

Profile 8 Community/Utility Facilities and Services Profile

Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an inventory of existing public and quasi-public utilities and services in Mercer County. Information on service areas, capacities, current inadequacies, and future needs are discussed. The significance of public utilities and services is critical in assessing needed improvements to serve the location, type, and intensity of future development.

As noted by the Brookings Institution in *Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Pennsylvania*, better public services are generally located in more affluent communities, while communities on the edge and in the midst of depression are faced with cutting services to the minimum. This is the case in Mercer County. Grove City and Hermitage are growing, prosperous areas, while Greenville and the Shenango Valley strive to meet day-to-day needs.

Public Safety

- **Public Safety services are provided by police, fire companies and departments, and emergency medical services associations** to residents of Mercer County. These agencies and organizations are listed in Table 8-1.

There are 12 local police departments located primarily in the older and larger communities of Mercer County. The Pennsylvania State Police also serve portions of the County from its barracks in Butler County.

There are 27 fire companies or departments serving County residents. These are predominantly volunteer organizations. Like the police departments, these organizations are generally located in the larger communities. A few companies or departments have multiple stations.

- **EMMCO West, Inc. is Northwestern Pennsylvania's regional Emergency Medical Services Office.** EMMCO West is a non-profit corporation that is contracted by the PA Department of Health to coordinate, enhance, and oversee the EMS system within its defined geographic region in Northwestern Pennsylvania. EMMCO West serves EMS providers in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties and is cooperatively owned by 8 regional medical centers. EMMCO West's office is located in Meadville, PA.

EMMCO West acts as a liaison to the PA Department of Health and to the EMS providers in Northwestern Pennsylvania. EMMCO West provides assistance to EMS providers and services through primary prehospital education, continuing education, state certification testing, technical assistance (Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, Electronic Data Collection, AED program, DUI Prevention Programs, etc.), ambulance service licensure, quick response service recognition, training institute and medical command

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accreditation, EMSOF grants/funding, plus a variety of other emergency medical service activities. Source: www.emmco.org

Table 8-1 Public Safety/Emergency Services & Facilities

Name
Police
Pennsylvania State Police – Troop D
Farrell Police Department
Greenville/West Salem Police Department
Grove City Police Department
Hempfield Township Police Department
Hermitage Police Department
Jamestown Police Department
Jefferson Township Police Department
Mercer Borough Police Department
Pymatuning Township Police Department
Sharon Police Department
Sharpsville Police Department
Shenango Township Police Department
Fire Companies
Clark Volunteer Fire Company
Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department
East End Volunteer Fire Co #1
Farrell Fire Dept
Fredonia Volunteer Fire Department
Greenville Fire Department
Grove City Volunteer Fire Department
Hempfield Twp Volunteer Fire Department
Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department
Jackson Center Volunteer Fire Co
Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department
Jefferson Twp Volunteer Fire Department
Mercer
Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department
Pine Township Engine Company
Sandy Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Sharon Fire Dept
Sharpsville Fire Dept

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Name
Sheakleyville Volunteer Fire Department
Shenango Twp Volunteer Fire Department
South Pymatuning Volunteer Fire Department
Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department
Stoneboro Volunteer Fire Company
Transfer Volunteer Fire Department
West Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department
West Salem Twp Volunteer Fire Department
Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department
Emergency Medical Services
Regional Emergency Medical Services Council
EMMCO West, Inc.
Superior Ambulance
Gold Cross Ambulance Service
Life Force Of Western Pennsylvania

- **Mercer County has an Emergency Management Agency** to coordinate preparedness, relief, and recovery activities for all emergency or disaster situations within the County. The Agency has an Emergency Management Coordinator, who is appointed by the County Board of Commissioners and certified by the state of Pennsylvania as an Emergency Manager.
- **Mercer County has a Local Emergency Planning Committee.** The LEPC was created as a direct result of Congress passing Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. Congress enacted this law to help local communities protect public health, safety and the environment from chemical hazards. The LEPC is the focal point for Title III activities in the Community.
- **Several quasi-public organizations extend the arm of public safety into the Mercer County community.** South West Gardens, a non-profit community organization, operates two emergency shelters, while other organizations help women in domestic crisis situations. These organizations offer valuable services to residents in need.
- **Stakeholders expressed a positive perception of public safety services in the County.** They noted a very low crime rate, strong law enforcement and a visible judicial presence as indicators of public safety.

Utility Services

Telecommunications

- **Wireless, telecommunications and broadband services are not widely available in Mercer County.** Increasingly, these services are necessary for communications and marketing of any business, as well as communications within and beyond community borders. Local dial-up service came to the Shenango Valley area roughly five years ago. Utility service providers are listed in Table 8-2.

Table 8-2 - Utility Service Providers

Provider	Utility	Service Area
Grove City Borough	Electricity	Grove City
Pennsylvania Power Company	Electricity	Greenville, Grove City, Mercer, Sandy Lake and Stoneboro, Shenango Valley
National Fuel Gas	Natural Gas	Greenville, Mercer, Sandy Lake and Stoneboro, Shenango Valley
Peoples Natural Gas Co	Natural Gas	Grove City, Sandy Lake and Stoneboro
Bell Atlantic	Telephone	Greenville, Grove City, Mercer, Shenango Valley
Pymatuning Telephone Co	Telephone	Greenville
United Telephone	Telephone	Grove City
Century Shenango Cable TV	Cable	Shenango Valley

Source: Mercer County Free Net Association (www.merlink.org)

- **The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (Northwest Commission) finished *Connect NW PA*, a study of broadband services in its planning region (Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties) in 2003.** The Study’s purpose was to measure broadband’s true meaning and impact to the people and businesses of the eight counties as defined by their way of life and importance to businesses today, over the next few years, and beyond. As documented on the cover of *Connect NW PA: Lighting the Highway of Broadband’s Future*,

A recently completed broadband study of an eight county area of northwestern Pennsylvania found much of the bandwidth available falls within the 200 kbps to 1.5 Mbps range. While this is adequate for current “Web-surfing” applications, it is inadequate for the newer high bandwidth applications which will become increasingly important to individuals and to retain or bring new businesses to the area. The study discusses an eight county regional approach and provides planning recommendations to produce the necessary infrastructure which will transport “long-haul” and “middle-mile” data

affordably, as well as addresses the public policy questions surrounding private and public involvement.

The Study identified gaps in coverage and inequalities in service levels throughout the planning region. DSL and cable modem coverage maps indicate that DSL is limited to three-mile service areas in the County's core communities, and cable modem service is available throughout most of Mercer County; the Lakeview and Jamestown areas excepted.

As would be suspected, the greater populated urban areas and communities along major interstate and state roadways have a fairly good blanket of coverage and option for DSL (digital subscriber line) and/or cable modem. The majority of communities located in the more rural areas have neither the option for DSL or cable modem with the exception of isolated locations. ... To support immediate needs, plans should address the deployment of current technologies—DSL, cable modem and wireless to underserved areas. On the longer term, governmental efforts should address the availability of middle mile and long haul data transport infrastructure, which allow the retail costs of bandwidth to be reduced to tolerable levels. Private and, where unavailable, public entities should be encouraged to use this infrastructure to provide Internet data and other related services throughout the eight county areas. Without the necessary infrastructure the prospect of any meaningful renaissance is bleak. With the infrastructure in place, private enterprises and public entities will have the basis on which to provide the needed services.

Regardless of the current or future potential speed of wireless solutions, it is felt that from a life line basic standard, a fixed access technology solution should be pursued for long haul and backhaul applications, and augmented with wireless access technologies. Today, continued deployment of fiber optic cabling for long haul and backhaul applications makes sense with current speeds exceeding 40 Gbps.¹

- **The Study makes recommendations for current, near-term and long-term actions.** These include the following actions, among others:
 - **Extend fixed access or wireless access technologies to areas not currently served by DSL, cable modem or comparable technologies.** Focus should be on technologies that provide at a minimum 200 Kbps² in at least one direction. While considerable portions of the eastern counties of the eight do not currently have such service, on a population basis only approximately thirteen percent does not have either cable modem or DSL.

