

East Rockhill Township Comprehensive Plan Update

Introduction

The *East Rockhill Township Comprehensive Plan* is designed to guide future land use policy and decision-making. A comprehensive plan can help a community shape its future by guiding zoning decisions, open space acquisition, transportation improvements, water supply planning, stormwater management, and sewage facilities planning.

During the past ten years, East Rockhill Township has experienced modest growth with most of the development being located adjacent to built-up areas containing public water and sewer service. The remaining development consisted of single-family homes in large-lot subdivisions. Due to its proximity to major highways, its wealth of natural and historical resources, and large amount of open land, East Rockhill Township has the potential for increased development pressures. If unplanned, such development could have a series of negative consequences for the township, including an overburdened road network, strained municipal services, increased water and air pollution, species habitat destruction, loss of open space and scenic resources, and a reduced quality of life.

The *East Rockhill Township Comprehensive Plan* presents a vision for maintaining a high quality of life for its residents and meeting the challenge of managing growth through 2015 and possibly beyond. It identifies the characteristics and resources of the township, examines trends in development, and recommends policies and actions for realizing its vision for the future. The plan addresses each of the comprehensive planning elements required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Finally, to ensure community participation in the preparation of the plan, public meetings were held to discuss plan elements and the results of a community survey were used to shape the plan's direction.

The *East Rockhill Township Comprehensive Plan* is organized into the following sections: Community Goals and Objectives; Regional Location and History; Demographics and Socioeconomic Trends; Land Use Characteristics and Development Trends; Residential Development; Nonresidential Development; Natural Resources; Open Space and Farmland Preservation; Community Facilities; Transportation and Circulation; Future Land Use and Growth Management; and Plan Recommendations and Implementation.

Through the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the *East Rockhill Township Comprehensive Plan*, the township hopes to appropriately guide future development, effectively protect and manage the township's resources, and maintain a high quality of life for its residents.

