

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN**

The challenge to any municipal government is to provide community services, such as water, sewer, schools, parks, and roads, in an efficient and cost-effective manner, while still protecting the character of the town.

#### **Cooperative Efforts**

Water systems within the region should be created to address emergency situations and provide service to residents. Water planning should also assure that water will be supplied at adequate volume and pressure to meet community needs. .

#### **Monitoring of Needs**

Monitoring the need and opportunity for additional, expanded, or improved community services and facilities will help the municipality plan for their efficient and economical provision. The goal for community facilities and services is to meet the existing and future needs of the Borough's residents in a manner consistent with its financial capacities.

#### **Open Space and Recreation**

Communities that provide open space and recreation opportunities for their citizens enjoy a higher quality of life, which has a positive influence on the local economy.

#### **Future Recreation Needs**

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standards recommend a minimum of ten acres of local parkland for every 1000 residents. By this NRPA standard Kutztown would have a minimum of 50 acres devoted to recreation. At this time, Kutztown has 42 existing acres devoted to the recreational needs of its residents. Kutztown should implement the Kutztown Park, North Park and Borough Interconnection Plan goals (see [Kutztown Park, North Park and the Park Interconnection Master Plan Report](#), March 2009. Chapter 2, page 12.)

#### **Greenways and Creek Conservation Corridors**

A recommendation of the [Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan](#) identified the Sacony Creek Corridor as a stream corridor to be preserved. This is to minimize disturbance of the land along the creek and to protect the water quality, since the Sacony Creek is recognized as an exceptional value stream. It also presents the opportunities for a greenway system in the future.

## **Community Facilities / Open Space and Recreation Strategies:**

- Implement action plans of Municipal Open Space plans and Berks County Greenways, Park, and Recreation Plan.
- Management plans should be developed for the long-term stewardship of borough owned natural areas, which include the Sacony Trail & Marsh and North Park. The plans for the preservation of the natural resources of these areas could be developed with input from the Planning Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, and the [Berks County Conservancy](#).
- Maintain language in Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances to require developers to dedicate land or pay a fee in lieu of land for all new subdivisions.
- Maintain standards for recreation facilities. Review standards of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for appropriateness.
- Where appropriate, work with PENNDOT to widen and improve road shoulders and require developers to improve shoulders along their properties in order to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Maintain a dialog with the [Kutztown Area School District](#) regarding development activities, school facilities needs, location of school facilities, and school bus routes.
- Work with the School District to assure availability of school district facilities to the Region's residents.
- Promote and support efforts of community organizations to provide recreational facilities and programs for area residents and services and programs for seniors and youth. Work to establish a senior citizen center in the Borough.
- Provide for public areas within the Borough through provision of open spaces, green space, recreation facilities, greenways, improved pathways, and indoor facilities. (Green space refers to a natural area with native vegetation, e.g., a meadow or a forested area. Greenway refers to a long narrow piece of land, often used for recreation and pedestrian/bicycle traffic.)
- Maintain the Sacony Trail to ensure the integrity of the crushed stone walkway, small bridge, public benches, and the newly constructed informational kiosk and observation deck. Future plans include an expansion of the trail along the Sacony

provides opportunities for recreation, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

- Involve local fire company and notify school district personnel in review of subdivision and land development plans, where appropriate.
- Encourage volunteerism for non-profit agencies and increased coordination of volunteer services among agencies.
- Work to expand recycling options, e.g. pharmaceuticals, batteries, appliances, hazardous, etc., which are convenient and well managed.
- Continue to support the Kutztown Community Library.
- Address the need for fire personnel as fewer volunteers are available.
- Coordinate policies of governing bodies and municipal authorities on extensions of public sewer and water facilities with the Future Land Use Plan to assure consistency. In late August 2010, an agreement to build the Sacony Creek Regional Authority Sewage Treatment Plant was signed by the Borough of Kutztown, the Kutztown Municipal Authority, and the Township of Maxatawny.
- Bring borough residents, the business community, and the school district together to plan and organize community-wide activities, events, and programs to foster community spirit, economic development, and community attractiveness.
- Involve the Borough's residents and business community in committees to address major issues of concern within the Borough.
- Work with Kutztown University to provide and expand cooperation in areas of mutual concern.
- Promote involvement of new residents in community programs.
- Maintain current and workable emergency operations plans. Increase resident participation in emergency alert system.
- Require all waste to be treated and/or disposed of in an approved, environmentally responsible manner.
- Promote efficient, effective, and professional management of public facilities. Identify opportunities for technological enhancements for municipal services.