¹ Gigabytes per second

² Kilobytes per second

- **It is recommended that planned and revitalized/reinvestment areas and growth corridors are targeted as a first priority**, urban and suburban communities as the second priority, and the remaining rural areas as the third priority.
- **Efforts such as the rebate of franchise fees or where applicable the waiving of pole charges (annual charges to a company for hanging their infrastructure from municipal or cooperative electric utility poles)** should be considered to make the extension of service to areas not currently served more profitable.
- **A regional planning approach should be developed incorporating Multiple Service Provider Access Points (MSAPs) to keep local traffic local and Points of Presence (POPS) to provide data connections to the Internet.** Fiber [optic cable] from the various private providers would connect to local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and where necessary additional middle mile fiber constructed by a publicly funded authority. The viability of this concept will be enhanced if local communities would donate space for MSAPs where needed.
- **A regional authority, joint action agency or similar entity should be formed to facilitate the development of infrastructure to the northwest Pennsylvania area.** The organization should be chartered as broadly as possible, preferably with bonding and other authority to facilitate the development of the middle mile fiber optic cable infrastructure necessary to encourage development. The authority should have a mandate to educate the public on the implications of the initiative s so that broad public support from residents and public officials is obtained. Before forming such an organization, it is recommended to hire a qualified consultant to develop a telecommunications infrastructure and facilities plan to perform a comprehensive feasibility study.
- **One of the major tasks for the organization will be to accurately map the fiber of private concerns who would be interested in collocating in MSAPs, and planning the deployment of additional fiber.** This task might reasonably be put together on a county by county basis integrated into a master document for the eight county areas. Sample business plans could then be developed for last mile deployments (wireless, fiber to the user, etc.) at the community level.

Public Water and Sewer Services

- **Public water and sewer service is available in the urban areas of Mercer County, namely Mercer, Grove City, Greenville, Sandy Lake and the Shenango Valley.** Public water service providers are listed in Table 8-3. Based upon these figures, the water systems have adequate capacity for current demand. Fredonia and Jamestown Boroughs are the only systems approaching full capacity. Fredonia's typical use is 89.5 percent of its total capacity. Jamestown typically operates at 81.0 percent of its total capacity.

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- **Public water service lines have not been installed to attract growth to logical, efficient, cost-effective locations.** Some areas around Greenville could benefit from water service, which would support and direct growth. Similarly, the SR358 / I-79 interchange area could support desirable growth if water and sewer service were available. A previous study concluded that service installation for this area was cost-prohibitive.
- **Shenango Township has been trying to extend water service to an area south of West Middlesex area for a few years.** However, support from residents for a public water system has been mixed.
- **Additionally, stakeholders from across the County suggested that water service is needed in the following communities and locations:**
 - Perrys Corners
 - Shenango Township – south of West Middlesex
 - Hope Mills
 - Pymatuning Township -east of Reynolds Heights

Table 8-3 Public Water Service Providers

Provider	Service Area	Source	Facility Capacity	Typical Use	Planned Improvements
Aqua PA - Latonka	Lake Latonka	Wells	648,000 gpd	116,000 gpd	None Known
Aqua PA - Shenango	Shenango Valley, Mercer	Shenango River	18 mgd	10.6 mgd	None Known
Buhl Community Water	Buhl Community, Outlet Mall	Wells	25,000 gpd	12000 gpd	None Known
Fredonia Boro	Fredonia Boro	Wells	95,000 gpd	85,000 gpd	None Known
Greenville Municipal Authority	Greenville Area	Shenango River	2.0 mgd	1.0 mgd	None Known
Grove City Boro	Grove City, Pine Twp	2.592 MGD	2.592 mgd	1.227 mgd	None Known
Jamestown Boro	Jamestown Boro	Well and Springs	200,000 gpd	162,000 gpd	None Known
Leesburg Water Association	Leesburg	Springs	30,000 gpd	16,000 gpd	None Known
Reynolds Water Company	Transfer	Big Run and Shenango River	2.5 mgd	431,378 gpd	Minor chemical feed improvement
Sandy Lake Boro	Sandy Lake Boro	Wells and Spring	518,000 gpd	90,000 gpd	None Known
Sharpsville Boro	Sharpsville Boro	Shenango River	1.0 mgd	315,000 gpd	None Known
Stoneboro Waterworks	Stoneboro	Spring and Well	180,000 gpd	70,000 gpd	

Source: Mercer County Free Net Association (www.merlink.org)

GPD = gallons per day
MGD = million gallons per day

- **The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) conducted Source Water Assessment and Protection Reports in 2002** for Consumers Pennsylvania Water Company, the Borough of Sharpsville Water Department, the Greenville Municipal Water Authority, the Reynolds Water Company and the Grove City Borough Water Department in Mercer County. The reports focused on the source water for each system—the Shenango River and its Big Run tributary (Consumers, Greenville, Reynolds and Sharpsville) and three ground water wells (Grove City). These reports were to identify and prioritize potential contaminants within a watershed or aquifer. It was hoped that this information would lead to the development of community based source water protection to safeguard the public drinking water supply based on the threats identified in the assessments. The end goal is to ensure healthy water sources and reduce potential treatment costs.

- **Summary of Report Findings for the Shenango River** – The reports corresponding to the water systems withdrawing from the Shenango River delineated several protection zones for assessment. These zones ranged from the Shenango River watershed to a “critical area” within the watershed. The report identified a critical area as one in which waters will reach the intake within a short amount of time and contain the potential sources of contamination likely to have the most adverse effect to the raw drinking water supply.

The geography of these critical areas illustrates the importance of sound land use planning and the need for stringent regulation of potential contaminants by state agencies, namely DEP. Several of the critical areas cover large acreages and cross municipal boundaries as they follow watershed and drainage patterns. This multi-municipal coverage supports the application of multi-municipal planning regions in Mercer County. In addition, there are several locations that are identified as part of two critical areas, suggesting an even greater need for sound planning and policy regarding land use and management, as contamination in these overlap areas would affect users of multiple water systems.

Within these zones, using readily available databases and public participation, an inventory of potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) were completed for the water systems, both point and non-point sources. The PSOCs were assigned a value of A-F, with “A” posing the greatest potential threat and “F” posing the least potential threat. In general, the greatest potential threats identified for the Shenango River and its Big Run tributary include:

1. accidental release of known or unknown contaminants along the major transportation corridors, bridges, and railroads
2. accidental release of petroleum products from auto repair and storage facilities or cumulative release of fuel products from boating and recreation at either the Shenango River Lake or Pymatuning Reservoir (except Greenville)
3. stormwater runoff from agricultural activities throughout the watershed and/or residential development near the intake carrying multiple contaminants, and
4. accidental release or overflows from wastewater treatment and package plants.

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- **Summary of Report Findings for Ground Water Wells (Grove City)** – The report identified two zones around each well for study. Zone I is the innermost protective zone, defined by a 100 to 400 foot radius surrounding each water supply well. Zone II, the capture zone, is the surface area overlying the portion of the groundwater aquifer through which groundwater may be intercepted by the water supply well during pumping. As with the Shenango River reports, land uses in these zones are identified, potential pollutants associated with each land use is identified and each pollutant was rated as a PSOC, A-F. The greatest potential threats identified for the Grove City water supply wells are contamination from:
 1. former and active industrial sites and
 2. previous coal mining and underground storage tanks, namely volatile and synthetic organic compounds, metals and heavy metals.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act of 1966 (as amended), more commonly known as “Act 537,” is the primary regulation that controls individual and community sewage disposal systems. Act 537 requires local municipalities to submit official sewage facility plans to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) for approval. These plans show the current and future needs of the municipality and assess wastewater facility choices to solve these needs.

