

ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



APRIL 2005

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan is the result of a planning process initiated in June 2002 that has produced a vision of where Armstrong County residents would like to see the county in 20 years. The county possesses many assets on which to build. Its primary asset is its rural character, especially given its proximity to the City of Pittsburgh, and this asset is the basis for the county's marketing slogan "...the best thing next to Pittsburgh."

Although Armstrong County's population has decreased since 1980, it has been decreasing at a slower rate since 1990. Population projections suggest that this trend will be reversed by the year 2010. If current projections hold, there will be a 4.5% increase by that date.

A. Housing

- Although single-family housing is the overwhelming preference of most current and anticipated future county residents, there is nonetheless a need for affordable housing, including multi-family units, rental properties, and special needs housing (e.g. elderly housing).
- The continued aging of the county's housing stock will increase the need for preservation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of existing housing.
- The conversion of single-family homes to multi-family units is a growing concern in some of the county's older boroughs.
- Mobile homes do provide affordable housing for many county residents, but they have raised controversy relating to aesthetics and public health and safety issues, e.g. sanitary sewer concerns.
- There is a market for new residential units, including homes in the \$150,000 + price range.
- Armstrong County homeownership rates are higher than the statewide average, and residents of varying income levels want to have the ability to become homeowners.

B. Economic Development

- Industries that traditionally employed many Armstrong County residents (e.g., mining and manufacturing) have experienced substantial job losses, and an increasing number of residents must leave the county to find employment.
- Armstrong County needs to capitalize on its economic development resources (including the untapped/underutilized development potential of historic, recreational and tourist assets) to provide jobs for county residents.
- County economic development efforts must continue to be all-encompassing, (e.g., recruiting/retaining both large and small companies, fully utilizing existing industrial/business parks while revitalizing older central business districts and redeveloping brownfields, etc.).
- The county needs to maintain the lead role in economic development efforts. It must continue to facilitate the needed coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among the numerous economic development players – funding agencies, business associations, municipal authorities, other government agencies, educational institutions, et. al.
- The county’s economic development policies should continue to focus on the following:
 - Pursuing all types of development (including residential development) to provide jobs and housing for county residents
 - Developing and promoting tourism, especially regarding recreational and historic resources
 - Pursuing economic development based on efficient land use and provision of public infrastructure
 - Identifying and implementing adaptive reuses of properties and buildings for commercial and industrial purposes

C. Transportation

- Armstrong County's transportation system of roads, rail lines, bridges, waterways, and pedestrian paths must meet the transportation needs of current and future county residents, workers, and visitors.
- With the assistance of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Armstrong County and its municipalities must continue to maintain and improve the road network.
- The Transportation Improvement Program describes the highest priority highway, bridge, and transit improvement projects, and will continue to guide the improvements to the County's transportation network.
- The extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway to Interstate 80 would provide better access to Pittsburgh and northern destinations and would stimulate economic development as well as have a long-term impact on both the county's and the region's resources. This project should continue to be the highest priority "new" project.
- Transportation plays a critical role in development. Therefore, maintenance and improvements made to the transportation system must accommodate and be coordinated with the current and future needs of the county.

D. Recreation / Open Space / Natural Resources

- Given the rural character of Armstrong County, it is important to preserve and protect the county's existing natural features. Providing recreational opportunities is essential to enhancing the quality of life for residents.
- Eco-tourism will attract visitors and tourist revenues.
- Harvesting timber and crops in a sustainable fashion achieves both economic development and natural resource conservation goals.
- Mineral extraction fosters economic development, but it should be done with an understanding of future land use considerations.
- According to the Penn State University School of Forest Resources, 74% of the county is either forested or used for agriculture; thus, it is important that growth does not significantly impinge on these areas.
- Armstrong County needs to use a variety of tools and organizations to protect the county's natural resources.
- A Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan should be completed

E. Public Utilities / Services / Facilities

- There are 30 municipal or joint municipal authorities that provide public water and sewerage in Armstrong County.
- The East, Northeast, and Northwest Districts have the least amount of public infrastructure, and some residents in these districts haul potable water and have individual septic systems. The residents in the South, Central, and West Districts have the most public infrastructure and are seeing most of the extensions and improvements being done to their existing infrastructure.
- Many municipalities have their own police and/or fire departments. In some cases, these services are shared by two or more municipalities, and the Pennsylvania State Police provide full- or part-time coverage in many municipalities. There are 15 emergency medical service companies that provide ambulance service to Armstrong County.
- There are at least 40 properties of historical significance in Armstrong County. Most are in the county's boroughs, but there is no mechanism at the local level to preserve these important facilities of historical and cultural interest.
- Existing primary and secondary educational facilities are adequate to serve the population, but some renovations and improvements to facilities are needed.
- Many municipalities have a community center, but there is a need for additional senior citizen centers.
- Overall, the county is adequately served by public utilities, services and facilities, but improvements and extensions to the infrastructure, potential consolidation/merger of some public services, and rehabilitation and

renovation of facilities all need to be addressed in both the short-term and long-term future. Specific attention should be given to the aging infrastructure in some of the older municipalities.

- Programs that insure that the social services needs of county residents are fully addressed need to be pursued.

F. Land Use

- Most Armstrong County residents support the continuation of existing land use patterns, with new and/or higher-intensity development occurring in areas with adequate public infrastructure and along main transportation corridors.
- The quality of growth and development may depend largely on land use regulations. Although the county has a subdivision and land development ordinance, only 12 municipalities within the county have a zoning ordinance. As development pressures mount, more county municipalities may opt to adopt zoning in order to control land use.
- There are many opportunities for revitalization, redevelopment, and restoration of deteriorated residential, commercial, and industrial areas in Armstrong County. New residential development should include multi-family housing units in order to address the needs of current and future county residents.
- The county has significant natural, historic, and cultural resources that should not only be protected, but can serve as a basis for economic development (e.g., tourism and recreation as economic development generators).

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2. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Preparation of the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan required the collaboration of many people. The following parties provided valuable input and assistance:

- Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
 - Carol Augustine
 - Harry Brenneman*
 - Harry Breski *
 - Richard Faletti
 - Robert Gorog
 - Oscar Houser*
 - Pete Kimmel*
 - Dave Klingensmith*
 - Ken Riggle*
 - Karl Rottman
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- Armstrong County Commissioners
 - Patricia Kirkpatrick
 - Richard Fink
 - James V. Scahill
 - Jack F. Dunmire (Former Board)
 - Homer D. Crytzer (Former Board)

- Participants in the countywide telephone survey
- Stakeholders in the fields of education, housing, natural resources and recreation, transportation, economic development, and social and human services who were interviewed
- Residents of Armstrong County who participated in the public meetings held during the comprehensive planning process

3. INTRODUCTION

A. What is the Purpose of a Comprehensive Plan

A county comprehensive plan is a document that provides information on the existing conditions and issues within the county. It assesses these conditions and issues and, based on these assessments, establishes a vision for the county's future. It also formulates goals and strategies to implement the county's vision. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires every county in the state to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan.

The Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan is a document for guiding the future of the county. This plan is the product of an 18-month planning process involving staff at the county department of planning and development, a 17-member steering committee, the county planning commission, the board of county commissioners, and most importantly, the citizens of Armstrong County. All helped to prepare a vision for the future of the county.

It is imperative that the county uses this plan as a guide to address the needs of its current and future residents. After adoption of the plan, the county should pursue the actions listed in the plan's implementation tables.

Comprehensive plans are not static documents. They are guides that must be reviewed and revised in light of changing conditions. Indeed, the MPC requires that county comprehensive plans be updated every 10 years to insure that they address the needs of current and future county residents.

B. Planning Process and Citizen Participation

The Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan planning process began in June 2002. Public participation in the process was obtained via the following:

- The county was divided into six planning districts: Central, East, Northeast, Northwest, South, and West. (See map on following page.) These districts have been used by the county planning and development department to provide areas of manageable size within which to address planning and community development issues. Demarcation of districts is based on geography, common interests, and other factors.
- Two public meetings were held in each district. These 12 meetings attracted an average of 15-20 people per meeting. Meeting attendees provided feedback to information presented and offered input on a variety of planning issues.
- The county department of planning and development established a website to post information about the preparation of the comprehensive plan and to obtain input from interested citizens.



- The county commissioners appointed a 17-member comprehensive plan steering committee consisting of county residents with various planning and community development interests and expertise. The steering committee met monthly during the planning process to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations on planning issues.
- Key stakeholders and practitioners in the fields of housing, government economic development, transportation, natural resources, social services, education, historic preservation and other areas were interviewed for their insights.
- The county conducted a countywide telephone survey to obtain the opinions of county residents on a wide range of comprehensive planning issues. A total of 600 county residents participated in this survey.

C. Statement of Objectives

Armstrong County has established the following set of objectives in response to issues identified during the comprehensive planning process:

i. Housing

1. To encourage various types of residential units to meet the needs of present and future residents, including special needs populations
2. To use zoning classifications or land use criteria to guide residential development and to establish funding priorities regarding the extension of utilities or services
3. To preserve and improve existing housing stock
4. To promote homeownership
5. In rural and suburban areas, to continue existing housing development patterns (low density detached single-family housing) except in areas where public sewer and water infrastructure permits higher density residential development

ii. Economic Development

1. To promote countywide tourism efforts and related development
2. To pursue economic development based on criteria that promote efficient land use and provision of public utilities
3. To promote brownfield recovery and development
4. To consider adaptive and constructive re-use of abandoned/underutilized/vacant non-brownfield properties (e.g. former schools) for commercial and industrial uses when feasible
5. To promote innovative and cutting-edge technologies

iii. Transportation

1. To maintain and improve transportation networks
2. To improve public transit
3. To continue collaborative efforts with neighboring counties, transportation planning agencies, and PennDOT to seek and secure federal funding for the extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway to I-80
4. To the greatest extent possible, link various modes of travel
5. To integrate transportation policies with land use policies to make them mutually supportive, i.e., target transportation improvements to growth areas/corridors

iv. Recreation / Open Space / Natural Resources

1. To ensure that current recreational needs are being met and future recreational needs will be met
2. To conserve natural resources and scenic rural character of the county
3. To coordinate with other regional environmental studies
4. To encourage the wise use and reclamation/remediation of natural resources and the preservation of renewable resources

v. Public Utilities / Services / Facilities

1. To support the provision of public utilities, facilities and services to Armstrong County municipalities and citizens
2. To promote the re-use of vacant school facilities
3. To encourage more post-secondary educational opportunities for county residents
4. To encourage integration of public utilities/services/facilities policies with land use policies to make them mutually supportive
5. To encourage integration of public utilities/services/facilities between adjoining municipalities and counties

vi. Land Use

1. To preserve open space and rural character
2. To continue existing land use patterns in non-growth areas
3. To capitalize on the county's natural resources
4. To support historic preservation efforts

D. County Vision Statement

The Armstrong County vision is written from a perspective of 20 years into the future. Although some county residents desire major changes, the majority of residents envision a place similar to the current character of the county. There is strong public sentiment for the preservation of agricultural lands and other natural features, and most residents do not want to see future development that significantly impinges on the county's rural character. County residents would like most economic development within the county to occur along major transportation corridors and believe that public infrastructure improvements should be used to guide development into those areas. The future land use map included in this plan reflects a balance of both the desire to preserve the county's rural character and the need to accommodate development that will provide jobs and housing for current and future county residents. County and municipal planning efforts should focus on the redevelopment and livability of existing communities while also promoting new planned development. Development and planning practices that meet the demands of growth without jeopardizing the future of our communities will be promoted.

i. Housing

In 2023, county residents will have a variety of affordable homeownership and rental housing opportunities as a result of new single family and multifamily residential construction, rehabilitated housing stock and development of special needs housing. In addition, mixed-use developments which integrate commercial uses will provide residents with nearby goods and services.

ii. Economic Development

In 2023, more businesses will be located in Armstrong County because of its attractive industrial parks, business-friendly attitude, expanded infrastructure, tax advantages, and well-educated and trained work force. Riverfront recreational, commercial, and light industrial uses, redeveloped brownfields and revitalized business districts will employ many county residents and capitalize on the county's natural and historic resources and tourism assets.

iii. Transportation

In 2023, improvements to major roads and bridges will have been made, including the extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway to Interstate 80. The operating schedules of the Allegheny Rivers' locks and dams will accommodate recreational and commercial needs, and an expanded public transit system will connect residents and workers in Armstrong County to urban areas of neighboring counties, and the City of Pittsburgh.

iv. Recreation / Open Space / Natural Resources

In 2023, the county will have implemented many of the actions identified in the county recreation plan that was prepared in 2006. These actions will address recreation needs at the neighborhood, municipal, and county levels.

There will be more recreational use of the waterways, especially the Allegheny River, as a greater push for tourism is made. Tools for preserving prime agricultural land and promoting productive agricultural land uses will gain increased importance as a means to maintain the current rural character of the county.

v. Public Utilities / Services / Facilities

In 2023, expansion of public utility lines to accommodate residential, commercial, and industrial growth will have been made, and additional expansion and improvements to existing facilities will be planned. Some regionalization of public services will have been made in those communities where it proved to be feasible. Former school buildings will have undergone adaptive re-uses. In order to improve the workforce, there will be new or expanded post-secondary educational facilities in Armstrong County. Finally, substantial historic preservation efforts will have been made, especially in the designated historic districts in older boroughs.

vi. Land Use

In 2023, land uses in the county will be similar to current land uses, with the higher density development in the boroughs and along major transportation corridors, and lower density development in the townships. Land use criteria will continue to be used to guide the extension of public infrastructure, and the county's updated subdivision and land development ordinance will continue to control development as it happens. Development pressures and other factors will have resulted in more county municipalities adopting and enforcing both subdivision and zoning ordinances that suit their communities and protect them from disparate uses. The rural character of the county will be protected through tools such as agricultural security areas and agricultural easements. Other land use tools for protecting important natural resources will be applied as needed.

E. Document Layout

This concludes **Section 3** of the Comprehensive Plan.

Section 4 begins with a brief history of Armstrong County, and concludes with a plan for historic preservation. This plan is a sub-component of the larger comprehensive plan and identifies the county's valuable historic resources and provides recommendations for preserving them.

Section 5 provides the number, ages, and race of persons who make up the county's demographic profile. These numbers are analyzed and projected in order to provide an estimate of the population's future needs. Population trends are discussed. In addition, there are cross-references to other types of trends that are happening in Armstrong County, for example, in the housing sector, with employment and industry, and land use.

The core of the comprehensive plan, found in **Sections 6 - 11**, is comprised of six main elements: housing, economic development, transportation, recreation/open space/natural resources, public utilities/services/facilities, and land use. Each element contains an in-depth profile, trends, conclusions and recommendations, policy statements/goals/objectives, and an implementation timetable.

Section 12 ties the plan together with requirements of the MPC. This includes a statement of compatibility with existing and proposed development in neighboring counties, a statement of the interrelationships between the various elements in the plan, and a statement of regional impact of certain uses. An individual set of conclusions and a vision statement is given for each planning element. A final implementation table is provided for all six planning elements.

Supporting documentation and detailed tables are found in the Appendices.

4. COUNTY HISTORY

A. History of Armstrong County

The village of Kittanning (a name derived from Kit-Han-Ne – an Indian word for “at the great stream”) was settled by the Delaware and Shawnee tribes prior to 1730, but the surrounding territory was claimed by the British, French, and Delaware and Shawnee tribes.

The Indian village at Kittanning was one of the largest of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains. During the French and Indian War, it served as the home base for Indian raids on early European settlements in the area. In September 1756, English Colonel John Armstrong attacked and destroyed the Indian village at Kittanning in retaliation for Indian raids.

Settlement of Armstrong County was slow due to battles between Europeans and the Indians and to legal difficulties caused by uncertain land titles. Permanent settlements began around 1796 with Freeport, the oldest non-Indian town in the county. Early settlers were primarily of Scotch-Irish and German descent.

Named after war hero Colonel Armstrong, Armstrong County was formed on March 12, 1800 from parts of Westmoreland, Allegheny, and Lycoming counties, with Kittanning being made the county seat. A court system was organized in 1805, and the county’s first newspaper, The Western Eagle, was established in Kittanning in 1810.

Early settlements were hampered by an inadequate and limited transportation system. Most traveling was done on foot and horseback, and poorly constructed roads and a lack of bridges were significant obstacles to traveling and transporting goods. The completion of the Pennsylvania Canal in 1828 was a major addition to the county’s transportation network, as was the construction of the Pittsburgh, Kittanning & Warren Railroad (later, the Allegheny Valley Railroad) beginning in 1837.

With an improved transportation network, commerce flourished. By 1850, the county’s industrial enterprises included three iron furnaces (one of which was the largest in the United States), 21 grist mills, and 13 saw mills. Despite these facilities, the county’s primary industry was agriculture, with only a relative handful of county residents engaged in other occupations.

Armstrong County’s population grew from 2,339 in 1800 to 18,685 in 1840. Oil made Parker a boomtown in the 1860’s, and development of natural gas and other resources helped drive the population to 52,551 in 1900.

Through the years, the county has produced sand, gravel, glass, clay, brick, steel, iron, natural gas, and quarried stone. Today, Armstrong County’s major industries are agriculture, brick making, and iron and steel-sheet manufacturing. Growing industries include electro-optics and advanced manufacturing technologies.

Among the county’s most important natural resources are its forests and waterways. In addition to the Allegheny River and numerous tributaries, the

Mahoning Creek and Crooked Creek reservoirs and six state game lands provide many recreational opportunities – hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, etc. In the past decade, Armstrong County has collaborated with state and local efforts to invest more than one million dollars in the improvement of rivers and streams. The objectives of this investment were to preserve resources, improve water quality, and attract tourism.

In 1950, Armstrong County’s population was 80,842. Today, the county has about 72,000 residents living within its 45 municipalities (16 boroughs, 28 townships, and one city). It remains a rural county, but facilities such as Northpointe, the county’s business/residential park at the Slate Lick exit of Route 28, and the potential extension of Route 28 to I-80 should continue to attract development. They will provide employment opportunities for present and future county residents who seek both beautiful countryside and proximity and easy access to Pittsburgh.

B. Historic Preservation Plan

The National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey has identified 14 sites in Armstrong County as archaeological or historic resources. These sites are considered significant due to their association with an event, person, architectural design, engineering or potential to yield historic information of significance at the local, state, or national level. While the National Register has recognized only 14 sites, any building or district over 50 years old may be eligible for the National Register. There are currently no designated historic districts in Armstrong County. Many of the business districts and main streets located throughout the county, such as in Freeport, Ford City and Leechburg, could pursue historic designation.

The historic places currently identified are listed in the following table.
The first site designated was the Thomas Marshall House in Dayton in 1976.
The most recent additions include the Allegheny River Lock and Dams Number 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

National Register of Historic Places

Name	Address	City	Year Designated	Period of Significance
Drake Log Cabin	Williams Alley	Apollo	1983	1800-1849
Bradys Bend Iron Company Furnaces	PA 68	Bradys Bend	1980	1825-1849
St. Stephen's Church	PA 68	Bradys Bend	1980	1850-1874
St. Patricks Roman Catholic Church	W of Cowansville off PA 268	Cowansville	1978	1800-1824
Marshall, Thomas House	State Street	Dayton	1976	1850-1899
Bridge between Madison and Mahoning Townships	LR 03178 over Mahoning Creek	Deanville	1988	1875-1899
Ford City Armory	301 10th Street	Ford City	1989	1925-1949
Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 6	1258 River Rd	Freeport	2000	1900-1949
Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 5	830 River Rd	Freeport	2000	1900-1949
Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 7	Along PA 4023	Kittanning	2000	1900-1949
Armstrong County Courthouse and Jail	East Market Street	Kittanning	1981	1850-1874
Colwell Cut Viaduct	LR 66 over Pittsburgh and Shawmut RR	Seminole	1988	1900-1924
Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 8	Along PA 1033	Templeton	2000	1900-1949
Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 9	Terminus of PA 1004, North of T488	Widnoon	2000	1900-1949

Map 4-1 in the Appendix indicates the location of these historic places.

The National Register of Historic Places considers properties based on their historical significance, and there are at least 26 additional buildings or properties in Armstrong County that have historic value but are not designated as such. This makes a total of at least 40 historically important buildings or properties in Armstrong County.

Armstrong County played a pivotal role in our country's early history, and there are many sites that could be considered historically significant due to the event or person(s) that are associated with them. The following is a list of sites that are already considered eligible for the National Register by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission:

	Name	Address	Location
	West Pennsylvania Railroad	West Bank, Kiskiminetas River	Multi-municipalities
Central Planning District	Ford City Historic District	1st Street to 16th Street	Ford City Borough
	Allegheny/Penn Central Railroad Station	N Grant Avenue & Reynolds Street	Kittanning Borough
	Hose Company No. 1	S Jefferson Street	Kittanning Borough
	Kittanning Historic District	Roughly bounded by Oak Ave, Jacob Street, Water Street	Kittanning Borough
	Mohney House	325 Arch Street	Kittanning Borough
	Nulton, Barclay, House	427-429 Market Street	Kittanning Borough
	Safe Deposit Title & Guaranty Company Building	Market Street & S Mckean Street	Kittanning Borough
	Bellwood Garden School		Manor Township
	Crooked Creek Dam	1 mile east of S.R. 66	Manor Township
	Damtenders'Dwellings, Crooked Creek Dam	1 mile east of S.R. 66, approximately 600 feet west of Crooked Creek Dam	Manor Township
	Manorville Public School	Water Street	Manorville Borough
East Planning District	Sagamore Company Town Historic District	Rte 210, Sagamore	Cowanshannock Township
	Pine Furnace Bridge	T-566	Valley Township
Northeast Planning District	Lockkeepers Dwellings, Allegheny Lock and Dam #8	300 Feet South of Allegheny River Lock & Dam 8	Boggs Township
	County Bridge No. 18	T-748	Redbank Township
	Damtenders Dwellings, Mahoning Creek Dam	Rte. 748	Redbank Township
	County Bridge No. 18	T-748	Wayne Township
	Mahoning Creek Dam	Off T-768	Wayne Township
South Planning District	Chambers House	223 1st Street	Apollo Borough
	loof Building	213 1st Street	Apollo Borough
	Women's Christian Temperance Union Building	317 N 2nd Street	Apollo Borough
	Pennsylvania Main Line Canal	Canal Road	Kiskiminetas Township
	Leechburg Historic District	Market Street	Leechburg Borough
	Parks Farm	Leechburg Airport Road	Parks Township
West Planning District	Cadogan Tipple	Off Pa Rte 128 along Allegheny River near Cadogan	Cadogan Township
	Laneville Grist Mill	Old Mill Road	Freeport Borough

Source: Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, August 1, 2002

The following properties have been identified as local historic attractions through a variety of sources, however they have not been designated by the National Register of Historic Places:

- Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society (McCain House) at 300 North McKean Street in Kittanning
- Calhoun Schoolhouse on Route 1016 in Belknap
- Leechburg Museum (David Leech House) on Main Street in Leechburg
- Mickey's Grist Mill on Old Mill Road in Freeport
- Saint Patrick's Log Church on Rural Route 1 in Worthington
- WCTU Building (Woman's Christian Temperance Union) on 2nd Street in Apollo

The following table provides a list of potentially eligible historic properties, including bridges. While these sites are not currently recognized as historic places or landmarks, they may have historic value. Historic designation is a tool for preserving many of the county's historic attractions. Therefore, the County should consider pursuing designation of the following sites.

Potential Historic Bridges	Potential Historic Sites
LR 251 and B& O RR Bridge	Terminus of Popular Street
LR 66 Bridge	"Old Main" Dayton Normal
LR 03068 Bridge	Graff Mansion
Hogback Hill Bridge	Worthington Stone House (Old Stone Tavern)
LR 03017 Bridge	Log House (Bowser House)
Echo Bridge	E Market Street
LR 03068 Bridge	Ford City Glass Factory
Kittanning Bridge 031002510002130	738 Fourth Avenue
LR 378 (RT 128) Bridge	Duff Estate
Boggsville Bridge 031007390007469	Brown's Tavern (Old Trailinn)
Iron Bridge Road Bridge	Chamber's House
LR 03184 Bridge	Grant and Columbia Avenues
LR 03053 Bridge	Parks Farm
LR 03180 Bridge	First Street
LR 69 (TR 66) Bridge over Kiskiminetas River	152 Market Street
LR 188 (TR 66) over PA R.R and Kiskiminetus River	512 Market Street
LR 708 Bridge	Laneville Grist Mill

Source: Southwestern Planning Commission

There are four historic societies in Armstrong County: the Armstrong County Historic Society, Apollo Historical Society, Leechburg Historical Society, and Freeport Historical Society. The county should encourage these societies to pursue historic district designations and other historic preservation efforts.

C. Recommendations for Preserving Historical Resources

- Maintain current inventory of historically significant buildings.
- Maintain liaison with the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation to receive current information on state and local historical preservation programs, grants, and opportunities.
- Designate historic districts in municipalities where significant historic resources exist.
- Support funding applications for historic preservation measures.
- Include a historic preservation element in the recommended central business district revitalization programs.
- Include a historic preservation provisions in the recommended property maintenance and/or building code.
- Research federal, state, and local historic preservation programs for funding and technical assistance opportunities.
- Establish and maintain liaison with the four historical societies operating in the county, support their historic preservation efforts, and encourage communication among them.
- Where warranted, encourage municipal officials and interested citizens to pursue the formation of historic societies as a first step in preserving historic resources.

5. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

A. Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

As seen in Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1, Armstrong County's population has declined steadily since 1980. With 77,768 persons in 1980, 73,478 persons in 1990, and 72,392 persons in 2000, the county saw a 6.9% population decrease between 1980 and 2000. The state's population grew slightly, 3.5%, during this time period.

Planning districts:

All six planning districts in the county experienced population declines between 1980 and 2000, ranging from the East District's minor 0.6% decline to the South District's 12.5% population loss. Although the county and the planning districts lost population overall, several municipalities throughout the county gained population. Those include Atwood, Kittanning Township, South Bend, and Valley in the East District; Boggs, Redbank, and Wayne in the Northeast District; Perry, Sugarcreek, and Washington in the Northwest District; and East Franklin, North Buffalo, South Buffalo, West Franklin, and Worthington in the West District. All of the municipalities in the Central and South Districts had population losses between 1980 and 2000. These two planning districts have the bulk of the urbanized areas in the county (usually former industrial-based river communities), while the other planning districts are primarily rural in character.

Armstrong County Population 1980-2000

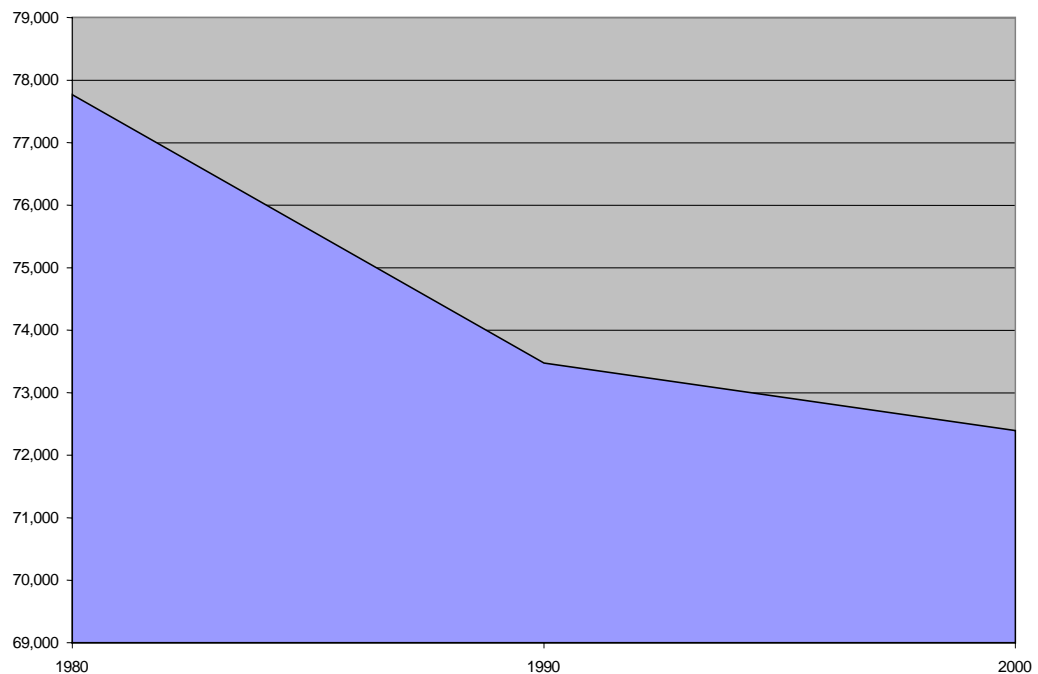


Table 5.1 Armstrong County Population

		1980	1990	2000	% change (1980 - 2000)
	Pennsylvania	11,864,720	11,881,643	12,281,054	3.5%
	Armstrong County	77,768	73,478	72,392	-6.9%
Central Planning District	Ford City	3,923	3,413	3,451	-12.0%
	Ford Cliff	516	450	412	-20.2%
	Kittanning Boro	5,432	5,120	4,787	-11.9%
	Manor	4,819	4,482	4,231	-12.2%
	Manorville	409	418	401	-2.0%
	Rayburn	1,971	1,823	1,811	-8.1%
	Total	17,070	15,706	15,093	-11.6%
East Planning District	Atwood	107	128	112	4.7%
	Cowanshannock	3,178	2,813	3,006	-5.4%
	Elderton	420	371	358	-14.8%
	Kittanning Twp	2,160	2,310	2,359	9.2%
	Plumcreek	2,303	2,400	2,304	0.0%
	Rural Valley	1,033	957	922	-10.7%
	South Bend	1,237	1,304	1,259	1.8%
	Total	11,066	10,992	11,001	-0.6%
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	953	981	979	2.7%
	Dayton	648	572	543	-16.2%
	Madison	1,030	941	943	-8.4%
	Mahoning	1,649	1,504	1,502	-8.9%
	Pine	656	534	499	-23.9%
	Redbank	1,161	1,058	1,296	11.6%
	South Bethlehem	476	479	444	-6.7%
	Total	7,593	7,006	7,323	-3.6%
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	1,124	963	939	-16.5%
	Hovey	103	99	93	-9.7%
	Parker	808	853	799	-1.1%
	Perry	396	322	404	2.0%
	Sugarcreek	1,511	1,496	1,557	3.0%
	Washington	1,008	984	1,029	2.1%
	Total	4,950	4,717	4,821	-2.6%
South Planning District	Apollo	2,212	1,895	1,765	-20.2%
	Bethel	1,349	1,261	1,290	-4.4%
	Burrell	766	728	749	-2.2%
	Gilpin	2,967	2,804	2,587	-12.8%
	Kiskiminetas	5,875	5,456	4,950	-15.7%
	Leechburg	2,682	2,504	2,386	-11.0%
	North Apollo	1,487	1,391	1,426	-4.1%
	Total	20,461	18,778	17,907	-12.5%
West Planning District	Applewold	395	388	356	-9.9%
	Cadogan	459	427	390	-15.0%
	East Franklin	3,716	3,923	3,900	5.0%
	Freeport	2,381	1,983	1,962	-17.6%
	North Buffalo	2,827	2,897	2,942	4.1%
	South Buffalo	2,636	2,687	2,785	5.7%
	West Franklin	1,863	2,008	1,935	3.9%
	West Kittanning	1,591	1,253	1,199	-24.6%
	Total	16,628	16,279	16,247	-2.3%

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

B. Population by Race

The population of Armstrong County is predominately Caucasian. With 98.7% of the county's population in 1980, 99.0% in 1990, and 98.3% in 2000, the white population has remained relatively constant. The black population in the county has also remained relatively constant, declining slightly from 1.1% of the population in 1980 to 0.8% in both 1990 and 2000. The Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American populations in the county, though both very small, have increased steadily since 1980 (at rates of 56.9% and 144.4%, respectively). In contrast, the state's minority population makes up a much larger 14.6% of the total population.

Planning districts:

The six planning districts have similar racial breakdowns in 1990 and 2000¹, ranging from a Caucasian rate of 97.3% in the Central District to 99.3% in the East District. Ford City, at 94.4% white, is the only municipality in the county that has a white population rate under 95%.

See Table 3.2 in the Appendix which highlights the racial breakdown of the county by planning district and municipality in more detail.

C. Households

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.

Although the population of Armstrong County declined over the past twenty years, the number of households in the county increased by 2.9% between 1980 and 2000. During the same time period, the number of households in the state also rose by approximately 13.2%.

¹ Where possible, Census data from 1980-2000 has been used. However, because Armstrong County is not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), 1980 Census data for many subjects is limited to municipalities with population over 1,000 people. As many municipalities in Armstrong County in 1980 had less than 1,000 residents, data is not available for those municipalities and therefore not able to be calculated in the planning districts total.

Planning districts:

Four planning districts – the East, Northeast, Northwest, and West Districts – had increases in household numbers between 1990 and 2000. These increases range from 3.7% (West District) to 8.0% (Northwest District). The Central and South Districts had declines of 0.9% and 1.7%, respectively. Though most municipalities posted increases in the number of households, 14 had declines in the number of households. Those include Kittanning Borough, Manor, and Manorville in the Central District; Atwood and Rural Valley in the East District; South Bethlehem in the Northeast District; Hovey and Parker in the Northwest District; Gilpin, Kiskiminetas, Leechburg, and North Apollo in the South District; and Applewold and West Kittanning in the West District.

Table 5.2 below highlights household breakdown of the county by planning district and municipality in more detail.

Table 5.2 Armstrong County Households

		1980	1990	2000	% change (1980 - 2000)
	Pennsylvania	4,220,660	4,492,958	4,779,186	13.2%
	Armstrong County	28,118	28,361	28,932	2.9%
Central Planning District	Ford City	*	1,563	1,602	2.5%
	Ford Cliff	*	176	176	0.0%
	Kittanning Boro	*	2,131	2,026	-4.9%
	Manor	*	1,766	1,763	-0.2%
	Manorville	*	187	180	-3.7%
	Rayburn	*	667	687	3.0%
	Total	*	6,490	6,434	-0.9%
East Planning District	Atwood	*	38	37	-2.6%
	Cowanshannock	*	1,023	1,122	9.7%
	Elderton	*	154	158	2.6%
	Kittanning Twp	*	777	857	10.3%
	Plumcreek	*	841	861	2.4%
	Rural Valley	*	394	374	-5.1%
	South Bend	*	440	478	8.6%
	Valley	*	228	264	15.8%
Total	*	3,895	4,151	6.6%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	*	339	356	5.0%
	Dayton	*	232	236	1.7%
	Madison	*	348	366	5.2%
	Mahoning	*	567	598	5.5%
	Pine	*	197	197	0.0%
	Redbank	*	395	437	10.6%
	South Bethlehem	*	213	198	-7.0%
	Wayne	*	352	392	11.4%
Total	*	2,643	2,780	5.2%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	*	372	404	8.6%
	Hovey	*	36	33	-8.3%
	Parker	*	325	314	-3.4%
	Perry	*	114	140	22.8%
	Sugarcreek	*	460	521	13.3%
	Washington	*	358	386	7.8%
Total	*	1,665	1,798	8.0%	
South Planning District	Apollo	*	750	755	0.7%
	Bethel	*	461	512	11.1%
	Burrell	*	234	278	18.8%
	Gilpin	*	1,117	1,038	-7.1%
	Kiskiminetas	*	2,074	1,924	-7.2%
	Leechburg	*	1,168	1,089	-6.8%
	North Apollo	*	578	577	-0.2%
	Parks	*	1,023	1,103	7.8%
Total	*	7,405	7,276	-1.7%	
West Planning District	Applewold	*	155	146	-5.8%
	Cadogan	*	165	190	15.2%
	East Franklin	*	1,469	1,530	4.2%
	Freeport	*	873	885	1.4%
	North Buffalo	*	1,054	1,124	6.6%
	South Buffalo	*	1,003	1,022	1.9%
	West Franklin	*	716	755	5.4%
	West Kittanning	*	542	539	-0.6%
	Worthington	*	286	302	5.6%
Total	*	6,263	6,493	3.7%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

D. Population Breakdown by Age and Sex

Figures 5.2 and 5.3 demonstrate the county’s population in 1990 and 2000 by 5-year age increments and sex. Comparing the two figures shows that while the ‘baby boom’ generation (25-44 years in 1990 and 35-54 in 2000) is increasing slightly, and the elderly population is increasing and aging in place, the county’s population under the age of thirty is shrinking. This trend is consistent with anecdotal evidence of the county’s aging population and inability to retain its young people. This data is also shown in Tables 3.4 and 3.5 in the Appendix.

Figure 5.2 Armstrong County 2000 Population by Age Cohorts
total population 72,392

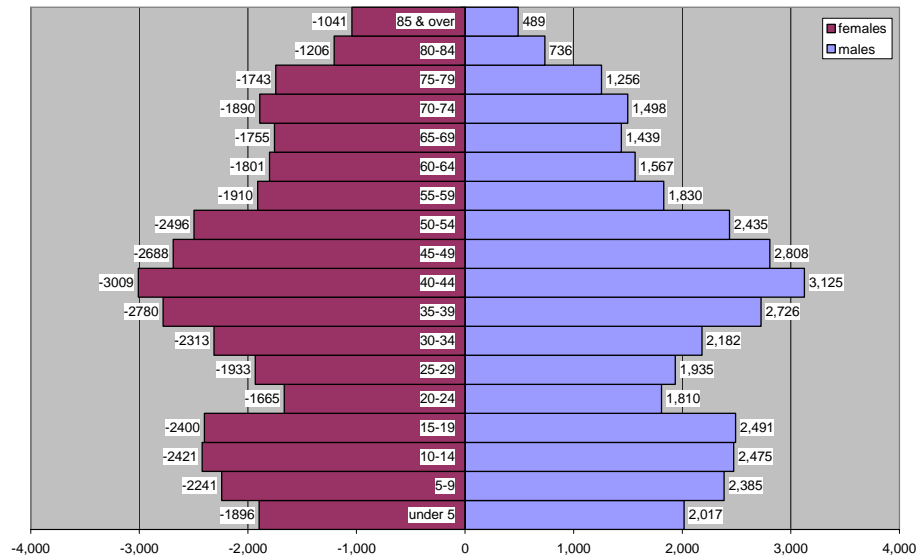
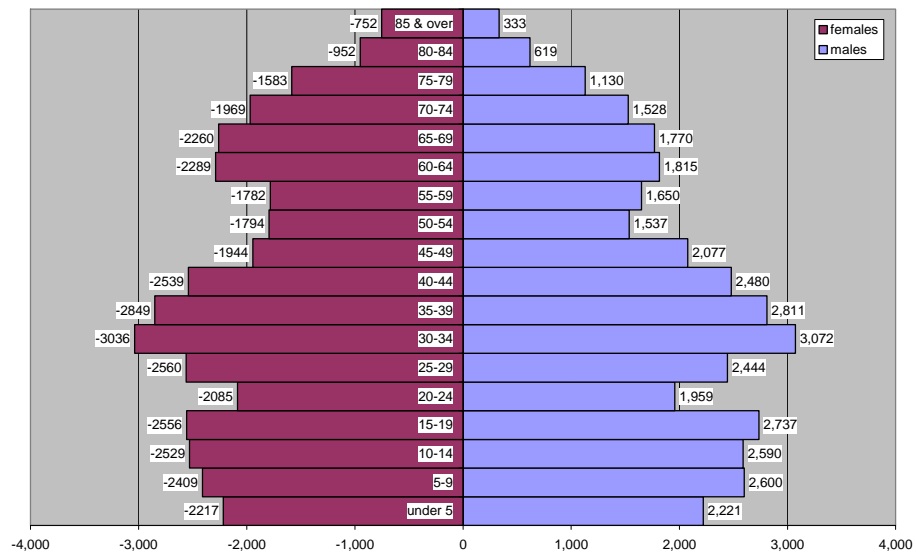


Figure 5.3 Armstrong County 1990 Population by Age Cohorts
total population 73,478



E. Household Income

Armstrong County's median household income has increased 6.4% between 1980 and 2000 (after adjusting for inflation²). This increase was greater than the state's 4.9% median household income increase during the same time period.

Planning districts:

Although all six planning districts experienced absolute gains in median income between 1990 and 2000, the increases ranged from a low of 0.7% in the East District to a high of 10.3% in the Northeast District. Within districts, there was an even wider range of changes during that time period. No planning district consistently saw median household increases in every municipality.

- **Central:**

Two municipalities, Ford City and Manor, had decreases in median household income, while the remaining four municipalities posted increases in income. Changes ranged from a 3.4% decrease in Ford City to a 28.3% increase in Manorville.

- **Eastern:**

Four municipalities showed decreases in median household income between 1990 and 2000, while four others showed increases. Changes in median household income ranged from an 8.7% decrease in Rural Valley to a 9.0% increase in Valley.

- **Northeastern:**

Only one municipality, South Bethlehem, experienced a decrease in median household income (0.2%). The remaining seven municipalities posted increases ranging from 5.3% in Madison to 18.5% in Pine.

- **Northwestern:**

Similarly, only Hovey experienced a decline in median household income (10.8%). The remaining five municipalities had increases ranging between 3.9% (Sugar creek and Washington) and 32.3% (Parker).

- **Southern:**

Two municipalities, Burrell and Parks, experienced declines in median household income between 1990 and 2000. Changes ranged from Burrell's 3.2% decrease to the 20.5% increase in Kiskiminetas.

² 1990 median household income data was adjusted for inflation using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index annual rates between 1990 and 2000. The data was multiplied by the inflation rate over that time period and the amount added to the original 1990 figure to obtain the 1990 figure equivalent to 2000 dollars. This calculation allows for direct comparison between the 1990 adjusted and 2000 figures.

- **Western:**

Three municipalities experienced declines in median household income, while six increased. Changes ranged from a 6.4% decrease in West Franklin to a 23.7% increase in Applewold.

Table 5.3 highlights the median household income of the county by planning districts and municipality in more detail.

Table 5.3 Median Household Income

		1980	1990	2000	% change (1990-2000)	1990 (adj. for inflation)	% change (1990 adj. - 2000)
	Pennsylvania	\$ 16,880	\$ 29,069	\$ 40,106	38.0%	\$ 38,225.74	4.9%
	Armstrong County	\$ 15,474	\$ 22,554	\$ 31,557	39.9%	\$ 29,658.51	6.4%
Central Planning District	Ford City	\$ 13,840	\$ 19,248	\$ 24,457	27.1%	\$ 25,311.12	-3.4%
	Ford Cliff	*	\$ 20,313	\$ 31,250	53.8%	\$ 26,711.60	17.0%
	Kittanning Boro	\$ 10,534	\$ 15,437	\$ 20,921	35.5%	\$ 20,299.66	3.1%
	Manor	\$ 15,552	\$ 26,558	\$ 34,452	29.7%	\$ 34,923.77	-1.4%
	Manorville	*	\$ 20,446	\$ 34,500	68.7%	\$ 26,886.49	28.3%
	Rayburn	*	\$ 20,474	\$ 29,830	45.7%	\$ 26,923.31	10.8%
	Total	\$ 13,309	\$ 20,413	\$ 29,235	43.2%	\$ 26,842.66	8.9%
East Planning District	Atwood	*	\$ 23,750	\$ 28,750	21.1%	\$ 31,231.25	-7.9%
	Cowanshannock	\$ 13,778	\$ 22,193	\$ 28,646	29.1%	\$ 29,183.80	-1.8%
	Elderton	*	\$ 25,962	\$ 36,000	38.7%	\$ 34,140.03	5.4%
	Kittanning Twp	*	\$ 25,234	\$ 35,642	41.2%	\$ 33,182.71	7.4%
	Plumcreek	*	\$ 26,089	\$ 34,744	33.2%	\$ 34,307.04	1.3%
	Rural Valley	*	\$ 21,875	\$ 26,250	20.0%	\$ 28,765.63	-8.7%
	South Bend	*	\$ 24,911	\$ 32,188	29.2%	\$ 32,757.97	-1.7%
	Valley	*	\$ 27,917	\$ 40,000	43.3%	\$ 36,710.86	9.0%
Total	\$ 13,778	\$ 24,741	\$ 32,778	32.5%	\$ 32,534.91	0.7%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	*	\$ 22,788	\$ 33,571	47.3%	\$ 29,966.22	12.0%
	Dayton	*	\$ 20,700	\$ 30,156	45.7%	\$ 27,220.50	10.8%
	Madison	*	\$ 19,402	\$ 26,875	38.5%	\$ 25,513.63	5.3%
	Mahoning	*	\$ 20,268	\$ 29,934	47.7%	\$ 26,652.42	12.3%
	Pine	*	\$ 20,062	\$ 31,250	55.8%	\$ 26,381.53	18.5%
	Redbank	*	\$ 20,174	\$ 30,121	49.3%	\$ 26,528.81	13.5%
	South Bethlehem	*	\$ 22,614	\$ 29,688	31.3%	\$ 29,737.41	-0.2%
	Wayne	*	\$ 21,328	\$ 31,071	45.7%	\$ 28,046.32	10.8%
Total	*	\$ 20,917	\$ 30,333	45.0%	\$ 27,505.86	10.3%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	*	\$ 20,543	\$ 29,286	42.6%	\$ 27,014.05	8.4%
	Hovey	*	\$ 30,625	\$ 35,938	17.3%	\$ 40,271.88	-10.8%
	Parker	*	\$ 17,153	\$ 29,844	74.0%	\$ 22,556.20	32.3%
	Perry	*	\$ 20,000	\$ 32,083	60.4%	\$ 26,300.00	22.0%
	Sugarcreek	*	\$ 24,700	\$ 33,750	36.6%	\$ 32,480.50	3.9%
	Washington	*	\$ 19,643	\$ 26,833	36.6%	\$ 25,830.55	3.9%
	Total	*	\$ 22,111	\$ 31,289	41.5%	\$ 29,075.53	7.6%
South Planning District	Apollo	*	\$ 16,455	\$ 22,989	39.7%	\$ 21,638.33	6.2%
	Bethel	*	\$ 25,163	\$ 36,087	43.4%	\$ 33,089.35	9.1%
	Burrell	*	\$ 27,321	\$ 34,792	27.3%	\$ 35,927.12	-3.2%
	Gilpin	\$ 17,035	\$ 25,230	\$ 38,958	54.4%	\$ 33,177.45	17.4%
	Kiskiminetas	\$ 16,896	\$ 24,286	\$ 38,487	58.5%	\$ 31,936.09	20.5%
	Leechburg	\$ 14,742	\$ 20,476	\$ 27,434	34.0%	\$ 26,925.94	1.9%
	North Apollo	*	\$ 22,000	\$ 30,417	38.3%	\$ 28,930.00	5.1%
	Parks	\$ 15,696	\$ 23,302	\$ 29,915	28.4%	\$ 30,642.13	-2.4%
	Total	\$ 16,092	\$ 23,029	\$ 32,385	40.6%	\$ 30,283.30	6.9%
West Planning District	Applewold	*	\$ 18,875	\$ 30,714	62.7%	\$ 24,820.63	23.7%
	Cadogan	*	\$ 19,250	\$ 27,778	44.3%	\$ 25,313.75	9.7%
	East Franklin	\$ 18,143	\$ 30,168	\$ 37,753	25.1%	\$ 39,670.92	-4.8%
	Freeport	*	\$ 21,366	\$ 28,565	33.7%	\$ 28,096.29	1.7%
	North Buffalo	\$ 18,003	\$ 25,313	\$ 37,375	47.7%	\$ 33,286.60	12.3%
	South Buffalo	\$ 20,925	\$ 32,370	\$ 42,222	30.4%	\$ 42,566.55	-0.8%
	West Franklin	*	\$ 27,326	\$ 33,616	23.0%	\$ 35,933.69	-6.4%
	West Kittanning	*	\$ 23,397	\$ 32,850	40.4%	\$ 30,767.06	6.8%
	Worthington	*	\$ 22,500	\$ 31,000	37.8%	\$ 29,587.50	4.8%
Total	\$ 19,024	\$ 24,507	\$ 33,541	36.9%	\$ 32,227.00	4.1%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

F. Individuals Below Poverty Level

Armstrong County's poverty rate declined 1.2% between 1990 and 2000, from 12.8% to 11.7%. The state's poverty rate also declined slightly during this period, from 11.1% to 11.0%. Although the state had an increase in the number of individuals in poverty between 1990 and 2000, it was concurrently gaining population overall. On the other hand, Armstrong County had a decrease in the number of individuals in poverty between 1990 and 2000, but it was concurrently losing population as well.