- Determine the most efficient way to address the need for additional police service in Kutztown, especially Kutztown University.,
- Continue the routine maintenance and inspection program of the Kutztown storm sewer system. Develop a program of systematic replacement and upgrading of the storm sewer system. Correct flooding problems from storm drainage system deficiencies wherever possible.
- Utilize capital improvement programs to address capital needs.
- The Borough of Kutztown should review opportunities which arise within the Borough to acquire vacated properties for future public use.
- Continue to periodically update and act upon items stated in the regional Wellhead Protection Plan.

### **Plan for the Reliable Supply of Water**

The 2000 amendments to the [Municipalities Planning Code](#) (MPC) state that a County plan *shall* include a plan for the reliable supply of water.

Where developments, businesses, or other uses propose to utilize groundwater or surface water supplies in substantial amounts, hydrologic studies should be required and the party causing the extraction should be required to demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the water supplies of other entities in the region. Efforts to protect groundwater resources need to occur at all levels of government. Special consideration to the types and densities of permitted land uses should apply in areas that offer little natural protection to groundwater.

Where watershed areas are used for public recreation purposes, public access and usage shall be consistent with the need to protect water supplies.

This should also apply where the protection level is unknown. Groundwater quality is also a concern since domestic water for nearly all of the residents of the Region outside of the few community water service areas are supplied through individual wells.

Land use regulations, land acquisition, and education programs can play a key role in protecting groundwater. Examples of land use control activities include the following:

- Land use plans which take into account groundwater vulnerability;
- Zoning ordinance and site plan review standards related to aboveground secondary containment, interior floor drains, and other topics;

- Purchase of land and/or conservation easements to provide a wellhead protection buffer around municipal wellfields; and
- Public education through public meetings, school-based classroom programs, library displays, cable television videos, public information flyers, and municipal newsletters.

Protection of groundwater resources requires efforts on several fronts, including the need for regional planning, land planning for individual sites, and technological advances that may offer alternative solutions. Regional planning must be based on the entire Watershed; it will do little good for one community to implement solutions to its problems only to find that neighboring communities do not. Groundwater has no respect for community boundaries.

Municipal Zoning Ordinances can contain provisions to protect sources of water supply through the following techniques:

1. Natural resource protection standards (net out provisions) protecting floodplains, wetlands, wetland margins, steep slopes, watercourses, water bodies, and lake and pond shores.
2. Lot averaging provisions to allow flexibility in lot layout so houses may be sited away from natural features and resources.
3. As municipal water supplies are developed, wellhead protection provisions pursuant to Wellhead Protection Ordinances must be adhered to.
4. Stream Corridor Overlay Zoning
5. Floodplain, wetland, and hydric soil protection provisions.
6. Environmental performance standards and environmental assessment requirements for industrial and commercial uses. Businesses should have Spill and Pollution Prevention Plans.
7. Minimize impervious cover.

**Figure 5.2 - Recommendations for Protecting Water Supplies**

<b>Stream Corridor Overlay Zoning</b>	<b>Zoning Policies</b>	<b>Water Resource Protection Provisions</b>	<b>Impact Analyses</b>
<p>Restrict development and impervious surfaces</p> <p>Require riparian vegetative buffers</p> <p>Encourage use of best management practices</p> <p>Encourage stream habitat improvement</p> <p>Encourage conservation easements/donations/dedications</p> <p>Protect wetlands and wetland margins</p> <p>Require floodplain and wetland studies based on soil types</p> <p>Innovative stormwater management techniques</p>	<p>Encourage development where have public sewer and water, discourage on-site sewer and water</p> <p>Limit impervious surfaces</p> <p>Establish performance standards for uses</p> <p>Protect aquifers through controlling uses and potential polluting activities</p> <p>Overlay protection zone</p>	<p>Regulation/restriction of potential contaminating uses</p> <p>Regulation/restriction of potential contaminating substances</p> <p>Performance standards</p> <p>Design standards</p> <p>Operating requirements</p> <p>Review process</p> <p>Wellhead protection ordinance</p>	<p>Supply locations</p> <p>Geologic conditions, recharge rate, degree of renovation</p> <p>Aquifer characteristics: groundwater movement, use, yield, quality, quantity, well interference</p> <p>Test well results and impacts</p> <p>Plan to protect groundwater system underlying and adjacent to the site: prevention, remediation, emergency management</p> <p>Monitoring of groundwater quality &amp; quantity</p>

