



Clearfield County Planner

Summer Issue

2010



County Comprehensive Plan Gets an Update

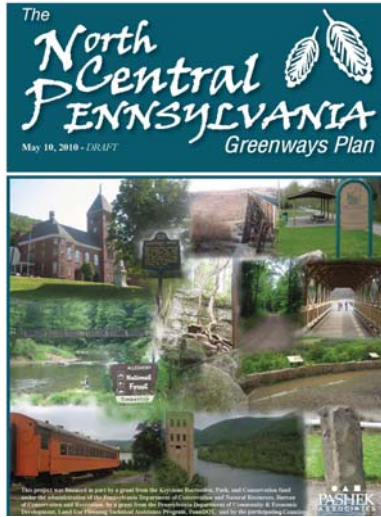
On September 14, the County Commissioners intend on amending the County Comprehensive Plan to include two new additions:

First, being the *North Central Pennsylvania Greenways Plan* which is a multi-county planning effort for the six north central counties of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter.

North Central Pennsylvania is rich in recreation opportunities and natural resource features. "Pennsylvania's greenways network ultimately takes the form of "hubs and spokes." The "hubs" of the network will be the State's parks, forests, game lands, lakes, and other destinations, including our towns. The "spokes" of the network will be greenways – connecting our natural areas and recreational and cultural destinations with the places where we live.

Greenways are multi-purpose in nature providing opportunities for both water and land based trails, and also promoting storm water management functions and water quality improvement as well as hunting and fishing opportunities through associated natural system greenway corridors.

As a result, an inventory, analysis, and public participation was completed for this plan resulting in 155 existing trails, 85 potential recreation and transportation corridors, 132 proposed natural system corridors, 82 proposed trail towns, major hubs, & hubs, and 209 potential implementation partners recommended for consideration.



The intent of the proposed plan is to establish a vision for and guide to the implementation of trails and natural systems within Clearfield County.

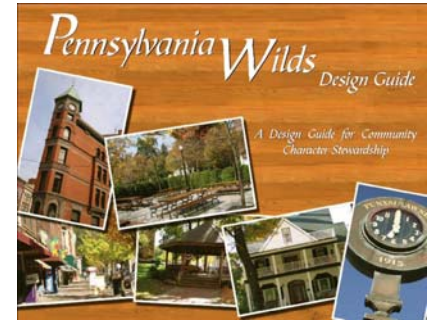
The second amendment being the *PA Wilds Planning Study & Design Guide*, an 11-month study to identify critical infrastructure needs around DCNR investment areas and assess local, county, and regional planning and development capacities in the 12-county region.

Infrastructure issues covered by the study included transportation, sewer, water, and emergency and telecommunication services - all topics that can impact the region's ability to respond successfully to increased tourism to the area. A variety of findings and recommendations are provided in each of the study areas referenced. The *Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide* was created to help communities protect these treasured characteristics while reaping and strengthening the benefits of economic growth. A highly visual and readable document, it is also a great place to go for ideas and inspiration. All of the book's guidelines are voluntary.

The draft North Central PA Greenways Plan for Clearfield County is available on line at: <http://www.ncentralgreenways.com/>

The PA Wilds Planning Study can viewed on line as well at: <http://www.co.elk.pa.us/planning/PA%20Wilds%20Planning%20Study%20revised%209.11.08%20-%20MASTER%20FILE.pdf>

To view the PA Wilds Design Guide, go to: http://www.pawildsresources.org/design_guide.html



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We're Moving!

The Office of Planning and Community Development will be moving to downtown Clearfield sometime in late September / early October, along with the Commissioners' Office, the Children & Youth Services Office, the Election & Voter Registration Office, the Controller's Office, and the Veterans' Affairs Office.

NEW ADDRESS
212 East Locust Street
Clearfield, PA 16830

PHONE NUMBER (SAME)
(814) 765-5149

PA Community Transportation Initiative

PennDOT announces it is accepting a second round of applications through the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) program. The Department has set aside \$24 million in the first two years of the draft 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to support potential projects that exhibit Smart Transportation principles. Each eligible project may receive up to \$1.5 million for the pre-construction and construction phases. Requests for planning proposals may not exceed \$300,000. Projects will be selected on the degree to which the project supports Smart Transportation principles and the ability to implement local land use actions in support of the transportation investments within the first two years of the TIP.

Potential Project Activities - (please reference eligible activities in the State guidelines)

- Projects which support local economic or community development projects and that encourage walkable, multimodal, mixed use developments or corridors, or incorporate brownfield or greyfield redevelopment opportunities;
- Enhancing and utilizing the existing transportation network infrastructure capacity to reduce the demand on the region's transportation network;
- Improving regional connectivity (for example, more integrated use of arterials and secondary roads to relieve congestion on State highways, multimodal circulation improvements, sidewalks, paths);
- Roadside improvements (i.e., transit and bicycle amenities, streetscape improvements, parking); and
- Improvements to support transit-oriented, brownfield and greyfield developments.

