

Section VI. Long Range Housing and Community Development Goals

The County's current Consolidated Plan incorporates many of the long range goals and objectives of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. Goals and objectives were established in eleven areas:

- A. Growth Management
- B. Community Character
- C. Housing
- D. Human Services
- E. Economy
- F. Facilities and Services
- G. Transportation
- H. Parks and Recreation
- I. Energy Resources
- J. Agriculture
- K. Planning and Coordination

This section of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) will provide highlights of the accomplishments in each of these areas during calendar year 2004.

A. Growth Management:

Policy Goal: Provide for growth in appropriate areas.

Smart Growth is a planning term used to describe a growth management strategy that encompasses economic development, regional planning and citizen participation. Smart Growth sustains the local economy, enhances the character, vitality and livability of the community, and maintains or improves the quality of the environment. The use of Urban and Village Growth Areas are intended to maintain the unique, distinct, and compact communities that exist by only encouraging growth outward from urban and village centers to growth boundaries.

The County adopted its Growth Management Plan in September 1993. Lancaster County Planning Commission staff continues to work with local municipalities to establish Urban and Village Growth Boundaries (UGA/VGA) to help municipalities' direct growth to the most appropriate areas of the community. Five new Village Growth Areas were added in 2004. Currently, thirty-nine (39) communities in Lancaster County have either adopted a Village

or Urban Growth Area. Twenty-seven (27) are VGA's, and twelve (12) are UGA's.

In June 2004, the Lancaster County Planning Commission published "A Decade of Smart Growth Management - Lancaster County Growth Tracking Report 1993-2003" analyzing growth trends within the designated growth areas and outside the designations. Of a total 11,100 acres that were developed in Lancaster County, 4,483 were developed in designated areas, and 6,617 were developed outside Growth Areas. The good news is that 76% (13,657 units) of new residential buildings were erected within Growth Areas, and 24% (4,212 units) outside the Growth Area. A total of 35,401 acres of farmland were permanently preserved, and 2,857 acres of parkland were acquired by municipalities from 1994-2002.

The Growth Management Plan update includes an eight point toolbox based on the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The plan evaluates local plans based on:

1. Intergovernmental Cooperation & Implementation Strategy
2. Multi-Municipal Planning Strategy
3. Consistency Program
4. Capital Improvements Programming Process
5. Official Map Process
6. Transfer of Development Rights Program
7. Traditional Neighborhood Design Option
8. Process to Address Land Uses of Regional Significance

The 2004 Smart Growth Leadership Awards were held in November 2004 and recognized twenty (20) innovators in the area of Smart Growth. The Coalition for Smart Growth underwrote the "Achievement" level awards. The Coalition for Smart Growth hired Cindy Shaffer as its new director in 2004.

B. Community Character:

Policy Goal: Preserve and enhance the community character that makes Lancaster County a unique, distinctive, and identifiable place.

Livable Communities, Inc. was formed to oversee the development of a model livable community in Lancaster County. Livable Communities spearheaded an effort to create a neo-traditional neighborhood development on the Sunnyside Peninsula, a tract of County-owned land located in the City of Lancaster.

The County received a \$240,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for pre-development costs that would be incurred by the developer, Community Basics, Inc., for the 300-unit housing development. In early 2004, land development plans were nearing completion when the County requested that the developer put the project "on-hold" until it could determine the impact the development would have on the current and future use of its Youth Intervention Facility which is also located on the peninsula. By the end of 2004, the County announced that it would like to see the development go forward and began negotiations with the developer to continue with the project.

The Lancaster County Planning Commission has created a nationally recognized, community-based approach to heritage development and heritage tourism, which focuses on the interpretation and preservation of the county's authentic cultural, historical, and architectural resources. The Commission staff is responsible for administering two major heritage development/tourism related initiatives. These programs include the Lancaster County Heritage Tourism Initiative and the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. The core objectives of these two heritage initiatives include:

- partnership development and collaboration
- public involvement
- the preservation of heritage resources
- focusing on quality and authenticity
- creating engaging interpretative experiences

The development of the Lancaster County Cultural Resources Preservation Plan was begun in 2003 and continued in 2004. The Plan is expected to establish a strategy for protecting the County's rich and diverse historic and cultural resources including structures, landscapes, and townscapes. The plan is scheduled to be completed in the late spring of 2005.