Planning districts:

While four planning districts – Central, Northeast, Northwest, and South – experienced declines in their poverty rates between 1990 and 2000, the poverty rates in the East and West Districts rose 0.7% and 0.4%, respectively. Poverty declines in the four previously mentioned districts ranged from a 6.3% decrease in the Northwest District to a 1.0% decrease in the South District.

Although increases and decreases in the number of individuals below the poverty level fluctuated greatly by district, the 2000 rates themselves were relatively equal across much of the county. With the exception of the West District, poverty rates ranged from 11.8% in the Northwest District to 13.3% in the East District. The West District has a significantly lower poverty rate than the rest of the districts, with only 8.1% of its residents below the poverty level.

Tables 5.4 and 5.5 outline the number and percentage of individuals below the poverty level for the county, planning districts, and municipalities.

Table 5.4 Individuals Below Poverty Level

		1990		2000	
		below	total	below	total
	Pennsylvania	1,283,629	11,536,049	1,304,117	11,879,950
	Armstrong County	9,305	72,518	8,350	71,590
Central Planning District	Ford City	382	3,413	462	3,446
	Ford Cliff	34	443	36	412
	Kittanning Boro	1,132	4,505	731	4,468
	Manor	311	4,495	307	4,233
	Manorville	63	423	69	395
	Rayburn	384	1,821	305	1,781
	Total	2,306	15,100	1,910	14,735
East Planning District	Atwood	8	121	12	113
	Cowanshannock	447	2,813	486	2,997
	Elderton	42	360	18	357
	Kittanning Twp	175	2,187	291	2,326
	Plumcreek	245	2,330	272	2,294
	Rural Valley	131	964	160	922
	South Bend	214	1,292	170	1,265
	Valley	93	712	50	698
Total	1,355	10,779	1,459	10,972	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	73	970	79	977
	Dayton	59	571	40	547
	Madison	121	939	183	946
	Mahoning	194	1,504	124	1,525
	Pine	136	536	55	484
	Redbank	166	1,054	177	1,193
	South Bethlehem	52	470	46	414
	Wayne	169	937	140	1,094
Total	970	6,981	844	7,180	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	165	948	169	977
	Hovey	20	104	15	84
	Parker	227	852	79	804
	Perry	75	332	42	355
	Sugarcreek	222	1,382	151	1,420
	Washington	166	977	140	1,028
	Total	875	4,595	596	4,668
South Planning District	Apollo	606	1,902	257	1,747
	Bethel	129	1,259	95	1,296
	Burrell	104	736	91	739
	Gilpin	242	2,784	179	2,572
	Kiskiminetas	537	5,447	733	4,936
	Leechburg	254	2,451	276	2,378
	North Apollo	191	1,389	192	1,424
	Parks	482	2,779	413	2,736
Total	2,545	18,747	2,236	17,828	
West Planning District	Applewold	54	390	35	356
	Cadogan	45	432	21	387
	East Franklin	269	3,998	321	3,895
	Freeport	234	1,981	203	1,959
	North Buffalo	252	2,891	224	2,959
	South Buffalo	91	2,666	127	2,759
	West Franklin	144	1,997	215	1,941
	West Kittanning	87	1,246	89	1,194
Worthington	78	715	70	757	
Total	1,254	16,316	1,305	16,207	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 5.5 Individuals Below Poverty Level 1990-2000

		1990 (%)	2000 (%)	% change
	Pennsylvania	11.1%	11.0%	-0.1%
	Armstrong County	12.8%	11.7%	-1.2%
Central Planning District	Ford City	11.2%	13.4%	2.2%
	Ford Cliff	7.7%	8.7%	1.1%
	Kittanning Boro	25.1%	16.4%	-8.8%
	Manor	6.9%	7.3%	0.3%
	Manorville	14.9%	17.5%	2.6%
	Rayburn	21.1%	17.1%	-4.0%
	Total	15.3%	13.0%	-2.3%
East Planning District	Atwood	6.6%	10.6%	4.0%
	Cowanshannock	15.9%	16.2%	0.3%
	Elderton	11.7%	5.0%	-6.6%
	Kittanning Twp	8.0%	12.5%	4.5%
	Plumcreek	10.5%	11.9%	1.3%
	Rural Valley	13.6%	17.4%	3.8%
	South Bend	16.6%	13.4%	-3.1%
	Valley	13.1%	7.2%	-5.9%
Total	12.6%	13.3%	0.7%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	7.5%	8.1%	0.6%
	Dayton	10.3%	7.3%	-3.0%
	Madison	12.9%	19.3%	6.5%
	Mahoning	12.9%	8.1%	-4.8%
	Pine	25.4%	11.4%	-14.0%
	Redbank	15.7%	14.8%	-0.9%
	South Bethlehem	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%
	Wayne	18.0%	12.8%	-5.2%
Total	13.9%	11.8%	-2.1%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	17.4%	17.3%	-0.1%
	Hovey	19.2%	17.9%	-1.4%
	Parker	26.6%	9.8%	-16.8%
	Perry	22.6%	11.8%	-10.8%
	Sugarcreek	16.1%	10.6%	-5.4%
	Washington	17.0%	13.6%	-3.4%
	Total	19.0%	12.8%	-6.3%
South Planning District	Apollo	31.9%	14.7%	-17.2%
	Bethel	10.2%	7.3%	-2.9%
	Burrell	14.1%	12.3%	-1.8%
	Gilpin	8.7%	7.0%	-1.7%
	Kiskiminetas	9.9%	14.9%	5.0%
	Leechburg	10.4%	11.6%	1.2%
	North Apollo	13.8%	13.5%	-0.3%
	Parks	17.3%	15.1%	-2.2%
	Total	13.6%	12.5%	-1.0%
West Planning District	Applewold	13.8%	9.8%	-4.0%
	Cadogan	10.4%	5.4%	-5.0%
	East Franklin	6.7%	8.2%	1.5%
	Freeport	11.8%	10.4%	-1.4%
	North Buffalo	8.7%	7.6%	-1.1%
	South Buffalo	3.4%	4.6%	1.2%
	West Franklin	7.2%	11.1%	3.9%
	West Kittanning	7.0%	7.5%	0.5%
	Worthington	10.9%	9.2%	-1.7%
Total	7.7%	8.1%	0.4%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

G. Number of Workers, Place of Work

In 2000, 29,788 residents of Armstrong County (41.1%) were classified as workers³, up 2.9% from the 1990 worker rate of 38.2%. The county's percentage of workers is somewhat lower than the state's, which posted 45.0% of its residents as workers in 1990 and 45.2% in 2000.

Of all the workers in Armstrong County, 99.4% reported that they worked in Pennsylvania in both 1990 and 2000. This percentage is slightly higher than the state average of 95.7% in 1990 and 95.4% in 2000. In contrast, the percentage of county residents who work in the county was only 44.7% in 2000, 27.7% less than the statewide average of 72.4% of workers who work in their county of residence. The county's rate of workers who worked in the county dropped by 16.4% from the 1990 figure of 61.1%. The state's rate also dropped during that time period, but only by 2.5%.

Planning districts:

In 2000, the percentage of workers in each planning district varies, from a low 37.8% in the Northwest District to a high 44.3% in the West District. All six districts had increases in the number of workers as a percentage of the district's population between 1990 and 2000, ranging from a 3.0% increase in the Central district to a 16.8% increase in the Northwest District. All six planning districts posted a percentage of workers who work in Pennsylvania of 99.2% or higher in 2000. This figure remained relatively constant for each district over time, with only three districts (Central, East, and West) having any change since 1990. The maximum change occurred in the West District, with a 0.2% decrease in the number of workers who were employed in Pennsylvania. However, the percentage of workers who work in Armstrong County varied considerably in both 1990 and 2000. The Northwest District posted the lowest percentage of workers who worked in the county in 1990 (47.4%), while the Central District had the highest (81.5%). These two districts were the extreme cases again in 2000, with 40.3% and 75.2%, respectively. All districts showed declines in the rate of workers who work in Armstrong County between 1990 and 2000, from a 2.0% decrease in the Northeast District to an 8.3% decrease in the South District.

Tables 5.6 - 5.8 outline the number of workers and their place of work by county, planning district, and municipality in more detail.

³ The Census Bureau defines workers, in this instance, as employed civilians 16 years old or older who were considered "at work." However, people who were "temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons are not included in the place-of-work data. Therefore, the data on place of work understate the total number of jobs or total employment". People who had "irregular, casual, or unstructured jobs...may have erroneously reported themselves as not working." This data set differs from that referred to in Section 7.A.iii. of this plan, which states that there were 30,308 employed persons in the county in 2000. That 2000 Census data set includes workers as defined above, as well as persons who were employed but temporarily absent, persons on temporary layoff, and persons actively looking for and were available to work.

5.6 Workers 16 Years and Over and Place of Work - 1990

		1990 population	total workers	% of population	worked in state of residence	% of workers	worked in county of residence	% of workers
	Pennsylvania	11,881,643	5,348,132	45.0%	5,116,725	95.7%	4,006,525	74.9%
	Armstrong County	73,478	28,092	38.2%	27,927	99.4%	17,155	61.1%
Central Planning District	Ford City	3,413	1,182	34.6%	1,176	99.5%	927	78.4%
	Ford Cliff	443	183	41.3%	183	100.0%	145	79.2%
	Kittanning Boro	5,014	1,620	32.3%	1,620	100.0%	1,348	83.2%
	Manor	4,502	1,883	41.8%	1,855	98.5%	1,565	83.1%
	Manorville	425	171	40.2%	171	100.0%	139	81.3%
	Rayburn	1,823	653	35.8%	649	99.4%	517	79.2%
	Total	15,620	5,692	36.4%	5,654	99.3%	4,641	81.5%
East Planning District	Atwood	121	50	41.3%	50	100.0%	23	46.0%
	Cowanshannock	2,813	991	35.2%	991	100.0%	752	75.9%
	Elderton	373	150	40.2%	150	100.0%	96	64.0%
	Kittanning Twp	2,310	869	37.6%	852	98.0%	629	72.4%
	Plumcreek	2,400	958	39.9%	958	100.0%	430	44.9%
	Rural Valley	964	377	39.1%	371	98.4%	282	74.8%
	South Bend	1,302	542	41.6%	538	99.3%	202	37.3%
	Valley	712	312	43.8%	312	100.0%	241	77.2%
Total	10,995	4,249	38.6%	4,222	99.4%	2,655	62.5%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	981	362	36.9%	360	99.4%	279	77.1%
	Dayton	581	201	34.6%	200	99.5%	160	79.6%
	Madison	939	333	35.5%	333	100.0%	154	46.2%
	Mahoning	1,504	543	36.1%	540	99.4%	189	34.8%
	Pine	536	182	34.0%	182	100.0%	139	76.4%
	Redbank	1,058	397	37.5%	397	100.0%	76	19.1%
	South Bethlehem	470	174	37.0%	172	98.9%	13	7.5%
	Wayne	937	353	37.7%	341	96.6%	249	70.5%
Total	7,006	2,545	36.3%	2,525	99.2%	1,259	49.5%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	948	319	33.6%	319	100.0%	80	25.1%
	Hovey	104	40	38.5%	40	100.0%	13	32.5%
	Parker	853	261	30.6%	258	98.9%	88	33.7%
	Perry	332	110	33.1%	104	94.5%	39	35.5%
	Sugarcreek	1,496	523	35.0%	523	100.0%	285	54.5%
	Washington	984	305	31.0%	303	99.3%	233	76.4%
Total	4,717	1,558	33.0%	1,547	99.3%	738	47.4%	
South Planning District	Apollo	1,902	586	30.8%	586	100.0%	326	55.6%
	Bethel	1,261	541	42.9%	539	99.6%	365	67.5%
	Burrell	736	273	37.1%	271	99.3%	158	57.9%
	Gilpin	2,793	1,055	37.8%	1,043	98.9%	496	47.0%
	Kiskiminetas	5,456	2,194	40.2%	2,185	99.6%	1,117	50.9%
	Leechburg	2,451	887	36.2%	887	100.0%	430	48.5%
	North Apollo	1,391	500	35.9%	496	99.2%	235	47.0%
	Parks	2,796	1,048	37.5%	1,048	100.0%	452	43.1%
Total	18,786	7,084	37.7%	7,055	99.6%	3,579	50.5%	
West Planning District	Applewold	393	159	40.5%	157	98.7%	134	84.3%
	Cadogan	432	160	37.0%	160	100.0%	122	76.3%
	East Franklin	3,998	1,814	45.4%	1,808	99.7%	1,345	74.1%
	Freeport	1,983	756	38.1%	754	99.7%	206	27.2%
	North Buffalo	2,897	1,240	42.8%	1,225	98.8%	943	76.0%
	South Buffalo	2,682	1,166	43.5%	1,166	100.0%	360	30.9%
	West Franklin	2,000	864	43.2%	858	99.3%	573	66.3%
	West Kittanning	1,248	499	40.0%	490	98.2%	375	75.2%
	Worthington	721	306	42.4%	306	100.0%	225	73.5%
Total	16,354	6,964	42.6%	6,924	99.4%	4,283	61.5%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

5.7 Workers 16 Years and Over and Place of Work - 2000

		2000 population	total workers	% of population	worked in state of residence	% of workers	worked in county of residence	% of workers
	Pennsylvania	12,281,054	5,556,311	45.2%	5,298,536	95.4%	4,023,014	72.4%
	Armstrong County	72,392	29,788	41.1%	29,596	99.4%	13,317	44.7%
Central Planning District	Ford City	3,451	1,253	36.3%	1,253	100.0%	989	78.9%
	Ford Cliff	412	182	44.2%	182	100.0%	128	70.3%
	Kittanning Boro	4,787	1,792	37.4%	1,773	98.9%	1,349	75.3%
	Manor	4,231	1,742	41.2%	1,718	98.6%	1,251	71.8%
	Manorville	401	200	49.9%	199	99.5%	160	80.0%
	Rayburn	1,811	692	38.2%	689	99.6%	531	76.7%
	Total	15,093	5,861	38.8%	5,814	99.2%	4,408	75.2%
East Planning District	Atwood	112	40	35.7%	38	95.0%	14	35.0%
	Cowanshannock	3,006	1,127	37.5%	1,123	99.6%	682	60.5%
	Elderton	358	152	42.5%	152	100.0%	67	44.1%
	Kittanning Twp	2,359	1,020	43.2%	1,013	99.3%	707	69.3%
	Plumcreek	2,304	937	40.7%	932	99.5%	421	44.9%
	Rural Valley	922	349	37.9%	348	99.7%	245	70.2%
	South Bend	1,259	550	43.7%	546	99.3%	193	35.1%
	Valley	681	328	48.2%	328	100.0%	229	69.8%
Total	11,001	4,503	40.9%	4,480	99.5%	2,558	56.8%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	979	416	42.5%	413	99.3%	283	68.0%
	Dayton	543	227	41.8%	225	99.1%	152	67.0%
	Madison	943	368	39.0%	368	100.0%	170	46.2%
	Mahoning	1,502	634	42.2%	630	99.4%	200	31.5%
	Pine	499	183	36.7%	183	100.0%	140	76.5%
	Redbank	1,296	467	36.0%	463	99.1%	114	24.4%
	South Bethlehem	444	195	43.9%	193	99.0%	39	20.0%
	Wayne	1,117	453	40.6%	445	98.2%	300	66.2%
Total	7,323	2,943	40.2%	2,920	99.2%	1,398	47.5%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	939	414	44.1%	414	100.0%	107	25.8%
	Hovey	93	36	38.7%	36	100.0%	0	0.0%
	Parker	799	298	37.3%	292	98.0%	75	25.2%
	Perry	404	129	31.9%	129	100.0%	21	16.3%
	Sugarcreek	1,557	568	36.5%	562	98.9%	243	42.8%
	Washington	1,029	375	36.4%	375	100.0%	288	76.8%
	Total	4,821	1,820	37.8%	1,808	99.3%	734	40.3%
South Planning District	Apollo	1,765	774	43.9%	774	100.0%	346	44.7%
	Bethel	1,290	555	43.0%	550	99.1%	331	59.6%
	Burrell	749	322	43.0%	318	98.8%	191	59.3%
	Gilpin	2,587	1,099	42.5%	1,093	99.5%	549	50.0%
	Kiskiminetas	4,950	2,106	42.5%	2,106	100.0%	811	38.5%
	Leechburg	2,386	961	40.3%	950	98.9%	309	32.2%
	North Apollo	1,426	568	39.8%	564	99.3%	196	34.5%
	Parks	2,754	1,086	39.4%	1,082	99.6%	424	39.0%
	Total	17,907	7,471	41.7%	7,437	99.5%	3,157	42.3%
West Planning District	Applewold	356	158	44.4%	158	100.0%	106	67.1%
	Cadogan	390	134	34.4%	130	97.0%	92	68.7%
	East Franklin	3,900	1,665	42.7%	1,657	99.5%	1,276	76.6%
	Freeport	1,962	853	43.5%	844	98.9%	189	22.2%
	North Buffalo	2,942	1,340	45.5%	1,325	98.9%	830	61.9%
	South Buffalo	2,785	1,273	45.7%	1,264	99.3%	417	32.8%
	West Franklin	1,935	876	45.3%	871	99.4%	508	58.0%
	West Kittanning	1,199	529	44.1%	529	100.0%	385	72.8%
	Worthington	778	362	46.5%	359	99.2%	221	61.0%
Total	16,247	7,190	44.3%	7,137	99.3%	4,024	56.0%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 5.8 Workers 16 Years and Over and Place of Work - 1990-2000 % Change

		population	total workers	% of population	worked in state of residence	% of workers	worked in county of residence	% of workers
	Pennsylvania	3.4%	3.9%	0.2%	3.6%	-0.3%	0.4%	-2.5%
	Armstrong County	-1.5%	6.0%	2.9%	6.0%	-0.1%	-22.4%	-16.4%
Central Planning District	Ford City	1.1%	6.0%	1.7%	6.5%	0.5%	6.7%	0.5%
	Ford Cliff	-7.0%	-0.5%	2.9%	-0.5%	0.0%	-11.7%	-8.9%
	Kittanning Boro	-4.5%	10.6%	5.1%	9.4%	-1.1%	0.1%	-7.9%
	Manor	-6.0%	-7.5%	-0.7%	-7.4%	0.1%	-20.1%	-11.3%
	Manorville	-5.6%	17.0%	9.6%	16.4%	-0.5%	15.1%	-1.3%
	Rayburn	-0.7%	6.0%	2.4%	6.2%	0.2%	2.7%	-2.4%
	Total	-3.4%	3.0%	2.4%	2.8%	-0.1%	-5.0%	-6.3%
East Planning District	Atwood	-7.4%	-20.0%	-5.6%	-24.0%	-5.0%	-39.1%	-11.0%
	Cowanshannock	6.9%	13.7%	2.3%	13.3%	-0.4%	-9.3%	-15.4%
	Elderton	-4.0%	1.3%	2.2%	1.3%	0.0%	-30.2%	-19.9%
	Kittanning Twp	2.1%	17.4%	5.6%	18.9%	1.3%	12.4%	-3.1%
	Plumcreek	-4.0%	-2.2%	0.8%	-2.7%	-0.5%	-2.1%	0.0%
	Rural Valley	-4.4%	-7.4%	-1.3%	-6.2%	1.3%	-13.1%	-4.6%
	South Bend	-3.3%	1.5%	2.1%	1.5%	0.0%	-4.5%	-2.2%
Valley	-4.4%	5.1%	4.3%	5.1%	0.0%	-5.0%	-7.4%	
Total	0.1%	6.0%	2.3%	6.1%	0.1%	-3.7%	-5.7%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	-0.2%	14.9%	5.6%	14.7%	-0.2%	1.4%	-9.0%
	Dayton	-6.5%	12.9%	7.2%	12.5%	-0.4%	-5.0%	-12.6%
	Madison	0.4%	10.5%	3.6%	10.5%	0.0%	10.4%	-0.1%
	Mahoning	-0.1%	16.8%	6.1%	16.7%	-0.1%	5.8%	-3.3%
	Pine	-6.9%	0.5%	2.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	0.1%
	Redbank	22.5%	17.6%	-1.5%	16.6%	-0.9%	50.0%	5.3%
	South Bethlehem	-5.5%	12.1%	6.9%	12.2%	0.1%	200.0%	12.5%
Wayne	19.2%	28.3%	2.9%	30.5%	1.6%	20.5%	-4.3%	
Total	4.5%	15.6%	3.9%	15.6%	0.0%	11.0%	-2.0%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	-0.9%	29.8%	10.4%	29.8%	0.0%	33.8%	0.8%
	Hovey	-10.6%	-10.0%	0.2%	-10.0%	0.0%	-100.0%	-32.5%
	Parker	-6.3%	14.2%	6.7%	13.2%	-0.9%	-14.8%	-8.5%
	Perry	21.7%	17.3%	-1.2%	24.0%	5.5%	-46.2%	-19.2%
	Sugarcreek	4.1%	8.6%	1.5%	7.5%	-1.1%	-14.7%	-11.7%
	Washington	4.6%	23.0%	5.4%	23.8%	0.7%	23.6%	0.4%
Total	2.2%	16.8%	4.7%	16.9%	0.0%	-0.5%	-7.0%	
South Planning District	Apollo	-7.2%	32.1%	13.0%	32.1%	0.0%	6.1%	-10.9%
	Bethel	2.3%	2.6%	0.1%	2.0%	-0.5%	-9.3%	-7.8%
	Burrell	1.8%	17.9%	5.9%	17.3%	-0.5%	20.9%	1.4%
	Gilpin	-7.4%	4.2%	4.7%	4.8%	0.6%	10.7%	2.9%
	Kiskiminetas	-9.3%	-4.0%	2.3%	-3.6%	0.4%	-27.4%	-12.4%
	Leechburg	-2.7%	8.3%	4.1%	7.1%	-1.1%	-28.1%	-16.3%
	North Apollo	2.5%	13.6%	3.9%	13.7%	0.1%	-16.6%	-12.5%
Parks	-1.5%	3.6%	2.0%	3.2%	-0.4%	-6.2%	-4.1%	
Total	-4.7%	5.5%	4.0%	5.4%	0.0%	-11.8%	-8.3%	
West Planning District	Applewold	-9.4%	-0.6%	3.9%	0.6%	1.3%	-20.9%	-17.2%
	Cadogan	-9.7%	-16.3%	-2.7%	-18.8%	-3.0%	-24.6%	-7.6%
	East Franklin	-2.5%	-8.2%	-2.7%	-8.4%	-0.1%	-5.1%	2.5%
	Freeport	-1.1%	12.8%	5.4%	11.9%	-0.8%	-8.3%	-5.1%
	North Buffalo	1.6%	8.1%	2.7%	8.2%	0.1%	-12.0%	-14.1%
	South Buffalo	3.8%	9.2%	2.2%	8.4%	-0.7%	15.8%	1.9%
	West Franklin	-3.3%	1.4%	2.1%	1.5%	0.1%	-11.3%	-8.3%
	West Kittanning	-3.9%	6.0%	4.1%	8.0%	1.8%	2.7%	-2.4%
Worthington	7.9%	18.3%	4.1%	17.3%	-0.8%	-1.8%	-12.5%	
Total	-0.7%	3.2%	1.7%	3.1%	-0.2%	-6.0%	-5.5%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

H. Educational Attainment

The Census Bureau tracks the level of educational attainment for persons over the age of 25. In 2000, 51.1% of the county's residents over 25 had a high school diploma, 5.7% had an associate's degree, 7.1% had a bachelor's degree, and 3.3% had a graduate or professional degree. All of these rates increased from 1990, where the rates were 48.1%, 4.3%, 5.3%, and 2.8%, respectively. These percentages contrast with the statewide average, where 38.1% of residents over 25 had high school diplomas in 2000, 5.9% had associate's degrees, 14.0% had bachelor's degrees, and 8.4% had graduate or professional degrees. The rate for both bachelor's and graduate/professional degrees in the county was less than half of the statewide average in both 1990 and 2000.

Planning districts:

In 2000, percentages of residents with high school diplomas was relatively constant in all planning districts, ranging from a low of 49.0% in the West District to a high of 54.1% in the East District. The district with the highest percentage of residents with bachelor's or graduate/professional degrees was the West District, with 9.3% and 4.7%, respectively. Rates for those degrees varied considerably within each district.

- **Central:**

In 2000, residents with bachelor's degrees and graduate/professional degrees were highest in Manorville (12.7% and 7.1%), while Rayburn had the lowest rates (5.4% and 2.1%). Manorville also posted the highest gain between 1990 and 2000 of residents with a bachelor's degree (up 7.8%), and Ford Cliff had the highest rise in residents with graduate/professional degrees (up 4.5%). Kittanning Borough was the only municipality that remained constant in each category.

- **Eastern:**

In 2000, Elderton had the highest rate of residents with a bachelor's degree (9.2%), and Rural Valley had the highest rate of residents with graduate/professional degrees (4.6%). Atwood had the lowest percentages (1.5% and 0.0%, respectively). The largest bachelor's degree gain between 1990 and 2000 was in South Bend (up 3.4%), while the largest loss occurred in Rural Valley (down 2.8%). The largest graduate/professional degree gain was in Kittanning Township (up 2.1%), while the largest loss occurred in Plumcreek (down 1.9%).

- **Northeastern:**

In 2000, South Bethlehem's 9.3% bachelor's degree rate and Dayton's 6.4% graduate degree rate were the highest in this district. Pine's 3.0% bachelor's degree rate and 0.0% graduate/professional degree rate were the lowest. Madison posted the largest gains in bachelor's degree rate, while South Bethlehem posted the largest gain in graduate/professional degree rate between 1990 and 2000. Dayton had a 0.5% drop in bachelor's degrees,

while Boggs had a 1.5% drop in graduate/ professional degrees during the same time period.

- Northwest:

In 2000, Sugarcreek had the highest bachelor's degree rate (6.7%), and Parker had the highest graduate/professional degree rate (2.8%). Hovey had the lowest rates in both categories (3.4% and 0.0%, respectively). Although Hovey's bachelor's degree rate was lowest in 2000, it rose 3.4% between 1990 and 2000, the highest in the region, while Brady's Bend had the highest graduate/professional degree rate increase (1.2%). Brady's Bend had the smallest gain in residents with bachelor's degrees, 1.5%, while Perry had a 0.1% decrease in residents with graduate/ professional degrees.

- South:

In 2000, Bethel's 8.5% bachelor's degree rate is the highest in this district, as is Leechburg's 5.0% graduate/professional degree rate. Kiskiminetas' 5.3% bachelor's degree rate is the lowest, while Apollo has the lowest graduate/professional degree rate (1.7%). Apollo's 5.8% increase in bachelor's degrees was the highest between 1990 and 2000, while Leechburg's 1.9% rise was the highest for graduate/professional degrees. Kiskiminetas' 0.3% drop in the bachelor's degree rate and Apollo's 1.3% drop in the graduate/professional degree rate are the largest in the region.

- West:

In 2000, Freeport has the highest bachelor's degree rate, at 11.0%. Applewold's 11.1% graduate/professional degree rate is the highest in this region and across the county. Lowest rates for both categories can be found in Cadogan (3.8% and 2.2%, respectively). Freeport had the largest gain in the bachelor's degree rate, 4.9%, and Applewold had the largest rise in the graduate/professional degree rate, 3.6%. Applewold (0.4%) and South Buffalo (0.9%) had the largest drops in bachelor's and graduate/professional degree rates, respectively.

Tables 5.9 - 5.11 outline educational attainment by county, planning district, and municipality in more detail.

5.9 Educational Attainment - 1990

		Less than 9th grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
	Pennsylvania	9.4%	15.9%	38.6%	12.9%	5.2%	11.3%	6.6%
	Armstrong County	13.5%	15.4%	48.1%	10.6%	4.3%	5.3%	2.8%
Central Planning District	Ford City	12.8%	16.7%	46.4%	14.0%	3.2%	4.6%	2.3%
	Ford Cliff	11.3%	19.1%	52.1%	7.4%	3.9%	4.9%	1.3%
	Kittanning Boro	17.9%	14.6%	42.0%	11.0%	4.8%	6.6%	3.1%
	Manor	9.4%	16.1%	48.1%	10.2%	5.0%	7.3%	4.0%
	Manorville	13.1%	14.4%	46.7%	9.8%	3.3%	4.9%	7.8%
	Rayburn	16.2%	20.4%	50.1%	5.9%	2.5%	3.7%	1.1%
	Total	13.7%	16.3%	46.1%	10.8%	4.2%	6.0%	3.0%
East Planning District	Atwood	18.3%	9.9%	57.7%	11.3%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%
	Cowanshannock	18.8%	15.4%	48.9%	8.4%	4.2%	3.6%	0.7%
	Elderton	13.1%	13.1%	45.5%	15.3%	2.6%	7.1%	3.4%
	Kittanning Twp	16.7%	14.9%	50.7%	9.7%	3.4%	3.5%	1.1%
	Plumcreek	18.7%	11.3%	49.6%	11.2%	1.7%	5.0%	2.6%
	Rural Valley	6.9%	15.7%	49.6%	11.2%	4.0%	8.8%	3.6%
	South Bend	12.5%	14.7%	55.5%	7.6%	4.1%	4.1%	1.5%
	Valley	9.4%	14.5%	51.1%	14.2%	2.9%	4.1%	3.9%
Total	15.8%	14.2%	50.3%	10.1%	3.3%	4.6%	1.8%	
Northeast Planning District	Boogs	18.6%	12.7%	46.7%	8.9%	6.7%	3.3%	3.0%
	Dayton	11.6%	10.8%	55.9%	6.7%	2.4%	5.4%	7.3%
	Madison	24.1%	21.0%	45.4%	5.4%	2.1%	1.1%	0.8%
	Mahoning	20.5%	19.7%	46.5%	5.3%	4.0%	2.8%	1.3%
	Pine	22.0%	18.5%	51.2%	5.5%	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%
	Redbank	15.4%	19.6%	49.6%	7.3%	2.7%	4.3%	1.0%
	South Bethlehem	9.6%	18.7%	48.2%	7.9%	5.0%	7.3%	3.2%
	Wayne	12.8%	12.7%	54.5%	11.2%	2.9%	4.5%	1.3%
Total	17.5%	17.1%	49.2%	7.2%	3.5%	3.5%	2.1%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	14.8%	19.3%	48.7%	8.2%	5.6%	2.6%	0.8%
	Hovey	9.7%	33.3%	47.2%	5.6%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Parker	9.2%	19.1%	49.5%	14.0%	2.1%	3.9%	2.1%
	Perry	17.3%	18.6%	46.0%	7.5%	5.3%	4.4%	0.9%
	Sugarcreek	11.2%	12.3%	58.6%	7.9%	3.0%	5.0%	2.0%
	Washington	21.2%	19.0%	45.2%	6.3%	4.7%	2.5%	1.1%
Total	14.1%	17.2%	51.1%	8.6%	3.9%	3.7%	1.5%	
South Planning District	Apollo	9.0%	24.9%	48.3%	8.2%	5.6%	1.0%	3.0%
	Bethel	11.2%	18.1%	45.3%	12.9%	5.5%	4.7%	2.3%
	Burrell	16.9%	18.4%	45.1%	9.6%	4.7%	4.0%	1.3%
	Gilpin	16.6%	19.3%	40.6%	10.4%	4.3%	4.6%	4.3%
	Kiskiminetas	12.1%	13.1%	52.1%	10.3%	4.5%	5.6%	2.4%
	Leechburg	18.5%	13.8%	43.0%	10.0%	3.6%	8.0%	3.1%
	North Apollo	8.2%	15.2%	49.9%	12.9%	5.1%	5.4%	3.2%
	Parks	11.6%	16.8%	49.7%	12.5%	4.2%	3.2%	2.0%
Total	13.1%	16.5%	47.4%	10.7%	4.5%	4.8%	2.8%	
West Planning District	Applewold	13.3%	10.8%	48.9%	7.6%	0.7%	11.2%	7.6%
	Cadogan	23.9%	17.7%	43.7%	7.8%	4.4%	1.4%	1.0%
	East Franklin	10.3%	14.8%	46.5%	9.8%	3.8%	9.7%	5.2%
	Freeport	11.9%	14.1%	44.7%	14.9%	5.5%	6.1%	2.7%
	North Buffalo	11.4%	14.2%	47.4%	15.3%	4.0%	6.2%	1.6%
	South Buffalo	6.6%	5.1%	53.2%	15.0%	10.0%	5.7%	4.5%
	West Franklin	9.7%	13.8%	51.8%	10.9%	5.9%	6.2%	1.8%
	West Kittanning	8.2%	13.4%	48.1%	12.2%	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%
	Worthington	15.9%	11.4%	48.0%	9.6%	6.4%	5.0%	3.6%
Total	10.5%	12.7%	48.3%	12.5%	5.5%	6.9%	3.7%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

5.10 Educational Attainment - 2000

		Less than 9th grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
	Pennsylvania	5.5%	12.6%	38.1%	15.5%	5.9%	14.0%	8.4%
	Armstrong County	7.2%	12.9%	51.1%	12.7%	5.7%	7.1%	3.3%
Central Planning District	Ford City	4.3%	12.4%	59.2%	11.8%	3.5%	6.0%	2.8%
	Ford Cliff	6.5%	13.1%	44.0%	10.7%	11.7%	8.2%	5.8%
	Kittanning Boro	8.6%	16.1%	47.9%	14.4%	3.2%	6.6%	3.1%
	Manor	5.7%	10.9%	49.0%	14.3%	5.4%	10.1%	4.5%
	Manorville	3.7%	5.2%	48.3%	12.4%	10.5%	12.7%	7.1%
	Rayburn	10.6%	16.8%	50.3%	10.5%	4.3%	5.4%	2.1%
	Total	6.8%	13.4%	51.0%	13.2%	4.5%	7.5%	3.5%
	East Planning District	Atwood	9.2%	3.1%	75.4%	10.8%	0.0%	1.5%
Cowanshannock		8.0%	15.6%	52.2%	9.0%	6.0%	6.8%	2.3%
Elderton		5.0%	7.9%	53.6%	16.7%	5.4%	9.2%	2.1%
Kittanning Twp		8.5%	7.6%	56.9%	13.2%	4.1%	6.5%	3.2%
Plumcreek		13.8%	10.8%	54.0%	11.2%	5.3%	4.2%	0.7%
Rural Valley		6.8%	11.8%	51.9%	15.6%	3.2%	6.1%	4.6%
South Bend		5.6%	10.8%	54.5%	11.6%	7.3%	7.5%	2.6%
Total		8.9%	11.2%	54.1%	11.9%	5.3%	6.2%	2.4%
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	8.6%	10.4%	60.0%	10.7%	3.6%	5.1%	1.6%
	Dayton	5.1%	9.2%	59.1%	8.4%	6.9%	4.9%	6.4%
	Madison	13.2%	17.9%	52.7%	7.1%	2.8%	4.4%	2.0%
	Mahoning	12.2%	15.8%	52.4%	8.1%	3.7%	5.2%	2.6%
	Pine	6.6%	12.7%	66.9%	7.8%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%
	Redbank	10.7%	21.8%	49.0%	10.9%	2.2%	4.0%	1.5%
	South Bethlehem	8.3%	16.9%	43.7%	12.9%	4.3%	9.3%	4.6%
	Total	11.6%	13.9%	51.7%	8.8%	5.0%	7.2%	1.7%
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	6.6%	15.5%	53.4%	11.2%	7.2%	4.2%	2.0%
	Hovey	0.0%	10.3%	74.1%	3.4%	8.6%	3.4%	0.0%
	Parker	3.0%	14.0%	58.1%	12.8%	3.0%	6.3%	2.8%
	Perry	6.7%	13.4%	54.3%	14.1%	4.5%	6.3%	0.7%
	Sugarcreek	11.4%	11.8%	51.6%	12.5%	3.7%	6.7%	2.4%
	Washington	8.9%	19.3%	47.8%	11.0%	5.9%	5.0%	2.0%
	Total	8.0%	14.6%	52.8%	11.9%	4.9%	5.7%	2.1%
	South Planning District	Apollo	5.6%	20.8%	49.5%	10.6%	5.0%	6.8%
Bethel		5.4%	14.5%	44.7%	14.6%	8.2%	8.5%	4.1%
Burrell		6.7%	11.2%	54.6%	10.4%	8.6%	5.9%	2.6%
Gilpin		8.0%	10.8%	47.2%	15.8%	7.8%	6.5%	3.8%
Kiskiminetas		6.7%	13.0%	54.0%	13.3%	4.7%	5.3%	3.1%
Leechburg		6.8%	10.6%	44.9%	14.3%	10.0%	8.4%	5.0%
North Apollo		3.9%	13.8%	51.0%	15.5%	7.1%	5.7%	3.0%
Total		8.7%	12.2%	48.6%	14.9%	7.4%	6.4%	1.8%
West Planning District	Applewold	4.6%	27.2%	29.5%	11.9%	5.0%	10.7%	11.1%
	Cadogan	16.3%	15.1%	51.3%	7.1%	4.2%	3.8%	2.2%
	East Franklin	4.5%	16.7%	46.4%	9.6%	6.3%	10.4%	6.1%
	Freeport	7.0%	10.1%	43.8%	17.3%	7.5%	11.0%	3.4%
	North Buffalo	5.0%	8.8%	49.3%	15.1%	7.0%	9.7%	4.9%
	South Buffalo	2.8%	5.6%	53.1%	15.0%	10.5%	9.4%	3.6%
	West Franklin	5.4%	11.2%	54.7%	12.4%	5.4%	7.7%	3.2%
	Total	3.7%	10.3%	49.9%	16.6%	5.7%	7.9%	5.8%
West Planning District	Worthington	8.1%	12.7%	53.6%	11.0%	5.0%	6.3%	3.3%
	Total	5.2%	11.5%	49.0%	13.3%	7.0%	9.3%	4.7%

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 5.11 Educational Attainment - 1990-2000 % Change

		Less than 9th grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
	Pennsylvania	-3.9%	-3.3%	-0.4%	2.6%	0.7%	2.6%	1.8%
	Armstrong County	-46.9%	-2.5%	2.9%	2.2%	1.4%	1.8%	0.6%
Central Planning District	Ford City	-8.5%	-4.3%	12.8%	-2.2%	0.3%	1.4%	0.5%
	Ford Cliff	-4.8%	-6.0%	-8.1%	3.2%	7.8%	3.4%	4.5%
	Kittanning Boro	-9.3%	1.5%	6.0%	3.5%	-1.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	Manor	-3.6%	-5.2%	0.9%	4.1%	0.5%	2.8%	0.6%
	Manorville	-9.3%	-9.1%	1.6%	2.6%	7.2%	7.8%	-0.7%
	Rayburn	-5.6%	-3.6%	0.2%	4.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.0%
	Total	-6.9%	-2.8%	5.0%	2.4%	0.3%	1.6%	0.5%
East Planning District	Atwood	-9.1%	-6.8%	17.6%	-0.5%	0.0%	-1.3%	0.0%
	Cowanshannock	-10.8%	0.2%	3.3%	0.6%	1.8%	3.2%	1.7%
	Elderton	-8.0%	-5.1%	8.0%	1.4%	2.8%	2.1%	-1.3%
	Kittanning Twp	-8.2%	-7.3%	6.2%	3.5%	0.7%	3.0%	2.1%
	Plumcreek	-4.9%	-0.4%	4.4%	0.0%	3.6%	-0.8%	-1.9%
	Rural Valley	-0.1%	-3.9%	2.3%	4.4%	-0.9%	-2.8%	1.0%
	South Bend	-6.9%	-3.9%	-1.1%	4.0%	3.3%	3.4%	1.1%
	Valley	-1.4%	-5.8%	1.6%	0.6%	3.2%	1.8%	0.0%
Total	-6.8%	-2.9%	3.8%	1.8%	2.0%	1.6%	0.6%	
Northeast Planning District	Boggs	-10.0%	-2.3%	13.3%	1.8%	-3.1%	1.8%	-1.5%
	Dayton	-6.4%	-1.5%	3.2%	1.7%	4.5%	-0.5%	-0.9%
	Madison	-11.0%	-3.2%	7.3%	1.7%	0.7%	3.2%	1.2%
	Mahoning	-8.3%	-3.8%	6.0%	2.8%	-0.3%	2.4%	1.3%
	Pine	-15.3%	-5.8%	15.7%	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	-1.4%
	Redbank	-4.8%	2.2%	-0.6%	3.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%	0.5%
	South Bethlehem	-1.4%	-1.8%	-4.5%	5.0%	-0.7%	2.0%	1.4%
	Wayne	-1.2%	1.3%	-2.9%	-2.4%	2.0%	2.7%	0.4%
Total	-7.2%	-1.5%	4.5%	2.0%	0.3%	1.7%	0.3%	
Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend	-8.2%	-3.8%	4.7%	3.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.2%
	Hovey	-9.7%	-23.0%	26.9%	-2.1%	4.5%	3.4%	0.0%
	Parker	-6.2%	-5.1%	8.6%	-1.2%	0.8%	2.4%	0.6%
	Perry	-10.6%	-5.2%	8.3%	6.6%	-0.8%	1.9%	-0.1%
	Sugarcreek	0.2%	-0.6%	-7.0%	4.6%	0.7%	1.7%	0.4%
	Washington	-12.2%	0.4%	2.7%	4.6%	1.2%	2.5%	0.9%
Total	-6.0%	-2.6%	1.6%	3.4%	1.0%	2.0%	0.7%	
South Planning District	Apollo	-3.4%	-4.1%	1.2%	2.4%	-0.5%	5.8%	-1.3%
	Bethel	-5.8%	-3.6%	-0.6%	1.8%	2.7%	3.8%	1.7%
	Burrell	-10.2%	-7.2%	9.5%	0.9%	4.0%	1.9%	1.2%
	Gilpin	-8.6%	-8.5%	6.7%	5.5%	3.5%	1.9%	-0.5%
	Kiskiminetas	-5.5%	-0.1%	1.9%	3.0%	0.2%	-0.3%	0.7%
	Leechburg	-11.7%	-3.2%	1.9%	4.3%	6.4%	0.3%	1.9%
	North Apollo	-4.3%	-1.4%	1.1%	2.7%	2.0%	0.2%	-0.2%
	Parks	-2.9%	-4.6%	-1.1%	2.4%	3.3%	3.1%	-0.2%
Total	-6.3%	-3.5%	2.2%	3.3%	2.4%	1.6%	0.3%	
West Planning District	Applewold	-8.7%	16.4%	-19.4%	4.3%	4.3%	-0.4%	3.6%
	Cadogan	-7.5%	-2.7%	7.6%	-0.8%	-0.3%	2.5%	1.2%
	East Franklin	-5.7%	1.9%	-0.1%	-0.2%	2.5%	0.8%	1.0%
	Freeport	-5.0%	-4.0%	-0.9%	2.4%	2.0%	4.9%	0.7%
	North Buffalo	-6.3%	-5.3%	1.9%	-0.2%	3.1%	3.5%	3.3%
	South Buffalo	-3.8%	0.6%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	3.7%	-0.9%
	West Franklin	-4.2%	-2.7%	2.9%	1.5%	-0.5%	1.5%	1.4%
	West Kittanning	-4.5%	-3.1%	1.9%	4.4%	-0.1%	1.8%	-0.4%
	Worthington	-7.8%	1.3%	5.6%	1.4%	-1.5%	1.2%	-0.3%
Total	-5.4%	-1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	1.5%	2.4%	1.0%	

source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

* - these percentages cannot be calculated because the 1990 figure was zero.