Please note that the Borough will continue to work with the [Berks County Conservancy](#) on Source Water Protection, i.e., annual tree planting events, landscaping around the wellheads, working with local farmers on water runoff areas, etc. The Conservancy and the Borough are in discussion with Saucony Meadows regarding a lease agreement on more of the land in the wellhead area for tree planting.

Work will also continue on other important Borough Water/Wastewater projects such as:

- developing a water treatment system to remove nitrates
- exploring options for an additional Borough well
- working with Cedar Shopping Centers, Maxatawny Township, and the Kutztown Municipal Authority on water service for the planned Giant Shopping Center complex
- developing a phosphorus removal system to achieve DEP compliance
- making various flood proofing improvements
- reviewing the installation of a UV disinfection system
- installing an enclosure around the Lakeside rotary screen

## **PUBLIC SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

The Borough of Kutztown owns, operates and maintains the sewage collection system and sewage treatment plant which serves all units within the Borough and Kutztown University. The Plant's current capacity is 1.5 million gallons-per-day (GPD), with an average daily flow of approximately 1.2 million GPD. Kutztown University is the largest customer of the Plant, accounting for nearly one-third of the average daily flow. The Kutztown Plant was constructed in 1939, and is located on Krumsville Road, north of US 222 along the Sacony Creek. There is minimal capacity available at the treatment facility, which is already committed for future development within the Borough and University.

The Kutztown Municipal Authority (KMA) owns, operates, and maintains the collection system for developed portions of Maxatawny Township southwest of Kutztown. All flows from the KMA lines are sent to the Kutztown Sewage Treatment Plant.

### **Public Sewer Regionalization**

There is a new authority called the Sacony Creek Regional Authority, which will own and operate a regional sewage treatment plant near the existing Kutztown Borough Plant. The new plant will serve portions of Maxatawny Township, including the US 222 corridor from the Kutztown line to Long Lane (east) and from the Borough of Kutztown (west), and the currently unsewered areas to the south of Kutztown. The collection system for the new plant will be owned by the Maxatawny Township Municipal Authority.

## **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES**

The Borough of Kutztown owns and operates the water plant, storage facilities and distribution system (within the Borough of Kutztown), and serves all units within the Borough. The Borough Plant has a 2 million GPD capacity with the potential for

expansion to 3 million GPD. Current average daily flow from the plant is approximately 800,000 to 900,000 GPD. The source of the water is the Borough-owned well field, which contains four wells, and is located in Maxatawny Township near the Sacony Marsh.

The Kutztown Municipal Authority owns and operates the water distribution system for all units just outside of the Borough, including Kutztown University, which accounts for nearly 35% of the water demand. The water is pumped from the Borough plant through the KMA owned lines.

## **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

The [Kutztown Area School District](#) encompasses over 100 square miles and provides public education for Kutztown, Maxatawny, and Lyons residents as well as residents from the adjacent municipalities of Lenhartsville Borough, Greenwich Township, and Albany Township. The District enrollment for the 2003-04 school year was 1,808 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The District operates six schools, four of which are within the planning region. The year the facility was built is listed after the school, along with grades which attend.