C. Housing:

Policy Goal: Provide for the diverse housing needs of all County residents.

In September 2003, the Lancaster County Planning Commission appointed representatives of a broad range of stakeholder groups involved in housing

matters to prepare an update to the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan to identify housing needs through 2030. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that housing needs will be met for all income groups in a manner that coincides with the smart growth provisions of the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code.

The Housing Steering Committee has been meeting monthly with the charge to review recommendations of the Housing Element adopted in May 1995, analyze more recent data, engage public review and comments, and prepare a strategy that addresses the housing needs of the County through 2030.

In June 2004, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners contracted with a consultant team to lead the Housing Steering Committee through completion of a final update by June 2005. This team is led by ACP Visioning and Planning, Ltd. of New York, New York, and also includes Thomas Comitta Associates of West Chester, PA and Zimmerman/Volk Associates of Clinton, New Jersey. This team wrapped up the public participation process in 2004 and will begin developing a strategy for Lancaster County's long range housing needs.

The Lancaster City and County Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was adopted in 1998. The Fair Housing Action Committee was created in 1999 to implement the action steps identified in the Analysis of Impediments. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing will be updated in 2005. Please see Section II, subsection E, Actions Taken to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing for more information on this group.

Other housing activities undertaken and completed in 2004 are further described in Section II.

D. Human Services:

Policy Goal: Provide for the human service needs of all county residents.

Several years ago, the County of Lancaster instituted a single application to be used for all human service funding available to social service agencies operating in Lancaster County. This single application standardizes information being requested from agencies when applying for funding, enabling them to devote more of their time and resources to providing services rather than gathering different information and data for several different funding applications. This single application is used by agencies interested in applying for County funding available through the federal Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the state Human Service Development Fund (HSDF) Program.

The CDBG and HSDF funding cycle for FY 2004 began in late 2003. Two Technical Assistance Workshops were held to help applicants understand the application and allocation process. Applications were submitted in February 2004, and volunteer citizen panels reviewed the application and made funding recommendations in April 2004. The chart below lists the agency, program and amount of CDBG and HSDF funds that were allocated in 2004.

**Table 11
Organizations Allocated CDBG and HSDF Monies, 2004**

Sponsor	Program	CDBG	HSDF
Catholic Charities	Lancaster Counseling Program		8,000
Community Action Program	Domestic Violence Services	90,000	
Family Services	Deb's House		30,000
Community Action Program	Outreach & Case Management		72,020
United Way of Lancaster County	Lancaster Info. Center (LINC)		20,000
Tabor Community Services	Shelter to Independent Living	41,500	
YWCA of Lancaster	Sexual Assault Counseling	39,106	
Tabor Community Services	Rental Counseling	42,000	46,943
Welsh Mountain Medical & Dental	Medical and Dental Services	70,875	
Tabor Community Services	Family Savings Account	28,700	10,000
Council on Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Alternative Community Intervention		41,850
Council on Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Elementary Youth Support		74,700
Family Service	Pregnancy & Parenting Center	39,600	
Community Action Program	DVS Bridge Housing	33,750	
Tabor Community Services	Family Self Sufficiency	31,261	10,031
Tabor Community Services	Jubilee House	13,500	
Southeast Lanc. Health Services	Medical & Dental Care	81,000	
MidPenn Legal Services	Civil Legal Services	77,625	
The Gathering Place	Case Management for HIV/AIDS		53,100
Catholic Charities	Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment		46,320
Crispus Attucks Community Center	Emergency Shelter		20,000