Who can apply: The following are eligible to apply for the PCTI program:

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPO/RPO)
- Transit Agencies
- Educational Institutions (Universities, Colleges, School Districts)
- Transportation Management Associations
- Other Public Bodies

Potential applicants are strongly advised to review the guidelines thoroughly. This is not a grant program and since this program utilizes federal transportation dollars, all projects must meet federal guidelines, eligibility, and regulations. The proposal should be ready to start or let within one year and have sufficient financial support to be fully implemented as described. In order to meet this criterion, funds should be obligated by 6/30/2012 and be bid by 8/12/2012. If the 8/12/2012 bid date is not met, applicants will not receive PCTI funds and may be responsible for reimbursing federal funds expended on the project to date.

Detailed information and the online application can be found at: <http://www.smart-transportation.com/pcti.html>.

All applications must be received by the PennDOT Center for Program Development and Management prior to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.



Grant Workshop Series

Our County Planning and Community Development Office is partnering with Cen-Clear Child Services, Clearfield-Jefferson Drug-Free Communities Coalition, and the Centre County Community Foundation to sponsor a series of grant writing workshops.

Come hear the secrets and innovative techniques included in the Grant Development, Management and Sustainability Workshop Series. These workshops are geared for both beginners as well as advanced grant writers. Mike DuBose and Ginny Byrd Porter from Research Associates of Columbia, South Carolina, will be featured workshop speakers.

Workshops will be held on September 8, 9, and 10, 2010 at the Cen-Clear Child Services' Administrative Office, 1633 Philipsburg Bigler Highway, Philipsburg, PA (next to True Value Hardware). Workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end by 4:00 p.m. Registration (which includes workshop notebooks and lunch) is \$5 per workshop. Course topics follow.

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING - September 8, 2010

Identifying funding sources; completing a community needs assessment; writing convincing problem statements; creating program driven budgets; preparing grant proposals and applications.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION – September 9, 2010 Developing your team; drawing down grant funds; program and financial audits; using consultants and/or contract services; working with external evaluators; monitoring the program budget

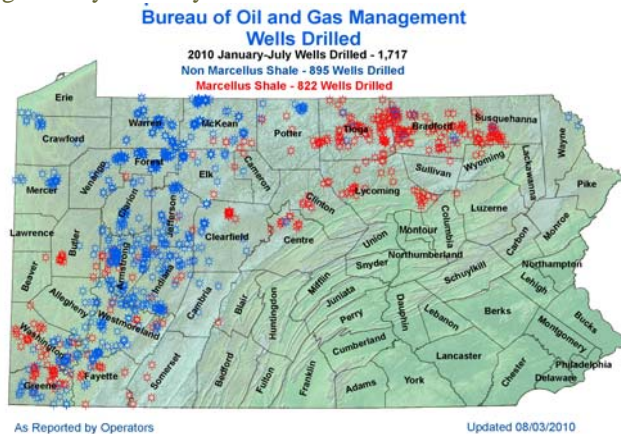
PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY – September 10, 2010

Keeping your program alive; identifying diverse funding sources and funding methods; establishing short- and long-term strategies; focusing on success; developing a sustainability team

Pre-registration is required! Participants may choose one, two, or all three workshops in the series. The class size is limited so early registration is encouraged. Mail registration with check payable to: Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc., 1633 Philipsburg-Bigler Highway, Philipsburg, PA 16866-3010, Attn: Laura Bordas. Phone 814-342-5678 for additional information

Marcellus Shale: Current News & Web Resources

The Pennsylvania Department Of Environmental Protection website, during January thru June 2010, reports that 20 Marcellus Shale permits have been issued and 16 wells drilled within Clearfield County. Beginning in November, DEP is anticipating releasing Marcellus Shale Well and Waste Production reports, publicly online, as reported by operators. The map below shows the locations of Marcellus Shale and Non Marcellus Shale wells that have been drilled during January thru July 2010.



For further information on Marcellus Shale, please visit:

www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/oilgas/new_forms/marcellus/marcellus.htm

Or

<http://extension.psu.edu/naturalgas/webinars>

Gas and Oil Well Response Team Locating in the County

On August 17, the Commissioners announced that Wild Well Control will be locating a three-man team and associated equipment at the

Clearfield-Lawrence Airport located in Lawrence Township. In addition to being on-call for gas well incidents, the team will also provide training to emergency responders.

Emergency Responders Training

As Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director, Robert P. French, recently reported there are new challenges facing his agency and emergency responders statewide as a result of sharply increased natural gas drilling activities. Marcellus Shale drilling is an industry that does have inherent risks, as we have witnessed by the recent blowout at a well in Lawrence Township, Clearfield County.

Prior to this incident, Clearfield County already began taking steps to ensure drill sites have 911 addresses and making them far easier to find in case an emergency does occur. In addition, the County started planning a series of informational sessions for first responders. In June, the County Commissioners along with Range Resources provided four such sessions throughout the County addressing on-site safety, 911 addressing, and minimizing impacts to our communities.

North Central PA Natural Gas Expo

The Counties of Clearfield, Cameron, Elk, and Jefferson are jointly sponsoring a Natural Gas Expo for the purpose of bringing together the natural gas industry and local business entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities that are emerging out of the Marcellus natural gas play.