I. Population Projections

The technique used to project the population of Armstrong County into the future was based upon a combination of 2 conventional methods used for projecting populations. They are called the Cohort-Component Estimate Method and the Economic Base Estimate Method.

The Cohort-Component Estimate takes birth, death and in-migration rates into account, and projects the population out to a certain time period (Year 2010 in this case).

The Economic Base Estimate projects the number of new residents between a certain time period (between Years 2000 – 2010 in this case) by using economic factors such as the job growth rate and household size. This combination of methods assumes that both previous estimates are limited in scope, and birth/death/migration factors and economic trends should be combined. To find the total projected population for the year 2010, the number of new residents computed in the Economic Base Estimate is simply added to the population estimate determined in the Cohort-Component Estimate.

The following chart shows that, for Armstrong County as a whole, the estimated 2010 population is 75,617 (a net increase of 3,225 persons or +4.5% from the 2000 figure of 72,392).

Population Projection for the Year 2010

	Cohort-Component Estimate Persons (2000 - 2010)	Economic Base Estimate New Residents (2000 - 2010)	Projected Population Total Persons (Year 2010)
Armstrong County	72,219	3,398	75,617
Central	14,980	628	15,608
East	11,112	537	11,649
Northeast	7,702	343	8,045
Northwest	5,026	215	5,241
South	17,276	842	18,118
West	16,148	800	16,948

In addition, it is projected that the South District will gain more residents than the West District by the year 2010. According to the 2000 U.S. Census count, the West District has the highest number of residents, and the South District has the second highest number of residents.

The following table shows the percent change in population between the years of 2000 and 2010, given the population projection estimate method that was used.

	2000 Actual Population	2010 Estimated Population	Percent Change
Armstrong County	72,392	75,617	4.5%
Central	15,093	15,608	3.4%
East	11,001	11,649	5.9%
Northeast	7,323	8,045	9.9%
Northwest	4,821	5,241	8.7%
South	17,907	18,118	1.2%
West	16,247	16,948	4.3%

Between 1990 and 2000, the regions to see the greatest loss of residents were the South and Central Districts. Given the population projections, the South and Central Districts will see the slowest increase in population growth, when compared to the other regions.

NOTE:

For the full description of methods used and all tables, please consult the Appendix.

J. Trends

- The overall population in Armstrong County decreased by -5.5% between 1980 and 1990, and by -1.5% between 1990 and 2000.
- Fifteen municipalities gained population between 1980 and 2000, while the county lost population during the same time period.
- The East District lost the least population between 1980 and 2000, while the South District had the greatest population loss during the same time period.
- Although the population of Armstrong County declined over the past 20 years, the number of households increased by +2.9% between 1980 and 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the “baby boom” generation increased slightly, elderly population increased steadily, and the population of persons under age 30 decreased.
- Median household income increased by +6.4% between 1980 and 2000, from \$15,474 to \$31,557.
- The decrease in poverty level between 1990 and 2000 for Armstrong County was greater (-1.2%) than within the state (-0.1%) for the same time period.
- The percentage of residents with a high school diploma, associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, and graduate/professional degree increased by 2.9%, 1.4%, 1.8%, and 0.6%, respectively.

- The percentage of Armstrong County workers who work in Armstrong County decreased sharply between 1990 and 2000 – from 61.1% to 44.7%. During this time period, all six county planning districts experienced a decrease in the percentage of residents who worked within Armstrong County.

K. Conclusions

Although Armstrong County's population has steadily decreased since 1980, it has been decreasing at a slower rate since the 1990's. Population projections suggest that this trend will reverse by the year 2010, and there will, in turn, be an overall 4.5% increase in residents.

6. HOUSING

A. Profile

i. Types of Information Used

The following data sources were analyzed to prepare the Housing Profile:

1. US Census Bureau (1990 – 2000)^{1,2,3}

Housing, demographic, and economic data were employed from both the 1990 and 2000 Census.

2. West Penn Multi List Service (MLS)

The MLS is a 14-county database of available homes for purchase by prospective homebuyers. Homes in Armstrong County are included in the list; however, because it is a voluntary measure, some smaller realty companies located in the more rural sections of the county are not yet participating.

3. Public Input from regional meetings held Fall 2002 and Spring 2003

The county was divided into six planning districts. Public input was solicited from county residents through two series of regional meetings. Six regional meetings were held in the fall of 2002 and six regional meetings were held in the spring of 2003.

4. Key Stakeholder Phone Interviews

Over 50 phone interviews were held with key stakeholders in the county who practice or volunteer in the fields of education, natural resource protection, historic preservation, transportation, social services, and business and industry.

5. Housing Practitioner Interviews

Interviews were conducted with various housing practitioners and developers of housing to gather insight on housing needs, and the current and future housing market.

6. CAMPOS Phone Survey Results

A random sample selected 600 county residents to provide insight via a phone survey on perceived needs in housing, transportation, public utilities, education, recreation, land use, and economic development.

7.

Standard Statistical Tests

This section employed two methods of statistical analysis. The results are utilized as descriptive statistics. They provide insight into possible relationships and unexpected concentrations of certain situations described in this section. However, inferences and conclusions are made based on the other sources of information provided in this section along with insights provided by these statistics. In other words, the statistics alone do not provide all of the evidence to support or reject the conclusions of this section.

The first test computed the Z-Score. The Z-Score, in this case, determines if one municipality in the county is significantly different from what would be expected of a typical municipality in Armstrong County. In this case, it is used to highlight certain communities that stand out in terms of the incidence of certain factors. Those that stand out are highlighted if they fall within a certain level of significance. For example, a 5% confidence level indicates that a municipality which is significantly different does not fall within the range in which we would expect 95% of the county's municipalities to fall. The Z-Score test performed was a "two tailed" test. This means that both municipalities with significantly high and low numbers are highlighted. All Z-Score test results can be found in the Appendix, Tables 3.35 – 3.41.

The second test computed the Correlation Coefficient. The correlation coefficient is a number between -1.0 and 1.0 that measures the degree that two variables or sets of numbers coincide with one another. A number closer to -1.0 or 1.0 shows a stronger correlation while a number closer to zero demonstrates less correlation. While the coefficient does not necessarily indicate a direct relationship between two items, other forms of input are utilized to draw conclusions about possible causes and effects. All Correlation Coefficient computations can be found in the Appendix, Tables 3.42 – 3.46.

ii. Number of Housing Units

Between 1980 and 2000, the number of housing units in Armstrong County rose 4.3% –from 31,040 to 32,387 – and the number of housing units in Pennsylvania increased 14.2%.

Table 6.1 below indicates changes in the number of housing units between 1980 and 2000 for the state, county and planning districts.

Table 6.1
Changes in the Number of Housing Units, 1980 – 2000

	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990 % change	1990-2000 % change	1980-2000 % change
Pennsylvania	4,596,431	4,938,140	5,249,750	7.4	6.3	14.2
Armstrong County	31,040	31,757	32,387	2.3	2.0	4.3
Central District	*	7,088	6,948	*	-2.0	*
East District	*	4,159	4,499	*	8.2	*
Northeast District	*	3,297	3,438	*	4.3	*
Northwest District	*	2,460	2,563	*	5.3	*
South District	*	8,214	8,052	*	-2.0	*
West District	*	6,539	6,887	*	5.3	*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

* Data not available

Table 3.15 in the Appendix contains a detailed breakdown on the number of housing units in the county by planning district and municipality.

iii. Public Input

The countywide telephone survey conducted in March 2003 provided the following information concerning housing needs:

1. Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that their current housing needs are being met, with residents of the West District being more likely to be satisfied with their housing than residents of the Northwest, Northeast, and South Districts.
2. Most respondents perceived that several types of housing were not readily available in their area of Armstrong County. About four in ten felt that single-family housing (44.7%) and housing for the elderly (43.2%) were readily available. However, only 30.0% indicated the availability of affordable rental properties, and only 10.4% indicated adequate availability of townhouses.
 - Central District residents were more likely than residents of the Northeast and South Districts to perceive housing for the elderly as being available.
 - Central District residents (49.1%) were most likely, and Northeast District residents (36.0%) were least likely, to rate single-family housing as available.
3. Of the survey respondents who indicated that they had unmet housing needs, 25.9% cited lack of affordable family housing.

Interviews with Armstrong County housing practitioners and providers, private sector developers, non-profit organizations, the Armstrong County Housing Authority, and private Realtors yielded the following additional

housing-related information, which was based on personal opinion and insight:

1. There can be improvements made in communication and collaboration amongst housing practitioners.
2. There is little or no demand for new housing sales.
3. There is some residential building activity, but it is minimal.
4. Some demand is being generated by people migrating from Allegheny and Westmoreland County in search of lower property taxes.
5. There is some demand for second homes.
6. There is a link between economic development and housing; prospective employers need to offer new housing to their employees.
7. If any, the demand for new housing sales would be for homes in the \$150,000 and lower range.
8. There may be a demand for homes in the \$150,000 to \$300,000 range at Northpointe if this development creates upper-income jobs.
9. Efforts should be undertaken to expand homeownership.
10. A smaller-scale publicly-funded homeownership project would be appropriate for Armstrong County.
11. County Commissioners would probably support a public homeownership project.
12. Achievable rents in this market are too low for developers to justify the construction of new market rent apartments; any new development will have to be subsidized
13. There is no need for luxury apartments
14. There is a need for additional affordable elderly units (especially non-high rise apartments)
15. There is also a need for affordable family units
16. There is a need for affordable special needs units
17. There is one shelter for victims of domestic violence located in Kittanning (HAVIN); there is no other homeless shelter in the county
18. The unmet housing needs in Armstrong County are:
 - Need an affordable homeownership program, including first-time homebuyers
 - Need affordable elderly rental housing with supportive services
 - Need homeowner rehabilitation program, including emergency repairs
 - Need property tax relief program for seniors

- Need affordable rental units for low-income residents
19. The highest priority housing projects should be:
- Projects that make homeownership affordable
 - New construction in the southern portion of the county
 - Supportive housing for the elderly
 - Emergency home repair program

iv. Type and Size of Housing

Single-family units are the predominant housing type in Armstrong County, comprising 76.8% of the county’s housing units in 1990 and 77.5% in 2000. The county’s single-family housing rate is higher than the statewide average - 72.0% in 1990 and 73.8% in 2000. Conversely, the county’s multi-family rate was 9.6% in 1990 and 9.7% in 2000, while the state rate was 21.7% in 1990 and 21.2% in 2000. Mobile home rates also differ between the county and the State. The county’s rate remained fairly constant – 12.3% in 1990 and 12.2% in 2000. In contrast, the state’s mobile home rate was only 5.1% in 1990 and 4.9% in 2000 – less than half the mobile home rate in the county.

Planning Districts:

Within the county’s six planning districts, single-family housing rates in 2000 range from 67.4% of total housing units in the Northwest District to 81.9% in the West District. Multi-family unit rates are more varied, ranging from 2.6% in the Northeast District to 20.5% in the Central District for the same year. A similar variation occurs for mobile home rates, as the Central District has the lowest rate (6.0%) while the Northwestern District has the highest (27.5%) for the same year.

Table 6.2 below indicates housing unit type in 1990 and 2000 for the State, County and planning districts.

**Table 6.2
Housing Types as Percentage of Total Units, 1990 and 2000**

	1990			2000		
	Single-family	Multi-family	Mobile Home	Single-family	Multi-family	Mobile Home
Pennsylvania	72.0%	21.7%	5.1%	73.8%	21.2%	4.9%
Armstrong County	76.8%	9.6%	12.3%	77.5%	9.7%	12.2%
Central District	73.1%	20.3%	5.7%	73.6%	20.5%	6.0%
East District	78.8%	2.5%	17.0%	76.2%	3.9%	19.3%
Northeast District	81.6%	3.0%	14.8%	80.0%	2.6%	14.0%
Northwest District	69.9%	3.3%	25.4%	67.4%	3.1%	27.5%
South District	76.8%	9.2%	12.1%	79.9%	9.1%	10.7%
West District	79.5%	8.6%	10.4%	81.9%	9.1%	8.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

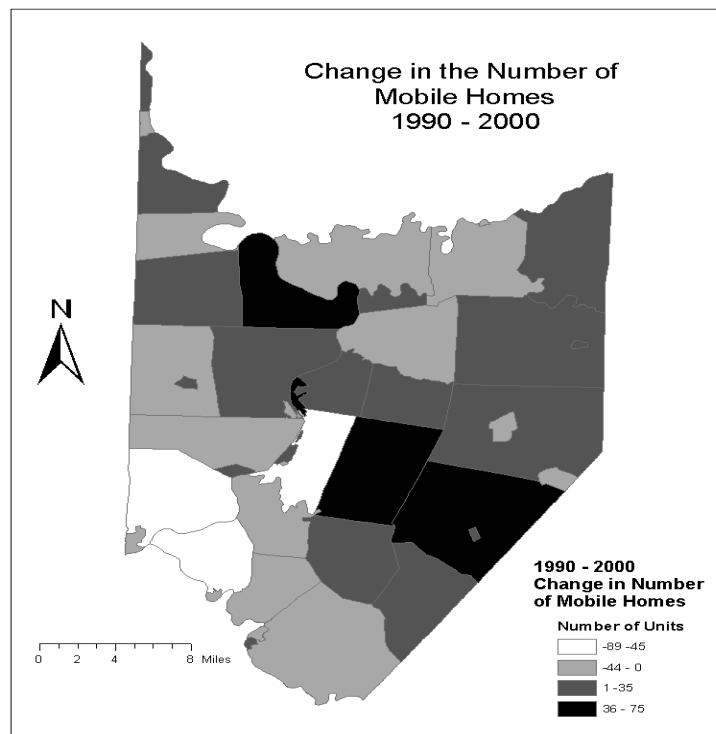
Tables 3.16 - 3.18 in the Appendix contain detailed housing unit type data for the County, planning districts, and municipalities for 1990 and 2000.

a. Mobile Homes

As previously mentioned, the incidence of mobile homes makes up 12.3% of all housing units in the County in 2000. In several municipalities such as Kittanning Borough (+350%), Kittanning Township (+53%), Perry Township (+38%), Apollo Borough (+67%) and Burrell Township (+103%), the increase in mobile homes between 1990 and 2000 was noteworthy. Yet public input provided opinions both in favor and against mobile homes. In some instances, residents suggested that mobile homes were not an asset to the county in terms of aesthetics, while other residents suggested that mobile homes were more feasible in portions of the county where public water and sewer infrastructure does not exist.

Standard statistical tests were used to determine if the occurrence of mobile homes in individual municipalities was significantly more or less than the occurrence of mobile homes in the County as a whole. At a 95% confidence level, only Hovey Township and Washington Township had significantly higher occurrences of mobile homes than the County as a whole. See Table 3.35 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Figure 6.1
Change in the Number of Mobile Homes Between 1990 - 2000



b. Single-Family to Multi-Family Conversions

At the regional meetings, many residents expressed concern about the conversion of single-family homes to multi-family units. This was especially the case in the boroughs or more densely populated areas. When contrasting the number of single-family units between 1990 and 2000 in both the

boroughs and townships, independently, it was noted that single-family homes indeed decreased by 106 units in the boroughs, but this was only a 1.4% decrease. On the other hand, single-family units increased by 820, or +4.9%, in the townships during the same time period. Therefore, new housing is primarily constructed in the townships and is primarily single-family, while the boroughs are primarily experiencing either conversion of their single-family homes to multi-family units, or demolition of single-family homes. See Tables 3.17a and 3.17b in the Appendix for the full results.

c. Second Homes

Additional public input from the regional workshops indicated that many residents perceived that upscale second homes and/or retirement homes were being purchased in the Northeast District of the county by relocating retirees from outside of the county. A decrease in the average household size in the Northeast District went from 2.63 persons/household to 2.55 persons/household between 1990 and 2000. This supports the assumption that retirees are moving in. However, a statistical test showing the association between the percent change in household size between 1990 and 2000, and the percentage of homeowners who moved into the housing unit between 1995 and March 2000 indicated that there is an insignificant correlation (correlation coefficient = -0.02) between the two variables for the county as a whole. However, when examining the relationship between the same variables in only the Northeast District of the county, there is a stronger correlation. This may indicate that fewer children and more retirees comprise many of the new households in the Northeast District (correlation coefficient = 0.33). See Tables 3.42 and 3.43 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Given a 95% confidence level, standard statistical tests were used to determine the incidence of persons in each municipality who lived in a different county in 1995. Results revealed that Perry Township, Redbank Township, and South Bethlehem Borough had significantly higher incidences of persons who lived in a different county in 1995 than the county as a whole. See Table 3.41 in the Appendix for full statistical test results.

The actual percentages of individuals living outside of the county in 1995 show that the Northwest and Northeast Districts, in which the above municipalities are located, show the highest percentage increase of new county residents. The Southern District also experienced a similar increase.

v. Occupancy Status

Armstrong County's occupancy and vacancy rates are on par with the statewide average. In 2000, 89.6% of the county's housing units were occupied, slightly lower than the state rate of 91.0%. Conversely, the vacancy rate in the county was 10.4%, slightly higher than the state's 9.0% rate. These figures have remained relatively constant since 1990. However,

seasonal vacancies make up a much larger percentage of vacant units in Armstrong County than they do in the state overall. In the county, 45.2% of vacant units are categorized as seasonal or recreational; however, seasonal or recreational units make up only 32.7% of the state's vacant units.

Planning districts:

In 2000, the highest occupancy rates occur in the Central, East, South, and West Districts (all over 90.0%). Lower occupancy rates occur in the Northeast (80.9%) and Northwest (70.4%) Districts, but seasonal/recreational units account for 65.8% of Northeast District vacancies and 82.7% of Northwest District vacancies. Even in the districts where vacancies are low, seasonal and recreational uses dominate the reasons for vacancy.

Compiling the vacancy information into two types of vacancy, seasonal and year-round, also allows for comparisons between districts or municipalities by type. Armstrong County had a 4.7% seasonal unit vacancy rate (as a percentage of the total housing units in the county) and a 5.7% year-round unit vacancy rate.

The topmost eight municipalities with the highest seasonal vacancy rates include:

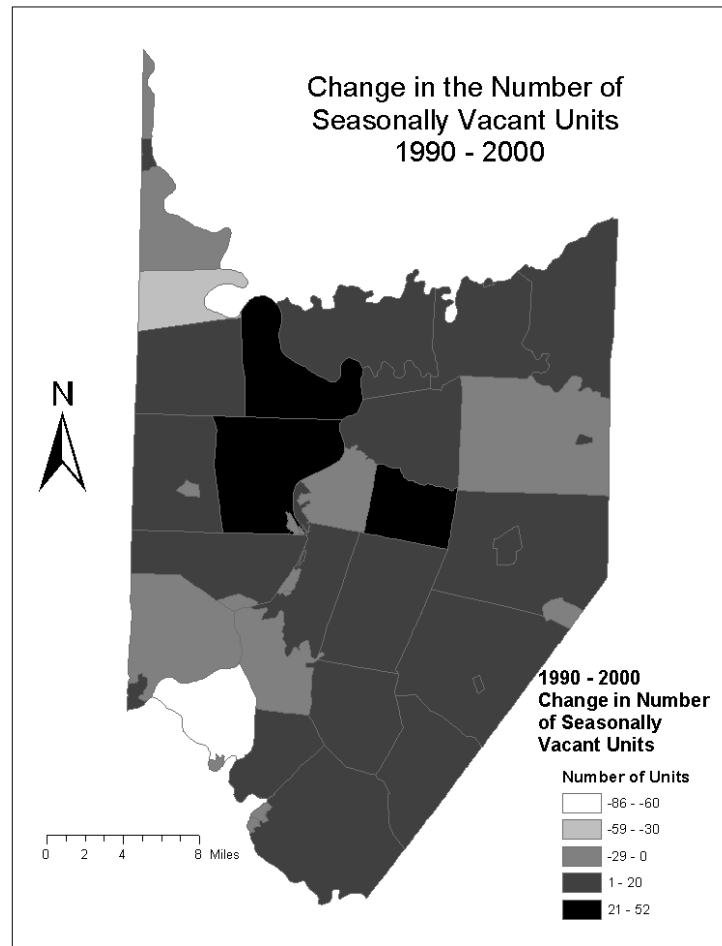
Table 6.3 Municipalities with the highest seasonal vacancy rate

	Seasonal Vacancy Rate	Mobile Home Units
Hovey Township (NW)	54.1%	42.7%
Perry Township (NW)	48.4%	28.2%
Washington Township (NW)	36.8%	34.0%
Brady's Bend Township (NW)	33.1%	32.6%
Madison Township (NE)	28.5%	----
Bethel Township (S)	21.4%	----
Boggs Township (NE)	19.5%	----
Pine Township (NE)	14.0%	----

It should be noted that four of these municipalities with the highest seasonal vacancy rates are located in the Northwest District, and three of the municipalities are located in the Northeast District. In addition, the highest incidence of mobile homes occurs concurrently in the Northwest District, leading to the assumption that mobile homes in these municipalities are used only seasonally. Other high incidences of mobile homes are found in the municipalities of Kittanning Township (23.3% of all units), Plumcreek Township (26.6% of all units), South Bend Township (24.9% of all units), and Kiskiminetas Township (22.2% of all units).

A correlation coefficient test was conducted which measured the degree in which two variables, seasonal vacancies and incidence of mobile homes in this example, were related. In 1990, the results yielded a moderate correlation (0.57) between the variables, and in 2000, there was a slightly stronger correlation (0.63). The use of this statistic is one way of backing the assumption that mobile homes are being used as seasonal camps or second homes throughout the county. Tables 3.44 and 3.45 in the Appendix show the full statistical test results of the correlation coefficient tests.

Figure 6.2
Change in the Number of Seasonal Vacant Units Between 1990 - 2000



Of the topmost eight municipalities with the highest year-round vacancy rates, four are located in the northeast planning district and include:

Table 6.4 Municipalities with the highest year-round vacancy rate

	Year-round Vacancy Rate
Atwood Borough (E)	16.3%
Hovey Township (NW)	13.5%
Pine Township (NE)	13.3%
Applewold Borough (W)	11.3%
Kittanning Borough (C)	10.7%
Mahoning Township (NE)	10.0%
Dayton Borough (NE)	9.3%
Wayne Township (NE)	9.0%

Standard statistical tests based on a 95% confidence level were used to determine if the incidence of year-round vacant housing units in the municipalities of Armstrong County was statistically more or less significant than the incidence of year-round vacant housing units in the county as a whole. Results revealed that Applewold Borough and Apollo Borough had significantly higher incidences of year-round vacancies. See Table 3.36 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Tables 3.19 - 3.21 in the Appendix present occupancy status and vacancy type data by county, planning district, and municipality in more detail. Tables 3.22 - 3.24 in the Appendix contain seasonal and year-round vacancy data for the same categories.

vi. Owner/Renter Breakdowns

Armstrong County's homeownership rate has risen steadily since 1980. With 75.6% owner-occupied in 1980, 76.4% in 1990, and 77.3% in 2000, homeownership is strong in the county. It is also higher than the statewide homeownership rate, which was 69.9%, 70.6%, and 71.3% during the same time periods. Although U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that homeownership is strong in the county, planning practitioners and providers, when interviewed, stated that it needs to be expanded.

Planning districts.

In 2000, the East District posted the highest homeownership rate – 83.0%. The second lowest homeownership rate was 78.9% in the South District. The Central District had a considerably lower homeownership rate – 64.7% – and was the only district to have a reduction in homeownership rate between 1990 and 2000.

In the 17 boroughs, the number of owner-occupied units decreased by 149 units (-2.4%) from years 1990 to 2000, while owner-occupied units increased in the 28 townships by 942 units (+6.1%) between the same years. On the other hand, renter-occupied units decreased in both the boroughs and townships by 27 units (-0.7%) and 126 units (-4.1%), respectively. See Tables 3.25a and 3.25b in the Appendix for the full results.

Standard statistical tests based on a 95% confidence level were used to determine if the incidence of renter-occupied housing units in the municipalities of Armstrong County was statistically more significant than the incidence of renter-occupied housing units in the county as a whole. These tests revealed that in Kittanning Borough and Freeport Borough, the incidence of renter-occupied units is significantly higher than the incidence of renter-occupied units in typical Armstrong County municipalities. See Table 3.37 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Table 6.5 contains homeownership rates for the state, county and planning districts in 1990 and 2000.

**Table 6.5
Owner versus Renter Occupancy, 1990-2000**

	1990				2000			
	Owner-occupied units	% of occupied units	Renter-occupied units	% of occupied units	Owner-occupied units	% of occupied units	Renter-occupied units	% of occupied units
Pennsylvania	3,176,121	70.6%	1,319,845	29.4%	3,406,337	71.3%	1,370,666	28.7%
Armstrong County	21,615	76.4%	6,694	23.6%	22,408	77.3%	6,597	22.7%
Central District	4,285	66.0%	2,211	34.0%	4,155	64.7%	2,264	35.3%
East District	3,154	81.0%	741	19.0%	3,461	83.0%	707	17.0%
Northeast District	2,143	81.3%	492	18.7%	2,279	81.9%	502	18.1%
Northwest District	1,371	81.6%	309	18.4%	1,495	82.8%	310	17.2%
South District	5,780	77.8%	1,646	22.2%	5,782	78.9%	1,545	21.1%
West District	4,882	79.0%	1,295	21.0%	5,236	80.5%	1,269	19.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 3.25 in the Appendix provides detailed 1990 and 2000 homeownership information for the state, County, planning district and municipality.

vii. Age of Housing

Armstrong County has significant numbers of older housing stock, yet is on par with the State in terms of the age of housing. In 2000, 82.6% of the housing units in the county were built in 1979 or earlier, with 36.4% built in 1939 or earlier. Pennsylvania's rates for the same time periods were 79.5% and 30.3%, respectively.

Planning districts:

The Central District has the highest percentage of housing units built in 1939 or earlier – 48.6% – while the Northwest District has the lowest percentage – 23.1%. Conversely, the Northwest District has the highest percentage of housing units built since 1980 – 23.9% – while the Central District has the lowest percentage – 9.9%.

Standard statistical tests were used to determine if the incidence of housing units built since 1990 in the municipalities of Armstrong County was statistically more significant than the incidence of housing units built since 1990 in the county as a whole. These tests revealed that, at the 95% confidence level, only Wayne Township had a significantly higher incidence of housing units built since 1990 than the county as a whole. This may be attributable to the growing Amish community located primarily in Wayne Township. See Table 3.39 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Figure 6.3
Housing Units Constructed Between 1990 – 2000 (by Block Group)

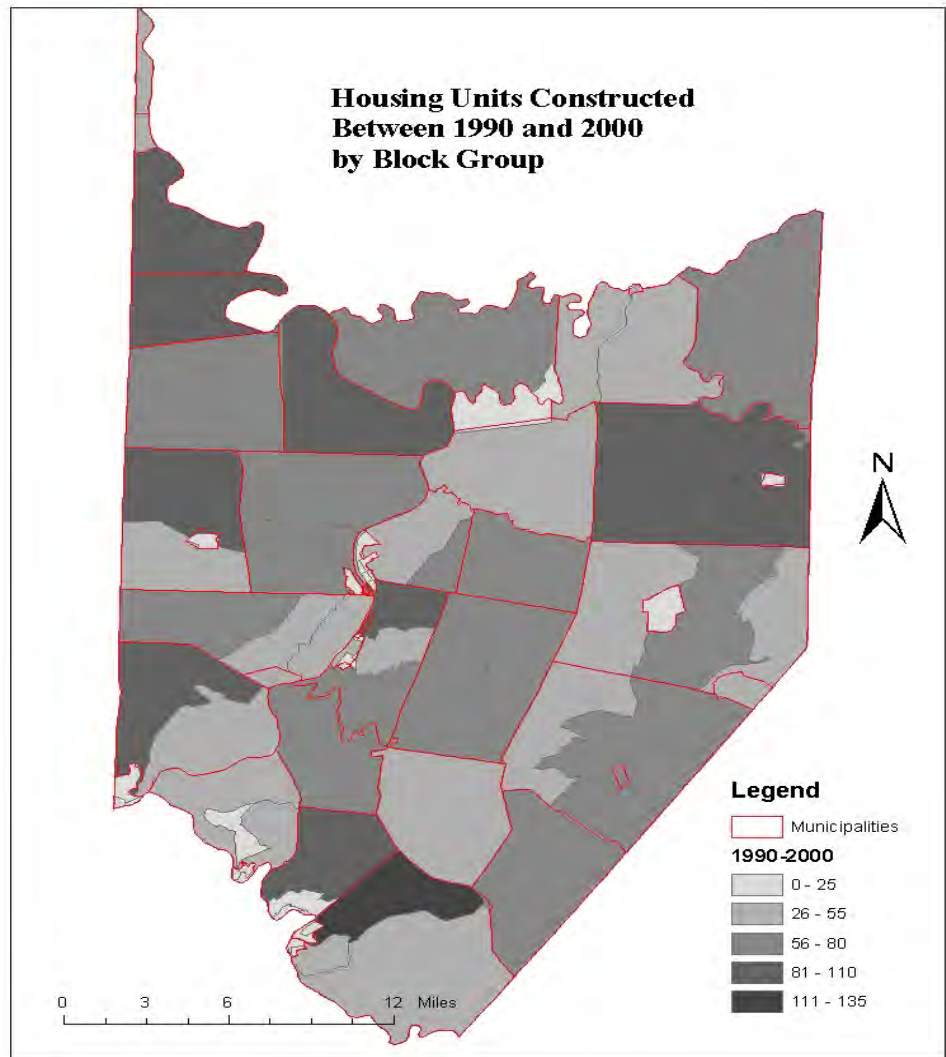


Table 6.6 below indicates the age of housing stock in the state, County and planning districts.

Table 6.6
Year Structure Built (as % of Year 2000 total units)

	1980 – 3/2000	1960 – 1979	1940 – 1959	1939 or earlier
Pennsylvania	20.6	24.9	24.3	30.3
Armstrong County	17.5	24.0	22.2	36.4
Central District	9.9	16.7	24.7	48.6
East District	23.5	31.9	16.9	27.8
Northeast District	19.8	21.1	15.2	44.0
Northwest District	23.9	32.1	20.9	23.1
South District	16.2	22.9	25.2	35.6
West District	19.0	25.7	23.4	31.8

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

In the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau count, municipalities with at least one-half of the housing units built before 1940:

- Ford City (70.1%)
- Cadogan (69.2%)
- Applewold (67.5%)
- Dayton (66.9%)
- Apollo (65.0%)
- Pine (60.6%)
- Freeport (58.8%)
- Kittanning Borough (56.3%)
- South Bethlehem (51.9%)
- Leechburg (51.4%)
- Manorville (50.0%)

In the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau count, municipalities with the highest percentages of housing built since 1980 include:

- Atwood (30.3%)
- Kittanning Township (29.2%)
- Sugarcreek Township (29.0%)
- Wayne Township (28.6%)
- Perry Township (28.2%)
- West Franklin Township (27.5%)
- Valley Township (27.3%)
- Washington Township (27.1%)

- Plumcreek Township (25.8%)
- Kiskiminetas Township (25.8%)
- North Buffalo Township (25.5%)
- Boggs Township (25.1%)

Tables 3.26 - 3.31 in the Appendix contain detailed data on the number and rates of housing age for the state, county, planning district, and municipality in more detail.

viii. Housing Quality Indicators

Along with the age of a housing unit, over crowdedness (having more than 1.01 persons per room) and lack of complete plumbing facilities are general indicators of housing quality. Although they do not necessarily constitute substandard housing, housing units that are overcrowded or lack plumbing facilities may be at risk for becoming substandard. Older housing stock without updated facilities that is overcrowded leads to increased wear and tear on a structure, requires additional maintenance, and often results in deteriorated homes of lesser value.

As mentioned previously, a significant percentage of the county's housing stock is aged. Units over 40 years old are commonly used as a benchmark for housing quality. In the county, 58.6% of the housing units are over 40 years old. The Central District has the highest percentage of units over 40 years old – 73.3% – and the Northwest District has the lowest percentage – 44.0%.

Although the housing stock is generally older in Armstrong County, it should not be assumed that the homes are less valuable. Older homes with architectural detail that are located in a stable neighborhood with utilities and services sometime lend themselves to higher sales values than newer homes. Using the Western Pennsylvania Multi-List Housing Data (MLS), a standard statistical test was completed to determine the correlation between the average home sales price and the percentage of housing built between 1990 and 2000. Results showed that there was a slight correlation between the two variables (correlation coefficient = 0.21). Due to the weaker correlation between sales price and age, we cannot directly assume that housing value is directly tied to age. Often, stable neighborhoods with older homes aid in maintaining housing values. See Table 3.46 in the Appendix for the full statistical test results.

Units which lack complete plumbing facilities are fairly scarce in the county. Only 196 units, or 0.6% of the county's total housing units, lack complete plumbing. Planning districts percentages range from 0.3% (Central) to 1.3% (Northeast).

Overcrowded units make up only 1.1% of the county's housing stock. Planning district rates range from 0.6% in the Central District to 1.7% in the Northeast District.

The countywide phone survey yielded the following information concerning the quality of housing:

- Nearly six in ten (58.0%) survey respondents agreed that there are attractive residential neighborhoods in their area, and 55.6% believed that properties in their area were in good condition. West District residents were more likely to agree with these statements than other county residents.
- Three in ten respondents (30.9%) agreed that absentee landlords are a problem in their area, while 29.1% agreed that poor housing conditions exist in their area. Central District residents were more likely than other county residents to perceive absentee landlords as a problem.

Tables 3.32 – 3.34 in the Appendix contain housing quality indicators for the state, county, planning districts and municipalities.

ix. Achievable Rent

An analysis of home ownership, age, and income was made to determine “achievable home prices” or “achievable rents” – the price a person could afford to pay in order to own or rent in Armstrong County. The analysis was based on the standard that one should not spend more than 33% of one's income on housing. Median household income for both renters and homeowners was obtained through the US Census Bureau, and the age breakdown varies depending on the data that was available (i.e., income available for renters was only available for age cohorts 15-34, 35-64, and 65+ years).

When private developers were questioned about the construction of multi-family housing in the County, the response was that achievable rents are too low to justify the construction of new rental units. Thus, a calculation of achievable rents was done to examine what a person on average could pay for rent based on their median income, which differs from the median income for a homeowner. In both instances, housing standards suggest that one should not pay more than 33% of their median monthly income on housing costs. The median renter income was calculated by dividing the total number of renter households into the aggregate renter income for each municipality, based on U.S. Census Bureau data. For renters under 65 years of age, the planning district with the highest achievable rent on average was the West District (\$912/month), and the planning district with the lowest achievable rent was the Central District (\$725/mo). The average achievable rent was \$792/month for people of this age group countywide. See Table 3.47 in the Appendix for the full results of this analysis.

Using the same calculation, for renters 65 years and older, the planning district with the highest achievable rent for persons over 65 years of age was the West District (\$581/month), and the planning district with the lowest achievable rent was the South District (\$407/month). The average achievable rent was \$517/month for people of this age group countywide. See Table 3.48 in the Appendix for the full results of this analysis.

x. Potential Home Purchase Price

The potential home purchase price was calculated by first taking 33% of the median monthly household income for each municipality, which is based on the housing standards that one should not pay more than 33% of their monthly income for housing. Thus for homeowners under 55 years, the planning district with the highest home purchase price on average was the West District (\$139,700), and the planning district with the lowest home purchase price on average was the Northwest District (\$126,700). The average home purchase price was \$137,933 for people of this age group countywide. See Table 3.49 in the Appendix for the full results of this analysis.

For homeowners 55 years and older, the planning district with the highest home purchase price on average was the East District (\$103,800), and the planning district with the lowest home purchase price on average was the Central District (\$84,700). The average home purchase price was \$90,300 for people of this age group countywide. See Table 3.50 in the Appendix for the full results of this analysis.

According to private-sector housing developers who were interviewed during the planning process, there is a discrepancy between the cost it takes to build a home and the amount that someone can pay for a home in Armstrong County. These interviewees stated that the average residential sales market in Armstrong County is under \$95,000/home, but a new home must sell for at least \$150,000 in order for developers to make a profit. In addition, other constraints include higher taxes than neighboring counties, and water and sewer fees. However, the analysis above showed that, based on the median household income in the county, an average person under 55 years old can buy a home for \$137,933, and an average person over 55 years old can buy a home for \$90,300. However, it should be obvious to the reader that some buyers in both age categories can afford more expensive homes than the averages cited here.

xi. Multi-List Data

Housing sales price data was obtained from the West Penn Multi-List Service (MLS) and compiled in order to analyze the demand for new housing in the county. Housing sales data by planning district was collected for 1997 through 2002. Per year, the number of residential units sold in the county ranged from a low of 203 units (in 1997) to a high of 246 units (in 1999). Total sales value (the total purchase price of all housing sales) in the county

ranged from \$12,867,114 (in 1997) to \$17,958,700 in 2002. The average sales price in the county ranged from \$47,725 (in 1997) to \$62,705 (in 2002), and the average difference between sales and list price ranged from \$3,454 (in 2000) to \$5,043 (in 2002). The average number of days on the market was relatively constant in the county, ranging from 73 days in 2001 to 83 days in 1997. Where known, the average acreage of property sold ranged from 1.33 in 1997 to 2.91 in 2000.

Planning districts.

Using the Multi-List data, the Southern District had by far the most housing sales in every year examined. Over the six-year period, 46.1% (636) of all homes sold via the West Penn Multi-List Service were located in the Southern District. The Western District had 25.4% (351) of the county's purchased residential units during the same time period, and the Central District had 17.0% (235). The Eastern, Northeastern, and Northwestern Districts all had less than 70 units sell over the six-year period. However, it should be noted that the information regarding available housing is only offered through real estate companies who choose to participate in the program.

The average sales price during this time period was highest in the Western District (\$70,260) and lowest in the Northeastern District (\$21,915). Differences between listing and sales price were, again, highest in the Western District (\$4,935) and lowest in the Northeastern District (\$3,260). The highest average number of days on the market was found in the Northwestern District (100 days) while the lowest average was found in the Northeastern District (52 days). Average acreage was highest in the Eastern District (3.63 acres) and lowest in the Central District (0.42 acres).

Tables 3.51 - 3.57 in the Appendix highlights multi-list data in the county, planning districts, and municipalities for 1997 - 2002 in more detail.

xii. Main Subdivisions

Table 6.7 summarizes major subdivisions approved in Armstrong County since 1990. Five of the subdivisions are or will be located in East Franklin Township. All of the subdivisions have been given final approval for one or more phases and are in various stages of development.

Table 6.7 Main Subdivisions Approved Since 1990

Subdivision/ Location	Total number of lots	Lots given final approval
Ponderosa Heights/ East Franklin Twp	32	32
Heritage Estates/ East Franklin Twp	15 lots	15
McCullough Estates/ East Franklin Twp	121	NA
Crane's Landing/ East Franklin Twp/North Buffalo Twp	31	11
Audoban Estates/ East Franklin Twp	32	32
McAuley Meadows/ Manor Twp	18	18
Dock Hollow and Heavenly Heights/ South Buffalo Twp	12	10

Source: Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development

B. Trends

Some trends that have emerged in Armstrong County between 1990 and 2000 include the following:

- **Number of housing units**
The county is gaining housing units overall, but older, more densely populated areas (i.e., the Central and South Districts) are losing units, while more rural areas are gaining units.
- **Type of housing units**
Taken as a percentage of total housing units, the county's overall mix of single-family units, multi-family units, and mobile homes is not changing. Many boroughs (41%) are losing single-family units, while most townships (79%) are gaining them.
- **Vacancy rates**
There has been little change in the county's overall housing vacancy rates and almost half of the vacancies are seasonal in nature. More than half (53%) of the boroughs had increased vacancy rates, as did 39% of the townships.
- **Owner/renter ratios**
County owner-occupancy rates have raised slightly since 1990, with the boroughs' owner-occupancy rates declining slightly and the townships' owner-occupancy rates increasing slightly. Over half (53%) of the boroughs experienced lower owner-occupancy rates, as did 32% of the townships.
- **Age of housing**
The county's housing stock continues to age. The percentage of housing units less than 20 years old decreased 10.5%, and the percentage of pre-1940 built units remains high (36.4%). The majority of the housing stock in 10 of the county's 17 boroughs was built before 1940, but this condition exists in only one township.

C. Conclusions

- Single-family housing is the overwhelming preference of most current and anticipated future county residents and will remain the predominant housing type throughout the county.
- The need for affordable elderly housing, family units, and rental properties cited by both housing practitioners and countywide phone survey participants will necessitate an increase in the development of multi-family units. This development will be most appropriate in locations with adequate public infrastructure, transportation facilities, and employment opportunities, e.g., the Central District and the Route 28 corridor.
- Improved coordination and collaboration of housing practitioners and providers will facilitate the development of the needed housing types in appropriate locations.
- The continued aging of the county's housing, coupled with the relative lack of new single-family housing construction, will increase the need for preservation/maintenance/ rehabilitation of existing housing units to improve the county's housing stock. Some targeted rehabilitation and spot demolition may be needed in areas of concentrated deteriorated housing. Adoption and enforcement of property maintenance codes may also be required.
- The conversion of single-family homes to multi-family units is not a major issue countywide, but it seems to be a growing concern in some of the county's older boroughs. Municipalities need to monitor this situation and adopt/enforce ordinances to regulate such conversions.
- Although some regional meeting attendees expressed concerns about potential aesthetics issues connected with mobile homes, these units do provide affordable housing for many county residents. Concerns about public health and safety issues can be addressed through subdivision regulations and health codes that control the density of development and water and sewage issues.
- Although limited, there is some market for new homes in the \$150,000+ price range that housing developers need to charge in order to make a profit. Townhouses may be a more affordable option for county residents. Only 10% of countywide phone survey respondents thought there was an adequate supply of townhouses in their areas.
- Homeownership remains a goal for many county residents, and the county can promote homeownership by increasing awareness of homeownership opportunities.
- Water and sewer issues are crucial for meeting safe and affordable future housing needs.

D. Policy Statements

POLICY: Encourage various types of residential units to meet the needs of present and future residents, including special needs populations.

Goal: Support mixed use developments (e.g., residential, commercial and institutional uses, as a means of reducing transportation needs, maximizing investments in public infrastructure, preserving open space through cluster development, etc.) as a means of meeting the housing needs of current and future residents.

Objective: Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to permit higher density housing near employment centers in areas with public utilities and adequate road access and capacity.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to amend existing zoning ordinances to permit mixed use developments.

Goal: Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to update them and ensure that they allow for a variety of affordable housing types.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances.

Goal: Promote improved coordination and collaboration among housing practitioners and providers—non-profit agencies, private sector developers, public housing authorities, etc.

Objective: Facilitate regular meetings of housing practitioners and providers.

Objective: Provide technical assistance or information to private sector developers to facilitate residential development.

Goal: Conduct a feasibility study concerning the adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, e.g., former schools, for residential purposes.

POLICY: Use zoning classifications or land use criteria to guide residential development and to establish funding priorities regarding the extension of utilities.

Goal: Use municipal zoning classification or land use criteria as a criterion in the CDBG funding decision making process.

POLICY: Preserve and improve existing housing stock.

Goal: Identify deteriorated housing stock and establish housing preservation and rehabilitation areas.

Objective: Target areas of concentrated deterioration for improvement through rehabilitation and spot demolition, as needed.

Goal: Encourage the adoption and enforcement of property maintenance codes.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to help prepare such codes, including the preparation of funding applications, e.g., the Shared Municipal Services Program.

Goal: Support residential rehabilitation by participating in tax abatement programs for improvements to existing homes.

POLICY: Promote homeownership.

Goal: Increase awareness of homeownership opportunities, including financial assistance available.

Objective: Market homebuyer programs and homeownership counseling courses being offered by lending institutions and other entities.

POLICY: In rural areas, continue existing housing development patterns (low density detached single-family housing) except in areas where public sewer and water infrastructure permits higher density residential development.

Goal: Evaluate current subdivision ordinance with regard to its impact on the location and nature of future development in relation to existing housing and land development.

E. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACCESS	PA Access Grant Program
ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
BHI	Brownfield for Housing Initiative
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
COP	Communities of Opportunity (PA DCED)
CRP	Community Revitalization Program (PA DCED)
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships Program
LUPTAP	Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (PA DCED)
USDA	United State Department of Agriculture

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
HOUSING PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Encourage various types of residential units to meet the needs of present and future residents, including special needs populations.					
GOAL:	Support mixed use development as a means of meeting the housing needs of current and future residents	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to permit higher density housing near employment centers in areas with public utilities and adequate road access and capacity.	Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies ACDPD	LUPTAP Municipal revenues	\$1,000	Short-term
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to amend existing zoning ordinances to permit mixed use developments.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short-term
GOAL:	Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to update them and ensure that they allow for a variety of affordable housing types.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies	LUPTAP Municipal revenues	\$1,000 - \$5,000	Short-term
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL:	Promote improved coordination and collaboration among housing practitioners and providers – non-profits, private sector developers, public housing authorities, etc.	County public housing authority, non-profit agencies, private developers, ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Facilitate regular meetings of housing practitioners and providers	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance or information to private sector developers to facilitate residential development.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Encourage various types of residential units to meet the needs of present and future residents, including special needs populations. (continued)					
GOAL:	Conduct a feasibility study concerning the adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, e.g., former schools, for residential purposes.	ACDPD	CDBG LUPTAP County revenues	\$10,000 - \$15,000	Mid-term
GOAL:	Identify and address unmet housing needs of county residents.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Conduct a countywide housing needs analysis.	ACDPD Private consultant	LUPTAP County revenues	\$	Short-term
POLICY: Use zoning classifications or designated growth areas to guide residential development and to establish funding priorities regarding the extension of utilities.					
GOAL:	Use municipal zoning classification or land use criteria as a criterion in the CDBG funding decision-making process.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
POLICY: Preserve and improve existing housing stock.					
GOAL:	Identify deteriorated housing stock and establish housing preservation and rehabilitation areas.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Target areas of concentrated deterioration for improvement through rehabilitation, infill development, and spot demolition, as needed.	ACDPD	CDBG, USDA, Rural Development Division, Single-family Home Repair Loans and Grants and Housing Preservation Grants Program, COP, CRP, municipal revenues, HOME ACCESS BHI, Act 137 funds, Act 94 funds, landlords, lending institutions, and homeowners	\$100,000 - \$500,000 annual	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Preserve and improve existing housing stock. (continued)					
GOAL:	Encourage the adoption and enforcement of property maintenance codes.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies	LUPTAP, municipal revenues, Shared Municipal Services Program	\$5,000 - \$10,000 annual	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to help prepare such codes, including the preparation of funding applications, e.g., the Shared Municipal Services Program.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL:	Support residential rehabilitation by establishing and participating in tax abatement programs for improvements to existing homes.	Armstrong County, school districts, and municipal governing bodies	Armstrong County school districts and municipalities	NA	Short- to long-term
POLICY: Promote homeownership.					
GOAL:	Increase awareness of homeownership opportunities, including financial assistance available.	ACDPD Lending institutions	ACDPD Lending institutions	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Market homebuyer programs and homeownership counseling courses being offered by lending institutions and other entities.	ACDPD Lending institutions Housing counseling agencies	ACDPD Lending institutions Housing counseling agencies	NA	Ongoing
POLICY: In rural and suburban areas, continue existing housing development patterns (low density detached single-family housing) except in areas where public sewer and water infrastructure permits higher density residential development.					
GOAL:	Evaluate current subdivision ordinance with regard to its impact on the location and nature of future development in relation to existing housing and land development and update ordinance.	ACDPD Planning consultant	ACDPD LUPTAP	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Short-term

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Profile - Census Data

i. Number of Workers, Place of Work

In 2000, 29,788 residents of Armstrong County (41.1% of the County's population) were classified as workers⁴, up from the 1990 figures of 28,092 and 38.2%. The county's percentage of workers is somewhat lower than the state's, which posted 45.0% of its residents as workers in 1990 and 45.2% in 2000.

Although the number and percentage of county residents in the work force increased between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of county workers who work in Armstrong County dropped sharply from 61.1% in 1990 to 44.7% in 2000.

Planning districts:

The percentage of planning district residents in the work force varies from 37.8% in the Northwest district to 44.3% in the Western district. All six districts had increases in the number of workers as a percentage of the district's population between 1990 and 2000, ranging from a 3.0% increase in the Central district to a 16.8% increase in the Northwestern district.

However, the percentage of workers who work in Armstrong County varied considerably in both 1990 and 2000. The Northwest district posted the lowest percentage of workers who worked in the county in 1990 (47.4%), while the Central district had the highest (81.5%). These two districts were the extreme cases again in 2000, with 40.3% and 75.2%, respectively. All districts showed declines in the rate of workers who work in Armstrong County, from a 7.8% decrease in the Central district to a 16.4% decrease in the Southern district.

Table 7.1 below contains 1990 and 2000 Census data about the number and percentage of workers in the work force and the percentage of the work force employed within Armstrong County.

⁴ The Census Bureau defines workers, in this instance, as employed civilians 16 years old or older who were considered "at work." However, people who were "temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons are not included in the place-of-work data. Therefore, the data on place of work understate the total number of jobs or total employment". People who had "irregular, casual, or unstructured jobs...may have erroneously reported themselves as not working." This data set differs from that referred to in Section 7.A.iii. of this plan, which states that there were 30,308 employed persons in the county in 2000. That 2000 Census data set includes workers as defined above, as well as persons who were employed but temporarily absent, persons on temporary layoff, and persons actively looking for and were available to work.

Table 7.1
Number and Percentage of Workers
Percentage of Work Force Employed in Armstrong County
1990 – 2000

	1990			2000		
	Total Workers	% of Population	% of work force employed in Armstrong County	Total Workers	% of Population	% of work force employed in Armstrong County
Pennsylvania	5,348,132	45.0%	N/A	5,556,311	45.2%	N/A
Armstrong County	28,092	38.2%	61.1%	29,788	41.1%	44.7%
Central District	5,692	36.4%	81.5%	5,861	38.8%	75.2%
East District	4,249	38.6%	62.5%	4,503	40.9%	56.8%
Northeast District	2,545	36.3%	49.5%	2,943	40.2%	47.5%
Northwest District	1,558	33.0%	47.4%	1,820	37.8%	40.3%
South District	7,084	37.7%	50.5%	7,471	41.7%	42.3%
West District	6,964	42.6%	61.5%	7,190	44.3%	56.0%

Tables 3.9-3.11 in the Appendix outline the number of workers and their place of work by state, county, planning district, and municipality in more detail.

ii. Educational Attainment

A well-educated work force is essential to attracting businesses to an area, and the education attainment of Armstrong County residents has risen.

Between 1990 and 2000, the following changes occurred:

- High school graduates increased from 48.1% of county residents to 51.1%.
- Those with some college, but no degree increased from 10.6% of county residents to 12.7%.
- Associate degree holders increased from 4.3% of county residents to 5.7%.
- Those with bachelor degrees increased from 5.3% of county residents to 7.1%.
- Graduate or professional degree holders increased from 2.8% of county residents to 3.3%.

Table 7.2 below shows these changes.

Table 7.2 Educational Attainment for the Population Age 25 and over in
Armstrong County - 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Less than 9th grade	6,705	13.5%	3,634	7.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7,617	15.4%	6,510	12.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23,857	48.1%	25,852	51.1%
Some college, no degree	5,237	10.6%	6,452	12.7%
Associate degree	2,152	4.3%	2,900	5.7%
Bachelor's degree	2,633	5.3%	3,608	7.1%
Graduate or professional degree	1,374	2.8%	1,682	3.3%
Total	49,575		50,638	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 & 1990

A closer look at educational attainment by age cohorts indicates that, generally, younger (age 25-44) county residents are better educated than older (45 and older) county residents. The 45-64 age cohort does, however, have higher percentages of bachelor's degree holders and graduate and professional degree holders than the 35-44 cohort, and it has a higher percentage of graduate or professional degree holders than the 25-34 age cohort.

The most notable difference in educational attainment by age cohort can be found in the 65 and older group. This age cohort ranks last in every educational attainment category, and, in some cases, is substantially lower than the other age cohorts, e.g., in the "less than 9th grade" and "9th to 12 grade, no diploma" categories. Only in the graduate or professional degree category is it reasonably comparable to other age cohorts.

Table 7.3 contains information on educational attainment by age cohort.

Table 7.3 Educational Attainment in Armstrong County by Age Cohort - 2000

Age cohort	Less than 9 th grade	9 th to 12 grade, no diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
25-34 years	0.51%	7.60%	48.13%	17.86%	10.82%	12.27%	2.81%
35-44 years	1.32%	8.48%	58.36%	14.22%	7.77%	7.16%	2.70%
45-64 years	3.24%	12.79%	52.63%	13.55%	5.62%	7.56%	4.61%
65 and older	22.04%	20.28%	44.24%	7.02%	0.75%	3.20%	2.47%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

In terms of high school graduates, Armstrong County compares favorably with the state and surrounding counties. Of the six counties surrounding Armstrong County, only Jefferson County's 51.4% rate exceeds Armstrong County's 51.1%, which is well above the state rate of 38.1%.

However, as Table 7.4 shows, Armstrong County's educational attainment advantage stops at the high school graduate level. The county trails the state and surrounding counties in most post-secondary education levels and is last in the percentage of county residents with bachelor's degrees and graduate or professional degrees. Its 7.1% bachelor's degree rate is one-half of the state 14.0% rate.

Table 7.4 Educational Attainment for the Population Age 25 and Over - 2000

	Less than 9th grade	9th to 12th grade, no diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Pennsylvania	5.5%	12.6%	38.1%	15.5%	5.9%	14.0%	8.4%
Armstrong County	7.2%	12.9%	51.1%	12.7%	5.7%	7.1%	3.3%
Allegheny County	3.7%	10.0%	33.9%	17.0%	7.1%	17.3%	11.0%
Butler County	4.0%	9.2%	39.0%	17.0%	7.3%	16.1%	7.4%
Clarion County	6.3%	12.0%	50.4%	11.7%	4.4%	9.4%	5.9%
Indiana County	7.5%	11.4%	46.4%	13.2%	4.5%	9.3%	7.7%
Jefferson County	6.8%	12.2%	51.4%	12.1%	5.8%	7.7%	4.0%
Westmoreland County	4.7%	9.7%	41.2%	16.9%	7.3%	13.6%	6.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

iii. Employment Characteristics - General

According to the 2000 Census, a total of 30,308 Armstrong County residents aged 16 and over are employed in the workforce.⁵ Of these employed residents, 16,732 (55.2%) are male and 13,576 (44.8%) are female. There were a total of 28,624 Armstrong County residents employed in 1990. The number of employees increased by 1,684 (5.9%) from 1990 to 2000.

Table 7.5 contains information on the county's employed population by gender.

⁵ The Census Bureau defines workers, in this instance, as employed civilians 16 years old or older who were considered at work; persons who were employed but temporarily absent; persons on temporary layoff; and persons actively looking for and were available to work. This data set differs from that referred to in 5. Demographic Trends and in Section 7.A.i. of this plan, which state that there were 29,788 workers in the county in 2000. That 2000 Census data set is restricted to those persons who were physically working at the time the question was asked, and does not include the other categories defined above.

**Table 7.5
Employed County Residents (by gender) 2000
And Unemployment Rates (2002)**

	Total	Male	Female	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Pennsylvania	5,653,500	2,992,780 (52.9%)	2,660,720 (47.1%)	339,386	6.0%
Armstrong County	30,308	16,732 (55.2%)	13,576 (44.8%)	1,996	6.6%
Central District	5,979	3,079 (51.5%)	2,900 (48.5%)	351	5.9%
East District	4,577	2,593 (56.7%)	1,984 (43.3%)	418	9.1%
Northeast District	3,000	1,695 (56.5%)	1,305 (43.5%)	193	6.4%
Northwest District	1,856	1,060 (57.1%)	796 (42.9%)	194	10.5%
South District	7,624	4,280 (56.1%)	3,344 (43.9%)	422	5.5%
West District	7,272	4,025 (55.3%)	3,247 (44.7%)	418	5.7%

Table 3.58 in the Appendix contains more detailed information on employed county residents by planning district and municipality.

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry provides demographic characteristics for the people employed in Armstrong County in 1997. In 1997, there were a total of 29,275 people working in the county. The employed population consisted primarily of white persons, although there were 400 persons who identified themselves as a minority. While only 43% of the employees in Armstrong County were female, 50% of the minority employees were female. There were also 4,350 (15%) veterans working in Armstrong County. Table 3.59 in the Appendix further describes those employed in Armstrong County.

iv. Employment Characteristics - Unemployment

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the unemployment rate in Armstrong County has remained fairly steady between 1996 and 2002, with a slight decrease in unemployment in 1999 and 2000. Unemployment over the last two decades peaked in 1983. See Table 7.5A below. Table 3.60 in the Appendix provides a more detailed look at the county's unemployment over the past 22 years.

According to the 2000 Census, the Northwest planning district reported the highest unemployment rate of workers over 16 years of age – 10.5%. In contrast, the South and West planning districts reported unemployment rates of 5.5% and 5.7%, respectively. Details regarding the 2000 Census unemployment information can be found in Table 7.5, and in Table 3.58 in the Appendix.

Table 7.5A
Unemployment Rates in Armstrong County, 1980-2002



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

v. Employment Characteristics - Industry

According to the 2000 Census, 30,308 Armstrong County residents over age 16 are employed. The largest percentages of residents are employed in the manufacturing industry (21.7%) and the educational, health and social services (19.5%). Between 1990 and 2000, the entertainment and recreation services experienced the greatest percentage increase in number of employees (992.8%), while the mining industry experienced the greatest percentage decrease in number of employees (-65.8%). Between 1990 and 2000, there were an additional 1,725 Armstrong County residents employed in the health care industry and 1,787 more residents employed in the entertainment and recreation services industry. However, the mining industry saw the greatest decrease in number of employees with a loss of 880 employees between 1990 and 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, the county experienced more growth than the state of Pennsylvania in the following industries:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Finance
- Health care and social services
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services
- Other services
- Public administration

Table 7.6 describes unemployment by industry at the state, county, and planning district level for 1990 and 2000.

Table 7.6 Workers 16 Years and Over by Industry

		Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting % of Total	Mining % of Total	Construction % of Total	Manufacturing % of Total	Wholesale trade % of Total	Retail trade % of Total	Transportation and warehousing % of Total	Utilities, Inform							
Pennsylvania	2000	56,890	1.0%	16,569	0.3%	339,363	6.0%	906,398	16.0%	201,084	3.6%	684,179	12.1%	248,823	4.4%	204,353
	1990	97,811	1.8%	31,396	0.6%	331,161	6.1%	1,087,220	20.0%	234,880	4.3%	931,987	17.1%	241,749	4.4%	134,992
	% Change	-41.8%	-0.8%	-47.2%	-0.3%	2.5%	-0.1%	-16.6%	-4.0%	-14.4%	-0.8%	-26.6%	-5.0%	2.9%	0.0%	51.4%
Armstrong County	2000	814	2.7%	465	1.5%	2,146	7.1%	6,586	21.7%	903	3.0%	3,792	12.5%	1,620	5.3%	985
	1990	1,284	4.5%	1,345	4.7%	1,906	6.7%	6,420	22.4%	938	3.3%	4,897	17.1%	1,625	5.7%	1,032
	% Change	-36.6%	-1.8%	-65.4%	-3.2%	12.6%	0.4%	2.6%	-0.7%	-3.7%	-0.3%	-22.6%	-4.6%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-4.6%
Central Planning District	2000	83	1.4%	46	0.8%	400	6.7%	1,087	18.2%	207	3.5%	618	10.3%	265	4.4%	167
	1990	209	3.6%	134	2.3%	295	5.1%	1,228	21.2%	190	3.3%	1,097	18.9%	318	5.5%	219
	% Change	-60.3%	-2.2%	-65.7%	-1.5%	35.6%	1.6%	-11.5%	-3.0%	8.9%	0.2%	-43.7%	-8.6%	-16.7%	-1.1%	-23.7%
East Planning District	2000	184	4.0%	176	3.8%	384	8.4%	772	16.9%	137	3.0%	588	12.8%	298	6.5%	232
	1990	170	3.9%	426	9.9%	397	9.2%	736	17.0%	110	2.5%	822	19.0%	243	5.6%	230
	% Change	8.2%	0.1%	-58.7%	-6.0%	-3.3%	-0.8%	4.9%	-0.2%	24.5%	0.4%	-28.5%	-6.2%	22.6%	383.6%	0.9%
Northeast Planning District	2000	132	4.4%	71	2.4%	297	9.9%	574	19.1%	61	2.0%	375	12.5%	287	9.6%	95
	1990	155	6.0%	222	8.6%	269	10.4%	523	20.2%	81	3.1%	363	14.0%	189	7.3%	85
	% Change	-14.8%	-1.6%	-68.0%	-6.2%	10.4%	-0.5%	9.8%	-1.1%	-24.7%	-1.1%	3.3%	-1.5%	51.9%	323.0%	11.8%
Northwest Planning District	2000	51	3.0%	32	1.9%	153	8.9%	475	27.6%	39	2.3%	185	10.7%	132	7.7%	43
	1990	103	7.0%	92	6.3%	100	6.8%	342	23.2%	60	4.1%	202	13.7%	107	7.3%	52
	% Change	-50.5%	-4.0%	-65.2%	-4.4%	53.0%	2.1%	38.9%	4.4%	-35.0%	-1.8%	-8.4%	-3.0%	23.4%	0.4%	-17.3%
South Planning District	2000	88	1.2%	83	1.1%	500	6.6%	2,050	26.9%	216	2.8%	1,048	13.7%	279	3.7%	183
	1990	137	1.9%	242	3.4%	421	5.8%	2,089	28.9%	225	3.1%	1,302	18.0%	361	5.0%	197
	% Change	-35.8%	-0.7%	-65.7%	-2.3%	18.8%	0.7%	-1.9%	-2.0%	-4.0%	-0.3%	-19.5%	-4.3%	-22.7%	-1.3%	-7.1%
West Planning District	2000	276	3.8%	57	0.8%	412	5.7%	1,628	22.4%	243	3.3%	978	13.4%	359	4.9%	265
	1990	510	7.2%	229	3.2%	424	6.0%	1,437	20.2%	272	3.8%	1,111	15.6%	407	5.7%	249
	% Change	-45.9%	-3.4%	-75.1%	-2.4%	-2.8%	-0.3%	13.3%	2.2%	-10.7%	-0.5%	-12.0%	-2.2%	-11.8%	-0.8%	6.4%

* Cannot calculate due to values of zero
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 & 2000

Armstrong County
Comprehensive Plan

		Finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	% of Total	Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	% of Total	Educational services	% of Total	Health care and social assistance	% of Total	Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	% of Total	Other services (except public administration)	% of Total	Public administration	% of Total	Total
Pennsylvania	2000	372,148	6.6%	478,937	8.5%	497,054	8.8%	740,036	13.1%	397,871	7.0%	274,028	4.8%	235,767	4.2%	5,653,500
	1990	351,519	6.5%	374,852	6.9%	448,888	8.3%	539,555	9.9%	56,928	1.0%	352,988	6.5%	218,606	4.0%	5,434,532
	% Change	5.9%	0.1%	27.8%	1.6%	10.7%	0.5%	37.2%	3.2%	598.9%	6.0%	-22.4%	-1.6%	7.9%	0.1%	4.0%
Armstrong County	2000	1,006	3.3%	1,473	4.9%	1,723	5.7%	4,191	13.8%	1,967	6.5%	1,726	5.7%	911	3.0%	30,308
	1990	899	3.1%	1,546	5.4%	1,836	6.4%	2,466	8.6%	180	0.6%	1,527	5.3%	723	2.5%	28,624
	% Change	11.9%	0.2%	-4.7%	-0.5%	-6.2%	-0.7%	70.0%	5.2%	992.8%	5.9%	13.0%	0.4%	26.0%	0.5%	5.9%
Central Planning District	2000	211	3.5%	352	5.9%	362	6.1%	1,025	17.1%	462	7.7%	392	6.6%	302	5.1%	5,979
	1990	201	3.5%	330	5.7%	385	6.6%	595	10.3%	45	0.8%	339	5.9%	206	3.6%	5,791
	% Change	5.0%	0.1%	6.7%	0.2%	-6.0%	-0.6%	72.3%	6.9%	926.7%	6.9%	15.6%	0.7%	46.6%	1.5%	3.2%
East Planning District	2000	150	3.3%	201	4.4%	285	6.2%	573	12.5%	287	6.3%	220	4.8%	90	2.0%	4,577
	1990	141	3.3%	190	4.4%	292	6.8%	298	6.9%	18	0.4%	166	3.8%	83	1.9%	4,322
	% Change	6.4%	108.2%	5.8%	0.0%	-2.4%	-0.5%	92.3%	5.6%	1494.4%	5.9%	32.5%	1.0%	8.4%	0.0%	5.9%
Northeast Planning District	2000	90	3.0%	85	2.8%	169	5.6%	359	12.0%	148	4.9%	177	5.9%	80	2.7%	3,000
	1990	62	2.4%	161	6.2%	165	6.4%	171	6.6%	0	0.0%	100	3.9%	47	1.8%	2,585
	% Change	45.2%	281.3%	-47.2%	-3.4%	2.4%	-0.7%	109.9%	5.4%	*	4.9%	77.0%	2.0%	70.2%	0.8%	16.1%
Northwest Planning District	2000	51	3.0%	68	3.9%	98	5.7%	264	15.3%	98	5.7%	109	6.3%	58	3.4%	1,722
	1990	18	1.2%	94	6.4%	108	7.3%	139	9.4%	9	0.6%	46	3.1%	47	3.2%	1,472
	% Change	183.3%	1.7%	-27.7%	-2.4%	-9.3%	-1.6%	89.9%	5.9%	988.9%	5.1%	137.0%	3.2%	23.4%	0.2%	17.0%
South Planning District	2000	274	3.6%	413	5.4%	404	5.3%	894	11.7%	548	7.2%	488	6.4%	156	2.0%	7,624
	1990	260	3.6%	445	6.2%	376	5.2%	534	7.4%	48	0.7%	395	5.5%	188	2.6%	7,220
	% Change	5.4%	0.0%	-7.2%	-0.7%	7.4%	0.1%	67.4%	4.3%	1041.7%	6.5%	23.5%	0.9%	-17.0%	-0.6%	5.6%
West Planning District	2000	230	3.2%	354	4.9%	405	5.6%	1,076	14.8%	424	5.8%	340	4.7%	225	3.1%	7,272
	1990	217	3.0%	326	4.6%	510	7.2%	729	10.2%	60	0.8%	481	6.8%	160	2.2%	7,122
	% Change	6.0%	0.1%	8.6%	0.3%	-20.6%	-1.6%	47.6%	4.6%	606.7%	5.0%	-29.3%	-2.1%	40.6%	0.8%	2.1%

Tables 3.61 - 3.66 in the Appendix contain detailed information on employment by industry for all county municipalities.

The industries that once dominated the State of Pennsylvania, as well as Armstrong County, have experienced tremendous change over the past decades. Armstrong County cannot rely on past employment opportunities and industries for its future livelihood. An economy once highly dependent on the goods producing sector must look towards the future of the service producing industries.

This trend is apparent through data reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor that is reinforced by Census data. Detailed annual information provided by the PA Department of Labor describes the loss of employees and establishments in the mining industry between 1996 and 2000. While the construction sector grew and the manufacturing industry remained fairly steady between 1996 and 2000 in Armstrong County, the Department of Labor projects an overall loss of goods producing jobs over the next decade.

Between 1996 and 2000, Armstrong County reported a 5.4% increase in the number of employees and a 4.0% increase in the total number of establishments. The construction industry reported the greatest increase of employees with 21.2%, while the transportation and other utilities industry reported an increase of 15.8%. Only the mining and retail trade industries reported a loss of establishments over these five years. Further details regarding the changes in the number of employees and establishments between 1996 and 2000 can be found in Table 7.7 on the following page.

Table 7.7 Number of Establishments and Employees in Armstrong County

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	% Change 1996-2000
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing						
Establishments	22	22	24	25	25	13.6%
Employees	654	642	676	671	657	0.5%
Mining						
Establishments	50	48	47	42	45	-10.0%
Employees	957	975	1,002	1,022	740	-22.7%
Construction						
Establishments	128	135	140	133	138	7.8%
Employees	702	752	793	787	851	21.2%
Manufacturing						
Establishments	96	94	92	90	98	2.1%
Employees	3,237	3,260	3,277	3,398	3,421	5.7%
Transportation & Other Utilities						
Establishments	113	117	119	125	129	14.2%
Employees	1,792	1,778	1,856	2,076	2,076	15.8%
Wholesale Trade						
Establishments	56	61	60	58	57	1.8%
Employees	422	441	451	426	454	7.6%
Retail Trade						
Establishments	359	350	371	350	353	-1.7%
Employees	3,891	3,759	3,812	3,729	3,933	1.1%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate						
Establishments	80	77	84	81	84	5.0%
Employees	551	577	591	582	585	6.2%
Services						
Establishments	437	441	461	453	466	6.6%
Employees	5,552	5,616	5,869	5,770	6,025	8.5%
Public Administration						
Establishments	63	64	64	62	65	3.2%
Employees	1,053	995	986	1,004	1,081	2.7%
Total						
Establishments	1,404	1,409	1,462	1,419	1,460	4.0%
Employees	18,811	18,795	19,313	19,465	19,823	5.4%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor, Unemployment Compensation Covered Employment and Wages & www.TeamPA.com

vi. Other Economic Development Information

In addition to Census data, the county also solicited input from county residents and businesses concerning economic development conditions and initiatives. Participants in the countywide phone survey were asked to indicate what types of commercial development were most desirable for Armstrong County. They identified the following types of development as most desirable:

<u>Type of development</u>	<u>% of survey respondents favoring</u>
Health care facilities	72.6%
Industrial/manufacturing	70.3%
Entertainment/recreational venues	58.8%
Business/office parks	53.4%

Through interviews with county business associations and employers, the interviewees identified the following economic development needs, perceptions, and suggestions:

- The county does a good job with its limited economic development staff, and strong county leadership is vital to economic development efforts.
- Key economic development needs include public water and sewerage, better-educated and trained workforce, and a more positive image of the county’s public schools.
- State and local taxes make it expensive to do business.
- The county’s downtown business districts need revitalization, including historic designation for some areas.
- Armstrong County has greatly underutilized/underdeveloped/under promoted tourism, recreation, and historic assets. For example, county waterways were frequently mentioned as underutilized and underdeveloped recreation resources. (Also, 59% of the countywide telephone survey respondents favored additional tourism promotion as an economic development initiative.)
- County support is critical to small communities, and outlying areas (e.g., Apollo, Leechburg, and South Bethlehem) need better liaison with the county to counter the perception that the county has forgotten/does not care about them.
- Some local governments need to adopt a more business-friendly attitude.

vii. Economic Development Generation

Armstrong County’s major economic development generators include industrial/business parks, Keystone Opportunity Zones, and one major employment center, i.e., the Borough of Kittanning.

viii. Industrial/Business Parks

Armstrong County has the following industrial/business parks:

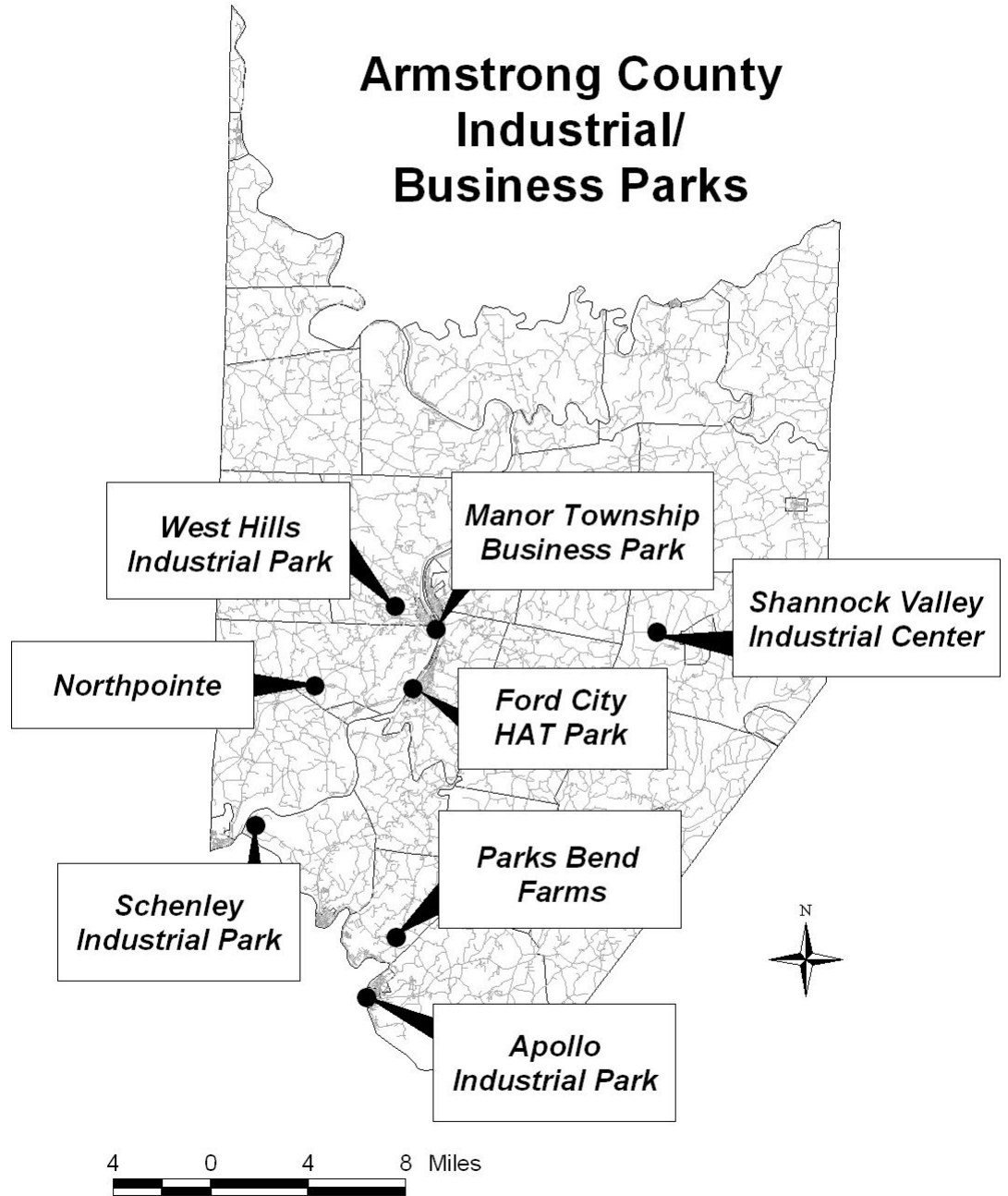
<u>Park</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Size</u>
Northpointe	South Buffalo and North Buffalo Townships at Exit 18 of PA Route 28	925 acres *
West Hills Industrial Park	East Franklin Township at PA Route 28-US Route 422 intersection	229 acres
Parks Bend Farms	Parks Township on PA Route 66	82 acres
Manor Township Business Park	Manor Township off PA Route 66	66 acres
Shannock Valley Industrial Center	Rural Valley along PA Route 85	11 acres
Ford City PPG/MAC Park	Ford City near PA Routes 28 and 66 and US Route 422	82 acres
Apollo Industrial Park	Apollo Borough near junction of PA Routes 66 and 56	14 acres
Schenley Industrial Park		60 acres

* only 200 acres of the total 925 acres is allocated for commercial uses.

Sources: Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development, Greater Ford City Community Development Corporation, and Schenley Industrial Park

The locations of these parks are indicated on the map below.

Armstrong County Industrial/ Business Parks



ix. Keystone Opportunity Zones

Through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) Program, areas that are granted KOZ status offer businesses virtually tax-free sites upon which to locate and grow. Armstrong County has the following five KOZ sites located within or near industrial parks:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Size</u>
Ford City Heritage and Technology (HAT) Park	59 acres
Manor Township Business Park	9 acres
Northpointe	30 acres
Apollo/Warren Avenue	19 acres
West Hills Industrial Park	55 acres
TOTAL	172 acres

The tax-free status of the above KOZ sites expires in December 2010.

x. Other Employment Centers

In addition to its industrial/business parks, Armstrong County has several other employment centers. As the county seat, Kittanning is the location of most county government-related activity and employment, and numerous businesses that serve county government and its clients are located in the borough. Two of Armstrong County’s major employers – Armstrong County government and Armstrong County Health Center – are located in Kittanning.

Other employment centers within the county include the Ford City area and the retail area of East Franklin Township. Armstrong County Memorial Hospital, another major employer, is located in East Franklin Township.

xi. Major Employers

According to the Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Memorial Hospital is Armstrong County’s largest employer. Other major employers include Armstrong School District and county government. Table 7.8 lists Armstrong County’s major employers in 2003.

Table 7.8 Major Employers in Armstrong County - 2003

Employer	Product(s)	Employees
Armstrong County Memorial Hospital	Health care	1,022
Armstrong School District	Education	775
Eljer Plumbingware, Inc.	Manufacture plumbing accessories	565
Creekside Mushrooms, Ltd.	Manufacture food products	500
Armstrong County Government	Public administration	485
Kensington Windows, Inc.	Manufacture windows	280
Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	Service, retail	268
Snyder Associated Companies, Inc.	Mineral extraction	250
Freeport Area School District	Education	245
Rosebud Mining Company	Mining	240

Source: Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, January 2003

xii. Vacant/Underutilized Economic Development Sites

Armstrong County contains a number of vacant or underutilized sites suitable for economic development. Such sites include existing available parcels and future phase development land in the county’s industrial parks, brownfields (i.e., former industrial sites), and numerous small abandoned commercial sites scattered throughout the county.

At public meetings held during the comprehensive planning process, attendees supported the development of these types of sites in order to take advantage of existing infrastructure. Developing these sites would also help retain the rural nature of the county by minimizing the development of greenfield sites – land currently devoted to agricultural uses or open space.

Brownfield sites identified during the comprehensive planning process include the following:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
Babcock & Wilcox Property	Apollo Borough
North Apollo Auto Wrecking	North Apollo Borough
Templeton Brick Yard	Pine Township
Union Carbide site	North Buffalo Township
Riverfront railroad property	Cadogan Township
Season-All	Cowanshannock Township
Abandoned strip mines	Countywide

xiii. Economic Development Initiatives

Every year the Armstrong County Planning Commission issues an updated long-range economic development program that contains four elements – industrial development, water/sewer, transportation, and recreation. The plan records activities in each of the four elements that have been completed in the previous year and lists proposed activities in each area for the next 12 years. These projections cover three four-year time periods.

The industrial development element of the long-range economic development program lists the county's proposed activities concerning the development, expansion, and creation of county industrial and business parks. The water and sewer element lists all proposed activities – feasibility studies, engineering design, construction, etc. – pertaining to the improvement, upgrading, and expansion of water and sewer systems.

The county planning commission prepares its long-range economic development program in cooperation and consultation with local, regional, state, and federal governments and agencies. The 2003 Long-Range Economic Development Program is included in the Appendix. The 2004 Long-Range Economic Development Program will be issued in December 2003 or January 2004.

xiv. Future Economic Development - Job Growth

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has created 10-year employment projections for its designated workforce areas. Armstrong County's workforce area includes Butler and Indiana Counties. DLI has projected that the goods producing sector will lose 3,500 employees between 2000 and 2010 in the tri-county workforce area. However, the service producing sector will gain 2,140 employees between 2000 and 2010 in this same workforce area.

There are many industry sectors that are projected to lose employees in the tri-county workforce area between 2000 and 2010. The sub-sectors with the greatest projected loss of employees include:

- Primary Metal Industries: -1,160 employees, -34.8%
- Other Metal Projects: -1,080 employees, -36.7%
- Industrial Machinery & Equipment: -660 employees, -17.6%
- Department Stores: -430 employees, -13.8%
- Stone, Clay & Glass Products: -400, -16.1%
- Coal Mining: -390 employees, -32.2%

While the entire service producing sector is projected to increase by 2,140 employees (2.3%), the sub-sectors with the greatest projected employment gains in the service producing sector between 2000 and 2010 include:

- Eating & Drinking Places: 860 employees, 10%
- Educational Services: 690 employees, 5.3%
- Social Services: 620 employees, 15.6%
- Health Services: 550 employees, 5.3%

DLI was able to identify specific occupations that are likely to be in demand in the tri-county workforce area for future years. The occupations with the greatest demand include cashiers, wait staff, retail salespersons, food

preparation workers, and general office clerks. While each of these occupations anticipates having over 100 annual openings, none of these occupations provide an average annual wage over \$21,000. The occupations that are the most like to have at least 50 annual openings and pay over \$40,000 include general managers and executives, elementary school teachers, and registered nurses.

More details regarding the industries with the greatest projected increases and decreases in employment between 2000 and 2010 in the tri-county workforce area can be found in Tables 7.9 and 7.10. Table 7.11 provides the tri-county area occupations that are in demand, as well as the number of openings, annual wages, and necessary training.

Table 7.9 Industries with Projected Increases for Tri-County Workforce Area
(Armstrong, Butler & Indiana Counties)

SIC	Industry	Employment		Change		Average Annual Change
		Estimated 2000	Projected 2010	Level	Change	
	GOODS PRODUCING:					
15-17	Construction	5,560	5,670	110	2	11
	SERVICE PRODUCING:	91,360	93,500	2,140	2.3	214
40-47	Transportation	6,110	6,170	60	1	6
41	Local & Interurban Pass Trans	1,680	1,790	110	6.5	11
411	Local & Suburban Trans	280	400	120	42.9	12
48	Communications	830	890	60	7.2	6
484	Cable & Other Pay TV Services	270	370	100	37	10
50-51	Wholesale Trade	6,490	6,700	210	3.2	21
50	Wholesale Trade, Durables	4,570	4,740	170	3.7	17
52-59	Retail Trade	25,410	25,530	120	0.5	12
58	Eating & Drinking Places	8,560	9,420	860	10	86
59	Misc Retail	2,970	3,150	180	6.1	18
70-89	Services	40,850	43,200	2,350	5.8	235
73	Business Services	2,830	3,270	440	15.5	44
737	Computer & Data Processing Service	570	720	150	26.3	15
738	Misc Business Services	950	1,120	170	17.9	17
80	Health Services	10,340	10,890	550	5.3	55
801	Offices & Clinics of Medical Doctors	1,060	1,210	150	14.2	15
806	Nursing & Personal Care Facilities	2,650	2,820	170	6.4	17
807	Hospitals	4,130	4,250	120	2.9	12
82	Educational Services	12,980	13,670	690	5.3	69
83	Social Services	3,980	4,600	620	15.6	62
832	Individual & Family Services	1,340	1,490	150	11.2	15
835	Child Day Care Services	600	760	160	26.7	16
836	Residential Care	1,760	2,070	310	17.6	31
87	Engineering & Management Services	1,610	1,720	110	6.8	11

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

NOTE: Table 7.9 is not all-inclusive, i.e., it does not include all industries with projected increases in employment.

Table 7.10 Industries with Projected Decreases for Tri-County Workforce Area
(Armstrong, Butler & Indiana Counties)

SIC	Industry	Employment		Change		Average Annual Change
		Estimated 2000	Projected 2010	Level	Change	
	Total Nonfarm Jobs	121,750	120,400	-1350	-1.1	-135
	GOODS PRODUCING:	30,380	26,880	-3500	-11.5	-350
12-14	Mining	2,560	2,180	-380	-14.8	-38
12-17	Mining & Construction	8,120	7,850	-270	-3.3	-27
12	Coal Mining	1,210	820	-390	-32.2	-39
20-23, 26-31	Manufacturing, Non Durables	5,100	4,620	-480	-9.4	-48
24, 25, 32-39	Manufacturing, Durables	17,160	14,410	-2750	-16	-275
27	Printing & Publishing	1,150	1,050	-100	-8.7	-10
29	Petroleum & Coal Products	590	460	-130	-22	-13
32	Stone, Clay, Glass Products	2,480	2,080	-400	-16.1	-40
326	Pottery & Related Products	950	780	-170	-17.9	-17
33	Primary Metal Industries	3,330	2,170	-1160	-34.8	-116
	Other Metal Products	2,940	1,860	-1080	-36.7	-108
34	Fabricated Metal Products	3,340	3,200	-140	-4.2	-14
35	Industrial Machinery & Equip	3,750	3,090	-660	-17.6	-66
353	Construction & Related Machinery	600	480	-120	-20	-12
354	Metalworking Machinery	1,950	1,590	-360	-18.5	-36
36	Electronic & Other Elec Equip	1,360	1,130	-230	-16.9	-23
367	Electronic Components & Accessories	1,270	1,060	-210	-16.5	-21
	SERVICE PRODUCING:					
48,49	Public Utilities	2,540	2,360	-180	-7.1	-18
49	Electric, Gas, Sanitary	1,720	1,470	-250	-14.5	-25
491	Electric Services	1,240	1,070	-170	-13.7	-17
53	General Merchandise Stores	3,700	3,180	-520	-14.1	-52
531	Department Stores	3,120	2,690	-430	-13.8	-43
54	Food Stores	4,330	4,090	-240	-5.5	-24
541	Grocery Stores	3,970	3,740	-230	-5.8	-23
55	Auto Dirs & Service Stations	2,980	2,880	-100	-3.4	-10
60	Depository Institutions	2,080	1,940	-140	-6.7	-14
602	Commercial Banks	1,740	1,580	-160	-9.2	-16
91-93	Government	6,100	5,720	-380	-6.2	-38
91	Federal Government	810	660	-150	-18.5	-15
92	State Government	1,690	1,530	-160	-9.5	-16

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

NOTE: Table 7.10 is not all-inclusive, i.e., it does not include all industries with projected decreases in employment.

Table 7.11 2002 Demand Occupations for Tri-County Workforce Investment Area

	Annual Openings	Annual Wages			Education /Training
		Entry Level	Average	Experienced Level	
Cashiers	100 or more				on the job training
Waiters & Waitresses	100 or more	\$ 12,248	\$ 12,734	\$ 12,977	on the job training
Retail Salespersons	100 or more	\$ 12,247	\$ 17,416	\$ 20,000	on the job training
Food Preparation Workers	100 or more				on the job training
Office Clerks, General	100 or more	\$ 13,853	\$ 20,546	\$ 23,892	on the job training
Teachers, Secondary School	50 or more				college degree or more
Nursing Aids/Orderlies/Attends	50 or more	\$ 12,827	\$ 17,260	\$ 19,476	on the job training
General Managers & Top Execs	50 or more	\$ 30,279	\$ 56,890	\$ 70,195	college degree or more
Teachers, Elementary School	50 or more	\$ 29,669	\$ 42,600	\$ 49,066	college degree or more
Registered Nurses	50 or more	\$ 31,052	\$ 40,290	\$ 44,909	some post-secondary
Janitors & Cleaners	50 or more				on the job training
Truck Drivers, Light	50 or more	\$ 14,907	\$ 28,665	\$ 35,544	on the job training
Truck Drivers, Heavy	50 or more				on the job training
Food Prep/Service Wkrs, Fast Food	50 or more	\$ 12,153	\$ 15,470	\$ 17,129	on the job training
Child Care Workers	15 or more	\$ 12,143	\$ 12,651	\$ 12,904	on the job training
Farm Workers	15 or more				on the job training
Office/Admin Support Supvrs/Mgrs	15 or more	\$ 23,160	\$ 37,033	\$ 43,969	on the job training
Hairdressers/Hairstylists/Cosmtgts	15 or more				some post-secondary
Carpenters	15 or more				on the job training
Secretaries, Ex Legal or Medical	15 or more				some post-secondary
Laborers, Ldscpgn, Groundskpgn	15 or more				on the job training
Assemblers/Fab, Ex Mach/Elec/Pre	15 or more				on the job training
Bookkpng/Accntng/Auditing Clerks	15 or more	\$ 13,836	\$ 21,960	\$ 26,023	on the job training
Maintenance Repairs, Gen Util	15 or more	\$ 20,790	\$ 29,405	\$ 33,712	on the job training
Marketing/Sales Supervisors	15 or more				on the job training
Sales Rprs, Mfg and Wholesale	15 or more	\$ 23,113	\$ 43,162	\$ 53,187	on the job training
Police Patrol Officers	15 or more	\$ 19,642	\$ 38,428	\$ 47,821	on the job training
Data Entry Keyers, Ex Composing	15 or more	\$ 12,654	\$ 16,419	\$ 18,301	some post-secondary
Cooks, Fast Food	15 or more				on the job training
Bartenders	15 or more	\$ 12,212	\$ 12,699	\$ 12,943	on the job training
Bus Drivers	15 or more	\$ 12,467	\$ 17,856	\$ 20,550	on the job training
Lic Practical/Voc Nurses	15 or more	\$ 22,807	\$ 26,226	\$ 27,936	some post-secondary
Stock Clerks, Sales Floor	15 or more	\$ 12,235	\$ 17,259	\$ 19,771	on the job training
Hand Packers & Packagers	15 or more	\$ 12,164	\$ 16,160	\$ 18,159	on the job training
Guards	15 or more	\$ 13,695	\$ 21,446	\$ 25,322	on the job training
Dining Rm/Café Attnds/Bar Helpers	15 or more	\$ 12,397	\$ 13,446	\$ 13,971	on the job training
First Line Supvrs: Prod/Opertng	15 or more	\$ 28,532	\$ 42,453	\$ 49,414	on the job training
Cooks, Restaurant	15 or more				on the job training
Bus/Truck/Diesel Engine Mechns	15 or more	\$ 21,589	\$ 31,532	\$ 36,504	on the job training
Carpenters/Related Helpers	15 or more	\$ 13,046	\$ 19,269	\$ 22,380	on the job training
Teachers, Special Education	15 or more				on the job training
Automotive Mechns/Service Techns	15 or more	\$ 14,287	\$ 22,554	\$ 26,687	some post-secondary
Counter & Rental Clerks	15 or more	\$ 12,182	\$ 19,094	\$ 22,550	on the job training
Farmers	15 or more				on the job training
Education Administrators	15 or more				college degree or more
Reception & Information Clerks	15 or more	\$ 14,015	\$ 18,191	\$ 20,279	on the job training
First Line Supvrs: Const/Extrac	15 or more	\$ 35,223	\$ 49,209	\$ 51,702	on the job training
Teacher Aids, Paraprofessional	15 or more	\$ 12,256	\$ 13,815	\$ 14,595	some post-secondary
Teacher Aids/Educational Assta	15 or more	\$ 12,256	\$ 13,815	\$ 14,595	on the job training
Counter Attendants/Lunchrm/Cftra	15 or more	\$ 12,364	\$ 12,793	\$ 13,007	on the job training
Residential Counselors	15 or more				college degree or more
Bakers-Bakery Shops & Restaurants	15 or more	\$ 12,640	\$ 16,733	\$ 18,779	on the job training
Machinists	15 or more	\$ 25,127	\$ 32,717	\$ 36,513	on the job training
Computer Support Specialists	15 or more				college degree or more
Electricians	15 or more				on the job training
Brick Masons	15 or more				on the job training

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

NOTE: Table 7.11 is not all-inclusive, i.e., it does not include all demand occupations with projected annual openings.