- **Sewage facilities planning in Mercer County communities with public sewer systems is current, with most plans having been prepared or updated within the past 10 years.** Many of the sewage facilities plans for rural communities, however, are more than 20 years old. Table 8-4 presents the status of Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plans by Municipality. Figure 8-1 illustrates similar data for northwest counties of Pennsylvania.

Table 8-4 Status of Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plans, January 2004

Municipality	Plan Approval Date	Status
Clark Boro	12/30/1975	Plan older than 20 years
Coolspring Township	7/2/1999	Plan less than 5 years old
Deer Creek Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Delaware Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
East Lackawannock Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Fairview Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Farrell	2/13/1997	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Findley Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Fredonia Boro	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
French Creek Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Greene Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Greenville Boro	3/15/1991	Plan between 10 and 20 years old
Grove City Boro	4/25/2002	Plan less than 5 years old
Hempfield Township	5/10/1973	Plan older than 20 years
Hermitage	8/26/2003	Plan less than 5 years old
Jackson Center Boro	4/8/1997	Plan between 5 and 10 years old

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Municipality	Plan Approval Date	Status
Jackson Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Jamestown Boro	4/26/1999	Plan less than 5 years old
Jefferson Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Lackawannock Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Lake Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Liberty Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Mercer Boro	5/5/1986	Plan between 10 and 20 years old
Mill Creek Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
New Lebanon Boro	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
New Vernon Township	12/8/1993	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Otter Creek Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Perry Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Pine Township	5/19/1999	Plan less than 5 years old
Pymatuning Township	10/7/1975	Plan older than 20 years
Salem Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Sandy Creek Township	12/8/1993	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Sandy Lake Boro	2/16/1994	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Sandy Lake Township	2/16/1994	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Sharon	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Sharpsville Boro	3/22/2000	Plan less than 5 years old
Sheakleyville Boro	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Shenango Township	5/26/1982	Plan older than 20 years
South Pymatuning Township	11/15/2000	Plan less than 5 years old
Springfield Township	5/25/1973	Plan older than 20 years
Stoneboro Boro	2/16/1994	Plan between 5 and 10 years old
Sugar Grove Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
West Middlesex Boro	5/23/1989	Plan between 10 and 20 years old
West Salem Township	5/1/1999	Plan less than 5 years old
Wheatland Boro	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Wilmington Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Wolf Creek Township	5/1/1978	Plan older than 20 years
Worth Township	1/1/1968	Plan older than 20 years
Totals		
8	17%	Plans less than 5 years old
7	15%	Plans between 5 and 10 years old
3	7%	Plans between 10 and 20 years old
28	61%	Plans older than 20 years

Source: PA DEP

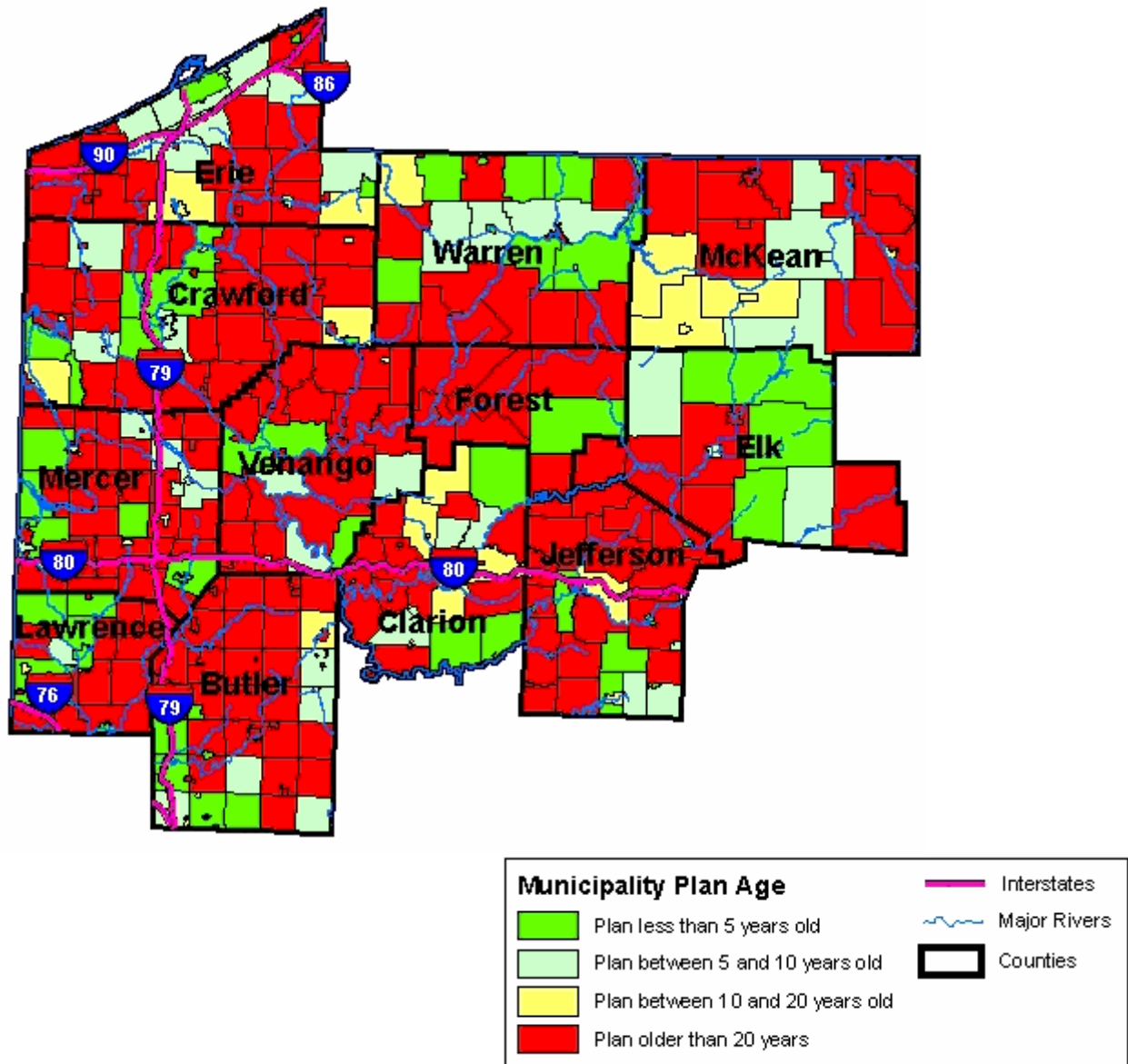


Figure 8-1 Status of Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plans in Mercer County, January 2004

(See Table 8-4 for municipal listing.) Source: PA DEP

Public sewer service providers are listed in Table 8-5.

- Sewage treatment facility use and capacity were compared for sewage systems in Grove City, Mercer, and the Cities of Farrell, Hermitage and Sharon. Capacity at the Farrell combined sewage treatment plant (a combined sewage plant = storm and

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wastewater) is estimated at 3.57 mgd. The plant is currently processing approximately 2.5 mgd, well below its capacity.

