

Housing Goals *(continued)*

- To provide an adequate supply of dwelling units to meet present and projected population.
- To provide a variety of housing locations within areas containing community facilities and services as well as adequate access to public transportation.
- To provide a variety of housing types and densities using innovative development patterns and design techniques.
- To provide a variety of affordable housing opportunities to households of all income levels throughout the county.
- To require that existing housing and new construction meet minimum health and safety standards.
- To provide a diverse range of housing opportunities for special needs populations.

Land Use Goals

- To create and adhere to a logical, coordinated land use pattern that provides for a variety of appropriate types of development, while recognizing land and infrastructure capabilities in relation to natural features and environmental and physical factors.
- To preserve the agricultural land base, while promoting the agribusiness system and its long-term viability.
- To direct smart, concentrated growth to appropriate areas.
- To maintain and revitalize areas with established development through infill development and rehabilitation.
- To preserve, protect, and create a diverse open space network and provide adequate recreational opportunities for county residents.



- To use development techniques that will conserve natural resources while not conflicting with rural environments.
- To protect water resources and restore degraded hydrological systems.
- To protect all environmental resources.

Economy Goals

- To expand and diversify the county's economic base, provide quality employment opportunities for our residents and retain, expand, and enhance our existing industry and businesses to assure their continued growth in Berks County.
- Facilitate the provision of adequate sites to accommodate new and expanding industries and businesses, including the productive reuse of "brownfield" sites.

Transportation Goals

- The Reading Area Transportation Study will provide and maintain a balanced, multi-modal transportation system that will safely and efficiently move people and goods.
- Maintain and improve the transportation system and services we enjoy today where financially feasible.
- Keep travelers safe and secure, no matter the mode of transportation.
- Invest in projects that strengthen the ability of Berks County commerce to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development and tourism opportunities.
- Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.
- Enhance the performance of the county transportation system in



environmentally sustainable ways that increase resiliency to both climate change and vulnerability to natural disaster.

Community Facilities Goals

- Provide and maintain community facilities and services that meet the basic needs of county residents and support the land use policies of this plan.
- Recognize the importance and necessity of emerging utility and community facilities technologies, incorporate these technologies into utilities and community facilities where feasible and appropriate, and develop regulatory measures to ensure benefit to the county and its municipalities.
- Consider anticipated demographic changes and the importance of aging in place in all land use, transportation, and community service planning and decisions.



Intergovernmental Cooperation/Participation Goals

- To develop and expand cooperation and communication among municipal officials and citizens to provide for increased participation in the planning process, and to create a more efficient mechanism to meet governmental responsibilities.
- To develop and expand partnerships, communications, and coordination among municipal officials, the private sector, and citizens during the planning process.
- To take an intergovernmental approach to planning/zoning, and municipal service projects.

Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update



Adopted January 23, 2020

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

This plan is a guide to growth and conservation and assists the Berks County Planning Commission in evaluating various development proposals and requests for financial assistance by local agencies to County, State, and Federal agencies.

Plan Contents

- Preface
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- Plan Interrelationships
- Public Participation and Adoption

To view the full document, please visit our website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning

Smart Growth Principles

The policies and recommendations contained in this plan are guided by the principles of Smart Growth. On a regional level, Smart Growth fosters a more efficient use of land by encouraging a larger share of regional growth to occur within the urbanized areas and areas already serviced by infrastructure.

- Create a Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices
- Create Walkable Neighborhoods
- Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration
- Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective
- Mix Land Uses
- Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty and Critical Environmental Areas
- Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices
- Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities
- Take Advantage of Compact Building Design

Vision

- Berks County will take full advantage of its geographic location along major roadways that connect to the Philadelphia Region, Lehigh Valley, New York/New Jersey Metro Region, Lancaster, and Baltimore/Washington Metro Region to create jobs and new economic opportunities.
- Berks County will continue to protect its rich agricultural land and heritage, expand its parks and trail systems, and promote the settlement of its population in a reinvigorated City of Reading and in boroughs and townships planned to emphasize higher density and more intimate walking-biking friendly communities. The county and its local communities will work together to promote smart growth policies and practices that accomplish these end results.
- Berks County will continue to expand its use of new technology to link the county's economic, educational, and social institutions and continue to emphasize its already recognized policy of cooperation among municipal and county government agencies, to create a highly interactive county environment that serves all of its citizens more efficiently.

Energy Conservation Goals

- To conserve energy through land use and transportation planning methods and education.
- To promote education on energy conservation techniques and practices.
- To promote the wise use and conservation of all energy resources.



- To incorporate into the development process new energy-efficient technologies while, at the same time, using site and architectural designs and location choices that take advantage of existing energy and transportation resources.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goals

- To preserve and promote community, cultural, historical, and aesthetic elements that identify Berks County as a special place to live and work.
- To maintain and enhance the character of established villages, boroughs, and the city. To welcome new neighborhoods that have their own sense of community while blending with existing surrounding development and open space.
- To promote and protect the people, places, and things that make Berks County distinctive to its residents and visitors.
- To recognize historic preservation and cultural resources as a means of retaining community character, providing affordable housing, and assisting economic development.

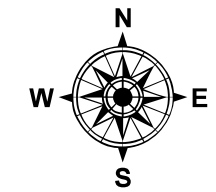
Housing Goals

- To provide county residents with the opportunity for affordable and diverse housing choices in locations compatible with the land use policies of this Plan, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.



Berks County Comprehensive Plan Update
Adopted: January 23, 2020

Future Land Use Berks County, Pennsylvania



Legend

- Existing Development
- Designated Growth
- Future Growth
- Rural Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- Permanent Open Space and Rec
- Environmental Hazard
- Transportation Network
- Berks County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Limited Access Highway
- Major Roads
- Railroads
- Interchanges
- ✈ Public Airports

Source: Berks County Planning Commission, Berks County GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County Department of Emergency Services, FEMA

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