Using data contained in the U.S. Census Bureau's "County Business Patterns" for the years 1997-2002, industry sector basic employment projections were prepared for Armstrong County for the year 2010. (See Table 7.12.) These projections indicate that basic employment⁶ in Armstrong County will increase by 452 jobs – from 3,559 in 2001 to 4,011 in 2010 – a 12.7% increase. Total employment in Armstrong County will increase by 2,078 jobs – from 16,317 in 2001 to 18,395 in 2010. (Total employment = basic employment x a base employment multiplier of 4.5858, i.e., $4,011 \times 4.5858 = 18,395$.)

Based on these projections, the following county industry sectors will experience the biggest basic employment losses between 2001 and 2010:

- Mining: -372 employees (50.8%)
- Manufacturing: -48 employees (19.0%)
- Retail trade: -90 employees (8.3%)

The following county industry sectors are projected to gain the most basic employment between 2001 and 2010:

- Forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture support: +65 employees (650.0%)
- Transportation and warehousing: +179 employees (41.2%)
- Real estate and rental and leasing: +286 employees (715.0%)
- Health care and social assistance: +395 employees (62.6%)
- Food services: +33 employees (24.2%)

Total employment gains in these industries can be derived by multiplying the basic employment gains by the base multiplier (4.5858). Thus, total employment in these industry sectors will be as follows:

- Forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture support: 298 employees
- Transportation and warehousing: 821 employees
- Real estate and rental and leasing: 1,312 employees
- Health care and social assistance: 1,812 employees
- Food services: 152 employees

The Armstrong County employment projections are similar to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) projections for the tri-county workforce in that substantial job loss are expected in the goods-

⁶ Basic employment is employment in firms and parts of firms where economic activity is dependent on factors external to the local economy. Examples are manufacturing firms, mines and farms that produce goods for export outside of the local economy.

producing sector, while basic employment gains are anticipated in the service-producing sector. Some specific industry sector employment projection comparisons are as follows:

	DLI Tri-County	Armstrong County
Mining	-14.8%	-50.8%
Manufacturing	-9.4%	-19.0%
Retail trade	+0.5%	-8.3%
Health care and social services	+8.2%	+62.6%

The above data indicates that while both Armstrong County and the tri-county workforce will lose mining and manufacturing jobs between 2001 and 2010, the county will lose much higher percentages of these industry sector employees – 50.8% and 19.0%, respectively – than the tri-county area as a whole – 14.8% and 9.4%. On the other hand, county employment in the health care and social service sector will increase at a much higher percentage (62.6%) than for the tri-county area (8.2%).

One discrepancy between the Armstrong County and the tri-county area employment projects is in the retail trade sector. While the tri-county area is expecting a slight increase in retail trade employment (0.5%), Armstrong County is anticipating an 8.3% loss of employees.

Table 7.12 Basic Employment Projections for Armstrong County Industry Sectors for the Year 2010

Industry	Basic Employment (2001)	Projected Basic Employment (2010)	Change in Basic Employment 2001-2010	
			No.	Pct.
Forestry, fishing, hunting and agriculture support	10	75	65	650.0%
Mining	732	360	-372	-50.8%
Utilities	49	43	-6	-12.2%
Manufacturing	252	204	-48	-19.0%
Retail trade	1,086	996	-90	-8.3%
Transportation and warehousing	434	613	179	41.2%
Real estate and rental and leasing	40	326	286	715.0%
Health care and social assistance	631	1,026	395	62.6%
Accommodation	79	81	2	2.5%
Food services	136	169	33	24.2%
Other services (exc. Public administration)	101	108	7	6.9%
Unclassified establishments	9	10	1	11.1%
Total	3,559	4,011	452	12.7%

xv. Demand for Industrial and Commercial Space

In order to determine the need for additional space for industrial and commercial development, several factors need to be considered: the nature and extent of projected employment gains, land absorption trends, and the amount of space available at existing economic development sites.

xvi. Employment Projections

As indicated in Table 7.12 above, basic employment projections for Armstrong County for the year 2010 show significant increases in just three industries: transportation and warehousing, real estate and rental and leasing, and health care and social assistance. Of these three industries, only one – transportation and warehousing – requires significant amounts of land. Anticipated employment increases in real estate and rental and leasing and in health care and social assistance will most likely generate increased demand for office space.

Also, as previously noted, DLI tri-county workforce employment projections indicate that growth will occur in the service-producing sector rather than the more land-consuming goods-producing sector.

xvii. Available Industrial and Commercial Space

The county’s industrial and business parks contain a total of 744 acres of potential industrial and commercial space. The chart below lists these parks, their current occupied acreage, and the amount of land available for future development.

<u>Park (year established)</u>	<u>Occupied acres (2003)</u>	<u>Acres remaining (to full build-out)</u>	<u>Total acres/% occupied (2003)</u>
Northpointe (2001)	14	186	200/7%
West Hills Industrial Park (1973)	98	131	229/43%
Parks Bend Farms (1976)	54	28	82/66%
Manor Township Business Park (1996)	50	16	66/76%
Shannock Valley Industrial Center (1993)	6	5 *	11/55%
Ford City PPG/MAC Park (2003/1980's)	0/31	51/0	51/0% (PPG) 31/100% (MAC)
Apollo Industrial Park (2000)	0	14	14/0%
Schenley Industrial Park (1990)	35	25	60/58%
TOTAL	288	456	744/39%

* Floodplain restrictions apply.

Sources: Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development, Greater Ford City Community Development Corporation, and Schenley Industrial Park

As the above chart indicates, the county’s industrial and business park occupied acreage is just 39% of the total acreage available for development. Data on land absorption rates for the above industrial and business parks is limited, but over the past 10 years, land within the parks has been absorbed at varying rates, from less than one acre per year in Shannock Valley Industrial Center to approximately seven acres per year in Manor Township Business

Park. The average number of acres absorbed per year over the last decade has been approximately 16 acres. Thus, given the additional space likely to be required by the aforementioned employment growth projections in transportation and warehousing and in various service-producing sector industries, Armstrong County has enough capacity (456 available acres) in its industrial and business parks for at least the next 25 – 30 years.

The remaining acreage at Shannock Valley Industrial Center is not really developable, there are two buildings on the site but the land is in the Cowanshannock Creek floodplain

xviii. Adequacy of Public Utilities for Future Development

In order to determine the adequacy of public utilities to support future industrial and commercial development, Senate Engineering Company collected water and sewerage information from public authorities, private water companies, and municipalities.

The major findings of Senate’s study are as follows:

a. Water

Of the 21 water facilities surveyed, ten obtain their water from ground water sources, and 11 obtain their water from surface water sources. The availability and quality of surface water are adequate for growth, but expansion of systems using groundwater sources could cause restrictions due to the unpredictability of the quantity and quality of these sources. Facilities and their water sources are indicated below.

Groundwater sources

- Brady’s Bend Water & Sewer Authority
- Cowanshannock Municipal Authority
- Dayton Borough Municipal Authority
- East Armstrong County Municipal Authority
- Ford City Municipal Water Works
- Manor Township Joint Municipal Authority
- Rural Valley Water Works
- Shadyside Village
- Templeton Water Company
- Worthington-West Franklin Joint Municipal Authority

Surface water sources

- Buffalo Township Municipal Authority
- Gilpin Township Municipal Authority
- Hawthorn Area Water Authority
- Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority
- Mahoning Township Municipal Authority
- Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County
- PA American Water Company
- Parker Area Water Authority
- Parks Township Municipal Authority
- South Buffalo Township Municipal Authority
- West Kittanning Municipal Authority

Storage capacity is one of the major components prohibiting expansion of the existing water systems. Two-thirds of the systems do not have adequate storage capacities. Of the systems with adequate storage capacity, all but the

Worthington-West Franklin Joint Municipal Authority have the storage capacity to take additional customers.

Most water systems are in good condition except for:

- Brady's Bend Water and Sewer Authority (aging waterlines)
- East Armstrong County Municipal Authority (some poor waterlines)
- Ford City Municipal Water Works (Plant – poor to fair condition; waterlines – poor to adequate condition)
- Rural Valley Water Works (aging waterlines)

b. Sewer

Senate Engineering surveyed 22 municipalities or municipal authorities to collect information on public sewerage facilities. The major findings of Senate's study are as follows:

- With the exception of the Brady's Bend and Ford City plants, all other facilities have adequate capacity to accommodate anticipated growth in their service areas.
- Separation of sewers in those areas with combined sewers would provide further capacity to accommodate growth.
- Only two facilities – Armstrong County Industrial Development Authority (Northpointe) and Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Plant – can accommodate industrial wastewater contributors. In order to accept industrial wastewater contributors, all other facilities would need to implement industrial wastewater pre-treatment programs.

More detailed information on public water and sewer facilities is contained in Section 10 and in Senate Engineering Company's complete report in the Appendix.

B. Trends

- Despite a slight population decline between 1990 and 2000, the number and percentage of Armstrong County residents in the work force increased. However, the drop in the percentage of county workers who work in Armstrong County indicates that an increasing number of county residents must leave the county to find employment.
- The educational attainment of county residents is rising at both the secondary and post-secondary levels.
- Industries that traditionally employed many county workers (e.g., mining and manufacturing) have experienced substantial job losses and are projected to continue to lose employees through 2010.

- Most of the job growth anticipated in the county by 2010 will occur in the service-producing sector.
- National and regional economic downturns since 2000 have slowed the occupancy of the county's industrial and business parks.

C. Conclusions

- Armstrong County needs to attract new businesses and retain existing businesses to provide additional employment opportunities for county residents.
- The central business districts in the county's boroughs are declining both in terms of economic vitality and physical condition. The county should pursue a main street revitalization program to address this issue. This program may include the use of a shared downtown manager.
- With public water and sewer lines being critical to all types of development, the county should maintain communication with municipal authorities to coordinate proposed water and sewer line extensions with local and county residential, commercial, and industrial development efforts. Securing funding for water and sewer lines must remain a priority for the county.
- Many county residents, business people, municipal officials, and other parties noted that the County is not capitalizing on the potential of a number of its economic development assets. A prime example of underutilized resources is the county's rivers and creeks. The county should conduct a study to identify and evaluate the economic development/recreation potential of its waterways. The proposed study could be part of (or should at least be coordinated with) the recommended study of the impact of proposed changes in the operating schedule of Allegheny River locks and dams.
- The county needs a more qualified, better-trained work force for jobs that are and will be available in Armstrong County. County schools need to provide educational/vocational programs that will prepare county residents for these jobs.
- There needs to be better communication between the county and the business community, especially small businesses, in order to address the needs of the business sector. Some businesses located in older commercial districts along the fringes of the county believe a better liaison with the county will combat the "county-has-forgotten/does-not-care-about-us" perception of these businesses and their host communities.
- In connection with the revitalization of borough central business districts, the county should consider the feasibility of establishing an incubator for small retail businesses to nurture firms that may fill vacant storefronts.

- In addition to the aforementioned untapped/underutilized development potential of the County's waterways, some county residents believe that the county is not capitalizing on the economic development potential of several other assets, e.g., historic, cultural, and architectural resources, tourist attractions, and recreation facilities. The county should establish and maintain partnerships with property owners, conservation groups, chambers of commerce, historic societies, et.al. to identify the development potential of these resources and then pursue such development, including the necessary promotion/marketing.
- The county should focus on fully utilizing its existing industrial parks and brownfields before considering construction of new facilities.
- Small firms account for much of the county's employment, and the county should continue to include smaller firms in its pursuit of industrial and manufacturing firms.
- The county needs to maintain a lead role in economic development efforts. As a major funder of community development projects, it is in the best position to achieve coordination, cooperation and collaboration among the many entities involved in economic development at the local, county, regional, state and federal levels.
- County businesses cite (state and local) taxes as an obstacle to operating a business in Armstrong County. The county should explore the feasibility of providing tax incentives to foster business development.

D. Policy Statements

POLICY: Promote countywide tourism efforts.

Goal: Promote tourism along river and creek corridors as potential economic development generators.

Objective: Conduct a recreation plan specific to the county's water bodies, such as the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas Rivers, Redbank and Mahoning Creeks, et. al.

Objective: Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to optimize the operating schedule (and ultimately increase utilization) of Allegheny River dams and locks.

Objective: Promote/market waterway recreation assets.

Objective: Coordinate/support other agency initiatives to improve rivers and streams water quality.

Goal: Utilize the county's historic buildings and properties to attract tourists.

Objective: Prepare and maintain an inventory of the county's historic resources.

Objective: Pursue historic district designation of downtown blocks as a historic preservation, tourism development, and economic development measure.

Objective: Obtain funding to restore historically significant buildings and properties.

Objective: Promote/market historic resources.

POLICY: Pursue economic development based on criteria that promote efficient land use and provision of public utilities.

Goal: Fully utilize existing industrial and business parks before considering construction of new facilities.

Objective: Monitor the occupancy of industrial and business parks to identify land absorption rates and the need for additional facilities. Use this information when updating the county's long-range economic development program.

Goal: Identify areas of anticipated growth to guide future development and extensions of public utilities.

Objective: Establish and maintain communication with municipal authorities to obtain updated information

regarding planned water and sewer infrastructure projects.

Objective: Evaluate the county's current subdivision and land development ordinance requirements for new development as it relates to location within anticipated growth areas.

Goal: Encourage municipalities with zoning to update their ordinances in order to permit commercial and industrial development to locate in appropriate areas.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate the updating of ordinances.

POLICY: Promote brownfield development

Goal: Preserve natural resources and agricultural land by utilizing existing and abandoned properties for redevelopment of commercial and industrial uses.

Objective: Conduct a study to inventory the county's brownfield sites and evaluate the feasibility of their reuse for economic development purposes.

Objective: Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential financial resources, etc.) available for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

POLICY: Consider adaptive re-use of abandoned/underutilized/vacant non-brownfield properties (e.g. former schools) for commercial and industrial uses.

Goal: Preserve natural resources and agricultural land and promote efficient land use by redeveloping abandoned/underutilized/vacant properties rather than construct new facilities.

Objective: Conduct a study to inventory the county's abandoned, underutilized and vacant buildings and land and determine the feasibility of their reuse for economic development purposes.

Objective: Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential financial resources, etc.) available to promote redevelopment.

POLICY: Increase all types of development in the county.

Goal: Increase the supply of housing within the county to accommodate present and future workers.

Objective: Consider establishing tax incentive programs to encourage residential development – both rehabilitation and new construction.

Objective: Facilitate the extension of public utilities (e.g. water and sewer lines) to permit additional residential development.

Objective: Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to ensure that their ordinances allow for a variety of affordable housing types of appropriate densities, especially near employment centers.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances.

Goal: Increase the number of businesses in the county to provide jobs for county residents and to increase the county's tax base.

Objective: Work with county school districts, local universities, and businesses to provide educational/vocational programs that will prepare county residents for existing and anticipated jobs.

Objective: Consider establishing tax incentive programs to encourage commercial and industrial development and redevelopment.

Objective: Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to ensure that their ordinances allow for adequate amounts of land for commercial and industrial uses in appropriate locations.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances.

Objective: Pursue revitalization programs in the county's downtown business districts.

Objective: Increase the county's economic development efforts to attract/retain smaller companies.

Objective: Continue to help businesses acquire needed financing, e.g., grants and low-interest loans.

Objective: Consider the feasibility of establishing an incubator for retail businesses that may fill vacant storefronts in the county's central business districts.

Goal: Provide the infrastructure needed for economic development.

Objective: Facilitate (through leadership and funding) the provision of water and sewer lines to permit residential, commercial and industrial development.

Objective: Continue to pursue state and federal funding for housing and community development projects.

Supporting Information:

- According to the countywide telephone survey, the following percentages of survey respondents favored the indicated types of development:
 - Health care facilities 72.6%
 - Industrial/manufacturing 70.3%
 - Entertainment/recreational venues 58.3%
 - Business/office parks 53.4%
- At the regional public meetings, the consensus of attendees was that the county should not limit the types of commercial and industrial development it tries to attract.
- Telephone interviews with key economic development stakeholders revealed the following:
 - The county's economic development efforts should include the attraction/retention of small businesses, not just large ones.
 - The county needs a larger tax base to provide jobs for county residents and reduce the tax burden on current residents.
 - The county needs to work on developing some of its greatly underutilized/virtually untapped economic development resources, e.g., tourism, recreation, historic preservation, etc.
 - The county must continue to facilitate (through funding and leadership/technical assistance) central business district revitalization.
 - The county needs to continue helping businesses acquire grants and low-interest loans.
 - The county needs to provide tax relief (e.g., lower property taxes and/or tax incentives to enable businesses to operate and be competitive.
 - The county needs appropriate and adequate job training.
 - The county should facilitate (through funding and leadership) the provision of water and sewer lines to permit residential, commercial, and industrial development and expansion.
 - The county should continue to pursue state and federal funding for county housing and community development projects.

E. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Industrial Development Authority, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACCESS	PA Access Grant Program
ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
ARCGP	Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Program (DCED)
BAPG	Brownfields Assessment Grants (EPA)
BFP	Ben Franklin Partnership
BHI	Brownfield for Housing Initiative
BIG	Brownfield Inventory Grants (PA DEP)
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CJT	Customized Job Training (DCED)
CLGGP	Certified Local Government Grant Program (PHMC)
COP	Communities of Opportunity (PA DCED)
CRP	Community Revitalization Program (PA DCED)
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships Program
HP	Hybrid Program (DCED)
IDP	Infrastructure Development Program (DCED)
IRC	Industrial Resource Centers
ISRP	Industrial Sites Reuse Program (DCED)
JCTC	Job Creation Tax Credits (DCED)
JTPA	Job Training Partnership Act
KHPG	Keystone Historic Preservation Grants (PHMC)
LHG	Local History Grants (PHMC)
LUPTAP	Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (PA DCED)
MELF	Machinery & Equipment Loan Fund (DCED)
OGP	Opportunity Grant Program
PCAP	Pennsylvania Capital Access Program
PEDFA	Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority
PFOP	Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania (PP)
PHPP	Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program (DCNR)
PIDA	Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority
PMBDA	Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority
PSR	Pennsylvania Stream Releaf (DEP)
RBS	Rural Business – Cooperative Development Service (USDA)
RCGP	Rivers Conservation Grant Program (DCNR)
RDG	Rural Grants Program (USDA)
RDTC	Research and Development Tax Credit
RHS	Rural Housing Services (USDA)
RTT	Rails-to-Trails Grant Program (DCNR)
RUS	Rural Utilities Service (USDA)
SBA	Small Business Administration
SBF	Small Business First
TSAP	Targeted Site Assessment Program (EPA)

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Promote countywide tourism efforts					
GOAL:	Promote tourism along river and creek corridors as potential economic development generators.	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce Armstrong County Tourist Bureau County municipalities	PSR, RTT, RCGP	NA	Short- to long-term
Objective:	Conduct a recreation plan specific to the county's water bodies, such as the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas Rivers, Redbank and Mahoning Creeks, et.al.	ACDPD Private consultant	CDBG, DCNR	\$25,000 - \$50,000	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to optimize the operating schedule (and ultimately increase utilization of Allegheny River dams and locks.	ACDPD Army Corps of Engineers	NA	NA	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Promote/market waterway recreation assets.	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce	ACDPD, PHPP, Chambers of Commerce	\$15,000 - \$25,000 (annual)	Ongoing
Objective:	Coordinate/support other agency initiatives to improve rivers and streams water quality.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL:	Utilize the county's historic buildings and properties to attract tourists	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce County historic society Local historic societies	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Prepare and maintain an inventory of the county's historic resources	County historic society Local historic societies	CLGGP, county historic society, local historic societies	NA	Short- to mid-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Promote countywide tourism efforts (continued)					
Objective:	Pursue historic designation of downtown blocks as a historic preservation, tourism development, and economic development measure.	ACDPD County historic society Local historic societies Chambers of Commerce Municipal governing bodies Property owners Armstrong County Tourist Bureau	ACDPD, CLGGP, county historic society, local historic societies, municipal revenues, Chambers of Commerce, foundations, property owners	\$10,000 - \$15,000 per district	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Obtain funding to restore historically significant buildings and properties.	ACDPD County historic society Local historic societies Chambers of Commerce Municipal governing bodies Property owners	ACDPD, CLGGP, county historic society, local historic societies, municipal revenues, Chambers of Commerce, foundations, property owners, KHPG, PHPP, PFOP	NA	Mid- to long-term
Objective:	Promote/market historic resources	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce County historic society Local historic societies Armstrong County Tourist Bureau	ACDPD, LHG, Chambers of Commerce	\$15,000 - \$25,000 (annual)	Ongoing
POLICY: Pursue economic development based on criteria that promote efficient land use and provision of public utilities.					
GOAL:	Fully utilize existing industrial and business parks before considering construction of new facilities.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short- to long-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Pursue economic development based on criteria that promote efficient land use and provision of public utilities. (continued)					
Objective:	Monitor the occupancy of industrial and business parks to identify land absorption rates and the need for additional facilities. Use this information when updating the county's long-range economic development program.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short- to long-term
GOAL:	Identify areas of anticipated growth to guide future development and extensions of public utilities.	ACDPD County municipalities Municipal authorities	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Establish and maintain contact with municipal authorities to obtain updated information regarding planned water and sewer infrastructure projects.	ACDPD Municipalities Municipal authorities	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Evaluate the county's current subdivision and land development ordinance requirements for new development as it relates to location within anticipated growth areas.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short-term
GOAL:	Encourage municipalities with zoning to update their ordinance in order to permit industrial and commercial development to locate in appropriate areas.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate the updating of ordinances.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Promote brownfield development.					
GOAL:	Preserve natural resources and agricultural land by utilizing existing and abandoned properties for redevelopment of commercial and industrial uses.	ACDPD County municipalities Property owners	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Conduct a study to inventory the county's brownfield sites and evaluate the feasibility of their reuse for economic development purposes.	ACDPD Private consultants	BIG, BAPG, CDBG, ISRP, TSAP	\$25,000 - \$100,000	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential financial resources, etc.) available for redevelopment of brownfield sites.	ACDPD	NA	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Short- to long-term
POLICY: Consider adaptive reuse of abandoned/underutilized/vacant non-brownfield properties (e.g., former schools) for commercial and industrial uses.					
GOAL:	Preserve natural resources and agricultural land and promote efficient land use by redeveloping abandoned/underutilized/vacant properties rather than construct new facilities.	ACDPD Property owners	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Conduct a study to inventory the county's abandoned, underutilized, and vacant buildings and land and determine the feasibility of their reuse for economic development purposes.	ACDPD Private consultants	CDBG, TSAP	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential financial resources, etc.) available to promote redevelopment.	ACDPD	NA	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Short- to long-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Increase all types of development in the county.					
GOAL:	Increase the supply of housing within the county to accommodate present and future workers.	ACDPD County housing authority Private sector residential developers Non-profit agencies	CDBG, RHS, HOME, COP, CRP, ACCESS, BHI, Act 137, Act 94, lending institutions, property owners	NA	Short- to long-term
Objective:	Consider establishing tax incentive programs to encourage residential development – both rehabilitation and new construction.	ACDPD Taxing bodies	Taxing bodies, LERTA	NA	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Facilitate the extension of public utilities (e.g., water and sewer lines) to permit additional residential development	ACDPD Municipalities Municipal authorities	CDBG, ARCGP, IDP, municipal revenues, PENNVEST, RUS	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to ensure that their ordinances allow for a variety of affordable housing types of appropriate densities, especially near employment centers.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short- to long-term
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances	ACDPD	LUPTAP	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Short- to mid-term
GOAL:	Increase the number of businesses in the county to provide jobs for county residents and to increase the county's tax base.	ACDPD	COP, RDG, RBS	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Work with county school districts, local universities and the business community to provide educational/vocational programs that will prepare county residents for existing and anticipated jobs.	ACDPD School districts Vocational schools Businesses	CJT, JCTC, JTPA	NA	Short- to long-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Increase all types of development in the county (continued).					
Objective:	Consider establishing tax incentive programs to encourage commercial and industrial development and redevelopment	Taxing bodies	Taxing bodies, JCTC, LERTA, RDTC	To be determined	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Facilitate the extension of public utilities (i.e., water and sewer lines) to permit commercial and industrial development and redevelopment.	ACDPD Municipalities Municipal authorities	CDBG, ARCGP, municipal revenues, PENNVEST, IDP, RUS	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage municipalities with zoning to ensure that their ordinances allow for adequate amounts of land for commercial and industrial uses in appropriate locations.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Short- to long-term
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate updating ordinances.	ACDPD	LUPTAP	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Pursue revitalization programs in the county's downtown business districts	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce Property owners	CDBG, CRP, COP, HP, state and federal main street programs, RBS	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Short- to mid-term
Objective:	Increase the county's economic development efforts to attract/retain smaller companies.	ACDPD Chambers of Commerce	RDG, RBS, SBF, IRC, BFP, OGP	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Continue to help businesses acquire needed financing, e.g., grants and low-interest loans.	ACDPD	CDBG, RBS, MELF, PEDFA, PIDA, PMBDA, SBF, PCAP, IRC, BFP, OGP, SBA 504	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Consider the feasibility of establishing an incubator for retail businesses that may fill vacant storefronts in the county's central business districts.	ACDPD	CDBG, RBS	NA	Short- to mid-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Increase all types of development in the county (continued).					
GOAL:	Provide the infrastructure needed for economic development.	ACDPD Municipal authorities Municipalities	ARCGP, IDP, CDBG, PENNVEST, municipal revenues, RUS	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Facilitate (through leadership and funding) the provision of water and sewer lines to permit residential, commercial and industrial development.	ACDPD	ARCGP, IDP, CDBG, PENNVEST, municipal revenues, RUS	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Continue to pursue state and federal funding for housing and community development projects.	ACDPD	ARCGP, IDP, CDBG, PENNVEST, municipal revenues, RUS	NA	Ongoing

8. TRANSPORTATION

A. Profile

A transportation system moves people and goods within and across an area safely and efficiently through a variety of modes. The county transportation network includes roads, rail lines, bridges, airports, waterways, and pedestrian paths. Modes of transportation include motor vehicles, airplanes, trains, horse carriages, bicycles, and walking. The transportation system is a critical element of a comprehensive plan, as it can be a driver of economic development and land use.

i. Types of Information Used

The following data sources were analyzed to prepare the Transportation Profile:

- **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn Dot):**
PennDOT and the PennDOT District 10 office provided data information and maps.
- **Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC):**
SPC is the primary regional planning agency for nine counties of southwestern Pennsylvania, including Armstrong County. SPC develops plans and programs for transportation systems, public investments, and economic development initiatives, including the Transportation Improvement Program.
- **R.B. Shannon and Associates, Inc. (RBSA):**
RBSA is a consulting engineering and land surveying design firm in western Pennsylvania that provided local and county bridge data.
- **US Census Bureau (1990 – 2000):**
Commuting data
- **Public Input from regional meetings held Fall 2002 and Spring 2003:**
Public input was solicited from county residents through two series of regional meetings.
- **Key Stakeholder Phone Interviews:**
Over 50 phone interviews were held with key stakeholders who practice or volunteer in the fields of education, natural resource protection, historic preservation, transportation, social services, and business and industry.

- CAMPOS Market Research Phone Survey Results:

A random sample of 600 county residents provided insight via a phone survey on perceived needs in housing, transportation, public utilities, education, recreation, land use, and economic development.

ii. Road Network

The county road network is a vital element in the transportation system since it serves vehicular traffic, which comprises the majority of existing and anticipated future transportation demand. The roadway network will continue to be the primary means of transportation through and within the county.

The roadway network is classified by a hierarchal system which identifies both the function and level of demand. The functional classification reflects whether a roadway serves residents traveling within the county to and from individual destinations or serves motorists traveling through the county. The following describes the classifications as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

- Interstate System:

The Interstate System consists of all presently designated freeway routes meeting the Interstate geometric and construction standards for future traffic. The Interstate System is the highest classification of arterial roads and streets and provides the highest level of mobility, at the highest speed, for a long uninterrupted distance.

- Arterial:

Primarily serving through and regional traffic on roads designed for mobility.

- Other Arterials:

These consist of limited-access freeways, multi-lane highways, and other important highways supplementing the interstate system that connect, as directly as practicable, the nation's principal urbanized areas, cities, and industrial centers; serve the national defense; and connect at suitable border points with routes of continental importance.

- Collectors:

Collectors provide land access service and traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas, and downtown city centers. Collectors connect local roads and streets with arterials and provide less mobility than arterials at lower speed and for a shorter distance.

- **Locals:**
Local roads and streets provide a high level of access to abutting land but offer limited mobility.
- **Rural:**
The area outside the boundaries of small urban and urbanized areas.
- **Urban:**
Urban places of 5,000 or more population and urbanized areas as designated by the Bureau of the Census.
- **Small Urban:**
Places having a population of 5,000 or more, not in an urbanized area.

**Mileage by Functional Classification for
Federal Roads in Armstrong County**

	Linear Miles	% of Total Federal Miles
Interstate	0	0.0%
Other Arterials	169	25.7%
Collectors	319	48.5%
Locals	170	25.8%
Total	658	100.0%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

The following is a list of additional PennDOT definitions that further help describe the transportation network in Armstrong County.

- **DVMT:**
Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel; a measure of total travel, by all vehicles.
- **Federal Aid System:**
Roads eligible for federal-aid-highway funds; determined by functional classification.
- **Linear Miles:**
Length measured along roadway centerline.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), there are a total of 1,809.5 linear miles of road in Armstrong County. The majority of the total roadway composition includes non-federally aided roads, such as minor collectors and local roads. Armstrong County has approximately 350 miles of federally aided roadway and 1,460 miles of non-federally aided roadway. PennDOT maintains 658 linear miles of road in the county. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of linear miles and daily vehicle miles of travel (DVMT) for each classification and jurisdiction of road.

Mileage and DVMT by Jurisdiction		Total Linear Miles	Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT)
Federally Aided Roads	Interstate	-	0
	Other Freeway/Expressway	3.5	62,116
	Other Principal Arterials	57.5	598,658
	Minor Arterials	108.8	506,918
	Major Collectors	178.1	225,049
Non-Federally	Minor Collectors	151.9	110,227
	Local	1,309.7	262,440
Total		1,809.5	1,765,408
PennDot		658	1,556,545
Other Agencies (including State & Federal Agency miles)		3.9	3,896
Turnpike		0	0
Toll Bridges		0	0
Local Municipal		1,147.60	204,967
Total		1,809.5	1,765,408

source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

iii. Identification of Major Highways

The following table identifies the major highway network in Armstrong County by name, classifications, description, number of lanes and jurisdiction. PennDOT's Federal Function Class Map and General Highway Map are Appendix Maps T8-1 and T8-2.

Highway Network

Road	Classification	Description	Number of Lanes	Jurisdiction
Route 28	Freeway/Expressway	multi-lane hwy & fully controlled access hwy	4	State
Route 422	Principal Arterial hwy & Freeway/Expressway	fully controlled access hwy	2 & 4	Federal
Route 66	Minor Arterial	traffic route & multi-lane hwy	2 & 4	State
Alt. Route 66	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 85	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 268	Minor Arterial & Principal Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 68	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 128	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 56	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 156	Minor Arterial	traffic route	2	State
Route 210	Minor Arterial & Rural Major Collector	traffic route	2	State
Route 839	Rural Major Collector	traffic route	2	State

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; 2002 General Highway Map, Federal Functional Class Map by Bureau of Planning and Research

PennDOT produced a map of 2002 traffic counts (Appendix Map T8-3), and Appendix Map T8-4 is a table of the traffic counts for the state routes identified above.

iv. Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP)

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is responsible for creating a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region, which is composed of the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and the surrounding nine counties, including Armstrong County. This is a four year program that identifies the highest priority highway, bridge and transit improvement projects for the area. The following is a discussion of the Armstrong County projects which were submitted in the 2003-2006 Draft TIP.

There are 27 transportation improvement projects in Armstrong County identified in the TIP. All of these projects are classified as either engineering, right-of-way or construction improvements. A planned expenditure of \$37,954,000 through 2006 will be needed to achieve these improvements. Over 85% of these funds will be contributed through federal sources, and approximately 85% will be allocated for construction improvements. Appendix T8-5 is a table that lists major projects identified by SPC, accompanied by a map (Appendix T8-6) that designates where the projects are located.

Public Input

Campos Market Research conducted a countywide telephone survey in March 2003, which yielded the following additional information on transportation-related elements, issues, and priorities:

The major road improvements most needed in Armstrong County (and the percentage of survey respondents favoring these improvements) are:

- The extension of Route 28 to I-80 (17.0%)
Support for this improvement was strongest in the central, northeast, and west regions of the county.
- Route 66 (17.0%)
Support for this improvement was strongest in the south, northeast and central regions of the county.
- Route 422 (15.2%)
East and central region residents were the strongest proponents of this improvement.
- Route 85 (8.8%)
East region residents rated this improvement the second most necessary road improvement (after Route 422).
- Alternate 66 (6.8%)
South region residents rated this improvement the second most necessary road improvement (after Route 66).
- Secondary roads/back roads/roads outside of town (6.8%).

Telephone interviews with transportation agencies and key stakeholders concerning transportation issues produced the following opinions and insights:

- Extending Route 28 to I-80 is essential to providing better access to Pittsburgh and northern locations, as well as to the eastern part of the county.
- TIP projects are typically bridge rehabilitation and maintenance work, however bridge conditions remain a topic of concern and need additional improvement.
- Transportation projects need to support development projects and should be evaluated in conjunction with infrastructure needs to better direct development in a fiscally responsible manner.

v. Bridges

There are a total of 372 state-owned bridges in Armstrong County. Appendix T8-7 includes a detailed inventory of the state maintained bridges, their location, features, design, and year built. This list was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 10 office.

There are a total of 67 local Armstrong County bridges, three of which are owned by Brady Township in Clarion County. Thirty-five of the local bridges are owned and maintained by the County, and 29 are owned and maintained by the townships. The East Planning District contains the most local bridges. Appendix T8-8 contains an inventory of the local and county bridges located in Armstrong County.

vi. Rails to Trails

The Rails to Trails Act of 1990 encourages the conversion of abandoned railroad tracks into public recreational trails. There are approximately 60 miles of trails converted from old rail beds in Armstrong County that are now part of the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources program called Rails-to-Trails. These trails include the Armstrong Trail (52 miles), Roaring Run Trail (2 miles), and the Shamokin Trail (4 miles). Additionally, several extensions of existing trails have been proposed and are in various stages of development. These trails are part of a larger regional trail network that covers parts of western Pennsylvania and will eventually stretch from Erie to Washington D.C.

Appendix T8-9 is a map indicating the location of these trails.

vii. Rail Service

There are six active rail lines operating in Armstrong County. The longest line is the Pittsburgh & Shawmut Rail line, which enters the County around Freeport, travels north to Reesedale where it crosses the Allegheny River and travels east towards McWilliams where it exits the County. The following is a list of the six active lines:

- Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad
- Pittsburgh & Shawmut
- Buffalo & Pittsburgh
- Kiski Junction
- Norfolk Southern (track rights over Pittsburgh & Shawmut and Buffalo & Pittsburgh)
- CSXT (track rights over Buffalo & Pittsburgh)

There are four sites located along regional and short line rail lines in Armstrong County that have the potential to be rail served. These properties were identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and are described in the following table:

Location	Servicing RR	Size (Acres)	All Public Utilities
Murphy's Flat, South Buffalo Twp	Pittsburgh & Shawmut Railroad, Inc.	153	No
Schenley Industrial Park, Gilpin Twp	Kiski Junction Railroad	5	Yes
Snyder Industrial Site, North Buffalo Twp & East Franklin Twp	Pittsburgh & Shawmut Railroad, Inc.	53	Yes
Winton Acres, Washington Twp	Pittsburgh & Shawmut Railroad, Inc.	105	No

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, there are no abandoned railroads where the tracks have been retained.

viii. Airport Service

There is one general service airport located in Armstrong County. The McVile Airport is privately owned but publicly used. It is located in South Buffalo Township (one mile southwest of Cadogan Township and six miles northeast of Freeport). Access to the airport is via State Route 128. The McVile Airport has two sod-runways. There is an average of 30 trips per day from this airport, of which 91% are local general aviation. Less than 1% is military aviation. There are approximately 50 aircraft based on the field, and 47 of these are single engine planes. The airport experiences approximately 16,000 aircraft operations annually. McVile Airport is also sanctioned by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to serve as a small aircraft flight training school.

ix. Allegheny River Locks & Dams

The Allegheny River is considered a commercially navigable waterway of the Ohio River Navigation System (ORS). The ORS was constructed to allow barge and steamboat transportation during the low water season. In 2000, the Allegheny River waterway traffic carried approximately 3.7 million tons, consisting largely of coal, iron, steel, petroleum products, aggregates, and grain. There are a total of 60 locks and dams that comprise the ORS. Eight

locks and dams are on the Allegheny River and five of these are located in Armstrong County (numbers 5-9). These dams became operational between 1927 and 1938, and no modernization or rehabilitation has been performed since 1937.

The Allegheny River can have a tremendous impact on the regional economy. It can be an economic development tool by lowering transportation costs, providing access to local and external markets, improving energy efficiency for businesses, supplying recreational and industrial water and creating jobs.

According to the 2002 U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Commerce Report on the Great Lakes and Ohio River Navigation Systems, many locks no longer meet the needs of modern day operating standards and tow sizes. The locks are described as too small, too slow to fill and empty, and too costly to operate and maintain. There are additional costs associated with continued maintenance, congestion and shipping delays.

The Allegheny River allows for recreational traffic as well as commercial. Recreational traffic and development along the Allegheny River increased between 2000 and 2001, especially on Lock and Dam numbers 5, 6, and 7. However, since commercial traffic is prohibited from mixing with recreation craft within a lock, providing additional chambers to separate the uses would increase the safety and efficiency of the waterway and lock operation.

x. Public Transportation

There is one public transportation agency serving Armstrong County--Town & Country Transit Authority, formerly Mid-County Transit Authority. Town & Country Transit Authority provides service to Kittanning, Manorville, Ford City, Ford Cliff, Applegold, West Kittanning and parts of Manor Township. The public transit service is available from Monday to Friday from 6:00 AM to 8:50 PM on a fixed route. Saturday service is provided from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Town & Country Transit Authority offers a discount program for senior riders, as well as free service to the companions of persons with disabilities. Buses are handicap accessible.

Town & County Transit Authority administers a fixed-route service in the central portion of the county, as well as a shared program service. The shared program service is partially funded through the Department of Aging. The shared program transports seniors to agency centers as well as to non-critical medical appointments.

The Community Action Agency provides free transportation out of the county for persons with medical needs. Riders are required to possess a valid Medicaid/ACCESS card. Services are provided from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Additional services are provided on Saturday and Sunday pending availability.

Funding for Town & County Transit Authority's fixed-route system includes the financial participation (based on a per capita formula) of the seven communities served by the system. Any expansion of the system would require the financial participation of the additional community(ies) to be served. Although the Authority is not anticipating any expansion of its fixed-route system, it will consider expansion requests if feasible and the required funding is available.

Public Input

The countywide telephone survey conducted in March 2003 provided the following information concerning public transportation issues:

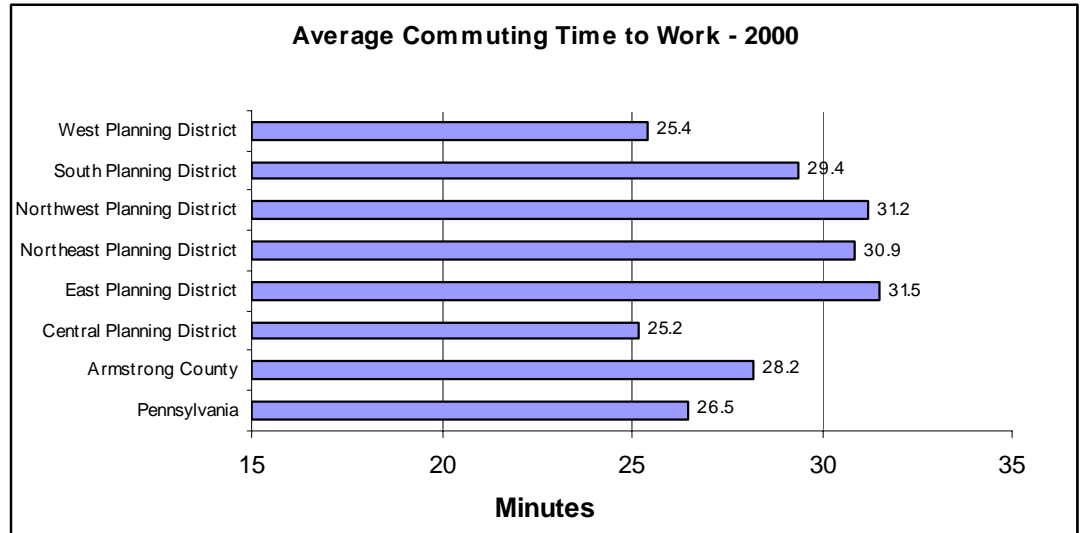
- The majority of respondents did not feel that public transportation in Armstrong County is adequate.
 - Only three in ten (31.7%) countywide survey respondents rated public transportation as "very adequate" (10.9%) or "adequate" (20.9%), but 61.4% of central region residents gave public transportation one of these ratings.
 - More than one-half (51.2%) considered public transportation either "inadequate" (17.5%) or "very inadequate" (33.7%).
 - Residents in the northeast and south regions of the county were least likely to rate public transit as "very adequate" or "adequate."
- Only 5.0% of survey respondents used public transportation, including 12.8% of central region respondents and 7.0% of northwest region residents. No more than 3.6% of the respondents from other regions used public transportation.
- Of the survey respondents who do not use public transportation, 36.0% reported that they would use public transportation if it were available in their area, including 44.0% of south region respondents and 40.4% of east region residents.

During telephone interviews with transportation agencies and other key stakeholders, many interviewees asserted that more public transit is necessary in Armstrong County.

xi. Commuting Patterns

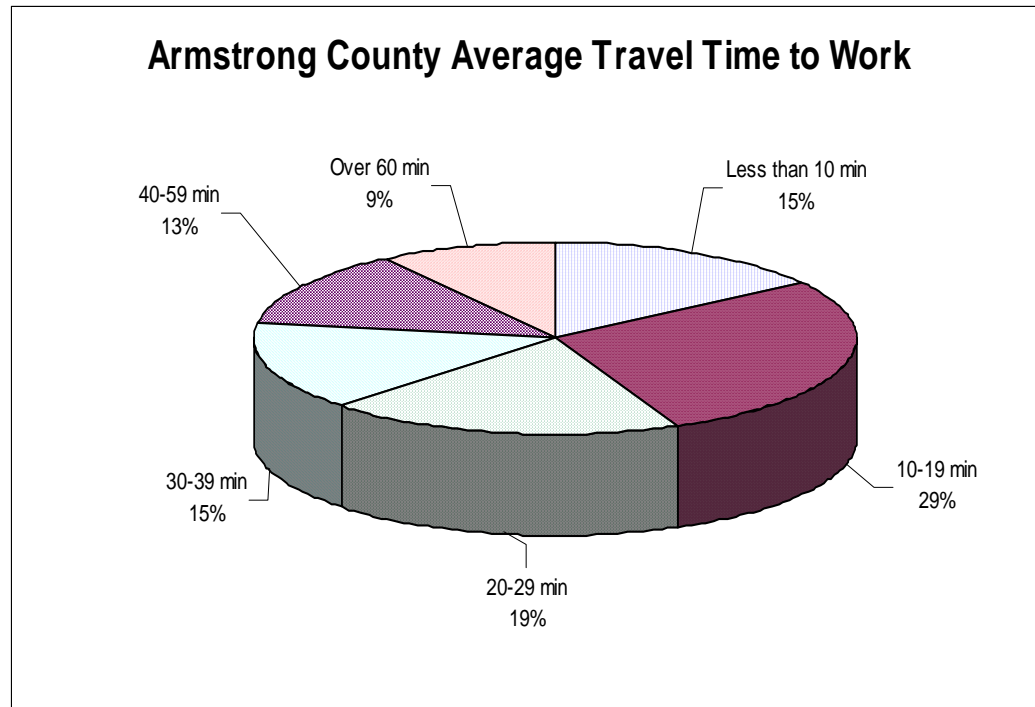
Limited employment opportunities within Armstrong County necessitate that most county workers commute to jobs in surrounding counties. This is reflected in the 2000 Census figures which indicate that the average commuting time to work for county workers is 28 minutes, compared to 26 minutes in the state of Pennsylvania.

The following chart describes the average driving times to work in each of the regions of the county:



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

While the average commute to work was just over 28 minutes for county workers, the greatest percentage of workers (29%) traveled between 10-19 minutes. The following chart illustrates the travel time for county workers by time increments.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The central and western region workers have the shortest commuting time to work due to the developed character of the regions and the concentration of employment opportunities. Over 69% of central region workers and 65% of the western region workers commute less than 30 minutes to work. The northeastern region has the greatest number of commuters traveling more than 30 minutes a day, since only 49% of the area's population travels less than half an hour to work daily. The following table describes the percentage of region workers with commuting times to work of less than 30 minutes. Please to refer to Table T8-10 in the Appendix for a more detailed description.