Table 8-5 Public Sewer Service Providers

Provider	Service Area	Facility Capacity	Typical Use	Planned Improvements
Grove City Borough	GC, Pine, Springfield, Liberty, Harrisville Borough, Butler County	3.0 MGD	2.5 MGD	Upgrades
Mercer Borough Waste	Mercer, Coolspring	.990 MGD	0.4 MGD	Study Phase
Greenville Sanitary Authority	Greenville, West Salem, Hempfield	2.5 MGD	1.8 MGD	None Known
Lakeview Joint Authority		300,000 GPD	> 300,000 GPD	None Known
Municipal Sewage Treatment Plants (in the Shenango Valley)		18.85 MGD	7.583 MGD	
Sharon	Sharon, Hermitage, Sharpsville, South Pymatuning	4.5 MGD	5.0 MGD	Upgrade to 8.66 MGD
Farrell	Farrell, Wheatland	3.57 MGD	2.5 MGD	None - Expansion Completed in 1999
Shenango	Shenango, West Middlesex	0.509 MDG	0.4 MGD	Study Phase
Coolspring-Jackson Lake Latonka Joint Authority	Coolspring, Jackson	0.150 MDG	0.08 MGD	None

Source: Mercer County Free Net Association (www.merlink.org); PA DEP Environmental Facility Application Compliance Tracking System (www.dep.state.pa.us/efacts)

MGD = million gallons per day

GPD = gallons per day

- Current and anticipated sewage treatment capacity limitations, including PADEP consent orders and agreements, include the following:

Grove City

- **Capacity at the Grove City Borough sewage treatment plant (STP) should be expanded from 3.0 MGD to 4.0 MGD to serve current demand.** Additional improvements should be made to update and upgrade this facility to modern standards. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$13 million. Such expansion would provide continued service to Pine and Springfield Townships in Mercer County and Harrisville Borough in Butler County. With these improvements, new service could be provided to Liberty and Wolf Creek Townships in Mercer County.
- **Future growth at the SR208/I-79 Interchange in the area of Prime Outlets may exceed current STP capacity.**

Mercer Borough

- **Mercer Borough is currently preparing an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan** to assess service demand and associated improvements. The Mercer Borough STP provides service to Mercer Borough and Coolspring Township. Additional capacity is needed to provide sewage service to East Lackawannock Township, Findley Township and the I-80/SR19 corridor.
- **Capacity issues are anticipated with completion of the Coolspring Township, SR19/Tripplewood Drive Sewer Extension Project.**

Hermitage

- **The City of Hermitage is under a PADEP Consent Order and Agreement.** The City requires \$12-\$20 million to meet current PADEP standards, serve new development approved on the books and address short term needs. Another \$5 million would be needed to add capacity.

Sharon

- **The City of Sharon and the Upper Shenango Valley Water Pollution Control Authority (USVWPCA) are under a PA DEP consent order and agreement.** The STP in Sharon serves the City of Sharon, portions of Brookfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio and USVWPCA. The USVWPCA includes portions of the City of Hermitage, portions of South Pymatuning Township and Sharpsville Borough. Capacity of the STP in Sharon should be expanded from 4.5 MGD to 8.66 MGD to resolve hydraulic and organic overloads. These overloads are the primary reason for the PADEP Consent Order and Agreement issued to both Sharon and USVWPCA, which restricts service expansion to 25 EDUs per year for the entire service area. An Act 537 Plan has been completed and is under PADEP review. The expansion is estimated at \$21.5 million. Treatment alternatives may allow for an expansion at a lower cost, if approved by PADEP. Sharon and USVWPCA are working diligently to eliminate the consent order.
 - **With capacity already a problem, any future growth without expansion exacerbates the situation.** Lack of funding for the necessary expansion is the primary barrier to service improvement and service area expansion.
- **Residents and local officials view the capacity limitations and consent orders as barriers to the development of affordable housing in Mercer County.** Without sewage treatment capacity, growth and development must rely on on-lot disposal, which requires significant additional land beyond the building footprint, making development less affordable.
 - **New sewage systems are under consideration for:**
 - the SR19/I-80 Interchange area, to provide service to existing business (restaurants) and anticipated future growth,
 - the SR173/I-80 Interchange area to promote growth, and
 - Liberty Township (Kimberly Estates area) around Grove City Borough.

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- **In 2002, Coolspring and Jackson Townships installed a pressure sewer system and new sewage treatment plant** to serve 530 homes in the Lake Latonka area. This eliminated on-lot sewage problems in this area.
- **Additional on-lot sewage problems have been occurring** in Jefferson Township, Findley Township adjacent to Mercer Borough (Plantation Park), and Coolspring Township in the Tripplewood Drive area. The far western region of South Pymatuning may also have several areas of concern.
- Sewage service is needed to resolve on-lot disposal problems and to guide growth in the following areas of Mercer County:
 - **Grove City** – Kimberly Estates and surrounding areas in Liberty Township continue to develop. These areas were planned for public sewer service through local planning efforts.
 - **Mercer** – The area north of Mercer, including the Pine Grove Trailer Park has a significant need for public sewer to eliminate malfunctioning on-lot systems. This includes the Tripplewood Drive area of Coolspring Township.
 - **Jefferson Township** – As noted above Jefferson Township has on-lot sewage disposal problems. The Township may be able to convey sewage to Hermitage once the Hermitage STP issues are resolved.
 - **Hope Mills/SR19 and I-80 Interchange area** – This area needs sewage and water service to continue growth in the interchange.
- **Funding is lacking for water and sewer infrastructure across the County and the western Pennsylvania region.** In total, it is estimated that Mercer County communities would need \$137 million to meet current water and sewer needs. Needs in seven northwest Pennsylvania counties are estimated at \$465 million.
- **Infrastructure investment is critical to community vitality.** Mandates to improve infrastructure acknowledge this, but offer little in the way of assistance.
- **PENNVEST serves the communities and citizens of Pennsylvania by funding sewer, storm water and drinking water projects throughout the Commonwealth.** PENNVEST provides both grants and loans to communities to make such improvements. A new brownfields remediation program has been approved to provide low interest loans for the reclamation of unused, contaminated sites in established communities across the Commonwealth, thereby protecting and improving local water resources and encouraging community revitalization.
- **Historically, Mercer County communities have used PENNVEST to fund water, sewer, and stormwater improvements.** As shown in Table 8-6, over \$47 million was awarded to Mercer County's public and private sector between 1988 and 2000 for these types of projects. Farrell, Hermitage, and Sharon have applied for and received PENNVEST funds.

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Table 8-6 PENNVEST Projects in Mercer County, 1988-2000

Project Name	Project Type	Date Approval	Amount
Buhl Community Water Company	Private-Water	7/15/1998	\$530,825
City of Sharon	Municipal-Sewer	4/24/1991	\$60,330
		11/19/1997	\$2,100,000
		10/30/1991	\$794,345
		11/10/1993	\$94,600
Greenville Borough Municipal Authority	Municipal Authority-Water	12/7/1988	\$1,500,000
Greenville Sanitary Authority	Municipal-Sewer	7/8/1992	\$3,699,605
Grove City Borough	Municipal-Sewer	9/26/1990	\$523,866
City of Sharon	Municipal-Sewer	9/26/1990	\$436,739
		3/24/1993	\$1,321,950
Jackson Center Borough	Municipal-Sewer	9/26/1990	\$90,710
Jamestown Municipal Authority	Municipal-Sewer	11/10/1993	\$1,223,665
	Municipal Authority-Water	3/21/2001	\$2,342,526
Koller Johnson Inc.	Private-Sewer	4/24/1991	\$201,100
Mercer Borough	Municipal-Sewer	3/24/1999	\$258,315
Mercer Water CNTY	Private-Water	7/18/1990	\$250,875
Mercer Water Company	Private-Water	6/8/1988	\$870,000
PA Suburban Water Company	Private-Water	4/4/1990	\$1,505,000
Reynolds Disposal CNTY	Private-Sewer	4/4/1990	\$350,000
Rustic Acres Mobile Home Park	Private-Water	7/18/1990	\$35,254
Sandy Lake Borough	Municipal-Water	10/4/1988	\$330,500
City of Sharon	Municipal-Sewer	8/22/1989	\$848,100
		4/4/1990	\$2,031,722
		4/24/1991	\$9,797,395
		7/12/2000	\$1,127,401
	Municipal-Storm Water	7/12/2000	\$291,000
Sharon Tube Company	Private-Sewer	11/12/1992	\$2,074,178
Shenango Township Authority	Municipal Authority-Sewer	8/22/1989	\$12,509,000
Total Project Value (1988-2000)			\$47,199,001

Source: Pennvest (www.pennvest.state.pa.us/pennvest/site/default.asp)

Stormwater Systems

The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (No. 167) of 1978 requires counties to prepare stormwater management plans for each watershed within its boundary. The PADEP develops agreements with counties to pay for 75 percent of the cost to prepare plans. Upon a plan's completion and subsequent approval from PADEP, municipalities located in the watershed adopt ordinances consistent with the plan. Developers are then required to follow the local drainage

regulations that incorporate the standards of the watershed plan when preparing their land development plan.