Sponsor	Program	CDBG	HSDf
Boys & Girls Club	Family Intervention/Treatment		138,333
Clare House	Case Management	9,000	
Brightside Opportunities Center	Techs for Tomorrow		37,920
Boys & Girls Club	Columbia Clubhouse	51,583	
LEMSA	Wheelchair Van Project		14,683
Tabor Community Services	Transitional Living Center	19,950	
Neighborhood Services	Representative Payee	24,750	
Crispus Attucks Community Center	Intervention/Prevention Program		12,800
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services	Case Mgmt. Services for Deaf	10,000	
The Lodge, Inc. of PA	Supported Housing and Outreach		15,500
Neighborhood Services	Guardianship Services		16,800
Community Action Program	Adult Socialization/Recreation	24,000	
Catholic Charities	Hope House	8,000	
	County Categorical Programs		208,900
	Administration		141,100
	Total	\$736,200	\$1,019,000

E. Economy:

Policy Goal: Enhance and diversify the economy.

The Economic Development Division of the Lancaster County Planning Commission works to achieve the economic development goals identified through the Lancaster County Policy Plan. The Planning Commission acknowledges that some measure of public sector participation is needed to both encourage private sector investment and guarantee the successful delivery of economic development services in Lancaster County. By implementing initiatives based on the “sustainable economic development” and “urban revitalization” focus areas of the Policy Plan, this division of the Planning Commission, provides practical assistance to Lancaster’s urban and suburban municipalities, the business community, as well as the County’s network of economic development providers.

The foundation for all of the Economic Development Division’s work is communication and collaboration. By forging valuable partnerships with private, public and non-profit organizations, the County can effectively target

limited resources and facilitate economic development endeavors in communities across Lancaster. While supporting the specific community and economic development objectives of Lancaster's municipalities, the work of the Economic Development Division actively advances the county-wide smart growth goals of Envision Lancaster County.

Circuit Rider Initiatives

The Lancaster County Planning Commission continues to provide direct assistance to the City of Lancaster and the County's Boroughs to enhance their economic development efforts. Technical outreach and assistance – provided by Economic Development Specialists, a director (consultant) from the National Development Council, and the Director for Economic Development – focuses on reaching the following seven goals:

1. Coordinate the delivery of existing economic development services.
2. Plug any service delivery gaps.
3. Support municipal elected officials and staff in the local decision-making process.
4. Equip municipalities with a variety of planning and economic development tools and techniques.
5. Identify and structure economic revitalization and reuse opportunities within the municipalities.
6. Support individual borough/city activities.
7. Support regional activities with the Borough/City as a hub.

Primary responsibility for implementing the initiatives of the Economic Development Division in the City and Boroughs rests with Economic Development Specialists – commonly referred to as “Circuit Riders.” The Circuit Rider is provided to – and rotates among – Lancaster City and participating Boroughs and their identified community and economic development organizations to:

1. Provide technical assistance to the Boroughs.
2. Build local capacity to implement the community and economic recommendations of municipal comprehensive plans.
3. Leverage public and private funds toward community-based redevelopment strategies.
4. Assist in the development of downtown revitalization strategies.
5. Identify the economic development impact of proposed plans and ordinances.
6. Retain existing businesses and support business relocation, start-ups and expansions.

7. Coordinate access to low cost financing for small businesses.
8. Identify and structure economic development projects.
9. Identify housing and economic development financing strategies.

Urban Circuit Rider

The Urban Circuit Rider Initiative works with City of Lancaster and community development organizations to build and facilitate local capacity for neighborhood and economic development projects. Through communication and collaboration, the City, as Lancaster's center of commerce and government, is strengthened. The focus is always on the revitalization of this key urban area through a sustainable economy that will benefit the entire County.

Community Partners include:

- ChurchTowne Community Advisory Committee of Bethel Harambee Historic Services
- Inner City Group
- James Street Improvement District
- Spanish American Civic Association (SACA)
- Economic Development Action Group of Lancaster Campaign
- North-Central Elm Street Neighborhood
- Southeast Elm Street Neighborhood
- East King Street Improvement District
- East King Street Shops Action Team

Borough Circuit Rider

The Borough Circuit Rider Initiative serves as facilitator, technical resource, and liaison to assist Partner Boroughs in acquiring the tools necessary to both enhance and implement their economic development efforts by:

1. Building community capacity to understand and accept their role in economic development.
2. Providing access to the existing network of community and economic development providers
3. Securing resources for community projects and revitalization efforts.