	Ave. Travel Time	Travel Time Less Than 30 Min	% of Total
Pennsylvania	26.46	3,583,865	64.5%
Armstrong County	28.18	18,015	60.5%
Central Planning District	25.18	4,081	69.6%
East Planning District	31.50	2,455	54.5%
Northeast Planning District	30.88	1,437	48.8%
Northwest Planning District	31.22	988	54.3%
South Planning District	29.37	4,382	58.7%
West Planning District	25.44	4,672	65.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Among the county's municipalities, Burrell in the southern region and Madison in the northeast region have the longest average commuting times to work--36 minutes. In contrast, West Kittanning and East Franklin in the western region and Ford City in the central region have the shortest average commuting times--21 minutes. Tables T8-11 and T8-12 in the Appendix present details regarding commuting times for each of the county's municipalities and regions.

Almost 25% of the county's workforce leaves left home between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. with the greatest number departing between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Over 63% of the county's workers leave home before 8.a.m, compared to 58% of Pennsylvania's workers who leave home for work before 8 a.m. This supports the other data that indicates that Armstrong County workers must commute farther and therefore need to leave for work earlier than other areas in Pennsylvania. Over 68% of northeast region workers leave before 8 a.m., the highest percentage in the county. In comparison to the other regions, the northeast region has the greatest percentage of residents who commute more than 30 minutes. Thus, although the northeast region has only the third longest commute, they have proportionately more residents making a long commute than the other regions.

The following table shows the percentage of region workers by time they leave for work. For a more detailed table, please refer to Appendix, Tables T8-13 and T8-14.

	Before 5 a.m.	%	Between 5 - 6 a.m.	%	Between 6 - 7 a.m.	%	Between 7 - 8 a.m.	%
Pennsylvania	172,304	3.1%	395,172	7.1%	1,078,444	19.4%	1,586,340	28.6%
Armstrong County	1,468	4.9%	3,176	10.7%	6,815	22.9%	7,369	24.7%
Central Planning District	279	4.8%	521	8.9%	1,326	22.6%	1,448	24.7%
East Planning District	279	6.2%	532	11.8%	1,027	22.8%	985	21.9%
District	230	7.8%	380	12.9%	702	23.9%	691	23.5%
District	82	4.5%	253	13.9%	414	22.7%	402	22.1%
South Planning District	253	3.4%	737	9.9%	1,741	23.3%	1,864	24.9%
West Planning District	345	4.8%	753	10.5%	1,605	22.3%	1,979	27.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

B. Trends

According to 1990 Census data, the average time a county resident spent commuting to work was 24.21 minutes, in comparison to 28.18 in 2000. While this is only a difference of four minutes, it is an increase of over 15% of the total travel time to work. Correspondingly, the percentage of county residents commuting less than 30 minutes decreased between 1990 and 2000. This again reflects more time spent commuting to work in 2000 compared to 1990.

The East Planning District experienced the greatest increase in commuting time between 1990 and 2000. East Planning District residents traveled approximately 25 minutes in 1990, however in 2000 the east workers reported commuting an average of 31.5 minutes, an increase of 25%. The workers in Hovey, Applewold and Elderton experienced the greatest percentage increases of average travel time between 1990 and 2000. Only workers in Atwood, Gilpin and East Franklin spent less time traveling in 2000 than 1990.

Likewise, all regions and most municipalities reported a smaller percentage of workers commuting less than 30 minutes to work in 2000 compared to 1990. The communities that experienced the greatest decrease in number of workers commuting less than 30 minutes were South Bethlehem (-24%), Perry (-21%) and Dayton (-19%). In contrast, nine municipalities had increases in the percentage of persons traveling less than 30 minutes to work in 2000 compared to 1990. While no regions reported an overall increase in the percentage of workers who commute less than 30 minutes, the communities who experienced the greatest percentage increase were Atwood (12.5%), Elderton (10%) and Ford City (8%).

Tables T8-15 and T8-16 in the Appendix provide a more detailed look at the 1990 travel times for workers in the county, regions and municipalities.

In summary, the following points highlight the transportation commuting trends for Armstrong County:

- The average commute to work is increasing for county residents.
- A greater percentage of county residents are commuting more than 30 minutes to work.

C. Conclusions

The county's transportation system is composed of roads, rail lines, bridges, airports, waterways and pedestrian paths. This network sufficiently meets the transportation needs of today's residents, workers and visitors. Since the vehicular traffic is the primary present and anticipated future mode of transportation, the county, with the assistance of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, must continue to maintain and improve the road network. However, more emphasis should be placed on the upkeep of bridges.

Since the extension of Route 28 to Interstate 80 is the major transportation issue that was reported through surveys and public participation, additional studies regarding the long-term impact must be further evaluated, as well as the availability and accessibility of funds for this extension. While the extension may stimulate economic development, it is likely to also drive land development and have a long-term impact on the county's resources. Changes to the alignment of Route 28 as part of a widening project will be determined after PennDOT conducts a detailed analysis of proposed alignment options and their impact on the surrounding area. The county will work with local municipalities to review and revise applicable comprehensive plans when specific alignments are identified.

Transportation plays a critical role in the development of the area. Therefore, the maintenance and improvements made to the transportation system must accommodate the current and future needs of the county.

D. Policy Statements

POLICY: Maintain and improve the existing transportation network.

Goal: Conduct a study to identify and evaluate the impact of the changes in the operating schedules of Allegheny River dams and locks on the county and its municipalities. The study should also show the benefits of keeping the locks operational.

Goal: Maintain and improve county-owned bridges.

Goal: Provide additional, and improve existing, pedestrian and bicycle transportation networks, including walking trails, bike paths, etc. to produce a countywide trail network.

Goal: Encourage municipalities to adopt/maintain road and bridge improvements programs.

Goal: Continue to work with PennDOT to improve and upgrade state and federal roads and bridges within Armstrong County.

Goal: Collaborate with surrounding counties to pursue transportation improvements at the junction of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, and Westmoreland Counties.

POLICY: Improve public transit.

Goal: Collaborate with surrounding counties to investigate the feasibility of increased/improved public transit access to Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and other counties, e.g., park-and-ride lots.

Goal: Continue to work with the Mid-County Transit Authority to increase/improve public transit within Armstrong County to meet the needs of county residents, including the special needs population.

Goal: Promote concentrated development to make public transit more feasible.

Goal: Initiate and facilitate discussions with surrounding governmental bodies and supportive service agencies regarding the supply and demand of transportation for elderly residents.

POLICY: Continue collaborative efforts with neighboring counties, transportation planning agencies, and PennDOT to seek and secure federal funding for the extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway to I-80.

POLICY: To the greatest extent possible, link various modes of travel.

POLICY: Integrate transportation policies with land use policies to make them mutually supportive, i.e., target transportation improvements to growth areas/corridors.

E. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships Program
PennDOT	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
SPC	Southwest Pennsylvania Commission
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Recommendation	Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Maintain and improve the existing transportation network.				
GOAL: Conduct a study to identify and evaluate the impact of the changes in the operating schedules of Allegheny River dams and locks on the county and its municipalities. The study should also show the benefits of keeping the locks operational.	ACDPD SPC	PennDOT – Transportation and Community System Preservation	\$50,000 - \$100,000	Mid-term
GOAL: Maintain and improve county-owned bridges.	Armstrong County	PennDOT and FHWA	\$500,000 - \$3,000,000 annually	Ongoing
GOAL: Provide additional, and improve existing, pedestrian and bicycle transportation networks, including walking trails, bike paths, etc. to produce a countywide trail network.	ACDPD SPC	DCNR – PA Recreation Trails, Community grants PennDOT-TEA-21	\$1,000,000 – \$20,000,000	Short- to long-term
GOAL: Encourage municipalities to adopt/maintain road and bridge improvements programs.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL: Continue to work with PennDOT to improve and upgrade state and federal roads and bridges within Armstrong County.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL: Collaborate with surrounding counties to pursue transportation improvements at the junction of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, and Westmoreland Counties.	ACDPD SPC	NA	NA	Ongoing
POLICY: Improve public transit.				
GOAL: Collaborate with surrounding counties to investigate the feasibility of increased/ improved public transit access to Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and other counties, e.g., park-and-ride lots.	ACDPD SPC	FTA-Non-urbanized Formula Grant PennDOT-Rural Transportation, TEA-21	To be determined	Ongoing

Recommendation	Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
GOAL: Continue to work with the Mid-County Transit Authority to increase/improve public transit within Armstrong County to meet the needs of county residents, including the special needs population.	ACDPD Non-profit agencies and advocates Mid-County Transit Authority	FTA-Non-urbanized Formula Grant, Elderly & Persons with Disabilities, Bus & Bus Related PennDOT- Rural Transportation, TEA-21, Rural Pennsylvania	NA	Short- to long-term
GOAL: Promote concentrated development to make public transit more feasible.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL: Initiate and facilitate discussions with surrounding governmental bodies and supportive service agencies regarding the supply and demand of transportation for elderly residents.	ADCPD Non-profit agencies and social service providers Governing bodies	NA	NA	Mid-term
POLICY: Continue collaborative efforts with neighboring counties, transportation planning agencies, and PennDOT to seek and secure federal funding for the extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway to I-80.				
POLICY: To the greatest extent possible, link various modes of travel.				
POLICY: Integrate transportation policies with land use policies to make them mutually supportive, i.e., target transportation improvements to designated growth areas/corridors.				

9. RECREATION / OPEN SPACE / NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Profile

i. Types of Information Used

The following major informational sources were used to prepare the Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Profile:

- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC)

SPC's major role is to undertake comprehensive regional planning with emphasis on transportation and economic development. The SPC 9-County region includes Armstrong County. They provided Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage for several types of natural resources and recreational facilities in Armstrong County.

- Neighborhood Recreation Facilities Plan for Armstrong County (NRFP), 1978

However outdated, the NRFP provided a comprehensive inventory of recreational programs and facilities in Armstrong County and has been used for assessing the future needs and long-range planning of these facilities. The County will be updating this plan in the near future.

- Public Input from regional meetings held Fall 2002 and Spring 2003

The County was divided into 6 planning districts. Public input was solicited by County residents through two series of regional meetings. Six regional meetings were held in the fall of 2002 and 6 regional meetings were held in the spring of 2003.

- Key Stakeholder Phone Interviews

Over 50 phone interviews were held with key stakeholders in the county who practice or volunteer in the fields of natural resource protection, education, historic preservation, transportation, social services, and business and industry.

- CAMPOS Phone Survey Results

A random sample selected 600 County residents to provide insight via a phone survey on perceived needs in recreation, housing, transportation, public utilities, education, land use, and economic development.

- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- USDA Soil Survey of Armstrong County
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

B. Introduction

The availability of recreational facilities, open space and natural resources provide vitality to a community and contribute to overall livability and quality of life. Quality of life factors drive market prices in real estate and make a community more attractive for both developers and prospective homebuyers or renters. According to the CAMPOS phone survey, County residents who participated in the survey were most pleased with the quality of life in the area.

The following sections briefly describe some of the natural features and recreational facilities within the County.

i. Recreation and Open Space

Given its existing rural character, Armstrong County is not lacking in open space for outdoor recreational activities, whether it is relaxing or partaking in an outdoor sport. One hundred and ninety-five (195) respondents of the 600 persons interviewed in the CAMPOS phone survey stated that there was a positive change in their neighborhood. 13.3% of these 195 respondents stated that there was a positive change due to the improvement of recreational areas and playgrounds. On the other hand, of the 600 respondents, 10.5% of them suggested that the one thing that they would change in Armstrong County would be the addition of more recreational opportunities.

a. Golf Courses

There are ten golf courses in Armstrong County. Seven courses are open to the public, while three of the courses require a private membership.

	Name	Location	Type
1	Cabin Greens Golf Course - 9 holes	S. Buffalo Township	Public
2	Bostonia Country Club - 9 holes	Mahoning Township	Membership
3	Lenape Heights Country Club - 18 holes	Manor Township	Public
4	Elk's Country Club - 18 holes	Kiskiminetas Township	Membership
5	Kittanning Country Club - 18 holes	N. Buffalo Township	Membership
6	Buffalo Valley Country Club - 18 holes	Freeport Borough/S. Buffalo Township	Public
7	The Links at Spring Church - 18 holes	Kiskiminetas Township	Public
8	Birdsfoot Golf Course - 18 holes	S. Buffalo Township	Public
9	Deertrak Golf Club - 9 holes	Cowanshannock Township	Public
10	White Oak Golf Course - 9 holes	Wayne Township	Public

Source: Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

b. Campgrounds

There are many campgrounds in Armstrong County, but no agency or organization maintains a comprehensive list of them. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission’s list of campgrounds consists of 13 campgrounds, which comprise approximately 860 acres of land. Eight campgrounds are for the general public use, while five are private and used by non-profit organizations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Mahoning Creek Lake Park and Crooked Creek Lake Park, and Crooked Creek Horse Park also provide camping accommodations within their park boundaries.

Name	Acreeage	Location	Public/Private
1. Boy Scouts of America Camp	1.4	N. Buffalo Township	Private/non-profit
2. Camp Pineynook	3.1	S. Buffalo Township	Public
3. Burnt Ridge Campground	4.8	W. Franklin Township	Public
4. River's Edge Campground & Marina	6.3	Washington Township	Public
5. Mosgrove Campground	7.3	Rayburn Township	Public
6. Church of God of Prophecy Camp	7.8	Sugarcreek Township	Private/non-profit
7. Maranatha Youth Ranch & Bible Conference	8.4	W. Franklin Township	Private/non-profit
8. Milton Loop Campground	35.0	Wayne Township	Public
9. Silver Canoe Campground	38.9	Cowanshannock Township	Public
10. Wheel-In Campground	46.0	Plumcreek Township	Public
11. Mc Cauley's Campground	98.3	Washington Township	Public
		W. Franklin Township	
12. St. Patrick's Church Campground	224.0	Sugarcreek Township	Private/non-profit
13. Keystone Girl Scout Campground	379.0	Kiski Township	Private/non-profit
Total	860.3		

Source: Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

c. Parks and Trails

Throughout Armstrong County, there are approximately 60 miles of trails converted from old rail beds that are now part of the state’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources program called Rails-to-Trails. Armstrong County currently has four active trails and several trail extensions under construction. While input from key stakeholder interviews revealed that more support should be given to the Rails-to-Trails program, some individual property owners at the regional meetings asserted that the trails are underutilized by residents and infringe upon property owners’ rights.

The Armstrong Trail is approximately 52 miles long and extends along the bank of the Allegheny River. The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association is the citizens group supporting the maintenance and development of the trail in Armstrong and Clarion Counties. Trailheads are located in East Brady, Ford City, Kelly Station, Kittanning, Mosgrove, Rimer, Schenley, and other areas.

The Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association manages the Great Shamokin Path and Margaret to Echo Trail Extension. The Great Shamokin Path is approximately four miles long and is located near Yatesboro in Cowanshannock Township. Trailheads are located in Meredith, NuMine, Rural Valley, and Yatesboro. Eventually, this trail network will be linked to the Armstrong Trail near the mouth of Cowanshannock Creek.

The Roaring Run Trail, managed by the Roaring Run Watershed Association, is a two-mile long limestone trail that is located southeast of Apollo in Kiskiminetas Township. The trailhead is located in Apollo. Trail linkages to the Kiski River Trail in Westmoreland County and the Saltsburg Trail in Indiana County are currently under development. A three-mile extension to this trail is currently under construction. Eventually, the Roaring Run Trail will be linked to the Armstrong Trail near Schenley.

Also, the Butler Freeport Community Trail, which extends from Freeport Borough in Armstrong County to Butler in Butler County, has been recently completed. When links to other trails are completed, this trail will provide access from Clarion County, through Armstrong County and Butler County, to Westmoreland County and Allegheny County. The Butler-Freeport Trail Association is the local volunteer group that manages and maintains the trail. Freeport Borough will serve as a significant hub in the regional rails-to-trails network.

Appendix T8-9 is a map indicating the location of these trails.

Water trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft. They have access points, boat launches, day use sites and sometimes camping. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission has a river water trail program, and the one designated water trail in Armstrong County is called the Three Rivers Water Trail. The Three Rivers Water Trail is sponsored by the Friends of the Riverfront, a non-profit organization based out of Pittsburgh whose mission is to promote public access and civic appreciation of the region's river resources. It runs for 30 miles from Freeport to Pittsburgh along the lower Allegheny River.

Other land trails include the Baker Trail (141 miles), which starts on the river shore opposite Freeport and terminates in the Allegheny National Forest, the Cowanshannock Trail (3 miles), located north of Kittanning, and the Northpointe Trail in Northpointe.

Although the county has no designated state parks, there are over 4,200 acres of neighborhood and community parks in Armstrong County (NRFP, 1978). Major parks include Crooked Creek Lake Park (350 acres) and Mahoning Creek Lake Park (170 acres). Allegheny Lock & Dams 2-9 are managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Keystone Lake is managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The Crooked Creek Horse Park (98 acres) is a membership facility developed and maintained by the Fort Armstrong's Horsemen's Association, Inc. It is located in Manor Recreation Area in Manor Township.

Larger public community parks and recreational facilities include Ford City Community Park, Kittanning Community Park, Belmont Complex, Freeport Community Park, and Leechburg Area Parks.

Armstrong County’s private recreation facilities include country clubs, beagle clubs, and hunting and fishing clubs.

d. Lakes, Rivers and Streams

Armstrong County’s lakes, rivers and streams provide county residents and visitors with many recreational opportunities. Crooked Creek Lake, Mahoning Creek Lake, Keystone Lake, and the Allegheny River and its tributaries offer fishing, boating and swimming.

A number of county water courses are stocked with trout. The following is a list of the county’s trout streams.

Buffalo Creek	Patterson Creek
Cherry Run	Pine Creek North Fork
Cornplanter Run	Pine Creek South Fork
Cowanshannock Creek	Plum Creek
Glade Run	Scrubgrass Creek
Huling Run	Little Sandy Creek

Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

ii. Agricultural Preservation Plan

Background

The preservation of agricultural land was rated as “important” or “very important” by 93% of the countywide phone survey respondents. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Armstrong County:

- Ranked 29th among the state’s 67 counties in terms of total value of agricultural products sold.
- Had 739 farms occupying 130,637 acres (31.1% of the total county acreage).
- Had an average farm size of 177 acres.

The following table contains data from both the 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture.

	1997	2002	% change 1997-2002
Number of farms	875	739	-16
Land in farms (acres)	129,611	130,637	+1
Average farm size (acres)	148	177	+20
Market value of production	\$41,446,000	\$46,326,000	+12
Market value of production (Average per farm)	\$47,367	\$62,687	+32
Crop sales (% of market value)	70	76	+9
Livestock sales (% of market value)	30	24	-20
Percentage of farms operated by individuals or families	90	NA	NA
Percentage of farmers with farming as principal occupation	45	51	+13

Agricultural Soils

Prime agricultural soils are any soils belonging to Agricultural Capability Classes I and II as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service. Agricultural Capability Classes III and IV are, by definition, soils of state-wide significance and/or the individual county's additional important prime soils. The USDA states that prime farmland is best suited for food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and produces the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and economic resources. Consequently, farming on prime agricultural soils results in the least damage to the environment. According to the SPC, there are approximately 57,000 acres of prime agricultural soil in Armstrong County, or 14% of the total county acreage.

The Soil Survey of Armstrong County was completed in 1977 and updated in 1981 by USDA's Soil Conservation Service. There are 47 soil mapping units in Armstrong County. The most common type is WkF (Weikert and Gilpin, 25 – 70% slope). It makes up for 27.2% of the soil in Armstrong County. The soils in this mapping unit are suited to trees and wildlife habitat, while slope and the hazard of erosion are limitations for most uses. The second most common type is GwD (Gilpin-Weikert complex, 15 – 25% slope). It makes up for 10.1% of all land in Armstrong County. These soils are suited to crops that tolerate some drought, and to hay, pasture, trees, and wildlife habitat. Slope and shallow soils with coarse fragments are the major limitations for most uses.

Of the 47 soil mapping units in Armstrong County, 13 qualify as prime agricultural farmland. This makes up for 14.4% of all land in Armstrong County. In addition, there are 18 soil mapping units which are of statewide importance in terms of agriculture, and they make up for 34.4% of the total land in Armstrong County. Thus, prime agricultural soils and soils of statewide agricultural importance comprise a total of 48.8% of the land in the county. This supports the position that agriculture is and should remain an important activity in Armstrong County.

Tools for Preserving Valuable Farmland

According to an executive order issued on October 14, 1997, there is an Agricultural Land Preservation Policy in Pennsylvania that applies to all agencies under the governor's jurisdiction. They are ordered and directed to seek to mitigate and protect against the conversion of primary agricultural land.

Agricultural Security Areas (ASA) are a tool for strengthening and protecting agriculture in Pennsylvania. Farm landowners, working together, initiate the process of establishing such areas in which agriculture is the primary activity. Participating farmers are entitled to special consideration from local and state government agencies, thus encouraging the continuing use of the land for productive agricultural purposes.

The key features of the Agricultural Security Area Program are:

- Participation is voluntary for farmers. Petitions are submitted to township supervisors by the farmers to create the ASA. They are reviewed every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added to an established ASA at any time.
- A minimum of 250 acres from among all the participating farmers is required.
- An ASA may include non-adjacent farmland parcels that are at least ten acres or are able to produce \$2,000 annually from the sale of agricultural products.
- Participants receive special consideration regarding:
 - Local ordinances affecting farming activities
 - Nuisance complaints.
 - Review of farmland condemnation by state and local government agencies.
- An ASA qualifies land for consideration under the Easement Purchase Program at the landowner's request, if the ASA has at least 500 acres enrolled.

When an agricultural security area is formed, it entitles the participating landowners to special consideration from the local governing body and state government agencies. The local government unit may not impose ordinances that unreasonably restrict farm structures or practices within the area, nor may normal farming operations and practices be deemed "nuisances" in a nuisance ordinance. State government agencies must modify their administrative regulations and procedures to encourage viable farming in Agricultural Security Areas.

Land condemnations within agricultural security areas, proposed by Commonwealth or local agencies (such as municipal authorities, school boards, and governing bodies), must be reviewed and approved before land may be condemned. In addition, all state-funded development projects which might affect an established area must be reviewed. Modifications may be proposed to ensure the integrity of the agricultural security area.

Agricultural security areas within Armstrong County are found in the following townships: Bethel, Boggs, Burrell, Gilpin, Kiski, Kittanning, Mahoning, Manor, North Buffalo, Parks, Plumcreek, South Bend, South Buffalo, Valley, and West Franklin.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board in Armstrong County manages the Armstrong County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, an agricultural conservation easement purchase program through which it purchases development rights from owners of valuable agricultural land. It is a joint county/state program and provides a mechanism and funding for the purchase of development rights on farmland. This protects the land from non-agricultural land uses in perpetuity, and although the easement does not

restrict the right to sell or pass along the land, the restriction stays with the land when it changes ownership.

Land Preservation for Open Space Uses--Act 442, as amended, authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, counties, and local government units thereof to preserve, acquire, or hold land for open space uses. Specific authorization is given to local governments to impose new taxes for open space purposes, subject to voter approval.

The Right-to-Farm Law reduces the loss to the Commonwealth of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be the subject matter of nuisance suits and ordinances.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) specifies that a comprehensive plan shall include a plan for the protection of natural resources (including prime agricultural land), identify a plan for prime agricultural land preservation and enhancement, encourage the compatibility of land use regulation with existing agricultural operations, and recognize that commercial agriculture production may impact water supply sources. Zoning ordinances authorized under the MPC may promote, permit, prohibit, regulate, restrict, and determine protection and preservation of prime agricultural land and activities, protect prime agricultural land and farmland, and may promote the establishment of agricultural security areas. Zoning ordinances can encourage the continuity, development, and viability of agricultural operations and may not restrict agricultural operations or changes to or expansions of agricultural operations in geographic areas where agriculture has traditionally been present unless the agricultural operation will have a direct adverse effect on the public health and safety. Zoning classifications may be made within any district for the regulation, restriction, or prohibition of uses and structures at, along, or near agricultural areas. The MPC enables municipalities to institute a municipal or multi-municipal Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. As for traditional neighborhood developments, the MPC gives guidance for the provision of open space. Under the procedure for a landowner curative amendment, the governing body must consider the impact of the proposal on the preservation of agriculture. The MPC specifies that various laws regulating agriculture and mining may preempt local regulations under the MPC.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) refers to a method for protecting land by transferring the "rights to develop" from one area and giving them to another. This approach involves severing the right to develop an area that the public wishes to preserve in low density or open space (or for agricultural purposes, in this example) and transferring those rights to another site where higher than normal density would be tolerated and desirable. Currently, Armstrong County does not employ this method of preserving valuable farmland; however, this concept could provide an additional way of protecting important natural resources.

Agencies Supporting Agricultural Preservation

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board in Armstrong County is made up of seven members: three local farmers, one municipal official, one contractor, and two members-at-large. They manage an easement purchase program funded by the State of Pennsylvania, but additional funding is needed at the county level as well. There is no paid staff on the Agricultural Land Preservation Board, but the Armstrong Conservation District staff provides both technical and administrative support services to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. The Board members have a dedicated interest in preserving the agricultural land in Armstrong County.

The Farm Service Agency is an agency under the USDA's Natural Resource and Conservation Service, and is administered through their Conservation Reserve Program. It is located in the same building as the Armstrong Conservation District in Kittanning. The Farm Service Agency helps local farmers by administering federal farm programs under the auspices of current farm bill legislation, and tries to better promote farming as a major industry.

The Armstrong Conservation District is an entity created by the Armstrong County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Act 217 (Conservation District Law) and charged with the conservation of the natural resources of the county. The District has several programs which support sustainable agricultural activities, namely the Growing Greener program and the Nutrient Management Program. Other agencies located in Armstrong County that provide support and programming for agricultural activities include Penn State Cooperative Extension Service (office in the same building as the Conservation District and the Farm Service Agency), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development (office in Butler, PA), Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Armstrong County Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association.

At the end of this section, there is a series of policy statements that address various methods for preserving agricultural land. Included is a corresponding implementation table that outlines the actions that implement the policy statements, the responsible agencies to carry out the actions, a timeline and estimated cost. Because prime agricultural soils and soils of statewide agricultural importance total 48.8% or almost half of the land in the county, the following recommendations are specific to preserving important agricultural land:

Recommendations for Preserving Agricultural Land

- Close coordination between the County's Planning and Development Department, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board, the Conservation District, and the various agencies that support agricultural preservation listed above
- County will need to support the Agricultural Preservation Board by allocating a certain amount of funds (in addition to the funds obtained

from the State) to the Easement Purchase Program if the program is proposed to expand

- The County's Planning and Development Department should maintain a list of ongoing grant and low-interest loan programs (administered by the agencies listed above) for agricultural activities
- Promote "Agriculture as a Business" with special economic development tools (i.e., offer tax breaks on equipment for farmers who farm as their primary occupation, grant and loan programs with USDA's Rural Development for start-ups)
- Additional promotion of the agricultural program at Lenape Vo-Tech
- Compile digital mapping of current agricultural security areas by tax map parcel
- Conduct a local Agriculture Census on an annual basis (national agriculture census is every 5 years; next one is 2007)
- Establish a Transfer of Development Rights program as directed by the MPC.

iii. Forested Land

According to Penn State's School of Forest Resources, total public and private forested land in Armstrong County comprises 226,022 acres which is 54% of the total land in the County. Of this acreage, 221,502 (98%) of it is in private holdings, while the remaining 4,520 (2%) is public land.

Timber production is an important industry in Armstrong County, especially because timber is a renewable resource. According to the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, 94% of the forested land is used to produce timber.

There are no designated State Forest Lands under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in Armstrong County, nor are there any designated Federal Forest Lands with the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management in the County. However, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) owns and manages 6,295 acres of State Game Lands which are mainly located in North Buffalo Township, Mahoning Township, Boggs Township, Pine Township, Sugarcreek Township, Brady's Bend Township, Madison Township, and Washington Township.

Name	Acreage	Location
1. State Game Land # 259	351	Sugarcreek Township W. Franklin Township
2. State Game Land # 247	452	N. Buffalo Township
3. State Game Land # 137	945	Mahoning Township
4. State Game Land # 287	1,934	Pine Township Madison Township Boggs Township
5. State Game Land # 105	2,613	Brady's Bend Township Sugarcreek Township Washington Township
Total	6,295	

Source of acreage: Pennsylvania Game Commission

State Game Lands are used for hunting and trapping of large and small game, such as pheasant, grouse, turkey, deer and bear. State game lands management is funded mostly by the collection of licensing fees from the hunting and trapping public; however, this does not preclude other types of recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching, and skiing in the winter. Not only does the Pennsylvania Game Commission monitor the number of animals that are trapped and hunted on State Game Lands, they also provide educational classes on hunting and trapping and other informational wildlife programs.

Other sources of revenue for the PGC are timber harvesting and mineral/natural gas extraction from its holdings.

iv. Watersheds / Wetlands

A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow that drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater aquifers. They are delineated by the United States Geological Service (USGS) using a nationwide system based on surface hydrologic features.

According to the United State's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Armstrong County crosses 4 major watersheds: Middle Allegheny-Tionesta Watershed, Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed, Kiskiminetas Watershed, and the Lower Allegheny Watershed. Within each major watershed, there are over 100 smaller sub-watersheds in the County (SPC).

There are several watershed protection organizations in Armstrong County, several of whom were interviewed in order to provide input:

- Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association
- Crooked Creek Watershed Association
- Kiskiminetas Watershed Association
- Roaring Run Watershed Association

Major concerns from the groups included the infringement of development along stream or river habitat, and the lack of funding needed to sustain their efforts in protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

According to the SPC, there are 951 acres of designated forested wetlands in Armstrong County, and 371 acres of designated non-forested wetlands. According to the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund website, there are 227,300 acres of forested land in Armstrong County and less than 1% of it is considered to be in a wetland. Wetlands are not suitable for development; however, in some cases, certain measures can be taken in order to mitigate negative effects of lower impact development within or near a wetland. As a general rule, these areas should be protected to preserve biodiversity of flora and fauna and to maintain a limited source for the recharge of groundwater supply.

v. Minerals

There are two major types of mining activities in Armstrong County: mining for bituminous coal, and mining for industrial minerals such as sand, gravel, shale, sandstone, limestone, clay, topsoil, and “other” sedimentary minerals.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Bureau of Mineral Resources Management, Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) are responsible for administration of environmental regulatory and safety programs related to surface and underground mining of coal and industrial minerals.

a. Bituminous Coal Mining

Bituminous coal can be mined from either surface or underground mines. In 2001, there were a total of 46 bituminous operations, three fewer than the previous year. Twelve were underground mines (owned by five companies), 27 were surface mines (owned by 13 companies), two were refuse reprocessing sites, and five were preparation plants. Approximately 3 million tons of bituminous coal from underground mines was produced, while 1.8 million tons of bituminous coal from surface mines were produced in the same year. Approximately one quarter of the bituminous coal production was processed at the refuse reprocessing sites.

In 2000, there were a total of 49 bituminous operations. Eleven (11) were underground mines (owned by 5 companies), 33 were surface mines (owned by 13 companies), and 5 were preparation plants. Approximately 3.4 million tons of bituminous coal from underground mines was produced, while 1.2 million tons of bituminous coal from surface mines were produced in the same year. Thus, underground coal mining decreased slightly between 2000 and 2001, while surface coal mining increased slightly between the same time periods. Overall coal production has decreased by 27% between 1990 and 2000, and by 7% between 1980 and 1990.

b. Industrial Minerals Mining

There is less activity relating to industrial minerals mining in Armstrong County. Total production in 2001 was approximately 1 million tons for both surface and underground operations. Seven percent of the production came from underground mines, while the remaining 93% of production came from surface mining/dredging. Limestone is mined from underground mines in Armstrong County, while sand, gravel, shale, limestone, sandstone and clay are mined from surface mines owned by 13 companies.

In 2000, total production for industrial minerals was closer to 1.3 million tons; thus mining of industrial minerals between 2000 and 2001 has decreased by 30%. Yet, in 2000, underground mining activities were 7% of all industrial mineral mining, and surface mining activities were 93% of all industrial surface mining.

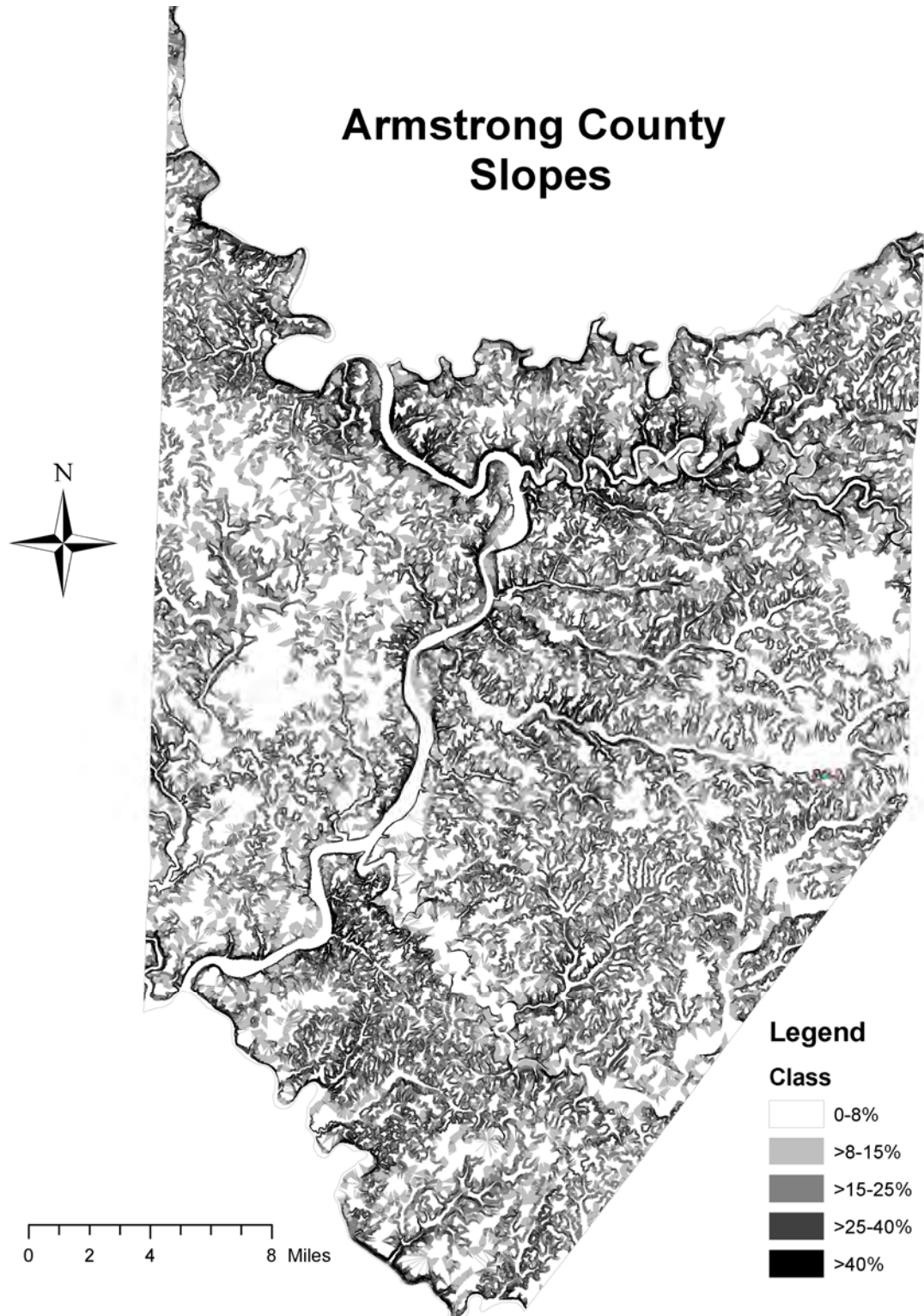
Mining is an important activity in Armstrong County. In 2001, bituminous coal mining and industrial mineral mining employed over 554 persons. In 2000, the same activities employed 548 persons. Given that the DEP is responsible for developing and evaluating policies, procedures, and regulations for surface and underground mining, mining in Armstrong County is a proper utilization of a prime natural resource that provides an important economic development opportunity.

vi. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

a. Slopes

According to the Soil Survey of Armstrong County, there are 114,510 acres (27.3% of the total) in Armstrong County that has a slope of at least 25%. These areas are normally referred to as steep slopes. Armstrong County lies within the Allegheny Plateau. However, this may be considered a misnomer because the level surface of the plateau had been cut up by rivers many years ago in order to form the rolling hills and valleys currently found in Armstrong County. Slopes of 25+ % are impractical for industry and commercial development; however, single-family home subdivisions are possible if special care is taken in the design of access roads and sewage systems (if used). Cuts and fills should be kept to a minimum. It is possible to have pastures, forests and vineyards, and cultivated crops on 25% slopes as long as they do not involve substantial grading. Figure 9.1 illustrates the slopes in Armstrong County at varying intervals. Appendix 9-1 is a larger scale slope map.

Figure 9.1 Slopes in Armstrong County

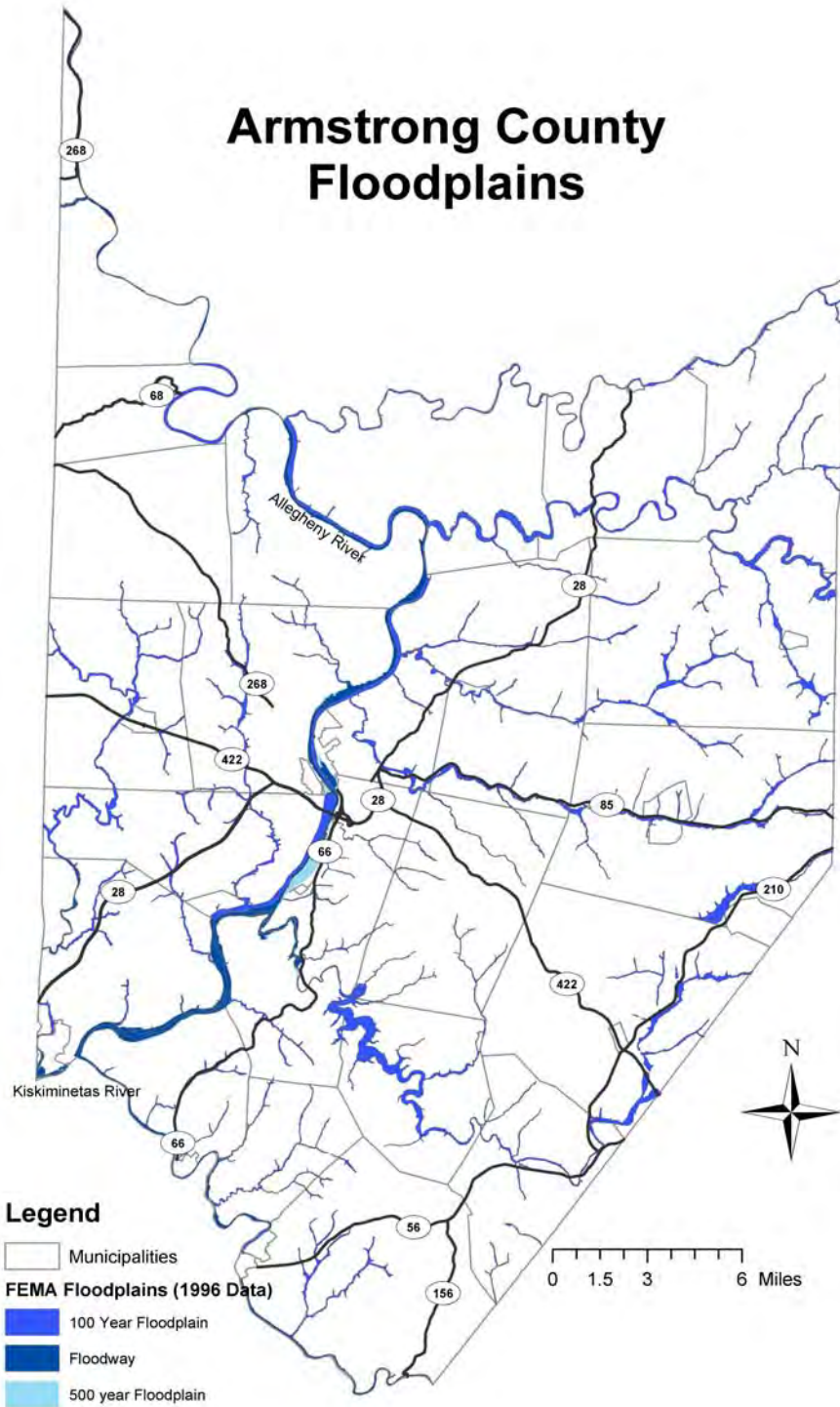


b. Floodplains

According to the SPC, there are 19,884 acres (4.7% of the total) in Armstrong County that lie within the 100-year floodplain in Armstrong County. The 100-year floodplain is the area adjoining a river, stream, or watercourse that would be covered by water in the event of a 100-year flood. A 100-year flood is a flood having a one percent (1%) chance of being equaled or exceeded in magnitude in any given year. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a flood occurring once every 100 years.

Development is not prohibited in a 100-year floodplain; however, extra mitigative measures may be required of the developer to avoid adverse effects of development in a floodplain. After the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies those communities which may be within a 100-year floodplain, the communities can participate in a National Flood Insurance Protection Program. The Program assists with the adoption and enforcement floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage.

Armstrong County Floodplains



c. Rivers, Streams and Riparian Zones

During the past decade, substantial public funding has been invested to improve the water quality in the county's rivers and streams. It is important to preserve these resources for their recreation and tourism value. Therefore, any development in riparian zones should be done with sensitivity to the environmental impact of such development.

In sum, environmental features influence development, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas is important to the sound development of land within the county. Public awareness of the importance of environmental protection and natural resource preservation and conservation is also important. The Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center (ELC), which is operated by the Armstrong County Education Trust, is dedicated to promoting environmental education and resource conservation. It consists of two buildings set on 31 acres located adjacent to Crooked Creek Lake Park. The ELC offers programs for the public and works with schools to provide environmental education.

C. Trends

The trend to preserve and protect natural resources and open space in Armstrong County has become more apparent over the past decade, as new conservation groups form and residents from the City of Pittsburgh and other neighboring counties relocate and/or retire to Armstrong County for a better quality of life. In the same vein, quality of life is achieved when employment opportunities are available for residents. Thus, a trend to not only conserve and protect, but develop the abundant natural resources (i.e., timber, agricultural products, minerals, etc.) in a sustainable fashion has been taking place. Added to this is the utilization of the county's natural resources (i.e., rivers, hiking trails, lakes, forested lands, etc.) as eco-tourism opportunities. These activities bring added revenues to the county.

- From 2000 to 2001, the number of bituminous coal operations decreased by 7%.
- Overall coal production decreased by 27% between 1990 and 2000, and by 7% between 1980 and 1990.
- Mining of industrial minerals decreased by 30% between 2000 and 2001.
- According to the Census of Agriculture in Armstrong County:
 - The amount of land in farms has increased only slightly from 129,611 acres in 1997 to 130,637 acres in 2002.
 - The average size of farms has increased by 20% from 148 acres in 1997 to 177 acres in 2002.
 - The number of full-time farms decreased by 16% from 875 farms in 1997 to 739 farms in 2002.
 - The market value of agricultural products sold increased by 12%, from \$41,446,000 in 1997 to \$46,326,000 in 2002.
 - In 2002, crop sales accounted for 76% of the market value of agricultural production, and livestock sales accounted for the remaining 24%.

- The market value of agricultural products sold, (average per farm) increased by 32% from \$47,367 in 1997 to \$62,687 in 2002.

D. Conclusions

- Although Armstrong County has not experienced urban sprawl, protecting natural resources and retaining the rural character of the county is important to most residents.
- The availability of natural resources, open space and recreational facilities lends itself to a higher quality of life in most cases.
- Although some may be in a state of disrepair, there are a sufficient number of neighborhood and community parks in Armstrong County, totaling approximately 4,200 acres.
- Approximately 27% of all land in the county has a slope of at least 25%.
- Approximately 5% of all land in the county is in the 100-year floodplain.
- There are approximately 60 miles of Rails-to-Trails, i.e., converted railroad beds used for hiking and biking trails.
- Fifty-four percent (54%) of the county is forested; 6,295 acres are state game lands, and are owned, managed, and protected by the PA Game Commission.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of all forested land is in private holdings; 94% of all forested land is harvested for timber.
- Twenty percent (20%) of the county is used for agricultural purposes.
- Fourteen percent (14%) of all soil in the county is either prime agricultural soil, or of statewide agricultural importance.
- In 2001, 5.8 million tons of bituminous coal and industrial minerals were mined.
- In 2000, 5.9 million tons of bituminous coal and industrial minerals were mined.
- There are four major watersheds in Armstrong County: Middle Allegheny-Tionesta Watershed, Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed, Kiskiminetas Watershed, and the Lower Allegheny Watershed.
- The Neighborhood Recreation and Facilities Plan is outdated (1978).
- There are numerous conservation, recreation, and sportsmen groups that work to preserve and protect the county's rural character. New groups are formed and old groups disband each year. The county will continue to work with these

groups and similar groups to preserve and protect public access to waterways, open space, agricultural lands and greenways, new recreational opportunities, and the natural features that define the rural character of Armstrong County.