- **Mercer County has not prepared stormwater management plans for any of its seven major watersheds.**
 - Shenango River
 - Lower Shenango River
 - Sandy Creek
 - French Creek
 - Neshannock Creek
 - Wolf Creek
 - Lower Neshannock Creek

However, the existing land use analysis presented in Chapter 6 provides some baseline data for future watershed planning efforts. Like public water and sewer, lack of state funding has been a barrier to plan preparation.

- **Stakeholders from across the County noted that stormwater systems need upgrades.** Maintenance has not been an issue, but system capacity is not adequate.

Solid Waste

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 101 of 1988, requires counties to develop formal plans for managing municipal wastes. Plans are subject to municipal ratification and approval from the PADEP. In accordance with the Act, each County must ensure 10 years of available disposal capacity and establish a post-closure care trust fund for landfills.

- **The Mercer County Solid Waste Authority is responsible for:**
 - planning for the storage, transport & disposal of Mercer County Solid Waste
 - planning and implementing recycling and waste reduction programs
 - working with educational institutions such as area schools, the Mercer County Cooperative Extension and the McKeever Environmental Learning Center to educate the public about solid waste management, recycling & composting.
 - licensing and working with area haulers to ensure the prevention of illegal dumping and protect the public's health, safety and welfare.
 - assisting municipalities in developing or expanding recycling programs through grant writing and technical assistance.
- **Mercer County's Act 101 Plan was last updated in 2001.** To highlight its most important features, this Plan:
 - develops new projections for the generation of municipal waste in Mercer County for the next ten years;

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- designates disposal facilities to be used for the disposal of Mercer County generated wastes for the next ten years based on a fair, open and competitive qualification process; and
 - considers the County's current recycling rate and discusses what is needed to work toward the state's 35 percent recycling goal.
- Based on population projections and using the waste generation data from the previous years and the standard waste generation rate per capita, the Act 101 plan states that "the county will require a total of 1,193,000 tons of disposal capacity over the 10-year planning period."
 - **There is only one disposal facility—Tri-County Industries, Inc.—located in Mercer County**, however this facility is currently not permitted, and therefore is not accepting waste as the time of this Plan Update.
 - **There are two transfer facilities in Mercer County.** These facilities accumulate wastes into larger loads that are delivered to final disposal sites. One transfer station is located outside Grove City and is operated by Tri-County Industries, Inc, while the other is located outside Greenville and is operated by Waste Management.
 - **There are ten Mercer County designated disposal facilities.** Six are in Pennsylvania, and four in Ohio.
 - **There are 17 licensed haulers permitted to collect and dispose of solid waste from Mercer County residents.** Eleven are Pennsylvania-based companies, and six are Ohio-based companies.
 - **Most Mercer County communities allow residents to contract with licensed haulers for solid waste collection services.** Of Mercer County's 48 municipalities, nineteen municipalities reported to the Solid Waste Authority that they contract with a private hauler for waste collection and disposal. None use municipal collection, and 25 have individual subscription service, where households are responsible for contracting individually with private haulers for collection.
 - **In order to achieve the state's goal of 35 percent recycling goal, the Act 101 Plan states that "waste generation must go down while the collection of recyclables goes up, requiring less disposal capacity."** Currently, seven municipalities are required to provide recycling service programs: Farrell, Greenville, Grove City, Hermitage, Sharon, Sharpsville, and Pine Township. These municipalities offer weekly curbside collection programs. Mercer and Wheatland Boroughs also offer recycling collection services to their residents.

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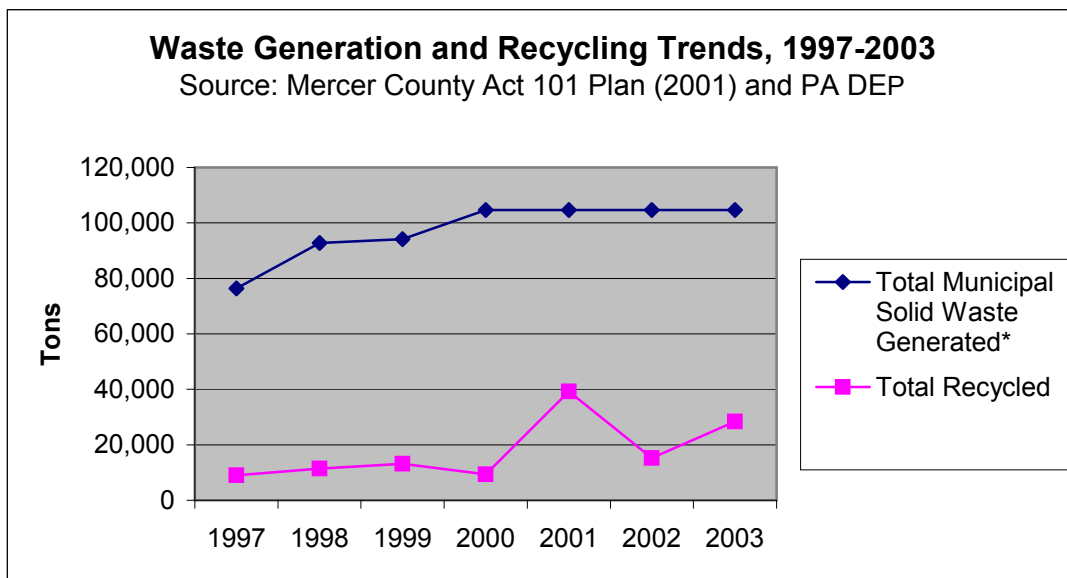
Table 8-7 Municipal Waste Recycled, 1997-2003

Year of Waste Generation	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Municipal Solid Waste Generated*	76,361	92,813	94,165	104,655	104,655	104,655	104,655
Total Recycled	8,954	11,366	13,182	9,312	39,211	15,244	28,396
Percent Recycled	12.1%	10.9%	12.3%	8.90%	37.50%	14.57%	21.34%

Source: Mercer County Act 101 Plan (2001) and PA DEP

* Normalized to .87 tons per person/year for 2000-2003, based on the 2000 Census count (120,293)

Figure 8-2 Waste Generation and Recycling Trends



* Normalized to .87 tons per person/year for 2000-2003, based on the 2000 Census count (120,293)

- Mercer County has been increasing its recycling rate**, as reported by DEP. Recycling rates in the late 1990s were calculated based on the total municipal solid waste generated. Since 2000, DEP has used a formula to estimate municipal solid waste generation quantities. Mercer County's estimated total municipal solid waste generated is based on its 2000 population count and is notably higher than historical solid waste calculations. As a result, Mercer County's estimated recycling rate declined in 2000, in conjunction with a low total recycled materials quantity. Since then, quantities of recycled materials have increased. The Act 101 Plan addresses a number of issues that aim to improve recycling efforts in Mercer County including increasing collection throughout all aspects of the community, expanding public educational programs and improved data collection.
- The county has implemented a county-wide drop-off program to make recycling convenient and accessible to residents.** Eight locations throughout the county have been established as permanent drop-off sites for recycling available to all citizens of Mercer County 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Sites are located in Jamestown, Findley

Township, Wilmington Township, West Middlesex, Shenango Valley Mall - Hermitage,
Sandy Lake Township, Greenville Wal-Mart & Grove City Wal-Mart.

Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services

- **Mercer County residents have few public recreation facilities, however these facilities offer quality service and a variety of activities suitable to the County.** The County is home to two state parks, one federal recreation site and 39 municipal parks in its urbanized areas. A detailed inventory and analysis of rural recreation facilities can be found in the Mercer County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan.
- **Stakeholders avidly expressed their appreciation for these recreational facilities and services.** They noted the state parks, lakes and reservoirs and the golf courses as recreational destinations that provide quality, low cost services. They also stated that these amenities are not regionally marketed as a tourism package.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Shenango River Lake

- The Shenango River Lake is the reservoir created by the Shenango River Dam, which was constructed by the US Army COE in 1965. The dam serves multiple purposes: flood control and seasonal discharge regulations for water quality improvements on the beaver and Upper Ohio Rivers, as well as recreation. The property includes 15,071 acres (589 acres above the dam) and 3,560 acres (5.5 square miles) of water surface during the summer pool stage. The Pennsylvania Game Commission manages approximately 3,000 acres for waterfowl and other wildlife. Recreational facilities are located throughout the property and include:
 - 14 recreation areas
 - 334 picnic sites
 - 413 camping sites
 - 7 playgrounds
 - 3 swimming areas
 - 29 trail miles
 - 1 fishing docks
 - 7 boat ramps
 - 1 marinas
 - 328 marina slips

State Parks

- **Maurice K. Goddard State Park** – The 2,856-acre Maurice K. Goddard State Park features the 1,860-acre Lake Wilhelm, which is very popular with anglers. Many recreational activities attract visitors in all seasons. The large lake, abundant wetlands, old fields and mature forests provide a diversity of habitats for wildlife, especially waterfowl and eagles and ospreys.

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- The Marina has 250 car parking spaces, 121 car/trailer-parking spaces, 241 slips, a four-lane boat-launching ramp, two courtesy docks, a marina building and fueling station.
- An area called the “Rounded Point,” near the Marina parking lot, has an accessible fishing pier.
- A boat rental concession in the Marina rents rowboats, pontoon boats, paddle boats, kayaks and canoes.
- In addition to the boat launch area at the Marina, there are seven other launches around the lake. Four are within the state park and three are in the state game lands.
- Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available throughout the park. Boat Launches 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Marina have restrooms and large picnicking areas.
- Over 1,155 acres of Maurice K. Goddard State Park, plus Lake Wilhelm, are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer and waterfowl. State Game Land 270 is adjacent to the park.
- The park has fourteen miles of designated hiking trails: a 12-mile a multi-use Trail, a 0.7 mile Falling Run Nature Trail, and the 1.25 mile Goddard McKeever Hiking Trail. All three offer cultural history sites and scenic views.
- The parks facilities are adaptable and popular for winter sports
 - Ice fishing accounts for many of the larger fish caught in Lake Wilhelm.
 - Launch 3 has a non-maintained ice skating area.
 - There is a one-acre hill for sledding at the dam.
 - There are eight miles of trails marked for cross-country skiing for beginner to expert skiers.
 - There are 12 miles of trail within the park, and most of the roads surrounding the park are designated for joint snowmobile and vehicle use.
- The park offers numerous opportunities for environmental education.
- **Pymatuning State Park** - Pymatuning is one of the largest state parks in the Commonwealth. The large lake provides excellent fishing throughout the year. Pymatuning State Park is located in southwestern Crawford County. The park office is located near the Crawford-Mercer County line about 1.5 miles north of Jamestown, Pennsylvania. Approximately three-fourths of the reservoir area is located in Crawford County and the remaining one-fourth is located in Ashtabula County, Ohio.
 - Pymatuning has two natural areas. Blackjack Swamp consists of 725 acres and provides habitat for unique natural communities. In the northern part of the lake is Clark Island which has 161 acres of mature hardwood and white pine forest.

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- Non-powered boats and boats to 10 horsepower are permitted. Boats with a motor in excess of 10 horsepower are permitted provided the motor is not used.
- Ice boating is a popular winter sport. Ice fishing during the winter months is also popular. An accessible fishing pier is located at the Espyville Marina and the Shenango River.
- Controlled shooting is available in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Management Area during the annual waterfowl season. Special areas are also established for duck hunting. Public hunting is available in many areas surrounding the controlled shooting section.
- With 657, class A, campsites in three areas, Pymatuning is one of the largest camping areas in the Commonwealth. Approximately half of the campsites have electric hookups. Modern tent and trailer camping areas are available in the Jamestown, Tuttle and Linesville campgrounds. In addition, an organized group camping area is available for groups of up to 400 people.
- 25 modern rental cabins are available for year-round use.
- Picnic tables and charcoal fireplaces are available in many areas. There are eleven picnic pavilions throughout the park.
- Four protected bathing beaches are generally open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In addition, a protected beach for campers is located in the Jamestown Camping Area. Three of the beaches, Tuttle, Jamestown No. 1 and Linesville, have bathhouses with sanitary facilities and food concession stands or food vending machines.
- Curriculum based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office. Programs are offered year-round.

Table 8-8 Annual Attendance at PA State Parks

County	State Park	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Mercer	Maurice K. Goddard	290,884	301,103	482,080	343,481	318,655
Butler	Jennings	147,337	184,063	161,981	159,148	151,295
Butler	Moraine	1,349,310	1,072,659	1,021,098	1,051,378	1,088,618
Crawford	Pymatuning	3,843,909	3,352,730	3,510,948	3,778,848	3,221,222
Lawrence	McConnell's Mill	163,404	138,440	175,560	173,079	162,927
Venango	Oil Creek	138,391	135,670	281,672	199,140	162,683

Source: Pennsylvania State Data Center

Municipal Parks

- **Mercer County municipalities provide approximately 1736 acres of park and recreation lands in the urbanized portions of the county.** Parks range in size from less than one acre for many neighborhood playgrounds to 3-5 acre community parks to 100, 200, and 300 acre regional parks. Most contain facilities for both active and passive recreation. See Table 8-7 for an inventory of community parks and recreational facilities in the urbanized regions of Mercer County.
- **Mercer County residents have a sufficient quantity of park and recreational lands, as a whole.** When comparing this figure to a national standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, Mercer County exceeds this guidance by more than 500 acres. The geographic distribution of these facilities is uneven, as the urbanized areas that they serve are located in the southern and western portions of the County.
- **Additional recreational facilities are provided by private landowners and non-profit groups and are available to the public.**
- **Multiple municipalities have recently received or applied for grants to improve park facilities to better meet current recreational needs.**
- **Further inventory and assessment of recreational facilities is provided in the Mercer County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan.**

Table 8-9 State and Regional Recreation Facilities

Name	Municipality / Location	Size (approximate acres)	Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Lodging/Cabins	Camping	Boat Access	Swimming Area	Fishing	Hunting	Ice/Winter Sports	Walking/Biking Trails	Trails for motorized vehicles	Nature Center / Environmental Programs	Natural Areas	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water / Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)
US Army COE Facilities																				
Shenango River Lake	north of Sharon/ Hermitage along PA 18	15,071	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X		X
State Facilities																				
Pymatuning State Park	1.5 miles north of Jamestown	21,122	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X
Maurice K. Goddard State Park	New Vernon Township	2,658	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X

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Table 2-10 Local Public and Private Parks and Recreation Sites