The **North Central Natural Gas Expo**, as it is being called, will be held on Thursday, **October 14**, at Clarion River Holdings Building in Ridgway, PA with a networking dinner being held for exhibitors and their guests the evening prior. You can register for the event, get information and explore sponsorship, exhibitor, and advertising opportunities on the expo's website at: NorthCentralGasExpo.com.

Making an Impact: 2010 Report on the PA Wilds

Seven years ago, leaders from 12 of Pennsylvania's most rural counties joined forces with the State to form a unique partnership called the Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative. Urged on by strong leadership and unprecedented financial support from the Commonwealth, the idea was to work with State officials, federal agencies, small businesses, local citizens, and nonprofit organizations to grow the region's nature and heritage tourism industry. We aimed to revitalize our communities, create lasting economic opportunities, and improve quality of life – all while inspiring a stewardship ethic in visitors and residents. Would it work? No one knew.

A report was released by the PA Wilds Planning Team this past spring to see if the initiative was indeed working. The economic data back up the stories we hear in the field: there have been increases in the region's state park attendance (3.3 percent), overnight leisure travel (5.3 percent), visitor spending (6.3 percent), tourism employment (.5 percent), state sales tax revenues from tourism categories (2.7 percent), and hotel tax revenues (13.1 percent). In addition, the DCNR has invested more than \$126 million building destination facilities such as the new Elk Country Visitor Center, and



upgrading trails, restrooms, signage and facilities at its 29 state parks and eight state forests in the region. It has also awarded more than \$13 million in grants to communities in the region for recreation projects, and has awarded another \$9 million to the two Heritage areas serving the PA Wilds – Lumber Heritage Region and PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor which in turn have awarded grants to local communities.

On occasion, we will hear some negativity regarding the PA Wilds in that tourism is not the solution to our unemployment problems; and in response, we agree that it's not the entire solution, it's something done *in addition to* other industries, not instead of them. Visitors help restaurants, cafes, outfitters, stores, lodges – our friends and neighbors – stay in business, create new jobs, and add new products and services that residents need and want. Tourism can help diversify our local economies and makes our communities more vibrant, which in turn helps to attract or retain businesses in other industries.

We have a vast array of recreation and tourism attractions in our region and it makes sense to develop them. Just as important, improving these facilities does not just make the Wilds a better place to visit; cleaner streets, better parks, well maintained trails, and revitalized downtowns are things that our residents enjoy and which make it easier for us to recruit new businesses and full-time residents to the area.

Making An Impact: 2010 Update on the Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative report is available online at: www.pawildsresources.org.

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TO:

Upcoming Training

Developing and Managing Your Municipal Budget

09/15/10

Holiday Inn Downtown Williamsport
100 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Register at:

[http://www.psats.org/onesource/onesource_courses_register_1.cfm?
courseid=munibud10](http://www.psats.org/onesource/onesource_courses_register_1.cfm?courseid=munibud10)

Municipal Bidding: Public Works Equipment and Services

09/30/10

Business Innovation Center
679 Colbert Avenue
Oil City, PA 16301

Register at:

[http://www.psats.org/onesource/onesource_courses_register_free.cfm?
courseid=munbid10](http://www.psats.org/onesource/onesource_courses_register_free.cfm?courseid=munbid10)

Road Surface Management

09/16/10

Bigler Township Municipal Building
2861 Main Street
Madera, PA 16661

For More Information, Contact: Jeannette Holden at (814) 378-5145

Posting & Bonding of Local Roads

10/01/10

Best Western DuBois
82 North Park Place
DuBois, PA 15801

For More Information, Contact: Barry Mayes at (814) 773-3162

Bridge Maintenance & Inspection

11/18/10

Brady Township Community Center
71 Community Center Street
Luthersburg, PA 15848

For More Information, Contact: Barry Mayes at (814) 773-3162

Drainage: The Key to Roads That Last

09/17/10

Structural Modulares, Inc.
101 Southern Avenue
Strattanville, PA 16258

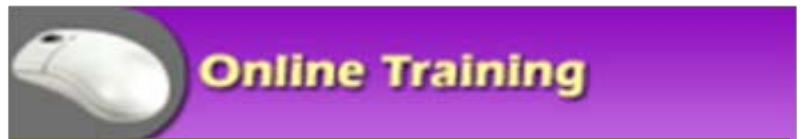
For More Information, Contact: Lori Miller at (814) 764-5555

Common Sense Solutions to Intersection Problems

09/28/10

City of DuBois Training Center
10 Parkway Avenue
DuBois, PA 15801

For More Information, Contact: Scott Farrell at (814) 371-2000



The following planning-related training is available on line at :

Duties of a Planning Commission

<http://dutiespc.landuselawinpa.com/>

How to Work with a Consultant Guidebook

[http://www.palocalgovtraining.org/pdfs/other/
working_with_consultants.pdf](http://www.palocalgovtraining.org/pdfs/other/working_with_consultants.pdf)

MPC Made Easy

<http://mpc.landuselawinpa.com/>

Planning Beyond Boundaries

<http://planning.landuselawinpa.com/>