E. Policy Statements

POLICY: Ensure that current recreational needs are being met and future recreational needs will be met

Goal: To plan for future recreational needs

Objective: Develop a county recreation plan to obtain a current inventory, analyze recreational needs, and provide a scheduled plan that prioritizes projects based on need and cost. This plan will address many issues including the following:

- Investigating the possibility of a designated regional ATV facility;
- Investigating the possibility of developing a state park in the county;
- Conducting a study to identify and evaluate the impact of the Allegheny River dams and locks, including the effects of different operating schedules and the benefits of keeping the locks and dams open;
- Identifying potential sites that are suitable for campgrounds; and providing recommendations concerning administration of recreation programs.

Goal: To ensure that current recreational needs are being met

Objective: Promote use of, and provide more and improved access to the county's water bodies (lakes, streams, rivers) and recreational facilities.

Goal: To ensure local parks are meeting the needs of residents

Objective: Inventory all park assets and define required maintenance.

Objective: Develop a strategy that identifies the amount of investment required for upkeep and preventative maintenance, as well as a corresponding time schedule of implementation.

Goal: To utilize previously developed and abandoned sites for redevelopment of recreational facilities

Objective: Identify mine reclamation sites for recreational opportunities (e.g., ATV facilities).

- POLICY:** To conserve natural resources and scenic rural character of the county
- Goal:** To ensure that preservation of open space is an essential element of the future land use plan
- Objective:** Encourage future development in planned areas where there is adequate infrastructure of public utilities and suitable topography, thus facilitating the preservation of open space.
- Objective:** Continue to support federal, state and local efforts to reclaim abandoned mines.
- Goal:** To preserve agricultural land
- Objective:** Encourage and support the implementation of an Agricultural Preservation Program with an emphasis on the preservation of lands outside of areas with public utilities.
- Objective:** Encourage and support the implementation of the Agricultural Security Area program in municipalities not currently utilizing the program.
- Objective:** Encourage municipalities to consider the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
- POLICY:** To coordinate with other regional environmental studies
- Goal:** To obtain data and research regarding natural resources in the most coordinated and efficient manner.
- Objective:** Coordinate with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to obtain information from their Natural Heritage Inventory
- Objective:** Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Tides Center in obtaining information from the nine-county Natural Infrastructure project (includes Armstrong County).
- POLICY:** Promote countywide tourism efforts through recreational opportunities
- Goal:** To generate more revenue countywide through recreational facilities for out-of-county visitors and in-county residents
- Objective:** Improve marketing of existing public recreational facilities.
- Objective:** Prepare feasibility study regarding recreational uses of Kiski River.

F. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
BAPG	Brownfields Assessment Grants (EPA)
BIG	Brownfield Inventory Grants (PA DEP)
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
EQUIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (NRCS)
FPP	Farmland Protection Program (NRCS)
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships Program
ISRP	Industrial Sites Reuse Program (DCED)
NRCS	National Resource & Conservation Service
PHMC	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
PHPP	Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program (DCNR)
RCGP	Rivers Conservation Grant Program (DCNR)
WPC	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RECREATION PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Ensure that current recreational needs are being met and future recreational needs will be met.					
GOAL:	Plan for future recreational needs.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Develop a county recreation plan to obtain a current inventory, analyze recreational needs, and provide a scheduled plan that prioritizes projects based on need and cost. This plan will address many issues, including the following: investigating the possibility of a designated regional ATV facility; investigate the possibility of developing a state park in the county; conducting a study to identify and evaluate the impact of the Allegheny River dams and locks, including the effect of different operating schedules and keeping them open; identifying potential sites that are suitable for campgrounds; and providing recommendations concerning administration of recreation programs.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies DCNR	DCNR Community grants DCNR Land Trust grants	\$100,000 - \$150,000	Short-term
GOAL:	Ensure that current recreational needs are being met.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Promote use of, and provide more and improved access to the county's water bodies (lakes, streams, rivers) and recreational facilities.	ACDPD	DCNR Community grants, River conservation grants	To be determined via proposed county recreation plan	Ongoing
GOAL:	Ensure local parks are meeting the needs of residents.	ACDPD	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Inventory all park assets and define required maintenance.	ACDPD	DCNR Community grants	To be determined via proposed county recreation plan	Short-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Ensure that current recreational needs are being met and future recreational needs will be met. (continued)					
Objective:	Develop a strategy that identifies the amount of investment required for upkeep and preventative maintenance, as well as a corresponding time schedule of implementation.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies	DCNR Community grants	To be determined via proposed county recreation plan	Mid-term
GOAL:	Utilize previously developed and abandoned sites for redevelopment of recreational facilities (e.g., ATV facility)	ACDPD	DCNR	To be determined via proposed county recreation plan	Short-term
Objective:	Identify mine reclamation sites for recreational opportunities (i.e., ATVs)	ACDPD	DCNR Growing Greener, PA DEP Brownfield Inventory Grants, EPA, DCED Industrial Sites Reuse	To be determined via proposed county recreation plan	Short-term

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RESOURCES CONSERVATION PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Conserve natural resources and scenic rural character of the county.					
GOAL:	Ensure that preservation of open space is an essential element of the future land use plan.	ACDPD Armstrong County Conservation District	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage future development in planned areas where there is adequate infrastructure of public utilities and suitable topography, thus facilitating the preservation of open space.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies Armstrong County Conservation District	Growing Greener DCNR	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Continue to support federal, state and local efforts to reclaim abandoned mines.	ACDPD Armstrong County Conservation District	NA	NA	Long-term
GOAL:	Preserve agricultural land.	ACDPD Agricultural Preservation Board	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage and support the implementation of an agricultural preservation program with an emphasis on the preservation of lands outside of planned areas.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies Agricultural Preservation Board	NRCS-FPP, EQIP	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage and support the implementation of the Agricultural Security Area program in municipalities not currently utilizing the program.	ACDPD Municipal planning commissions and governing bodies Agricultural Preservation Board	NRCS-FPP, EQIP	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage municipalities to consider the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.	ACDPD Agricultural Preservation Board	NA	NA	Ongoing

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Coordinate with other regional environmental studies.					
GOAL:	Obtain data and research regarding natural resources in the most coordinated and efficient manner.	ACDPD	DCNR Technical Assistance Program	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Coordinate with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to obtain information from their Natural Heritage Inventory.	ACDPD WPC	NA	NA	Mid-term
Objective:	Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Tides Center in obtaining information from the nine-county natural infrastructure project (includes Armstrong County).	ACDPD	NA	NA	Mid-term

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Promote countywide tourism efforts through recreational opportunities.					
GOAL:	Generate more revenue countywide through recreational facilities for out-of-county visitors and in-county residents.	ACDPD	Heritage Parks Grant PHMC	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Improve marketing of existing public recreational facilities.	ACDPD Armstrong County Tourist Bureau	NA	NA	Short-term
Objective:	Prepare feasibility study regarding recreational uses of Kiski River.	ACDPD	DCNR River Conservation Grant	\$25,000 - \$50,000	Mid-term

10. PUBLIC UTILITIES / SERVICES / FACILITIES

A. Profile

i. Solid Waste System

The most recent Solid Waste Management Plan for Armstrong County was written in 1990, and revised in 1993. The plan included 14 landfills and two transfer stations, only some of which are still operating. The county is currently updating the plan, and the most recent information about the facilities is obtainable through the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which issues permits to operate the facilities.

Armstrong County does not receive any solid waste from neighboring counties, and the county sends all of its solid waste to 13 landfills in nine other counties (see chart below). There are no operating landfills and/or transfer stations in the county under permit from DEP.

Disposal Facility Receiving Site	Tons of Waste (2002)	Location (County)
1. BFI Waste System of North America, Inc./ Imperial Landfill	18	Allegheny
2. Chambers Development Inc./ Monroeville Landfill	173	Allegheny
3. Northwest Sanitary Landfill	6,817	Butler
4. Seneca Landfill Inc.	8,040	Butler
5. Laurel Highlands Landfill Inc.	61	Cambria
6. County Landfill DBA County Environmental of Clarion	320	Clarion
7. Superior Greentree Landfill, LCC.	8	Elk
8. Evergreen Landfill	24,826	Indiana
9. Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority	19	Lancaster
10. Southern Alleghenies Landfill Inc.	12	Somerset
11. Greenridge Reclamation Landfill	10	Westmoreland
12. Sanitary Landfill	231	Westmoreland
13. Valley Landfill	14,962	Westmoreland
Total	55,497	

In 2002, Armstrong County generated 55,497 tons of municipal, residual ("residual waste" is non-hazardous industrial waste), sludge, construction, and asbestos-related waste. This is approximately 0.77 tons of waste generated annually per capita, based on 2000 U.S. Census population figures, and does not take into account the waste that was dumped illegally or incinerated. For comparison, the statewide average of waste generation per capita in 2001 was 0.87 tons.

Most municipalities in Armstrong County participate in the county's voluntary Circuit Rider Recycling Program. The Circuit Rider Recycling Program has been very successful and partners with the Progressive Workshop to provide recycling to most everyone in the county through 13 monthly voluntary drop-off locations dispersed throughout the county. In addition, residents can drop off their recyclables twice per month at the Franklin Village Mall in East Franklin Township. DEP assisted the county in initiating the program, but the county has maintained it since 1995. Drop-off sites accept clear, green and brown glass, #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum and steel cans, cardboard, and paper. The county also has a collection for hard-to-recycle items (such as tires) once or twice a year. The county's recycling center is located in an old barn off of Route 85, at the Armsdale Building. People can drop off their recyclables at the center, in addition to used motor oil, which they use to heat the barn in the winter.

In the 1990's, the Borough of Kittanning was the only municipality required to provide a curbside recycling program based on population density as per Act 101, or the Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, passed in 1988. The mandate requires municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, and a density of at least 300 residents per square mile, to recycle. After the U.S. Census Bureau count in 2000, Kittanning Borough is no longer required by the state to recycle but the borough has opted to continue the curbside recycling program. The borough has its own recycling truck and employs three borough employees to operate the curbside program. The borough also operates a yard waste composting site.

In addition, Leechburg Borough operates a curbside recycling program through a local ordinance, and is not mandated to operate the program as per the state based on their population density. They have had a recycling program in place for about 20 years, and started their own recycling center in 1991, which was funded through assistance from DEP. It is staffed by volunteers. Two borough employees are employed in the curbside collection.

ii. Storm Water Management System

According to the 2003 Long Range Economic Development Program prepared by the Armstrong County Planning Commission, there are twenty (20) storm water management projects at various stages of completion in Armstrong County. Most of these projects are in the design phase, and funding sources for the construction phase are being procured. Other projects have been identified as a need and funding sources are being sought for design. The storm sewer separation project on N. McKean Street in Kittanning is the only project that is currently underway.

iii. Public Sewerage and Water Systems

There are 29 water, sewer, and joint municipal authorities that oversee public infrastructure projects in Armstrong County.

	Oversees Sewerage System	Oversees Public Water System
Northwest Region		
Brady's Bend Water and Sewer Authority	X	X
Parker Area Authority	X	X
Kittanning Joint Suburban Water Authority		X
Northeast Region		
Dayton Borough	X	
South Bethlehem Borough	X	
Mahoning Township	X	
Pine Township	X	
Redbank Valley Municipal Authority	X	X
Dayton Municipal Water Department		X
Mahoning Township Municipal Authority		X
Templeton Water Company		X
Hawthorn Area Water Authority		X
Central Region		
Ford City Borough Municipal Authority	X	
Kittanning Borough Municipal Authority	X	
Manor Township Joint Municipal Authority	X	X
Rayburn Township Municipal Authority	X	
Ford City Municipal Water Works		X
PA - American		X
East Region		
Eastern Armstrong County Municipal Authority	X	X
Shannock Valley General Services Authority - Sagamore	X	
Shannock Valley General Services Authority - Yatesboro	X	
Cowanshannock Municipal Authority - Cowanshannock-Margaret		X
Cowanshannock Municipal Authority - Cowanshannock-Sagamore		X
Cowanshannock Municipal Authority - Cowanshannock - Yatesboro-NuMine		
Manor Township Joint Municipal Authority		X
Rural Valley Water Works		X
South Region		
Apollo Borough	X	
Gilpin Township Municipal Authority	X	
Kiskiminetas Township	X	
Leechboro Borough	X	
North Apollo Borough	X	
Parks Township Municipal Authority	X	
West Region		
Armstrong County Industrial Development Authority	X	
Cadogan Township	X	
Freeport Borough	X	
West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority	X	
Buffalo Township Municipal Authority - Freeport		X
Kittanning Joint Suburban Water Authority		X
PA - American		X
South Buffalo Township Municipal Authority		X
West Kittanning Municipal Authority		X
Worthington Municipal Authority		X

Armstrong County recognizes the following:

- Lawful activities, such as extraction of minerals, impact water supply sources and such activities are governed by statutes regulating mineral extraction that specify replacement and restoration of water supplies affected by such activities.
- Commercial agricultural production impacts water supply sources.

Additional information about the county's water supply and its adequacy for existing and planned development can be found in Section 7 and in Senate Engineering Company's report in the Appendix.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) requires that all municipalities develop and implement comprehensive official plans that provide for the resolution of existing sewage disposal problems, provide for the future sewage disposal needs of new land development, and provide for the future sewage disposal needs of the municipality.

Act 537 Plans address whole municipalities or groups of municipalities working together. When a municipality adopts a plan, the plan is submitted for review and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). By regulation, the planning process is not final until an Act 537 Plan has been approved by DEP.

Act 537 planning has been a municipal requirement since July 1, 1967. While all municipalities have an Act 537 Plan, some plans are newer and more detailed than others. Thirty-seven municipalities in Armstrong County have an Act 537 Plan that was prepared in June 1980, while the remaining municipalities' Act 537 Plans date from 1990 or later. The most recent Act 537 Plan is Pine Township's. It was approved on 3/25/2004.

Date Act 537 Sewage Plan Completed

Armstrong County

	6/1/1980	10/1/1990	12/27/1994	6/14/1997	12/2/1997	4/3/2001	8/1/2001	8/9/2001	3/12/2002
Apollo Borough	X								
Applewold Borough	X								
Atwood Borough	X								
Bethel Twp.	X								
Boggs Twp.	X								
Brady's Bend Twp.	X								
Burrell Twp.	X								
Cadogan Twp.							X		
Cowanshannock Twp.	X								
Dayton Borough	X								
East Franklin						X			
Elderton Borough	X								
Ford City Borough	X								
Ford Cliff Borough	X								
Freeport Borough	X								
Gilpin Township			X						
Hovey Twp.	X								
Kiskiminetas Twp.	X								
Kittanning Borough	X								
Kittanning Twp.	X								
Leechburg Borough	X								
Madison Twp.	X								
Mahoning Twp.	X								
Manor Twp.	X								
Manorville Borough	X								
North Apollo Borough		X							
North Buffalo Twp.	X								
Parker	X								
Parks Twp.								X	
Perry Twp.	X								
Pine Twp.	X								
Plumcreek Twp.	X								
Rayburn Township	X								
Redbank Twp.					X				
Rural Valley Borough	X								
South Bend Twp.	X								
South Bethlehem Twp.				X					
South Buffalo Twp.	X								
Sugarcreek Twp.	X								
Valley Twp.	X								
Washington Twp.	X								
Wayne Twp.	X								
West Franklin	X								
West Kittanning	X								
Worthington Borough									X
TOTAL	37	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

iv. Other Utilities

Numerous utility companies provide gas, electric, telephone and cable service in Armstrong County. Comprehensive coverage throughout the county is provided, and there are several areas where overlaps in coverage occur. Dial-up internet access is available throughout the county through local telephone companies or private internet service providers. High-speed internet access, including DSL, cable, and fiber optic lines capable of unlimited band width,

is available primarily in the more developed areas of the county. Local service providers are working to upgrade system capability to expand access to high-speed internet service into those areas where high-speed access is currently unavailable.

v. Public Services

At the beginning of the planning process, several issues facing Armstrong County were identified. At the public meetings, the residents discussed the potential for combining public services such as police, fire and EMS across municipal boundaries as a way of decreasing municipal costs and increasing overall efficiency.

a. Police

The Pennsylvania State Police barracks are located in East Franklin Township. There are 39 municipalities in Armstrong County that use the services of the Pennsylvania State Police force for law enforcement. Since it is quite costly to maintain a paid police force at the municipal level, the Pennsylvania State Police either replace or supplement the municipal police departments in smaller municipalities. However, their lagged response time has been criticized by county residents.

In 2000, there were 672 crimes committed and reported in Armstrong County. The largest number of these crimes was larceny or theft with 390 (58%) incidences. At the statewide level for the same year, larceny and theft were 61% of all crimes. The second largest of these crimes was burglary, which was 22% of all crimes reported. At the statewide level for the same year, burglary was 15% of all crimes.

In the same year, there were 2,269 arrests reported in Armstrong County, of which disorderly conduct had the highest incidence (22% of all arrests), and “other” assaults had the second-highest incidence at 14% of all arrests. The Armstrong County Courthouse is located in Kittanning Borough, while the new Armstrong County jail is in Rayburn Township.

Law Enforcement in Armstrong County

		Municipal Police Dept.	PA State Police			Municipal Police Dept.	PA State Police
Central Planning District	Ford City Borough	X		Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend Township		X
	Ford Cliff Borough	X (Manor Twp.)	X		Hovey Township		X
	Kittanning Borough	X			Parker City	X	
	Manor Township	X (Manor Twp.)	X		Perry Township		X
	Manorville Borough	X (Manor Twp.)	X		Sugarcreek Township		X
	Rayburn Township		X		Washington Township		X
	Planning District Total	5	4		Planning District Total	1	5
East Planning District	Atwood Borough		X	South Planning District	Apollo Borough	X	X
	Cowanshannock Township	X	X		Bethel Township	X	X
	Elderton Borough	X	X		Burrell Township		X
	Kittanning Township		X		Gilpin Township	X	X
	Plumcreek Township		X		Kiskiminetas Township	X	X
	Rural Valley Borough	X	X		Leechburg Borough	X	
	South Bend Township		X		North Apollo Borough	X	X
	Valley Township		X		Parks Township	X	
Planning District Total	3	8	Planning District Total	7	6		
Northeast Planning District	Boggs Township		X	West Planning District	Applewold Borough	X (W. Kitt.)	X
	Dayton Borough		X		Cadogan Township	X (S. Buffalo)	X
	Madison Township		X		East Franklin Township	X	X
	Mahoning Township		X		Freeport Borough	X	X
	Pine Township		X		North Buffalo Township	X	X
	Redbank Township		X		South Buffalo Township	X	X
	South Bethlehem Borough		X		West Franklin Township		X
	Wayne Township		X		West Kittanning Borough	X	
Planning District Total	0	8	Planning District Total	8	8		

Total municipalities staffed by Pennsylvania State Police = 39

b. Fire

One of the biggest challenges with the municipal fire departments is recruiting volunteers. In addition, the volunteer fire departments struggle to meet maintenance, equipment and training costs. The residents have been talking about consolidating departments to ensure that services are not being duplicated, to streamline efficiencies and to reduce overall municipal operating costs. There is an Armstrong County Fireman’s Association.

Fire Suppression Services in Armstrong County

		Muni. Fire Dept.		Muni. Fire Dept.
Central Planning District	Ford City Borough	Ford City Borough	Northwest Planning District	Brady's Bend Township
	Ford Cliff Borough	Ford Cliff Borough		Hovey Township
	Kittanning Borough	Kittanning Borough		Parker City
	Manor Township	Manor Township		Perry Township
	Manorville Borough	Manor Township		Sugarcreek Township
	Rayburn Township	Rayburn Township		Washington Township
East Planning District	Atwood Borough	Elderton Borough	South Planning District	Apollo Borough
	Cowanshannock Township	Rural Valley Borough		Bethel Township
	Elderton Borough	Elderton Borough		Burrell Township
	Kittanning Township	Kittanning Township		Gilpin Township
	Plumcreek Township	Elderton Borough		Kiskiminetas Township
	Rural Valley Borough	Rural Valley Borough		Leechburg Borough
	South Bend Township	Elderton Borough		North Apollo Borough
	Valley Township	Rayburn Township		Parks Township
Northeast Planning District	Boggs Township	Pine Township	West Planning District	Applewold Borough
	Dayton Borough	Dayton Borough		Cadogan Township
	Madison Township	Pine Township		East Franklin Township
	Mahoning Township	Distant		Freeport Borough
	Pine Township	Pine Township		North Buffalo Township
	Redbank Township	Dayton Borough		South Buffalo Township
	South Bethlehem Borough	New Bethlehem		West Franklin Township
	Wayne Township	Dayton Borough		West Kittanning Borough
			Worthington Borough	

c. EMS

The Armstrong County 911 Office is located in Kittanning. The following services provide emergency medical assistance to all residents of Armstrong County:

Emergency Medical Services in Armstrong County

Citizens Ambulance Service	Borough of Elderton	Kittanning Hose Co. #6 Ambulance Service	Borough of Kittanning	Worthington Ambulance Service	Borough of Worthington
	Borough of Atwood		Borough of W. Kittanning		West Franklin Township
	Borough of Rural Valley		Borough of Applewold		East Franklin Township (portions of)
	Plumcreek Township				North Buffalo Township (portions of)
	South Bend Township				
Dayton Ambulance Service	Borough of Dayton	Lifestat Ambulance Service	used for backup only in the southern end of the county	Vandergrift Ambulance Service	Parks Township
	Wayne Township				
	Cowanshannock Township (portions of)				
	Redbank Township (portions of)				
Freeport Ambulance Service	Borough of Freeport	Lower Kiski Ambulance Service	Borough of Leechburg	Clarion Station 4	Madison Township
	South Buffalo Township		Gilpin Township		Mahoning Township
Ford City Ambulance Service	Borough of Ford City	Oklahoma Ambulance Service	Borough of Apollo	Avonmore Ambulance Service	used for backup only in the southern end of the county
	Borough of Ford Cliff		Borough of North Apollo		
	Borough of Manorville		Kiski Township		
	Manor Township (portions of)				
	North Buffalo Township (portions of)	Sugarcreek Ambulance Service	East Franklin Township	Emlenton Area Ambulance Service	City of Parker
	Kittanning Township (portions of)		Sugarcreek Township		
	Bethel Township (portions of)		Washington Township	Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department	
	Burrell Township (portions of)		Brady's Bend Township		
	Cadogan Township (portions of)				

vi. Public Facilities

Public facilities generally include facilities such as municipal/county buildings, community centers, clubs, places of worship, schools, health institutions, libraries and other private and/or non-profit institutions/organizations used for social, educational or recreational purposes. Public and private facilities provide vitality to any community and contribute to overall livability and quality of life. If public facilities are not present or unequally distributed throughout a population, a decrease in private investment and development usually occurs concurrently. Developers acknowledge that land and building values increase when there are adequate and attractive public facilities available to residents. Increased investment in both properties and public facilities often leads to an overall gain in the local tax base and thus a higher return in the way of public services.

a. Schools – Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary Education

School Districts

There are eight school districts that serve students who live in Armstrong County. Three of the eight school districts are composed of mostly Armstrong County residents and have administrative offices located in the County. However, the student population of the remaining five school districts consists primarily of residents of other counties. Most of the facilities of these five districts are located outside of Armstrong County. The three districts located in Armstrong County are:

- Apollo-Ridge School District
- Armstrong School District
- Leechburg School District

The five districts that are located outside of Armstrong County but serve Armstrong County residents are:

- Allegheny-Clarion School District (Clarion County)
- Freeport School District Area (Butler County)
- Karns City School District (Butler County)
- Kiski School District (Westmoreland County)
- Redbank School District (Clarion County)

There are also 15 non-public school facilities in Armstrong County. Seven of these schools are affiliated with the Amish community, and the remaining eight are affiliated with various religious denominations. There are three private, licensed academic facilities registered in Armstrong County, however all three of these are nursery or child care facilities. There is also one higher educational facility in Kittanning (i.e., Indiana University Armstrong Campus).

The Armstrong School District is comprised of four secondary schools, one middle school and eight elementary schools, and encompasses 438 square miles. The schools are located in Ford City, Kittanning, Elderton and Cowanshannock Township. In the 2000-2001 school year, there was a district enrollment of 6,790 students and 528 full-time professional staff members.

The Freeport School District serves residents of Freeport and South Buffalo Township in Armstrong County, and residents of Buffalo Township in Butler County. The district encompasses 53 square miles. The Freeport School District includes one senior high school, one junior high school, two elementary schools, and one kindergarten center. The junior high school and kindergarten center are located in Freeport Borough. In the 2000-2001 school year, there was a district enrollment of 1,876 students and 145 full-time professional staff members.

The Apollo-Ridge School District office is located in Spring Church and the district encompasses 77 square miles. The Apollo-Ridge school district includes four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In the 2000-2001 school year, there was a district enrollment of 1,654 students and 123 full-time professional staff members.

The Leechburg School District encompasses 18 square miles and includes Leechburg Borough, West Leechburg Borough and Gilpin Township. The district includes one elementary, one middle school, and one high school. In the 2000-2001 school year, there was a district enrollment of 906 students and 76 full-time professional staff members.

Lenape AVTS is located in Ford City. Lenape Tech is a comprehensive vocational-technical school for 11th and 12th graders that attend either Apollo-Ridge, Armstrong, Freeport or Leechburg school districts. The 2000-2001 school year reported a school enrollment of 446 students and 42 full-time staff members.

Enrollment

According to interviews with the school districts located in Armstrong County, school enrollment has generally decreased or stayed constant over the past 10 years, except in the Leechburg Area School District, in which it increased slightly over the past 10 years (Karns City Area School District – no response).

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, there were a total of 11,672 students enrolled in public schools for the school year 2000 - 2001 in Armstrong County. More than 50% of the total student population in the county attends the Armstrong County School District. Lenape Elementary School and Kittanning Senior High School reported the greatest number of students enrolled. Table 1a provides the enrollment for each of the schools whose districts are located in Armstrong County. Table 1b provides the enrollment for each of the schools whose districts are located outside of Armstrong County (although residents from Armstrong County may attend). Table 2 provides the number of students enrolled by grade level. Table 3 provides the number of students enrolled in private schools.

Table 1a: Student Enrollment 2000 - 2001 (Districts within Armstrong County)

District Name	School Name	Elementary Enrollment	Secondary Enrollment	Total Enrollment
Armstrong SD	Dayton El Sch	302	-	302
	East Franklin El Sch	160	-	160
	Elderton El Sch	247	-	247
	Elderton JSHS	-	458	458
	Ford City JSHS	-	785	785
	Kittanning Area MS	203	417	620
	Kittanning SHS	-	847	847
	Kittanning Twp El Sch	251	-	251
	Lenape El Sch	894	-	894
	North Buffalo El Sch	290	-	290
	Shannock Valley El Sch	499	-	499
	West Hills El Sch	783	-	783
	West Shamokin JSHS	-	654	654
	Total		3,629	3,161
Apollo-Ridge SD	Apollo El Sch	196	-	196
	Apollo-Ridge HS	-	502	502
	Apollo-Ridge MS	125	254	379
	Elders Ridge El Sch	314	-	314
	North Apollo El Sch	146	-	146
	Sunnyside El Sch	117	-	117
	Total		898	756
Freeport Area SD	Buffalo El Sch	584	-	584
	Freeport Area JHS	-	312	312
	Freeport Area SHS	-	595	595
	Freeport Kindergarten Center	130	-	130
	South Buffalo El Sch	255	-	255
	Total		969	907
Leechburg Area SD	David Leech El Sch	406	-	406
	Leechburg Area HS	-	282	282
	Leechburg Area MS	63	155	218
	Total		469	437
Lenape AVTS	Lenape AVTS	-	446	446
Total		5,965	5,707	11,672

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Table 2: Enrollment by Grade Level 2000 - 2001

District Name	Apollo-Ridge SD	Armstrong SD	Freeport Area SD	Leechburg Area SD	Lenape AVIS	Total
Number of Schools	6	13	5	3	1	28
AGE5KDG	119	458	130	50		757
GRADE1	124	492	138	75		829
GRADE2	141	523	149	85		898
GRADE3	143	492	129	64		828
GRADE4	108	565	142	63		878
GRADE5	138	583	130	69		920
GRADE6	125	497	151	63		836
ELEMUNGR		19				19
Total Elementary	898	3,629	969	469	-	5,965
GRADE7	138	549	157	92		936
GRADE8	116	572	155	63		906
GRADE9	139	620	152	88		999
GRADE10	144	579	162	80		965
GRADE11	106	438	119	47	241	951
GRADE12	113	382	162	67	205	929
SECUNGR		21				21
Total Junior & Senior High	756	3,161	907	437	446	5,707
District Total Enrollment	1,654	6,790	1,876	906	446	11,672

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Table 3: Private School Student Enrollment 2000 - 2001

School	City	Enrollment
Divine Redeemer School	Ford City	194
Dry Knob Amish School	Smicksburg	39
Faith Baptist Church Academy	Shelocta	8
Faith Christian Academy	Freeport	14
Kellys Kids	Freeport	5
Lutheran Church Nursery School	Worthington	15
Orchard Hills Christian Academy	Apollo	91
Saint Mary School	Freeport	64
Whippoorwill School	Dayton	32

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

While the majority of students are enrolled at public schools in Armstrong County, private schools do continue to provide educational opportunities. The following table (Table 4) depicts the number of students enrolled in public and private schools between 1997 and 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Table 4 : Public, Private and Nonpublic Enrollment

		1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	% Change 1998-2002
Total	Total	12,872	12,704	12,493	12,393	12,248	-4.8%
	Public	12,136	12,064	11,920	11,761	11,596	-4.4%
	Private & Nonpublic	736	640	573	632	652	-11.4%
Elementary	Total	6,846	6,676	6,571	6,577	6,567	-4.1%
	Public	6,185	6,115	6,073	5,987	5,959	-3.7%
	Private & Nonpublic	661	561	498	590	608	-8.0%
Secondary	Total	6,026	6,028	5,922	5,816	5,681	-5.7%
	Public	5,951	5,949	5,847	5,774	5,637	-5.3%
	Private & Nonpublic	75	79	75	42	44	-41.3%
Change per Year			-1.3%	-1.7%	-0.8%	-1.2%	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the county's school enrollment has been declining over the past four years. Total public, private and nonpublic enrollment K-12 has decreased an average of 1.2 percent per year between the 1997-1998 and the 2001-2002 school years. From the 1997-1998 to the 2001-2002 school years, enrollment declined by 4.8 percent. Between these 5 years, the private and nonpublic school system saw a greater decrease in enrollment than the public school system. In general, student enrollment at secondary schools decreased at a higher proportion than elementary schools. The trend implies that the county is losing population between the ages of 5-18, and that a greater proportion of students are using the public school system.

However, according to 2000 Census school enrollment data, Armstrong County has experienced a slight increase in the population of school-aged persons during the previous ten years. According to the 1990 Census, there were a total of 12,297 students enrolled in elementary or high school. The 2000 Census reported that a total of 12,826 were enrolled in elementary or high school. This is an increase of 4% over 10 years.

The county has experienced a loss of enrollment over the past 5 school years, however, there were two exceptions to this. Freeport SD reported a 1.8 percent increase over the past 3 years, and the out-of district student enrollment increased by 36.3 percent.

Trends

According to the 2000 Census, there are 4,314 (51%) male students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade, and 4,212 (49%) female students. There are also 2,185 male students (51%) and 2,115 female students (49%) enrolled in ninth through twelfth grade. Although there is an even gender distribution in elementary and secondary schools, there are more female students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate college. Fifty-five percent of the undergraduate student enrollees are female, and 75 percent of graduate or professional student enrollees are female. Specifics can be found in Table 5.

Table 5: Enrollment by Sex 2000 - 2001

	Male		Female		Total
Kindergarten	461	49.9%	463	50.1%	924
Grades 1-4	1,932	52.2%	1,768	47.8%	3700
Grades 5-8	1,921	49.2%	1,981	50.8%	3902
Grades 9-12	2,185	50.8%	2,115	49.2%	4300
Total K-12	6,499	50.7%	6,327	49.3%	12,826
Undergraduate College	798	45.0%	976	55.0%	1774
Graduate College	59	24.8%	179	75.2%	238
Total	13,855	50.1%	13,809	49.9%	14,838

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

Table 6 depicts the number of students by gender that have graduated from Armstrong County high schools between 1996 and 2001. There does not appear to be any fluctuation of gender in Armstrong County school districts. However, although the private and nonpublic school graduates only constitute a small percentage of the total graduates, there does appear to be a higher percentage of female graduates across the past 4 years.

Table 6: Public, Private and Nonpublic High School Graduates by Sex 1996 - 2001

		1996-1997	%	1997-1998	%	1998-1999	%	1999-2000	%	2000-2001	%
Total	Total	841		870		878		904		863	
	Male	417	49.6%	432	49.7%	435	49.5%	469	51.9%	406	47.0%
	Female	424	50.4%	438	50.3%	443	50.5%	435	48.1%	457	53.0%
Public	Total	835		863		866		897		858	
	Male	416	49.8%	431	49.9%	432	49.9%	465	51.8%	405	47.2%
	Female	416	49.8%	432	50.1%	434	50.1%	432	48.2%	453	52.8%
Private and NonPublic	Total	6		7		12		7		5	
	Male	1	16.7%	1	14.3%	3	25.0%	4	57.1%	1	20.0%
	Female	5	83.3%	6	85.7%	9	75.0%	3	42.9%	4	80.0%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Although the total student enrollment has declined over recent years, there has been an increase in the population of specific races. The Native Indian, Black and Hispanic populations have increased and the White and Asian populations have decreased. The Asian population decreased by 65 percent or 37 students in three years. This loss was predominantly felt in the Armstrong school district. While no race increased as dramatically as the Asian population decreased, the black population increased by 10 percent or 14 students over three years. The increase was distributed across the Armstrong County school districts. Further details can be found in Table 7.

Table 7: Public School Districts Enrollment by Race 1999 - 2002

		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	% Change 1999-2002
Total Armstrong County	Total	11,920	11,761	11,596	-2.7%
	American Indian	3	8	4	33.3%
	Asian	57	51	20	-64.9%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	139	141	153	10.1%
	Hispanic	23	34	24	4.3%
	White (Non-Hispanic)	11,698	11,527	11,395	-2.6%
Apollo-Ridge	Total	1,635	1,654	1,634	-0.1%
	American Indian	1	4	2	100.0%
	Asian	5	6	5	0.0%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	40	46	47	17.5%
	Hispanic	1	7	2	100.0%
	White (Non-Hispanic)	1,588	1,591	1,578	-0.6%
Armstrong	Total	6,977	6,790	6,634	-4.9%
	American Indian	1	3	2	100.0%
	Asian	44	40	8	-81.8%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	69	70	74	7.2%
	Hispanic	14	17	14	0.0%
	White (Non-Hispanic)	6,849	6,660	6,536	-4.6%
Freeport	Total	1,865	1,876	1,899	1.8%
	American Indian	0	0	0	
	Asian	4	1	2	-50.0%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	7	8	11	57.1%
	Hispanic	0	2	1	
	White (Non-Hispanic)	1,854	1,865	1,885	1.7%
Leechburg	Total	929	906	899	-3.2%
	American Indian	1	1	0	-100.0%
	Asian	4	4	3	-25.0%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	17	14	17	0.0%
	Hispanic	8	8	6	-25.0%
	White (Non-Hispanic)	899	879	873	-2.9%
Lenape*	Total	456	446	451	-1.1%
	American Indian	0			
	Asian	0		2	
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	4	3	4	0.0%
	Hispanic	0		1	
	White (Non-Hispanic)	452	443	444	-1.8%
Full-Time Out-of-District Special Ed	Total	58	89	79	36.2%
	White (Non-Hispanic)	56	89	79	41.1%
	Black (Non-Hispanic)	2			-100.0%

Lenape AVTS part-day enrollment are excluded from county and state totals

Graduation Rate

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, there were 858 high school graduates in the academic year 2000-2001. There were 944 students enrolled in the twelfth grade, however only 91 percent of the students graduated. Apollo-Ridge school district reported graduating 86 percent of their students, the lowest in Armstrong County. Freeport SD and Lenape AVTS graduated over 94% of their students. Of the graduating students, 75 percent anticipated participating in post-secondary education. Over 60 percent of these post-secondary students reported that they intend to attend a 2 or 4 year college or university, ten percent intend on earning a specialized associate's degree and 5 percent do not intend on earning a degree through their post-secondary education. This information is detailed in Table 8.

Table 8: Public High School Graduates 2000-2001

	Total Graduates	Grade 12 Enrollment	% Graduated	Total Post-secondary Bound (%)	College Bound (%)	2 or 4 YR College/University (%)	Specialized Assoc Degree (%)	Non-Degree (%)
Total Armstrong County	858	944	90.9%	75.3	70.6	60.6	10	4.7
Armstrong SD	352	382	92.1%	79	73.3	67	6.3	5.7
Freeport SD	153	162	94.4%	84.3	82.4	76.5	5.9	2
Apollo-Ridge SD	98	113	86.7%	75.5	71.4	59.2	12.2	4.1
Leechburg SD	62	67	92.5%	95.2	75.8	75.8	0	19.4
Lenape AVTS	193	205	94.1%	54.9	54.4	32.1	22.3	0.5

* Armstrong County Total also includes Full-time out-of-district special education

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Lenape AVTS

Table 9 is an illustration of the programs provided at Lenape AVTS. These programs provide skills to 11th and 12th graders that allow the students to quickly transition into the working world. These students often learn local trades that provide employment opportunities within Armstrong County.

Table 9: Lenape AVTS Enrollments and Completers of Secondary Programs

	1999-1998			1999-2000			2000-2001			1998-2001 Change
	Enrollment	% of Program	% of Sex	Enrollment	% of Program	% of Sex	Enrollment	% of Program	% of Sex	
Total	455			433			417			-8.4%
Completers	221	98.2%		197	97.5%		187	95.9%		
Males	274	60.2%		238	55.0%		239	57.3%		-12.8%
Agriculture	16	53.3%	5.8%	11	47.8%	4.6%	10	45.5%	4.2%	-37.5%
Business	0	0.0%	0.0%	9	39.1%	3.8%	26	63.4%	10.9%	1500%
Health Occupations	4	8.0%	1.5%	2	4.5%	0.8%	1	2.5%	0.4%	-75.0%
Marketing & Distributive	3	7.9%	1.1%	2	5.3%	0.8%	2	13.3%	0.8%	-33.3%
Occupational Home Econ	12	30.8%	4.4%	12	48.0%	5.0%	5	15.6%	2.1%	-58.3%
Trade & Industrial	239	80.2%	87.2%	202	75.4%	84.9%	193	77.8%	80.8%	-19.2%
Not Elsewhere Classified	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	2	10.5%	0.8%	
Females	181	39.8%		195	45.0%		178	42.7%		-1.7%
Agriculture	14	46.7%	7.7%	12	52.2%	6.2%	12	54.5%	6.7%	-14.3%
Business	0	0.0%	0.0%	14	60.9%	7.2%	15	36.6%	8.4%	1500%
Health Occupations	46	92.0%	25.4%	17	89.5%	8.7%	39	97.5%	21.9%	-15.2%
Occupational Home Econ	27	-69.2%	14.9%	36	94.7%	18.5%	13	86.7%	7.3%	-51.9%
Marketing & Distributive	35	92.1%	19.3%	25	67.6%	12.8%	27	84.4%	15.2%	-22.9%
Trade & Industrial	59	19.8%	32.6%	66	24.6%	33.8%	55	22.2%	30.9%	-6.8%
Not Elsewhere Classified	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	17	89.5%	9.6%	*

* Cannot calculate due to values of zero

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

As Table 9 indicates, only the business program, which was established in 1999, had an increase in enrollment between 1998 and 2000.

Projections

The Pennsylvania Department of Education prepared enrollment projections based upon enrollment between the years 1997 and 2002. The projections indicated a decreasing enrollment of 11,596 students in 2001-2002 to 10,751 students in school year 2007-2008 and 9,919 students in 2011-2012. On average, enrollment decreased by 2 percent per year. Apollo-Ridge School District is expected to have the greatest decrease in enrollment, while Freeport SD is expected to experience the least decline. Further details can be found in Table 10.

Table 10: Projections from DPE

School Year	Enrollment	% Change
01-02	11,596	
02-03	11,401	-1.68%
03-04	11,224	-1.55%
04-05	11,038	-1.66%
05-06	10,915	-1.11%
06-07	10,751	-1.50%
07-08	10,635	-1.08%
08-09	10,427	-1.96%
09-10	10,253	-1.67%
10-11	10,127	-1.23%
11-12	9,919	-2.05%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Educational Attainment

During the past decade, there has been a shift towards Armstrong County residents attaining higher levels of education. According to the 1990 Census, almost 30% of county residents, aged 25 and older, were not high school graduates. However, the 2000 Census reported that only 20% of county residents, aged 25 or older, were not high school graduates. Similarly, in 2000, an additional 4% of county residents had attained a college degree. Specific data are indicated in Table 11.

Table 11: Education Attainment Armstrong County - 1990 & 2000

	1990		2000	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Less than 9th grade	6,705	13.5%	3,634	7.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7,617	15.4%	6,510	12.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23,857	48.1%	25,852	51.1%
Some college, no degree	5,237	10.6%	6,452	12.7%
Associate degree	2,152	4.3%	2,900	5.7%
Bachelor's degree	2,633	5.3%	3,608	7.1%
Graduate or professional degree	1,374	2.8%	1,682	3.3%
Total	49,575		50,638	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 & 1990

Census data indicates that Armstrong County compares very favorably with the state and six surrounding counties (Allegheny, Butler, Clarion, Indiana, Jefferson and Westmoreland) in terms of the percentage of residents who are high school graduates. However, in terms of post-secondary education (i.e., the categories of “Some college, no degree”, “Associate degree”, “Bachelor’s degree” and “Graduate or professional degree”), Armstrong County:

- Trails the state in all categories, especially Bachelor’s degrees and Graduate or professional degrees, where the county rates are 7.1% and 3.3%, respectively, compared to the state rates of 14.0% and 8.4%.
- Trails four of the six surrounding counties in terms of residents with Some college, no degree, and residents with Associate degrees.
- Trails all six surrounding counties in terms of residents with Bachelor degrees and residents with Graduate or professional degrees.

Post-Secondary Education

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) has been providing services to Armstrong County residents since 1963. The Armstrong County campus of IUP is currently located in downtown Kittanning, but the campus will move to Northpointe in Fall 2005. There are currently 150 students enrolled at the Armstrong campus, which is a non-residential, commuter-only facility with a focus on first-year experience. Courses are intended to meet the needs of Armstrong County companies by providing workforce-related education.

The Armstrong Campus works with local businesses to create curriculums that adequately address the needs of area companies. Companies such as Armstrong Laser Technologies, the Electro-Optics Center of Excellence, and OSTI are a few local businesses that hire graduates of the Armstrong Campus.

Credit and non-credit programs are available in manufacturing technologies, computer-based training, and health-related fields. The Armstrong Campus has recently introduced an Associate's degree in Electro-Optics.

Armstrong County residents can also avail themselves of post-secondary educational opportunities offered by the Armstrong Educational Trust (AET) and Lenape Tech. The AET is one of eight state-designated community education councils funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Its twofold purpose is:

- To identify, implement, and oversee new and innovative efforts to provide access to post-secondary education opportunities and training
- To assist in the provision of resources and to serve as a vehicle for employment opportunities that meet the community's current and future economic needs

The AET partnered with numerous interests – business, education, government, human services, and health care – to develop a system of continuous education and training opportunities that will provide local workers with the skills they need to compete and succeed in the marketplace.

The AET's primary office and education facility is located at the Armstrong Education Center in West Hills Industrial Park in East Franklin Township. AET provides opportunities in job skills training and career advancement. Its adult education courses include a web-based curriculum that offers county residents online access to learning.

In addition to its vocational training for high school students, Lenape Tech offers a wide variety of adult education courses. These include classes in computers, trade and industry, medical careers, and alternative therapies.

Butler County Community College (BCCC) offers credit classes at the Lenape Tech site in Ford City and at AET's Armstrong Education Center in West Hills Industrial Park. The programs at BCCC's Armstrong County Center range from general associate's degree courses to Certificates in Accounting and Business. Non-credit courses, including real estate, computers and self-improvement classes, provide Armstrong County residents with a wide range of offerings. The College also provides Internet courses and video courses.

Public Input

At the regional public meetings, several residents stated that there is a need for further post-secondary educational institutions in the County, in addition to the IUP – Armstrong Campus. Also, residents voiced their concern over the closing of schools due to lower enrollments, and generally supported the re-use of closed school buildings over the construction of new buildings and development of greenfields.

In the key stakeholder interviews, building renovations, elementary school consolidations, and additional funding needed for future programs, equipment purchase and staff seem to be the most pressing needs among school districts (Karns City Area School District – no response).

b. Libraries

There is an extensive public library system in Armstrong County that serves the public. Six public libraries located in Apollo, Ford City, Freeport, Kittanning, Leechburg and Worthington circulate approximately 150,000 books, subscriptions and audio/video materials. In addition, all of the public schools and the satellite campus of Indiana University have libraries for the general public's use.

c. Historical Resources

A detailed summary of the historical resources in Armstrong County can be found in the Historic Preservation Plan (Part 4.B).

d. County/Municipal Buildings

Most of the municipalities have their own municipal building. The county courthouse is located in Kittanning Borough, and holds the Court of Common Pleas – 33rd Judicial District. There are district magistrates' offices in Ford City, Leechburg, East Franklin Township, and Rural Valley.

e. Hospitals

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital (ACMH) is located in East Franklin Township in the West Hills Industrial Park. It has 215 beds and the site encompasses approximately eight acres. Currently there are 143 physicians at ACMH representing 34 specialties. There are an additional 1,000 medical professionals or service workers that are employed by ACMH, making ACMH the largest employer in Armstrong County (ref: Pittsburgh Regional Alliance). The hospital provides a full range of services, including a rehab center, healing center, cancer center and a staffed inpatient psychiatric center. ACMH also operates three primary care centers in Leechburg, Elderton and Sarver.

f. Airports

There is one private airfield in Armstrong County which is used for general aviation purposes. The McVile Airport is located in South Buffalo Township. It has three runways and encompasses approximately 74 acres. McVile Airport operates an FAA-certified flight school.