Name	Municipality/ Location	Size (acres)	Benches/Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Shuffleboard	Walking/Biking Trails	Swimming Pool	Amphitheatre/Stage	Horseshoe Pits	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water /Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	Classification	Other Specialized Facilities	
Municipal Facilities in Urban and Multi-Municipal Planning Areas																							
Henderson Taylor Community Park	Clark	6.23	X	X		1/2				X						X	X	E		A	C	Municipal Bdg, Maintenance Garage	
Southwest Gardens Park/Playground	Farrell	<1	X	X												X		X		A	N		
Emerson Avenue Playground		<1	X	X		2										X				A	N		
Veteran's Square		1.25		X							X									P	G		
Greenville Riverside Park	Greenville	90-95	X	X	C2	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	PP	E	X	P/A	C	Recreation Center, Nature / Environmental Center	
Columbia Park		7																			C		
York Street Park		0.5																				N	
Central Park		n/a																				C	
Greenville Sports Complex	West Salem	45	X	X				X	X			X					X	X	X	P/A	R		
Grove City Memorial Park	Grove City	214	X	X		X			X	X		X	X			X	X	X		P/A	C		
McConnell Park		1	X			1/2										X						N	
Terrace Park		1	X			1/2										X						N	
Community Park		265																				C	
Rainey Avenue Park		1	X			1/2										X						N	
Union Park		1	X			1/2										X						N	
Stewart Avenue Park		1	X	P		1/2										X						N	
Hunter Farm Park		239	X	P		1/2		X				X				X						N	

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Name	Municipality/ Location	Size (acres)	Benches/Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Shuffleboard	Walking/Biking Trails	Swimming Pool	Amphitheatre/Stage	Horseshoe Pits	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water /Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	Classification	Other Specialized Facilities	
Hempfield Township Municipal Park	Hempfield	174	X	X	X	X	N		X	X		X			X	X	PP	X		P/A	C		
Baker Avenue Park (Residential)	Hermitage	1+							X											P/A	N		
Buhl Farm Park		350	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	P/A	R	free 9-hole golf, performing arts center, social hall	
Rodney White Olympic Park		8	X	X	X				X			X				X	X	X		A	C		
Patagonia Little League		2.4							X								X			A	S		
Hickory Little League (Virginia Road)		11.5								X						X	X	X	X	A	S		
Hasenflu Area (Residential)		1.4																			N		
Whispering Pines		23																				C	
Holy Cross Grounds - Maple Drive		11.5																				P	
Linden Point - Trails		n/a																				P	
Holy Trinity Grove Church		11	X	X						X	X											P	
Wesky McAfoose Community Park	Jackson Center	<1	X	X					X	X						X		X		A	C		
Jefferson Township Community Park and Zahniser Lodge / Play Ground	Jefferson Township	109	X	X	X	1/2	X	X	X			X				X	X	X		P/A	C		
Pine Grove Community Center	Pine Township	n/a																			C		
Little League Ball Fields		n/a																			S		
Pymatuning Township Park	Pymatuning	n/a	X	X					X	X						X	X	X			C		

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Name	Municipality/ Location	Size (acres)	Benches/Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Shuffleboard	Walking/Biking Trails	Swimming Pool	Amphitheatre/Stage	Horseshoe Pits	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water /Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	Classification	Other Specialized Facilities
Turner Craig Park continued	Sandy Lake	1+	X	X		1/2										X		E		P	N	Veterans Memorial

B Street Playground	Sharon	<1	X													X				A	N		
Case Playground (school)		1								X						X					A	N	
Medical Center		0.1																				G	
Fourth Ward Residential		0.27																				N	
Mesabi Residential		1.05																				N	
Florence St. Residential		0.2																				N	
Quimby St. Residential		0.36																				N	
Wengler Ave.		2		X	X	X			X							X	X	X	A			N	
School St. (Residential)		0.52																				N	
Hickory St. (Residential)		1.1																				N	
Jefferson Playground		2		X					X								X	X				N	
Musser Playground (school)		<1														X						N	
Bicentennial Park		n/a	X													X						C	
North Sharon Playground		2				X			X							X	PP	X	X	A		N	
West Hill Playground (school)	<1														X						N		
Veterans Park	Sharpsville	0.5	X	X													E				N		
Sharpsville Gardens (MCHA)		0.41		X												X						N	
7th St. Elementary School		0.86		X																		N	
Sharpsville High School Stadium		4.42																				N	

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Name	Municipality/ Location	Size (acres)	Benches/Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Shuffleboard	Walking/Biking Trails	Swimming Pool	Amphitheatre/Stage	Horseshoe Pits	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water /Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	Classification	Other Specialized Facilities	
Sharpsville High School Practice Field		3.4																			N		
Pebbley Elementary School		1.09																			N		
George town Playground		0.2											X									N	
Canal Extension Lock Recreation Area and Rausch Cabin property	Shenango	5	X	X																	C	fishing dock	
Shenango Township Park		3.84	X	X					X	X	X				X	X	X	X				C	
Kanady Field		1.38																				N	
Pymatuning Youth Association		6.61								X												N	
Williams Field		0.86																				N	
Township Recreation Area		3	X																			N	
McCullough Run Park		3	X						X	X	X		X					X	X	X		A	N
Tamarack Road Fields (South Pymatuning Ballfields)	3	X	X					X	X								X	X	X		A	N	
Stoneboro Memorial Park	Stoneboro	<5	X	X	C1	X										X	E					C	
Ballfields (maintained by Knot Hole Little League)	Stoneboro	<5							X								X		X			C	
Lackawannock-Shenango-West Middlesex Community Swimming Pool	West Middlesex	3-5	X	X			X					X				X	X	X	X		A	C	Skate Park
Sweesy Field		1.1							X										X		A	S	
Kiwanis Community Park		3-5	X	X					X	X						X	X	X			A	C	
Beechwood Ave Playground	Wheatland	n/a	X	X						X						X						N	
Wheatland-Farrell Little League Field		5.75							X													C	

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Name	Municipality/ Location	Size (acres)	Benches/Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Shuffleboard	Walking/Biking Trails	Swimming Pool	Amphitheatre/Stage	Horseshoe Pits	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Water /Electric	Concession Stand	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	Classification	Other Specialized Facilities
MCRCOG Fields on US ACOE Lands	South Pymatuning	n/a																			S	
MCRCOG Chestnut Run Swim Beach on US ACOE Lands	South Pymatuning	73																			S	

continued

Total		1736	27	22	6	5	1	5	19	11	1	10	4	2	3	27	14	15	6	0		
Total State/Federal Recreational acreage		38,851																				
Total (Urban) Municipal Recreational acreage		1736																				
Total Recreational acreage		40,587																				
Private Facilities (in urban areas or used by urban populations)																						
Sandy Lake	Stoneboro	383	X	X																		Beach
Brandy Springs Park/Swimming Pool/Golf Course	Mercer	52	X	X								X				X				P/A	C	Public golf course

C1 to be converted to a skate pa

N not in use

PP Port-a-Pot

P planned

C2 to be converted to 2 basketball courts

Classification: C = Community Park, N = Neighborhood Park, R =Regional Park

Source: Gannett Fleming

Golf

- **Mercer County is renowned for its public golf courses.** The Mercer County Golf Trail Map lists nine courses and three hotels to cater to the golfers' needs.
 - Oak Tree Country Club, West Middlesex
 - Green Meadows golf course, Volant
 - Castle Hills golf course, New Castle
 - Pine Hill golf course, Greenville
 - Tam O'Shatner golf course, Hermitage
 - Spring Valley golf club & lodge, Mercer
 - Pine Grove golf course, Grove City
 - Greenville country club, Greenville
 - Tanglewood golf course, Pulaski
- In fact, Mercer was ranked in the Top 10 Best Golf Towns in the USA by Golf Digest.

County Grange Fair

- The Mercer County Grange Fair is hosted each year in July on the grange fairgrounds located one mile east of Mercer on Rt. 58.
- Jamestown and Stoneboro also have community fairs and fairgrounds.

