility extensions should be discouraged in rural resource areas.”
  - Require public water in all areas utilizing public sewer
    - “Development with individual wells and sewage disposal using stream discharge can deplete the groundwater, since no recharge will be taking place.”

# Sewer

- New Hanover Township Sewer Authority owns and maintains the sanitary sewer infrastructure, including the pipes, pumping stations, and the wastewater treatment plant.
- 3 major “trunks” of system:
  - West Branch Interceptor
  - Minister Creek Interceptor
  - Swamp Creek Interceptor
- All areas not connected into the public sewer systems operate on on-site sewage disposal systems.

# Sewer

- System has a capacity of 7,000 EDUs with a current service level of 3,200 EDUs (Town Center project has 2,200 EDUs reserved for its use).
  - Once sold, EDUs run with the tax parcel and cannot be sold back.
- Some areas are experiencing failing on-lot septic systems because of the poor soils, which can lead to concerns over public health – there is an opportunity to create a special service area to accommodate those lots with failing systems that is limited to just those areas outside the main service area.
- Increased service demands within the service area will require upgrades to service infrastructure.



# Sewer

- Inflow/infiltration (ground water leaking into piping) is the biggest issue in the sewage collection system.
  - Older pipe system is made of concrete, newer pipes are PVC.
  - Inflow/infiltration compromises the integrity of the pipe materials and the increased volume takes up capacity and results in greater amounts of water that has to be treated.
- Treated water discharges into Swamp Creek.
- The Authority does not want to expand the existing service area, defined in the most current Act 537 (2003).
  - Any expansion of the service area will trigger an update to the Act.
  - Water treatment plant was most recently upgraded in 2009.

# NHT Sewer Authority Sanitary Sewer System Road and Aerial Map 2014



# Solid Waste

- Township residents individually contract with one of five waste haulers for trash and recycling pick-up services.
  - Pricing is based off of pickup schedule (full-service or low-volume)
- No organized leaf or yard waste collection – residents have the option to drop off yard waste at Hetrick Gardens.


# Government Buildings

- The Township's administration and police departments are co-located in the same municipal building.
- Public Works has a separate building on the same lot as the administration building.
- Limited meeting room space and changing needs for office use may lead the township to consider upgrades to their facilities over the next few decades.
- One US Post Office is located within the township at the intersection of Hoffmansville Road and New Hanover Square Road.

# Fire Department


- New Hanover Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services
  - Operates on a volunteer-exclusive basis, around 77 active members comprised of administrative and firefighter members.
- One active fire company:
  - New Hanover Township Fire Company #1 on Swamp Pike
  - North end substation
  - Sassmansville Fire Co on Hoffmansville Road was consolidated in 2014 and does not contain any active fire machinery
- Mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire companies.
- Members conduct outreach education for community residents.
- Will need to replace an engine truck in 2025, and a ladder truck around 2038.

# Values Identification

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- The sewer authority is more firm on their service boundary than the water provider.
  - Do you feel the service boundaries adequately capture the style of development desired for different areas of the township?
  - What modifications, if any, do you feel are appropriate to those service boundaries?



# Values Identification

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- Free-market systems for waste haulers can provide greater financial flexibility for residents, but can also result in excess truck traffic through neighborhoods.
  - Limited leaf collection and no yard waste collection may increase the amt of compostable materials being disposed of in household trash.
- Do you feel the current system of individual contracts with waste haulers is satisfactory as a township resident?
  - Do you feel you receive a better price/service quality than from a township-wide collection?
  - Is there a desire to see a more coordinated effort for yard waste collection, especially for developments with smaller housing lots?

# Next Steps...

- Submission to PC of background materials on upcoming topics
  - February: Government
  - March: Goals, Strategies, Implementation steps
- MCPC will:
  - Begin piecing together the comp plan components into an initial draft.
  - After February, we will be tapering off with monthly data reports as we shift our focus to drafting the plan.



# Questions or comments?

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