In 2004, fourteen (14) of the County's eighteen (18) boroughs were active

partners in the Borough Circuit Rider Initiative. Demonstrated (quantifiable) advantages of the Borough Circuit Rider Initiative in 2004 include:

1. Actively supporting the (re)development of significant community assets such as the former Raymark Industrial site in Manheim Borough, redeveloped as the Greentree Business Center.
2. Implementation of the Permitting Initiative - a concurrent and coordinated review process for selected industrial and commercial development projects that promotes collaborative reviews and open communication between the applicant and the regulators.
3. Leveraging public and private funds to implement community and economic development strategies (e.g. Hometown Streets funding for Christiana Borough, PA Commonwealth Main Street Community designation in Ephrata, and the employment of the Grow Lancaster Fund to provide gap financing to select small business development projects).

Areas of opportunity exist for the Borough Circuit Rider Initiative to both maintain its high level of service and improve upon its successful track record in Lancaster County by extending the opportunity to become a Partner Borough to Adamstown, Akron, New Holland, Quarryville and Terre Hill and by working to develop advanced systems using existing technology to better support the economic development initiatives of Partner Boroughs.

Permitting Initiative

The Lancaster County Planning Commission's Permitting Initiative serves to expedite the land development process of chosen economic development projects by facilitating and coordinating a concurrent regulatory review process among affected public agencies. The accelerated process, however, does not abandon or reduce any ordinance standards. Rather, all regulatory agencies, authorities and units of government agree to concurrently review a project to the extent allowed under existing statutes. The end result of the Permitting Initiative is the issuance of all permits and approvals within a compressed time frame for selected economic development projects in appropriate locations (i.e., sites that are within an adopted or draft Urban Growth Area, within the City of Lancaster, or within any borough).

Land Recycling Initiative

During 2004, Lancaster County closed out their original U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The County continued offering environmental assessments, utilizing EPA USTfields Pilot and Brownfield Assessment grants. The County initiated an EPA Smart Growth in Brownfields Communities planning project, which covers portions of both the City of Lancaster and Manheim Township. Also, Lancaster County again renewed its partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to inventory brownfields available for sale or lease.

Entrepreneurial Assistance

The Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority continued to contract with the Community First Fund in 2004 to operate the Microenterprise Assistance Program. In 2004, the Community First Fund made two (2) loans to low and moderate income entrepreneurs; both entrepreneurs were persons of color.

Late in 2002, the County of Lancaster, through the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority, contracted with the National Development Council (NDC) to create a self-sustaining community program for small business financing called the Grow Lancaster Fund. The County of Lancaster made a \$200,000 equity investment which will leverage an additional \$800,000 for economic development targeted to the City of Lancaster and the boroughs in Lancaster County. NDC, through its Grow American Fund program will make Small Business Administration (SBA) guaranteed loans to small businesses. Grow Lancaster Fund loans can be combined with funding from local banks and lending institutions, and local, state or federal agencies. The Grow Lancaster Fund will only provide loans to businesses:

- located within an adopted Urban Growth Area, as defined by the Lancaster County Planning Commission, or
- located on property zoned to allow the proposed use and within an existing or planned public sewer and public water service area.

The Grow Lancaster Fund gives preference to projects located on property within the City of Lancaster or any of the boroughs located in Lancaster County. In 2004, over 27 inquiries were made to the program; two loan commitments were made and one loan was settled for a business in Ephrata Borough.