Table 8-11 Regional Fairs

	First Year	2002 Attendance
Fairs in Mercer County		
Mercer County Grange Fair	1965	12,500
Jamestown Community Fair	1944	15,000
Stoneboro Fair	1868	49,913
Other Fairs in the Northwest PA Region		
Butler Fair	1855	85,000
Butler Farm Show	1948	33,404
Crawford County Fair	1945	165,000
Lawrence County Fair	1953	75,000
Venango County Fair	1957	23,000

Source: www.pafairs.org

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Recreation Planning and Facility Development

Local recreation planning has taken place in the urban and regional planning areas. Several municipalities have completed comprehensive recreation, park and open space plans or master site plans for specific facilities. These include:

1. The City of Hermitage – a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan, 2002; master site plans for various parks;
2. City of Sharon - a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan, 2000;
3. City of Farrell- a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan, 1998;
4. Jefferson Township – 3 phases of master site plan for township park

These communities have been implementing these community and site plans, seeking grant funding from DCNR’s Bureau Conservation and Recreation. Other nearby communities have also received DCNR funding for recreation development and improvement. These grant awards are summarized in Table 8-12.

Grove City has also been planning, seeking and receiving grant funding for recreation facilities and programs.

Table 8-12 Recreation Development/Improvement in Urban Mercer County

Municipality/Agency	Facility	Project	Grant Amount
Mercer County Regional Council of Governments (MCRCOG)	Shenango Valley Softball Complex and Lackawanna-Shenango-West Middlesex Community Pool	Phase I – resurface the access drive; landscape	\$80,000
MCRCOG	Shenango Valley Softball Complex	Phase II – construct 2 youth soccer fields and nature trail	\$156,000
MCRCOG	Shenango Valley Softball Complex	Phase III – construct 1 regulation soccer field; add horseshoe pits, ½ basketball court; upgrade concession stand	\$76,000
MCRCOG	Chestnut Run Swim Beach	Upgrade water/wastewater facility; add playground	\$60,000
MCRCOG	Lackawanna-Shenango-West Middlesex Community Pool	Feasibility Study	\$40,000
City of Hermitage	Whispering Pines Park	Master Site Plan (2000), Phase I construction	\$17,000
City of Hermitage	Linden Pointe Trail	Construction	\$100,000
City of Hermitage	Rodney White Park	Phase I and II Construction	\$148,000
Clark Borough	Henderson Taylor Community park	Phase II and III Development	\$28,000 \$33,000 \$20,000

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Municipality/Agency	Facility	Project	Grant Amount
City of Farrell	Veterans' Square and Emerson Avenue Playground	Playground Development	\$35,000
Hempfield Township	Township Park	Playground Development	n/a
Jackson Center	Wesley McAfoose Community park	Playground Development	\$32,000
Jefferson Township	Township Community Park	Master Site Plan and Phase I Development	\$60,000
City of Sharon	N/A	Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan	\$35,000
City of Sharon	City Playground	Phase I Playground Renovation (ongoing renovation)	\$45,000
Shenango Township	Township Park	Various Improvements	\$60,000
South Pymatuning Township	McCullough Run Community Park	Track resurfacing; ADA bleachers	\$60,000
West Middlesex Borough	Recreation Complex	Playground Development	\$20,000
West Middlesex Borough	West Middlesex Regional Skate Park	Park Development	\$60,000
Buhl Farm Trustees	Buhl Farm	Baseball field renovations and fencing	\$150,000
Total			\$ 1,315,000

Source: Mercer County Regional Council of Governments

Additional information on recreation administration, management, maintenance, and programming can be found in Chapter 4 of the Mercer County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan as well as local recreation, park and open space plans.

Councils of Government

- **Mercer County Regional Council of Governments** – A well-established fully-staffed COG dating back to 1971 now consisting of 20 full members and 6 associate members. MCRCOG operates the Shenango Valley urban bus system, a countywide transit system, and joint municipal recreation facilities. It also arranges joint contracting and purchasing programs for member municipalities. It is soon to begin a joint UCC administration program. (www.mercog.com)

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Full member municipalities

Mercer County	Wheatland Borough
Farrell City	Coolspring Township
Hermitage City	Findley Township
Sharon City	Hempfield Township
Clark Borough	Jefferson Township
Fredonia Borough	Lackawannock Township
Greenville Borough	Pymatuning Township
Mercer Borough	Shenango Township
Sharpsville Borough	South Pymatuning Township
West Middlesex Borough	Wilmington Township

Associate member municipalities

Jackson Center Borough	Fairview Township
Delaware Township	French Creek Township
Greene Township	West Salem Township

- **Wolf Creek Slippery Rock Creek Council of Governments** – The Wolf Creek/Slippery Rock Creek COG is formally organized and meets regularly to coordinate local government policies and actions and conduct coordinated future planning. This COG has no administrative staff.

Grove City Borough	Springfield Township
Liberty Township	Wolf Creek Township
Pine Township	Harrisville Borough (Butler County)

Indicators and Trends

*Full-Time Law Enforcement Officers Per 1,000 Residents,
Total Crimes Per 100,000 Residents, and Serious Crimes Per 100,000 Residents*

- **Mercer County reported 77 full-time law municipal enforcement officers in 2001.** As a ratio of full-time officers to residents, this figure represents 0.6 officers per 1,000 residents. This is the lowest ratio in the region. This figure does not include state police officers.
- **Mercer County has the lowest crime rate of in the surrounding region.** While surrounding counties reported between, 5,800 and 9,600 total crimes per 100,000 residents, Mercer County reported only 4,066 per 100,000 residents. Serious crimes totaled 1,273 per 100,000 residents or 31.3 percent of total crimes per 100,000 residents.
- **Trends indicate that crime has declined over the past five years.** Total crimes are down 44.6 percent and serious crimes declined by 49.5 percent.

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Table 8-13 Law Enforcement and Crime Statistics

	Total Full-Time Law Enforcement Officers, 2001	Officers Per 1,000 Residents	Total Crimes Per 100,000 Residents	Serious Crimes Per 100,000 Residents	Change in Total Crimes, 1996-2001	Change in Serious Crimes
Pennsylvania	23,550	1.9	7,471	2,591	0.90%	-11.60%
Mercer County	77	0.6	4,066	1,273	-44.60%	-49.50%
Butler County	202	1.1	9,627	1,947	53.60%	9.60%
Crawford County	94	1.0	5,887	1,919	-3.80%	-8.40%
Lawrence County	93	1.0	6,357	2,650	-0.50%	-3.30%
Venango County	60	1.1	9,429	2,344	-9.60%	-13.50%

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Firefighting Organizations Per 100,000 Residents

- **Mercer County reported 25 firefighting organizations in 1997.** As a ratio of organizations to residents, Mercer County has 20.5 organizations per 100,000 residents. This is the lowest ratio in the region and the same as that of Pennsylvania.
- **The number of fire fighting organizations declined from 1993 to 1997,** when the data was last collected.

Table 8-14 Fire Protection Organizations Statistics

	Firefighting Organizations, 1997	Firefighting Organizations Per 100,000 Residents	Change in Firefighting Organizations, 1993-97
Pennsylvania	2,463	20.5	-2.70%
Mercer County	25	20.5	-7.40%
Butler County	37	21.9	0.00%
Crawford County	28	31.3	-12.50%
Lawrence County	22	23.1	0.00%
Venango County	20	34.4	-9.10%

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

New indicators to monitor

In addition to these indicators assembled by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Mercer County may want to establish and measure additional indicators of community and utility services, such as:

- Average emergency call response time (in minutes) – in conjunction with County emergency dispatch
- Number of park/recreation facility visits per resident per year
- Number of bike-ped miles traveled
- Average distance/Average travel time between neighborhood parks