- Kutztown Area Elementary School (1955) - kindergarten through fifth grade
- Maxatawny Elementary School (1954) - kindergarten through fifth grade
- Kutztown Area Middle School (1981) - sixth through eighth grade
- Kutztown Area High School (1961) - ninth through twelfth grade

Schools located outside the Planning Region include:

- Albany Elementary- Albany Township (1958) - kindergarten through fifth grade
- Greenwich-Lenhartsville Elementary School - Greenwich Township (1955) - kindergarten through fifth grade

The locations of these schools are shown on the Community Facilities and Recreation Map. The most current information on the school district can be found at <http://www.kasd.org>.

## **LIBRARY SERVICE**

The [Kutztown Community Library](#), located in the Borough of Kutztown, is part of the Berks County Library System, from which it receives funding. The library staff consists of a director, three assistant librarians, and a varying number of volunteer workers to help with the library programs. The library hosts several programs, including Summer Reading programs, pre-school story hours, and special events at holidays and throughout the year.



The [Rohrbach Library](#) at Kutztown University allows all students and employees of Kutztown University borrowing privileges. In addition, borrower cards can be issued to all adult citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are not registered students or employees of Kutztown University.

## **HOMETOWN UTILICOM**

[Hometown Utilicom](#) or HU is the name for the bundle of services that Kutztown has gradually taken over or expanded in the last 100 years. It includes Internet/Cable TV, Electricity, Refuse, Water, Sewage, Recycling, and by some accounts, the parks system. Most of these began as independent businesses that were purchased by the Borough. Kutztown's decision to engage in these enterprises instead of contracting them out to private businesses has become part of its identity. Perhaps as a result of its status as an island community in a rural sea, it has developed a proud tradition of municipal entrepreneurship. As a result, Kutztown controls revenues that otherwise would flow out of the town to large-scale corporations, and it has retained the ability to shape services to the town's particular needs. In a move that Gilded Age residents would surely appreciate, Kutztown even owns the surrounding railbeds and right-of-ways. At the same time, the Borough's long-term choice to take control of its fate means it has taken on a managerial challenge, financial burdens, and substantial risk. Future efforts regarding HU will likely focus on maintaining the Borough's capacity to handle its diverse enterprises.

## **POLICE PROTECTION**

The [Kutztown Police Department](#) consists of eleven full time officers serving the needs of Kutztown Borough (in Maxatawny Township). The department serves a resident population of approximately 5,300 persons and a transient student population of 7,000.

## **FIRE PROTECTION / EMERGENCY SERVICE / HOSPITALS**

The Borough of Kutztown maintains the [Kutztown Fire Company](#), which services nearly 40 square miles of the Borough, University, and portions of Maxatawny and Greenwich Townships. The Department crew consists of 60 members operating a fleet of 6 vehicles.

Emergency service for the Region is provided by the [Kutztown Emergency Management Center](#). The Emergency Management Center (EMC) is a location for the coordination of the emergency response of a community. The most basic function during an emergency is the ability to have an immediate availability of a computer-linked unified command center to address the needs of all those involved.

The nearest hospitals to the Region are the [Reading Hospital](#) in West Reading, [St. Joseph's Medical Center](#) in Bern Township, and the [Lehigh Valley Medical Center](#) in Allentown. The Reading Hospital provides laboratory services in its facility at 15050 Kutztown Road. The Lehigh Valley Health Network provides laboratory services, X-rays, and physical therapy at its facility at 333 Normal Avenue. In addition, LVHN provides free shuttle service to patients who need to see a physician or have testing done at its Allentown facility. LVHN also provides diagnostic testing and walk-in care at its facility on 222 in Moselem Springs.

## **RECREATION**

The [Kutztown Borough Park](#) is the largest recreation facility in the region at 42 acres. It is a heavily used park, home to a variety of activities and programs for local residents, including the Borough's [KYAA](#) Little League Baseball and Softball programs. The Park also includes a concert bandshell, sand volleyball courts, basketball, street hockey, picnic areas and pavilion, tennis court, playgrounds, and an indoor skating rink.

## **.STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Kutztown is located within the DEP designated Sacony Creek Watershed, and therefore falls under the regulations of the [Sacony Creek Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan](#). The Plan was created under the direction of Act 167 of 1978, the Stormwater Management Act, and contains a stormwater management ordinance which is adopted by all municipalities within the watershed. Visit <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/act-167.html> for additional information.