There is no publicly owned airport in Armstrong County.

g. Museums

There are three museums in Armstrong County: The Leechburg Museum, The Armstrong County Historical Society Museum, and The Women's Christian Temperance Union Museum.

The Historical Society Museum is located in Kittanning Borough, and is a federal-style building which was constructed in 1842 by Thomas McConnell. It features a drawing room, Indian room, genealogical library and exhibit room. The Armstrong County Genealogical Society conducts much of their business in The Armstrong County Historical Society Museum. The Leechburg Museum is located in the southern portion of the county in the Borough of Leechburg. It is a house and two-story workshop which were built as part of the estate of David Leech, the founder of Leechburg. The museum has items from the past on exhibit. The building for the Women's Christian Temperance Union was erected in 1909 in the Borough of Apollo. It housed the first public library in Apollo and Armstrong County. The building is now the home of the Apollo Area Historical Society and its museum.

B. Trends

- Extensions to existing public sewer and water infrastructure are being made before new construction of public sewer and water infrastructure
- Closures of elementary schools and other educational facilities have been made due to decreased enrollment and decisions to consolidate facilities
- According to some business owners and merchants interviewed during the planning process, higher taxes in Armstrong County have resulted in a trend of disinvestment by developers and business owners, relative to neighboring counties
- A new trend favoring development of brownfield sites or underutilized and/or vacant sites and building over development of greenfields is being supported by county residents
- It has become harder to find volunteers who are willing to participate in volunteer fire departments
- The Pennsylvania State Police assist many of the county's municipalities in either part or full-time policing service

- Rural addressing has become a problem as fewer companies are willing to deliver parcels to a P.O. Box

C. Conclusions

- There is an increased desire to protect and preserve historical buildings and properties.
- Ongoing or upcoming sewer and water projects include extensions or improvements made to existing systems or treatment facilities. Most of these extensions and/or improvements are being made in the boroughs, with only sporadic extensions/improvements being made in the townships.
- Lack of sewerage infrastructure in regions of poorly drained soil (Northeast and East regions) results in the need for elevated sand mounds, which may be costly to residents.
- Inadequate police, fire and EMS service may result in a shared system of these services amongst municipalities.
- There is a need for additional post-secondary education opportunities.

D. Policy Statements

POLICY: Support the provision of public utilities, facilities and services to Armstrong County municipalities and citizens

Goal: Provide, expand, and reconstruct public water and sewer infrastructure

Objective: Identify underserved areas and growth areas that would benefit from improved or first-time sewer and water infrastructure

Objective: Encourage individual homeowners to take advantage of low-interest loan programs for reparation of individual on-lot systems

Objective: Apply for water and sewer project funds from state or federal sources

Objective: To establish and maintain better communication and coordination between and among municipal authorities within the region and the county

Goal: To improve high speed internet access

Goal: To improve the county's technological capabilities in order to provide technical assistance for projects and individual requests

Objective: To improve and update mapping and GIS capabilities

Goal: Promote more efficient and/or effective provision of public safety services in county municipalities

Objective: Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the delivery of police, fire and EMS services within the county and to identify ways to improve the provision of these services, including the consolidation, merger, regionalization, etc. of police, fire or ambulance service.

Objective: Apply for funding from DCED's Shared Municipal Services Program to conduct and implement the findings of the feasibility study.

POLICY: Promote the re-use of vacant school facilities

Goal: To return vacant or abandoned buildings and structures to productive use

Objective: Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential of reusing closed (or those anticipated to be closed) facilities for residential, community, or other purposes.

Objective: Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential funding sources, etc.) available for redevelopment of vacant school facilities

POLICY: Provide more post-secondary educational opportunities for county residents

Goal: To improve the post-secondary education system to make the county more attractive to prospective employers who require a more highly educated work force

Objective: Conduct a feasibility study concerning the improvement/expansion of post-secondary educational facilities in the county, including the potential for establishing a county community college system.

E. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACCOC	Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce
ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
AET	Armstrong Educational Trust
BCCC	Butler County Community College
BFP	Ben Franklin Partnership
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CFP	Community Facilities Programs (USDA)
COP	Communities of Opportunity (PA DCED)
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PENV	Penn Vest
RACA	Redevelopment Authority of the County of Armstrong
SPC	Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
USDA	United State Department of Agriculture

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC UTILITIES / FACILITIES / SERVICES PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Support the provision of public utilities, facilities and services to Armstrong County municipalities and citizens					
GOAL: Provide, expand, and reconstruct public water and sewer infrastructure		ACDPD, Municipal/Joint Municipal Authorities	PENV, DCED, DEP	TBD through bidding process	Ongoing
Objective:	Identify underserved areas and growth areas that would benefit from improved or first-time sewer and water infrastructure	Municipal/Joint Municipal Authorities	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Encourage individual homeowners to take advantage of low-interest loan programs for reparation of individual on-lot systems	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Apply for water and sewer project funds from state or federal sources	Municipal/Joint Municipal Authorities	PENV, DCED, DEP	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Establish and maintain better communication and coordination between and among municipal authorities within the region and the county	ACDPD , Municipal/Joint Municipal Authorities	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
GOAL: Improve high-speed internet access		ACDPD, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of SW PA, Innovation Works	State of PA Technology Grants, 3Com Urban Challenge Grants, National Endowment for the Humanities	\$50,000 to start	Short-term

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
GOAL:	Improve the county's technological capabilities in order to provide technical assistance for projects and individual requests	ACDPD, SPC, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of SW PA, Innovation Works	DCED's GIS Software Grants, State of PA Technology Grants, 3Com Urban Challenge Grants, National Endowment for the Humanities	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Improve and update mapping and GIS capabilities	Armstrong County, SPC	DCED's GIS Software Grants	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000	Short-term
GOAL:	Promote more efficient and/or effective provision of public safety services in county municipalities	ACDPD, municipal police, fire and EMS departments	DCED's Shared Municipal Services Grant Program	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the delivery of police, fire and EMS services within the county and to identify ways to improve the provision of these services, including the consolidation, merger, regionalization, etc. of police, fire or ambulance service	ACDPD, municipal police, fire and EMS departments	DCED's Shared Municipal Services Grant Program, DCED's Peer to Peer Management Program	\$50,000	Short-term
Objective:	Apply for funding from DCED's Shared Municipal Services Program to conduct and implement the findings of the feasibility study	ACDPD	DCED's Shared Municipal Services Grant Program, DCED's Peer to Peer Management Program	N/A	Short-term
POLICY: Promote the re-use of vacant school facilities					
GOAL:	Return vacant or abandoned buildings and structures to productive use	ACDPD, RACA	DCED's Communities of Opportunity Program, DCED's Community Revitalization Program, US Dept. of AG's Community Facilities Program	N/A	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
Objective:	Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential of reusing closed (or those anticipated to be closed) facilities for residential, community, or other purposes	ACDPD, RACA, ACCOC	DCED's Communities of Opportunity Program, DCED's Community Revitalization Program, US Dept. of AG's Community Facilities Program	\$50,000	Short-term
Objective:	Make developer packages (e.g., site and building information, public infrastructure availability, potential funding sources, etc.) available for redevelopment of vacant school facilities	ACDPD, RACA, ACCOC, local real estate professionals	DCED's Communities of Opportunity Program, DCED's Community Revitalization Program, US Dept. of AG's Community Facilities Program	\$20,000	Short-term
POLICY: Provide more post-secondary educational opportunities for county residents					
GOAL:	Improve the post-secondary education system to make the county more attractive to prospective employers who require a more highly educated work force	ACDPD, State of Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, AET, Lenape Tech, BCCC	N/A PA Dept. of Education	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Conduct a feasibility study concerning the improvement/expansion of post-secondary educational facilities in the county, including the potential for establishing a county community college system	ACDPD, State of Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency	State Higher Education Grant Program	\$75,000	Short-term

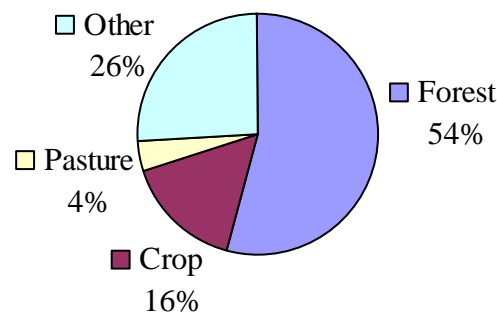
11. LAND USE

A. Profile

i. Existing Land Use

Armstrong County encompasses 654 square miles of rolling hills, farmland, forests of maple, oak and cherry, and flat river valleys. The Allegheny River valley meanders from north to south throughout the county. In addition, there are three lakes and numerous other small rivers and streams. The developed areas (residential, commercial and industrial uses) of Armstrong County comprise approximately one-fourth of the county's total land area. About 37% of the population in Armstrong County lives in an urbanized area or cluster (borough or village), while the remaining 63% of the population lives in areas that the U.S. Census Bureau defines as "rural." Most development can be found along the major roads and in the various boroughs and villages.

Land Use in Armstrong County



Source: PSU, School of Forest Resources

a. Northwest District

The Northwest District is the most rural of the planning districts in terms of population. The highest concentration of residents is in Parker City. The Allegheny River runs along the eastern border of Washington Township. State Game Lands #105 and #259 are contained within the Northwest District.

b. Northeast District

The Northeast District is the second most rural planning district in terms of population. Most of the residents are scattered throughout the district, with a concentration in Dayton and South Bethlehem Boroughs, and several villages along the Allegheny River and several near the Route 66 corridor (e.g.,

Distant). Mahoning Lake Recreation Area and State Game Lands #137 are contained within the Northeast District.

c. Western District

The West District is the third most populated of the planning districts. Development is mainly found in Freeport, West Kittanning, Cadogan, Applewold and Worthington, and along Routes 28 and 422. Much “transitional” or suburban-type development can be found in the West District, mainly because of a good transportation network (Routes 28 and 422), and existing or planned public water and sewerage infrastructure.

d. Eastern District

Rural Valley and Elderton Boroughs are the more densely populated nodes in the East District. The remaining land in the East District is forested or farmed. Plumcreek Reservoir lies west of Atwood Borough and State Route 210. Crooked Creek Lake is in the southwest most corner of the East District. State Routes 85 and 422 are transportation corridors that run east-west through the district and most development is found along them.

e. Southern District

The South District is the most populated and urbanized of the six planning districts. The Boroughs of Apollo, North Apollo and Leechburg all contain a variety of commercial and residential uses along one central street or “Main Street.” Residential properties within the boroughs are located on smaller lot sizes, while homes in neighboring townships are located on larger lot sizes, some of which use an individual on-lot septic system. The Kiskiminetas River runs along the southern border of Gilpin Township, Leechburg Borough, Parks Township, North Apollo Borough, Apollo Borough and Kiski Township, and the Allegheny River runs along the northwest border of Gilpin Township. Most of Crooked Creek Lake Recreation Area is contained within the South District. State Routes 56, 66, 156 are the major transportation corridors in the South District.

f. Central District

The Central District is the second most populated of the planning districts, but it is the most densely populated. The urbanized areas of this region lie within the Allegheny River valley in the Boroughs of Ford Cliff, Ford City, Manorville, and Kittanning. A large percentage of the region has a slope >25%. Many of the major transportation corridors in Armstrong County meet in the Central District (i.e. State Routes 28, 422, 66, and 85). A portion of the Crooked Creek Recreational Area is located in the southeastern most tip of the District.

ii. Classifications

In order to portray existing land use within the County, the following classifications that reflect the mode and density of development within an area have been used:

- **Rural:**

Rural land use consists of agricultural and low density residential uses, with sporadic and limited non-residential uses, open space, and forested lands.

- **Village:**

A village is a traditional node of development that primarily consists of residential units with limited business activity and infrastructure.

- **Town:**

A town is a dense traditional center of development that includes a defined business district and existing infrastructure, including public water and sewer.

- **Transitional:**

Transitional areas consist of developing suburban or auto-oriented uses including shopping plazas, concentrated commercial or industrial development along transportation corridors, industrial parks, planned residential developments and subdivisions, and concentrations of recent residential development with greater densities than rural residential. These areas reflect a transitioning from rural lands surrounding corridors, villages, and towns.

The Existing Land Use Map depicts the location of the four land use classifications within Armstrong County.

Rural uses include most of the County's land area, especially in the northern third and eastern half of the County, e.g., in the County's Northwest, Northeast, and East planning districts. These districts also contain many of the County's villages. The majority of the County's towns and transitional areas are located in its southeastern quadrant, e.g., in the West, Central, and South planning districts.

Armstrong County consulted the Natural Infrastructure Project for Southwestern Pennsylvania: NI Atlas to identify natural infrastructure within the county, including areas that have been, are, or are likely to be used for mineral extraction. The county considered the relationship of these areas to existing land uses.

During the comprehensive planning process, County residents provided input on land use issues at public meetings, through a Countywide telephone survey, stakeholder interviews, and steering committee meetings. This input included the following points:

1. The vast majority (82.5%) of telephone survey participants favored preservation of agricultural and/or natural resources, with those in the Central and West planning districts being more likely to favor such preservation than residents of the Northwest and South planning districts.
2. Half (50.6%) of the telephone survey participants rated zoning as important in their area, with residents of the Central and West planning districts viewing zoning more favorably than residents in the Northwest, Northeast, and East.

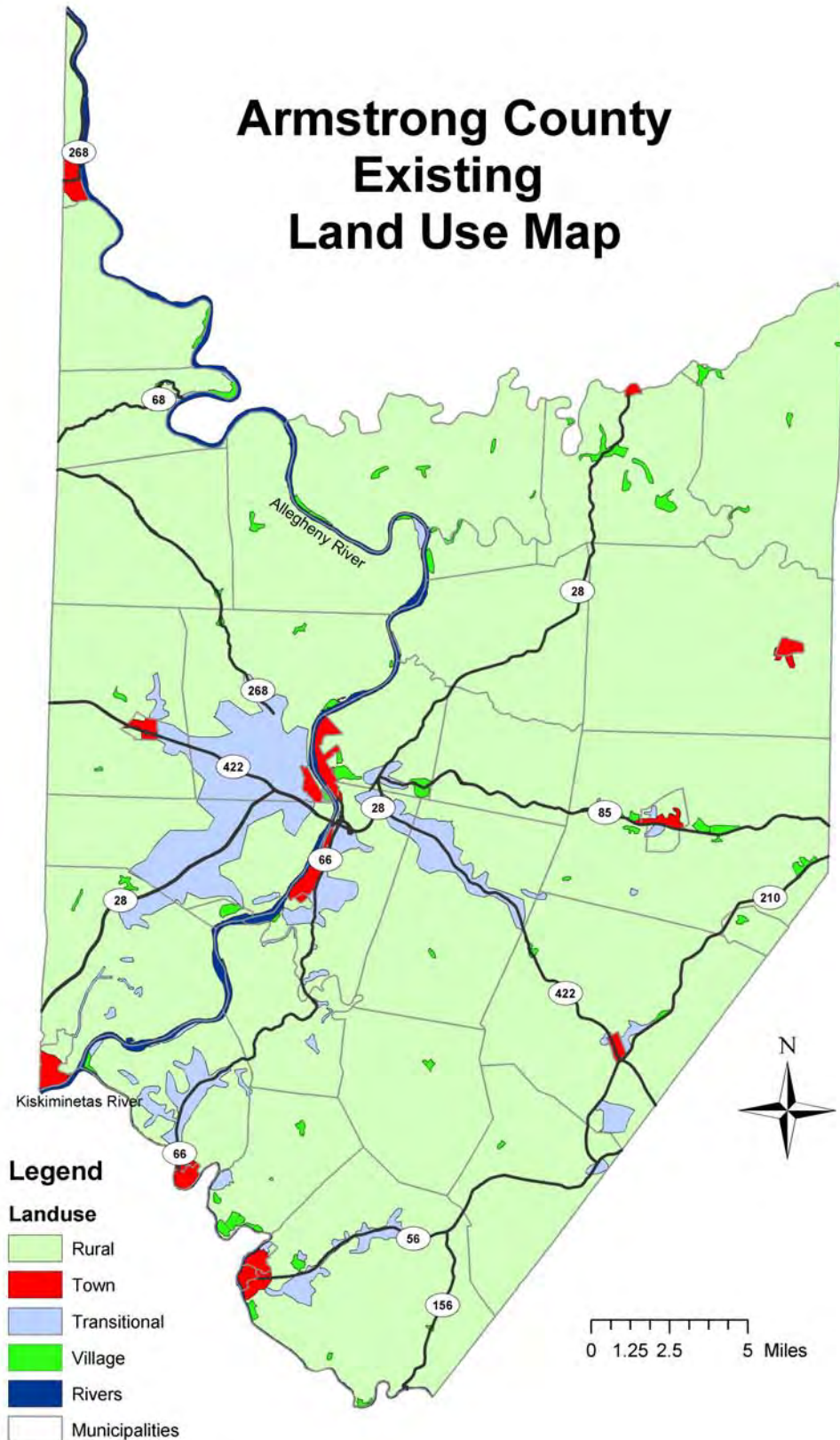
Public meeting attendees' opinions on land use issues included the following:

1. Existing patterns of development should be continued, and land use goals should be established to guide all types of development and help establish funding priorities.
2. Preservation of open space should be an essential element of the County's future land use plan.
3. The County should continue to provide technical assistance to municipalities interested in adopting and enforcing zoning.
4. Higher intensity land uses should be limited to areas with adequate infrastructure – water, sewerage, and roads.
5. Former industrial sites, including reclaimed strip mines, need to be put to productive use.
6. Land along the Allegheny River should either be indefinitely protected due to environmental constraints (e.g., steep slopes, floodplains) or developed in an environmentally sustainable fashion so as to provide opportunities for tourism, recreation, light industry, or commercial uses.

Interviews with stakeholders involved with resource protection and conservation revealed the following concerns:

1. Large agricultural and open space tracts of land are becoming fragmented by development.
2. The County needs to fund and provide technical assistance to the Agricultural Preservation Board.
3. One result of unplanned development has been the deterioration of small towns and neighborhoods. The County needs to be involved in their development and redevelopment.

Armstrong County Existing Land Use Map



iii. Future Land Use

Land use is a critical component of a community's comprehensive plan. Decisions regarding how land will be used and the amount devoted to various types of use play a key role in defining the community's future. Armstrong County's land use plan must reflect the vision of County residents regarding their desires and hopes for their communities and neighborhoods.

The four land use classifications used to prepare the existing land use map – rural, village, town, and transitional – have been employed in the preparation of the future land use map as well. This was done to facilitate visual identification of anticipated development areas and patterns. It is only intended for use as a guide, and on a case-by-case basis for individual development projects. In order to determine where future uses should be located, several criteria were applied when creating the map. These criteria include the following:

1. Proximity to transportation corridors and existing population centers
2. Proximity to existing and proposed utilities (e.g., water and sewer lines)

In addition to the future land use map, other factors should be considered in order to assist the Planning Commission in making decisions about upcoming growth and guiding it, from both an economic and environmental standpoint:

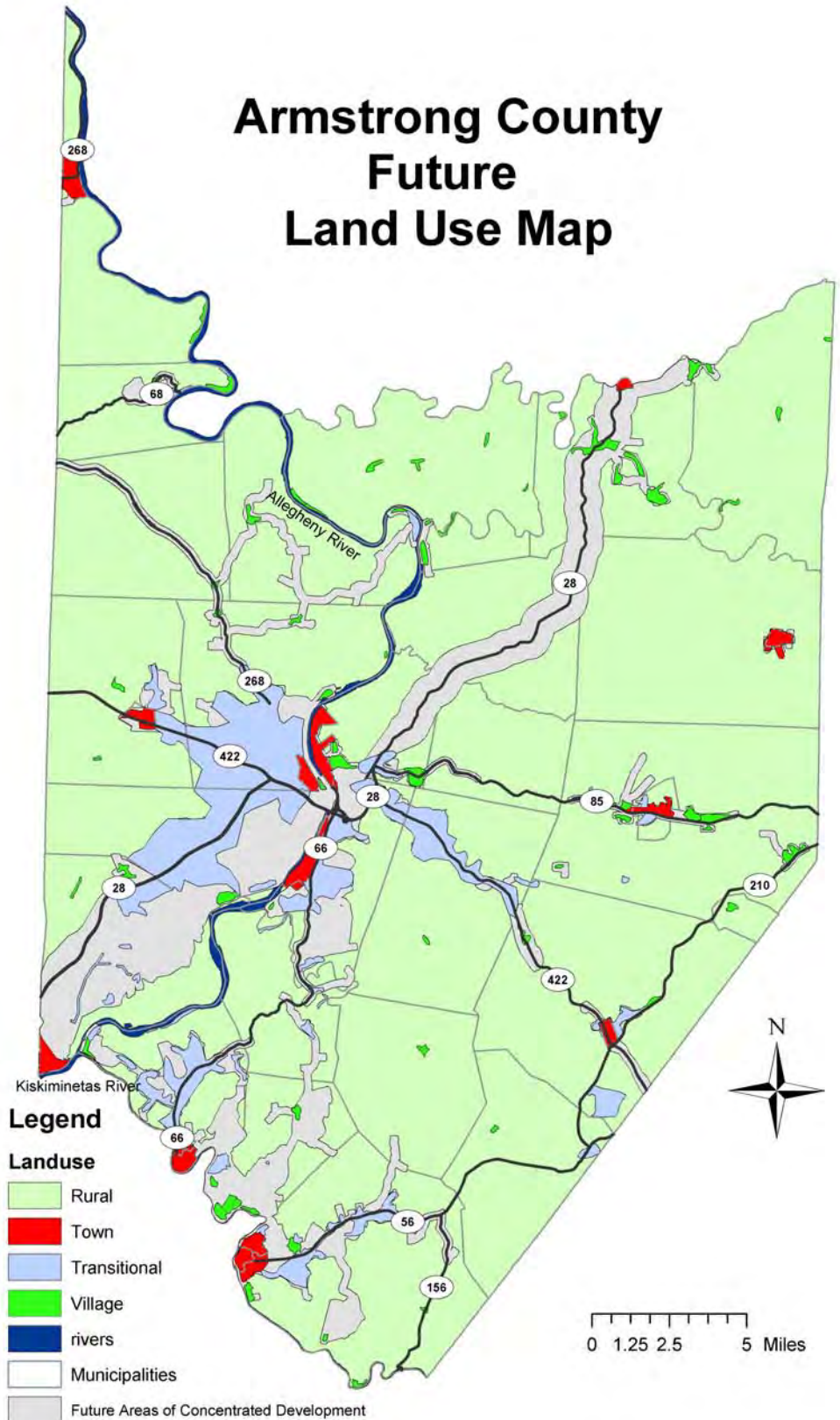
1. Economic impact (e.g., job creation, re-use of existing brownfields and vacant buildings)
2. Distance from land with environmental constraints (e.g., steep slopes and floodplains)
3. Preservation of prime agricultural soils and forested lands

Also, when evaluating proposed land uses in terms of their relationship to important natural resources and their impact on the appropriate utilization of existing minerals, the county will consider the findings included in the Natural Infrastructure Project for Southwestern Pennsylvania: NI Framework, which is incorporated into this comprehensive plan by reference.

Regarding the future land use map, it should be restated that the boundaries of the four land use categories are to be construed as flexible and are meant to serve only as a guide to future land use decisions. The areas are designated to indicate the general location of anticipated development and to encourage and support growth in some areas, but are not intended to discourage or oppose development in other areas. It is anticipated that economics will generally guide the overall future development patterns in the County.

The Future Land Use Map is shown on the following page.

Armstrong County Future Land Use Map



B. Trends

- Some communities are experiencing conversion of single-family houses to multi-family dwellings or non-residential uses. This has resulted in incompatible land uses, less desirable residential neighborhoods, increased absentee landlord rates, and other problems.
- Most new residential development has been scattered single-family dwellings or small subdivisions, with most of this growth occurring in the West Planning District in the southwestern corner of the county.
- Central business districts in the county's boroughs are declining both in terms of economic vitality and physical condition.
- The consequences of unplanned development are becoming more apparent and troublesome, causing some communities to realize the value of zoning and consider adoption of land use controls.
- Large agricultural and open space tracts of land are becoming fragmented by development, resulting in a loss of the rural atmosphere that most county residents like and want to preserve.
- Some residential neighborhoods and/or villages have concentrations of deteriorating housing stock. Housing rehabilitation and/or infill residential development are two means of addressing these problems.

C. Conclusions

- Most county residents favor the continuation of existing land use patterns, with new and/or higher intensity developments occurring in areas with adequate infrastructure along main transportation corridors. Steps need to be taken to make preservation of open space and agricultural areas a high priority.
- The county must work with municipalities to revitalize/redevelop deteriorated residential, commercial, and industrial areas.
- New residential development needs to include multi-family housing units to address the needs of current and future county residents.
- The county needs to capitalize on its natural, historic, and cultural resources and more fully develop recreational land uses and historically significant areas and properties (e.g., development and preservation of small farms, tourism, and recreation as economic development generators).
- The quality of growth and development may depend largely on land use regulations. Although the county has a subdivision and land development ordinance, few municipalities within the county have zoning ordinances. As development pressures mount, more county municipalities may opt to adopt

zoning to control land use, and the county should continue to provide technical assistance to these municipalities to aid their zoning efforts.

D. Policy Statements

Based on public input and background research and analysis, the following policy statements were formed to address land use issues:

POLICY: Preserve open space and rural character

Goal: Designate land use criteria to guide future development and extensions of public utilities.

Objective: Establish communication with municipal authorities to obtain updated information regarding planned water and sewer infrastructure projects

Objective: Encourage and support the implementation of an Agricultural Preservation Program with an emphasis on the preservation of lands outside of anticipated development areas

Objective: Evaluate current Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) requirements for new development as it relates to location within anticipated development areas

POLICY: Continue existing land use patterns in non-growth areas

Goal: Encourage municipalities with zoning to update their ordinances to reflect the existence of anticipated development areas.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate the updating of ordinances.

Goal: Maintain existing types of low-intensity uses (e.g., low-density residential, agricultural, open space, commercial nodes in villages/boroughs and along roads).

Objective: Target housing rehabilitation efforts to concentrated areas of deterioration

Goal: Foster the adoption of zoning ordinances by municipalities that have expressed interest in zoning.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to prepare and adopt zoning ordinances.

Objective: Provide zoning education workshops for interested municipalities.

Goal: Revitalize and/or redevelop deteriorated areas of county municipalities

Objective: Secure funding for residential and commercial revitalization and redevelopment projects.

POLICY: Capitalize on the county's natural resources

Goal: Maximize the potential of the county's natural resources (e.g., rivers, streams, forested lands, etc.) to meet economic development, transportation, and recreational needs.

Objective: Conduct a study of the county's natural resources to identify development and preservation opportunities.

Objective: Coordinate with ongoing regional studies regarding natural resources (e.g., "Natural Infrastructure" – Heinz Endowments/Pennsylvania Environmental Council, "Natural Heritage Inventory" – Western Pennsylvania Conservancy)

POLICY: Support historic preservation efforts

Goal: Obtain funding for projects that support the preservation of historically significant buildings and places in Armstrong County.

Objective: Work with the Pennsylvania and Historical Museum Commission in obtaining Keystone Historic Preservation Grants, which promote preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources listed on the National Register and open to the public.

Objective: Work with the Pennsylvania Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Preservation Pennsylvania) in applying for funding from their two grant/loan programs.

Objective: Work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in applying for funding from their five grant/loan programs.

Objective: Research private foundation grant opportunities for historic preservation.

Goal: Promote designation of historic districts in the boroughs and villages that have historically significant buildings, places and architecture.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups and/or municipalities who apply for designation of historic districts with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups and/or municipalities to create historic preservation ordinances per the Pennsylvania Historic District Act 167.

Goal: Support the formation and/or improved organization of historic preservation groups, including increased and improved communications among preservation groups.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups to facilitate obtaining funds for organization and/or operation.

E. Implementation Matrix

Implementation of the recommendations for the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan will require the cooperation and collaboration of many public sector and private sector entities – the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Planning Commission, Armstrong County Housing Authority, Armstrong County Industrial Development Council, Armstrong County Redevelopment Authority, county residents, non-profit organizations, human and social services agencies, the business community and others. In implementing the recommendations, the county will need to consider a phasing plan with short-term, middle-term, and long-term phases. An action plan has been provided to serve as a framework for implementation, ensuring that the phasing of recommendations is coordinated over a period of years.

Short-term recommendations should generally be initiated, if not completed, within one to three years; middle-term recommendations initiated within four to seven years; and long-term recommendations will generally require eight or more years.

Implementation Strategy Glossary:

ACDPD	Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
COP	Communities of Opportunity (PA DCED)
CRP	Community Revitalization Program (PA DCED)
DCED	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
DCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
LUPTAP	Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (PA DCED)
PFOP	Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania (PP)
PHMC	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
PHPP	Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program (DCNR)
PP	Preservation Pennsylvania
USDA	United State Department of Agriculture

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX
ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

LAND USE PLAN

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Preserve open space and rural character.					
GOAL:	Designate land use criteria to guide future development and extensions of public utilities.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Establish communication with municipal authorities to obtain updated information regarding planned water and sewer infrastructure projects.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective:	Encourage and support the implementation of an agricultural preservation program with an emphasis on the preservation of lands outside of anticipated development areas.	ACDPD Agricultural Preservation Board Conservation district	DCNR State of PA Dept of AG	\$100,000	Short-term
Objective:	Evaluate current subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO) requirements for new development as it relates to location within anticipated development areas.	ACDPD	LUPTAP	\$50,000	Short-term
POLICY: Continue existing land use patterns in non-growth areas.					
GOAL:	Encourage municipalities with zoning to update their ordinances to reflect the existence of anticipated development areas.	ACDPD Center for Local Government Services	LUPTAP	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to facilitate the updating of ordinances.	ACDPD Center for Local Government Services	LUPTAP	N/A	Ongoing
GOAL:	Maintain existing types of low-intensity uses (e.g., low-density residential, agricultural, open space, commercial nodes in villages/boroughs and along roads).	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Continue existing land use patterns in non-growth areas. (continued)					
Objective:	Target housing rehabilitation efforts to concentrated areas of deterioration.	ACDPD	DCED's Communities of Opportunity Program	N/A	Ongoing
GOAL:	Foster the adoption of zoning ordinances by municipalities that have expressed interest in zoning.	ACDPD	LUPTAP	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to prepare and adopt zoning ordinances.	ACDPD Center for Local Government Services	LUPTAP	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide zoning education workshops for interested municipalities.	ACDPD	LUPTAP	N/A	Short-term
GOAL:	Revitalize and/or redevelop deteriorated areas of county municipalities.	ACDPD	DCED's Main Street, New Communities Program, Community Revitalization Program (CR)	\$50,000 to start	
Objective:	Secure funding for residential and commercial revitalization and redevelopment projects.	ACDPD	DCED's Main Street, New Communities Program, Community Revitalization Program (CR)	\$50,000 to start	Short-term
POLICY: Capitalize on the county's natural resources.					
GOAL:	Maximize the potential of the county's natural resources (e.g., rivers, streams, forested lands, etc.) to meet economic development, transportation, and recreational needs.	ACDPD Conservation district	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective:	Conduct a study of the county's natural resources to identify development and preservation opportunities.	ACDPD Conservation district	DCNR	\$50,000	Short-term
Objective:	Coordinate with ongoing regional studies regarding natural resources (e.g., "Natural Infrastructure" – Heinz Endowments/ Pennsylvania Environmental Council, "Natural Heritage Inventory" – Western Pennsylvania Conservancy).	ACDPD Conservation district	N/A	N/A	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Support historic preservation efforts.					
GOAL:	Obtain funding for projects that support the preservation of historically significant buildings and places in Armstrong County.	ACDPD Conservation district	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania	\$50,000 to start	Short-term
Objective:	Work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in obtaining Keystone Historic Preservation Grants, which promote preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic resources listed on the National Register and open to the public.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Work with the Pennsylvania Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Preservation Pennsylvania) in applying for funding from their two grant/loan programs.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in applying for funding from their five grant/loan programs.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Research private foundation grant opportunities for historic preservation.	ACDPD	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
GOAL:	Promote designation of historic districts in the boroughs and villages that have historically significant buildings, places, and architecture.	ACDPD Armstrong County Historical Society	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania	N/A	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups and/or municipalities who apply for designation of historic districts with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation.	ACDPD Armstrong County Historical Society	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania	N/A	Ongoing

Recommendation		Responsible Entity	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Schedule
POLICY: Support historic preservation efforts. (continued)					
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups and/or municipalities to create historic preservation ordinances per the Pennsylvania Historic District Act 167.	ACDPD Armstrong County Historical Society	NA	NA	Ongoing
GOAL:	Support the formation and/or improved organization of historic preservation groups, including increased and improved communications among preservation groups.	ACDPD Armstrong County Historical Society	NA	NA	Ongoing
Objective:	Provide technical assistance to historic preservation groups to facilitate obtaining funds for organization and/or operation.	ACDPD Armstrong County Historical Society	NA	NA	Ongoing

12. CONCLUSIONS AND DETAILED VISION STATEMENTS

A. Statement of Compatibility with Development in Neighboring Counties

Armstrong County is surrounded by six counties – Clarion County to the north, Jefferson County to the northeast, Indiana County to the east and southeast, Westmoreland County and Allegheny County to the southwest, and Butler County to the west. Clarion, Jefferson and Indiana Counties are rural counties, while Allegheny County is an urban county. Butler and Westmoreland Counties are predominantly rural counties, but Westmoreland County has a number of urban areas, including a few along its border with Armstrong County, and southern Butler County is becoming increasingly suburban, especially along its border with Allegheny County to the south.

Of the six surrounding counties, only Butler County has an updated comprehensive plan. Clarion County, Jefferson County, Indiana County, and Westmoreland County are currently preparing or updating their comprehensive plans, and Allegheny County will soon begin to prepare its comprehensive plan.

As the Future Land Use Map in Section 11 indicates, almost all of Armstrong County's existing and proposed land uses along its borders with Butler, Clarion, Jefferson and Indiana Counties are rural in nature and are compatible with similar adjoining uses in these counties. The development anticipated in Buffalo Township in the southeastern corner of Butler County will be compatible with proposed land uses in South Buffalo Township in the adjacent southwestern corner of Armstrong County. Existing and proposed land uses along Armstrong County's southwestern border with Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties are a mixture of rural, suburban and urban uses that closely correspond to, and are therefore compatible with, existing adjoining uses in these two counties. Although Armstrong County does not anticipate any conflicts with proposed development in Allegheny County or Westmoreland County, the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas Rivers, which separate Armstrong County from these two counties, will serve as a natural buffer to minimize any potential conflicts.

In sum, based on the future land use plans contained in the Butler County Comprehensive Plan and Armstrong County's knowledge of existing and anticipated development in other surrounding counties, Armstrong County does not foresee any substantial conflicts between its existing and proposed land uses and those of surrounding counties. As surrounding counties complete or update their comprehensive plans, Armstrong County will review them to determine the compatibility and potential impact of proposed land uses in surrounding counties with Armstrong County's proposed land uses.

Armstrong County will also attempt to maintain long-term cooperative planning efforts with neighboring counties to insure continued compatibility of land uses and development and to implement mutually beneficial development actions. For example, the draft Clarion County Comprehensive Plan calls for the collaboration of Armstrong County, Butler County, Clarion County and Venango County in creating an Allegheny River Communities Initiative. This initiative would provide an intergovernmental venture to address the development and preservation of the scenic Allegheny River Corridor where these four communities merge.

Also, Armstrong County will maintain liaisons with Clarion and Jefferson Counties to promote the extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway from Kittanning to I-80 and to plan for the various regional impacts that it would produce.

B. Statement of Interrelationships Among Plan Elements

There are numerous interrelationships among the elements of the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan. These interrelationships are derived from the following guiding principles:

- Preservation of the county's rural character
- Provision of public infrastructure to guide future development
- Redevelopment/revitalization/reuse of vacant/abandoned/underutilized resources
- Creation of employment opportunities for county residents
- Provision of affordable housing for county residents

Some examples of these interrelationships are

- Economic development recommendations to attract businesses are linked to land use recommendations to encourage municipalities with zoning ordinances to permit higher density housing near employment centers.
- Land use recommendations to preserve the rural character of the county are linked to public infrastructure recommendations that encourage provision/extension of public water and sewer lines along main roads.
- Housing recommendations to provide a range of affordable housing types are linked to land use recommendations that encourage municipalities with zoning to insure that their zoning ordinances permit a variety of dwelling types.
- Economic development recommendations to revitalize borough central business districts are linked to housing recommendations to rehabilitate residential units above storefronts, thereby providing additional housing units for residents and a "built in" market for businesses. They are also linked to historic preservation recommendations concerning the preservation of buildings within older central business districts.
- Historic preservation recommendations to identify and preserve historic resources are linked to economic development recommendations that encourage capitalizing on historic preservation as a tourist attraction.
- Recreation recommendations to conduct a study of the recreation potential of the county's waterways are linked to economic development

recommendations to conduct a study to evaluate the effect of Allegheny River locks and dam operating schedules on economic development.

- Economic development recommendations to recruit/retain businesses of all types and sizes are linked to public facilities recommendations to provide educational/vocational programs through county schools and vo-tech institutions to provide a more qualified, better-trained workforce. They are also linked to housing recommendations to provide a variety of dwelling types for the present and future workforce.
- Public facilities recommendations to pursue adaptive reuse of former schools are linked to housing recommendations to provide housing for special needs populations, including the elderly.

The above examples illustrate interrelationships among the elements of the Armstrong County Comprehensive Plan. These interrelationships need to be coordinated and balanced as opportunities arise for development that will enhance the quality of life for Armstrong County residents.

C. Statement of Regional Impact and Significance

i. Northpointe

When fully developed, Northpointe, Armstrong County's 925-acre mixed use (commercial/residential) community, may have a regional impact. Labeled a "Regional Tech Center" by the Pittsburgh Technology Council, Northpointe is located in North and South Buffalo Townships at the Slate Lick exit of Route 28 – a four-lane, limited access highway. Although only four of the 32 lots, or 13% of the total lots, are currently occupied, anticipated future tenants include the Northpointe Technology Center (a multi-tenant facility) and the Penn State University Electro-Optics Center. The Northpointe Technology Center is adjacent to Indiana University of Pennsylvania's new Armstrong Campus, which will provide more technical programs than are currently offered at the campus in Kittanning.

Northpointe is attractive to prospective businesses due to its proximity and/or easy access to Route 422 (five miles), the Pennsylvania Turnpike (19 miles), the City of Pittsburgh (30 miles), Interstate 79 (38 miles), and Pittsburgh International Airport (44 miles). In addition, 30 of Northpointe's remaining 186 undeveloped commercial acres are within a designated Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ). KOZs benefit businesses through exemptions, deductions, abatements and credits of state and local taxes such as local property tax, state sales and use tax, and Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax.

Two major universities which have a strong focus on technology and technology-related fields – Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh – may also be attracted to Northpointe, making it a regional draw for students looking for employment, or graduates who would like to establish a technology-related business. Northpointe is only 30 miles from these institutions.

Another factor that gives Northpointe's development potential regional impact is its residential component. Full development of Northpointe will include 455 units of mixed residential housing types to accommodate those who work at Northpointe and those who want to take advantage of its convenient location.

ii. Extension of Route 28 to Interstate 80

The proposed extension of Route 28 as a four-lane highway from Kittanning to I-80 would have a substantial impact on northern Armstrong County, southeastern Clarion County and western Jefferson County. Although this major transportation improvement may not occur within the 20 year time frame of this plan, Armstrong County will maintain liaisons with Clarion and Jefferson Counties to promote this mutually beneficial project and identify and address the many issues and opportunities that it would present.

iii. Allegheny River

The Allegheny River is one of Armstrong County's major natural resources. It is a multi-faceted asset that provides many benefits – scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, transportation, etc.

The Allegheny River links Armstrong County with four neighboring counties – Allegheny, Butler, Clarion, and Westmoreland. Therefore, its use and development can have a tremendous impact on the regional economy.

Armstrong County will continue its efforts to preserve, protect, enhance, and develop all aspects of the Allegheny River corridor. In recognition of the regional impact and significance of the river, the county will maintain liaisons with neighboring counties to promote mutually beneficial use and development of this vital natural resource.

D. Vision Statement for Each Plan Element

i. Housing Vision

Armstrong County residents take pride in the safe, serene, friendly neighborhoods that have developed throughout the county. While people tend to move into and remain in the county for various reasons, one of the main reasons is the high quality of life provided by single-family homes that foster a compatible living arrangement between the residents and the environs. Since county residents perceive the rural and natural environment as a great asset to be preserved, housing will be either concentrated or clustered in an environmentally sensitive manner.

To promote stability, homeownership will be encouraged, although through various forms of housing in order to appeal to a variety of ages, incomes and family compositions. The preservation of the existing housing stock and neighborhoods will depend on property maintenance code enforcement and improvement incentives.

By 2023, Armstrong County will have an adequate supply of suitable housing that meets the needs of all present and future residents. By 2023, Armstrong County's housing will create a safe and nurturing environment for families, will be affordable and meet the needs of the elderly population, will appeal to single individuals, young families and local employees, and will be clustered to provide better access to services and amenities as well as preserve the rural and natural character of the land.

ii. Economic Development Vision

While many residents support all types of development in the county, others would like none. To find a balance, the residents agreed that future economic development will promote efficient land use in areas with existing public water and sewerage systems. In addition, they support the re-use of older industrial sites that lie vacant over the new development of greenfield sites. Residents would like to see the planned industrial and/or business parks filled to their capacity before additional parks are developed.

Tourism is a way to generate revenue in a county that offers a plentitude of recreational, historical and cultural opportunities for exploration. This includes the use of the rivers and other bodies of water that cut across the county. Agriculture and related activities will be further promoted with the anticipated establishment of a county agricultural preservation board.

By 2023, more residents will have a higher education level than in the past in order to fill the jobs that require a better-trained work force.

iii. Transportation Vision

The movement of people and goods throughout the county is essential for economic and social welfare. Throughout the planning process, the residents cited specific improvements to roads and bridges that would not only increase efficiency, but also provide a safer environment for auto travel. In addition, better sidewalks and pedestrian walkways were mentioned by borough residents as a means for improving safety for pedestrians. Finally, the current scarcity of public transportation in Armstrong County limits some residents' housing and employment choices, and the operating schedules of the locks and dams along the Allegheny River determines the economic development and recreation potential of county waterways.

In 2023, the county will have joined with neighboring counties to provide an improved public transportation system for travel within Armstrong County, to surrounding counties, and to the City of Pittsburgh. Minor road, bridge and pedestrian walkway/sidewalk improvements and routine maintenance of major roads will be made on schedule, based on the state's Transportation Improvement Program, and a more coordinated effort overall with the state's Department of Transportation will be made.

iv. Recreation / Open Space / Natural Resources Vision

Most residents of Armstrong County agree that preservation of natural resources is important. The rural character of the county is distinctive, especially considering its proximity to the City of Pittsburgh. It provides a quality of life that most residents cite as a reason for living in Armstrong County. Approximately 25% of the county's land is developed, and natural resources and open space account for the rest.

In 2023, the county will have a comprehensive recreation plan that will prioritize funding for improvements or addition of new recreational facilities. In addition, better coordination with ongoing recreational and natural resource studies and inventories will produce shared data bases and will facilitate efficient action toward achieving related goals.

Currently, some boroughs are lacking adequate recreation facilities for youth, while other municipalities have an abundance of such facilities or are near regional facilities such as Belmont Complex, or Freeport Community Park and Pool. For residents in the northeast and northwest sections of the county, fewer developed recreational facilities exist, but there is an abundance of open space. In 2023, all residents will be served by adequate facilities for recreational activities, and the county will retain its rural character.

v. Public Utilities / Services / Facilities Vision

The majority of Armstrong County residents are satisfied with the public water and sewerage systems that serve them, but a large portion of residents use private sewer and water systems.

By 2023, existing public water and sewer infrastructure will be improved and extended to support anticipated development. In addition, infrastructure will be installed where there are concentrations of developments currently using a private water and/or sewerage system.

Improvements will be made toward effectively and efficiently providing public services to the residents of Armstrong County, including the merger of some police and/or fire services. In 2023, police will respond in a timely fashion, and staffing for fire services will no longer be a dilemma.

Public and community facilities will continue to be developed and improved in Armstrong County. In 2023, residents will see improvements and renovations made to municipal buildings and fire halls, while facilities such as former schools will have been re-used to support residents' needs, e.g., housing, community centers, etc.

The preservation of historical resources in Armstrong County is important to county residents, and by 2023 the county will have implemented a number of actions identified in its historic preservation plan to protect these resources which tell the story of Armstrong County's history.

vi. Land Use Vision

Overall, Armstrong County residents are content with current land use patterns within the county and would like to ensure that any additional growth does not significantly impact the county's rural atmosphere. The desire to retain the rural character of the county was a central factor in determining future land use patterns. County residents want denser development to remain in the boroughs, along the main transportation corridors, and where public water and sewerage infrastructure exists. They would like suburban-type automobile-oriented uses to occur in areas that are predominantly served by public infrastructure and roads. Most residents agree that haphazard development should not occur in areas that are not served by public water and sewerage infrastructure and transportation corridors.

In 2023, Armstrong County will look much like it does today, with no less than 70% of the county remaining forested or used for agriculture. Some currently unzoned municipalities may have opted to adopt zoning ordinances to guide growth to appropriate areas within their borders.