Program support dollars were also provided in 2004 to the ASSETS Program which provided business training programs for twenty-one (21) existing or aspiring County entrepreneurs. BASE, Inc. (Building and Supporting Entrepreneurs, Inc.) provided technical assistance to seventy-seven (77) micro-enterprises through CDBG funding in 2004. The Community First Fund was granted CDBG funds to provide technical assistance to thirty-six (36) entrepreneurs in 2004. The technical assistance was provided to obtain loan funds through Community First Fund to create or expand businesses. In 2004, Community First Fund moved out of donated space and moved into a building it purchased at 30 West Orange Street in the City of Lancaster. Community First Fund also started the Pennsylvania Women's Business Center. This Center is certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The Lancaster County Strategic Tourism Development Plan was approved in November 2004. The Plan outlines strategies to ensure that Lancaster County remains not only a great place to live, but a great place to visit. A 12-member Tourism Task Force created a plan to strategically identify important tourism issues, challenges and opportunities in the tourism industry. Parter International, Inc., with its team members McCormick Taylor & Associates, Econsult, and C. Frederic John & Associates, was retained by the Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC) to create a Lancaster County Strategic Tourism Development Plan and a Greater Lancaster City Heritage Tourism Development Strategy. Specifically, the assignment was to recommend ways for Lancaster County tourism to remain competitive and improve its economic impact in the future. The Parter International team reported to a Tourism Task Force, appointed by the LCPC and Board of County Commissioners, which was composed of 13 members. During 2004, monthly meetings with the Tourism Task Force were held in Lancaster to review and discuss the work performed by the consultants, and to adjust or confirm the direction of the study. After reviewing the findings from the 41 interviews, the four surveys, dozens of personal visits, and a wide range of secondary research and comparables, and after carefully considering the comments, desires, and capabilities of local residents, Parter International outlined the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each of the four areas of focus: attractions, infrastructure, marketing, and organization.

A Regional Economics Workshop was held in April 2004 emphasizing the links between community planning, urban revitalization, regional economies and the practice of traditional economic development in Lancaster and was jointly sponsored by the County Planning Commission, the PA State Borough Association, the PA Department of Community, the PA Downtown Center, and the Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board.

The Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (EDC) received a planning grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to help fund an evaluation study for the redevelopment of the Armstrong Industries site in Manheim. In 2004, the EDC also facilitated 35 million dollars in business investments in Lancaster County that created 299 new jobs.

The EDC and the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority were instrumental in the financing of the upcoming Clipper Magazine Stadium, scheduled to open in May 2005. The stadium will be home to the minor-league baseball team, the Lancaster Barnstormers.

Lancaster Prospers is an initiative by the EDC the mission of which is to develop a broad-based community wide economic vision for Lancaster County. Task force leaders of this initiative will implement seven strategies:

1. A mechanism for collaborating on regional initiatives
2. Economic research capacity for the County/region
3. County-wide marketing plan
4. Collaborate on a research and development center
5. Industry-driven centers of excellence
6. Comprehensive approach in support of entrepreneurship
7. Develop urban centers as attractive places to live, work and play.

In April of 2004, Ephrata Borough became a “Main Street Community” through the State Department of Community and Economic Development. Downtown Ephrata, Inc. hired its first full-time Executive Director.

F. Facilities and Services:

Policy Goal: Provide needed facilities and services.

During 2004, construction of the following public facilities was completed:

- Neighborhood Facilities - Neighborhood Services Center Construction Project
- Parks and Recreation - Camp Hogan
- Water Sewer Projects - Brunnerville Water Main Extension, Gap Sanitary Sewer, Reading Road Sanitary Sewer Extension, South King Street Storm Sewer Project,

- Street Improvements - Christiana Neighborhood Improvement Project, Phase I; Church Street; South Sixth Street; South Hess Street, Phase I; and Barber Street.
- Health Facilities – Welsh Mountain Medical and Dental Center Expansion Project.

During 2004, construction of the following public facilities began:

- Homeless Facilities - YWCA Phase III
- Acquisition of Real Property - Vacant Property Reinvestment Program
- Street Improvements - Barber Street.
- Water and Sewer Projects - Kendig Drive Water and Sanitary Sewer Extension Project, Sunhill Service Area Water System Improvements Project.
- Parking Facilities – East Donegal Township Municipal Parking Lot Project.

During 2004, funds were budgeted for the following public facilities but construction did not begin:

- Market Street Water and Sanitary Sewer Project
- Christiana Neighborhood Improvement Project, Phase IV
- Susan Avenue Reconstruction Project
- Bank Street Reconstruction Project
- New Charlotte and Eby Streets Neighborhood Improvement Project
- Pink Alley Paving and Storm Water Improvement Project
- Mondale/Hunsecker Roads Sanitary Sewer Extension Project

Please refer to the reports in Section IV for a listing of the non-housing community development activities that received Community Development Block Grant funding in 2004.

G. Transportation:

Policy Goal: Provide for safe, efficient and convenient movement of people and goods.

The Lancaster County 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, as an element of the County Comprehensive Plan, is scheduled to be adopted in March 2005. A review of transportation needs was assessed through findings

from public input and a wide range of secondary research. The consultant for the Plan, Parter International Consultants, composed analyses that outline the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each of the four areas of focus: attractions, infrastructure, marketing, and organization. Two separate analyses were done, one for the County as a whole and one just for the City of Lancaster.

Land use and growth is a critical issue in Lancaster County as both residential and commercial growth continues outside urban cores where there is no public transportation access. An implementation strategy program and schedule for each municipality is underway; assessing each municipality with respect to the recommended strategies and a determination of what each municipality has already done, or is in the process of doing, and what makes sense for the municipality. Each municipality has the opportunity to work with the LCPC to update their comprehensive plans.

The Lancaster County Planning Commission's vision statement for Lancaster County's transportation system is:

The future transportation system of Lancaster County will be fully supportive of smart growth and will move people and goods safely, efficiently, and conveniently throughout the County, and between the County and adjacent counties. The system will support the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan by providing a balanced intermodal transportation system which enhances mobility, strengthens the economy, and protects the environment.

To support the transportation planning process, staff maintains a computerized Travel Demand Forecasting Model that is used to evaluate the impacts of changes to the highway system. The model also leads transportation and land use corridor studies to identify needed improvements in congested corridors. In addition, a National Household Travel Study is underway to better understand how and why people travel and to evaluate future transportation needs. The Lancaster County Planning Commission, under the direction of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), has arranged to conduct a household survey of residents within the county. This survey is known as the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS). The data collected by the survey will assist transportation planners in understanding how and why people travel and will help evaluate transportation plans for the future within our county.

Initiated from the PA 23 Corridor Study started in 1997 by the Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC), the PA 23 Environmental Impact Study

has been completed up to step 4, Preliminary Alternatives Analysis, of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PENNDOT) Ten-Step Process for Transportation Development. The Lancaster County Planning Commission, PENNDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) continue to work on the completion of steps 5 through 10. Staff worked with PennDOT to document the impact of a two-lane southern alternative; determine financial capacity for building a new two-lane PA 23; identify opportunities and challenges for shifting freight from truck to rail in the corridor; develop an implementation plan and reconstitute the Executive Committee.

In 2004, the staff of the Lancaster County Planning Commission completed the needs determination phase of the US 30 Environmental Impact Study (PA 896 to PA 41). The Task Force that guided the Study is working on the preliminary alternatives evaluation phase. This multi-year study will focus on the approximately nine and-a-half-mile section of Route 30 from Route 896 in East Lampeter Township to Route 41 in Salisbury Township. In an effort to reduce congestion and improve safety conditions on Route 30, PENNDOT has resumed an improvement study of the roadway corridor, which was suspended in 1996 due to funding conditions. PENNDOT is working on completing the Preliminary Alternatives phase of project development which involves evaluating alternatives, coordinating the work with state and federal environmental review and regulatory agencies, and writing a report. The report will summarize benefits and impacts and recommend which alternatives should be carried forward for detailed study.

Phase II of Lancaster's Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in April 2004. It will become a component of the County's Long Range Transportation Plan (see above). Phase II includes a roadway inventory of more than 800 miles of roads in the County to calculate the Bicycle Level of Service.

Please refer to the reports in Section IV for a listing of the street, curb and sidewalk, and storm sewer activities that received Community Development Block Grant funding in 2004.

H. Parks and Recreation:

Policy Goal: Provide for a diversity of parkland and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of all County residents.

During 2004, the Lancaster County Commissioners discontinued the Community Parks Initiative Grants Program which had provided matching grants to local municipalities and non-profits for the acquisition and development of local parks.

LCPC staff is assessing the feasibility of developing a trailhead and public access point on the low-grade rail trail.

In 2004, work continued on the development of the Northwest River Trail and Columbia River Park/Bike Trail in Columbia Borough.

I. Energy Resources:

Policy Goal: Conserve energy and provide a variety of reliable and affordable energy resources.

The Community Action Program's (CAP) Energy Conservation Center's Weatherization Program and Pennsylvania Power and Light's (PP&L) Winter Relief Assistance Program continued to provide weatherization improvements for low and moderate income families in the County. PP&L's program is funded by the utility. CAP's Weatherization Program receives funding from a variety of sources including the Community Development Block Grant Program. A total of eighty-seven (87) households were provided with weatherization improvements to improve energy efficiency through CAP's program with County CDBG funds in 2004.

The Regional Economic Development District Initiative (REDDI) will be receiving state and federal funds which will allow for continuing its efforts focusing on renewable energy, aquaculture, and local foods-to-urban table initiative.

J. Agriculture:

Policy Goal: Preserve agricultural areas for agricultural use.

The Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board administers a program that purchases developmental rights to preserve farmland for agricultural use. The value of the easement is driven by pressure for development and by land values and now averages about \$3,000 an acre. The total number of Lancaster county farms saved since the preservation efforts began in 1980 is 716 farms on 58,378 acres. These combined efforts of the non-profit; Lancaster Farmland Trust and the County's Agricultural Preserve Board have taken Lancaster County to the status of number one in the nation for the number of farms and total acres of farmland preserved.

K. Planning and Coordination:

Policy Goal: Develop a cooperative, coordinated and intergovernmental approach to planning in Lancaster County.

During 2003, the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC) continued its multi-municipal vision and comprehensive planning process for Central Lancaster County, Pennsylvania called "Growing Together." The LIMC is a council of governments of twelve municipalities that have joined together to cooperate on government activities. Eleven of the twelve LIMC member municipalities are participating in the project. They are East Hempfield Township, East Lampeter Township, East Petersburg Borough, Lancaster City, Lancaster Township, Manheim Township, Manor Township, Millersville Borough, Mountville Borough, West Hempfield Township and West Lampeter Township.

The LCPC process to update the Growth Management Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan is underway. The current Growth Management Program was initiated by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners in 1993 and reinforced through an Update in 1997. The Update will guide growth in Lancaster County through the year 2030.

To help lead this effort, LCPC appointed a 60-member Task Force in December 2003. The Task Force is a microcosm of Lancaster County stakeholder groups and regions. It includes representatives of local government, business, industry, agriculture, banking, education, preservation, environmental interests, community-based organizations, social services, youth, health care, and utilities. In 2004, the Task Force continued to review

data, trends, and issues; evaluated current and projected growth patterns; reviewed existing Growth Areas; analyzed urban and rural issues; and began generating recommendations which balance growth consistent with smart growth principles and the preservation of farmland and open space.

The project timeline for the Growth Management element Update is anticipated to extend to June 2005, with adoption planned in June.

The Lancaster County Planning Commission has retained a consulting team headed by Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC of Philadelphia to assist the County in the update of the Growth Management Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. Other team members are McCormick Taylor, the American Farmland Trust, and David Elesh, Ph.D., Temple University.

In 2004, Sadsbury, Colerain and Bart Townships and Christiana Borough held public hearings in December as they took one step closer to adopting the Octoraro Regional Comprehensive Plan.

West Earl Township Supervisors adopted an ordinance to enter into an inter-municipal agreement to provide for the implementation of the Conestoga Valley Joint Comprehensive Plan in 2004.

The Strasburg Regional Steering Committee reviewed the draft Strasburg Regional Comprehensive Plan in 2004.

In 2004, the Cocalico Regional Plan, a collaborative zoning code update for Adamstown and Denver Borough was adopted.