

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN

Public services in Salisbury Township include emergency service protection, public and private schools, community water service and central water service. Some services are provided directly by Salisbury Township, while other services are provided by separate authorities or by other entities under contract to the township. This chapter addresses the following major topics:

- Government Administration
- Township Buildings
- Capital Improvements
- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Emergency Medical Service
- Library
- Schools
- Recreation and Open Space
- Sanitary and On-Lot Sewer Service
- Water Service
- Public Works
- Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste
- Men's Community Corrections Center
And Detox / Rehab Center

Government Administration

Salisbury Township is chartered as a First-Class Township in Pennsylvania with a five-member elected Board of Commissioners. As with all local governments, the township operates as a collaboration between elected and appointed officials, paid staff, and advisory committees. The township actively recruits volunteers for additional advisory committees, including an environmental advisory council (EAC). The township continually works to provide the most cost-effective, high-quality services.

The Township generates much of its revenue through taxes. The Earned Income Tax, generates approximately \$1.7 Million and the Real Estate Tax generates approximately \$1.36 Million. The 2011 millage rate is at 3.57 mills, including 3.09 for General Fund, 0.30 for Fire purposes and 0.18 for Library services. For example, a property owner who has a home assessed at \$70,000 pays \$249.90 in Township real estate taxes (\$216.30 for General Fund; \$21.00 for Fire Protection; \$12.60 for City of Allentown Library services).

Salisbury Township elects five Commissioners by Ward. The ward numbers increase east to west (see Map 5.1). Every ten years the Township is required, by the Municipal Reapportionment Act, to realign its Ward boundaries base upon new U.S. Census population data. The intent is to establish wards that are equal in population size.

Township Buildings

The Salisbury Township administration operates in a modern structure at 2900 South Pike Avenue which was renovated in 1995 (Map 5.1). A new public works building was created in 2000 adjacent to the administrative offices. Township public works and police administration offices are housed at 3000 South Pike Avenue. The police department had major building renovations in 2009 and is currently undergoing minor improvements. All information pertaining to the Township can be found at <http://www.salisburytownship.org/>.



Capital Improvements

Salisbury Township pays for its services and facilities through a five (5)-year capital improvements program. The most recent program addresses facility, service and equipment needs through 2016. The plan is reviewed, adjusted, and approved annually.

Police Protection

Salisbury Township provides its own police protection. The Police Department is housed in the Public Safety Building along South Pike Avenue (Map 5.1). The building was renovated and expanded in 2009. The Township's force consists of a chief, two sergeants, twelve full-time officers (including a School Resource Officer), a detective, and three part-time officers. Over the past 15 years, the duties and specialties of the Police Department have expanded dramatically. The Department now has a School Resource Officer, a Traffic Safety Officer, a Quick Response Unit to assist on ambulance and emergency medical calls, a Community Policing Officer, and a K-9 Unit. The Police Department prepares annual reports which includes information and statistics regarding staffing, the number and types of crimes, traffic crashes and revenues.

Salisbury Township Comprehensive Plan

MAP 5.1 Community Facilities

Educational Institutions

- 1. Harry S Truman Elementary School
- 2. Lehigh Christian Academy
- 3. Kids Peace
- 4. Salisbury Administration Building
- 5. Salisbury High School
- 6. Salisbury Middle School
- 7. St. Thomas Moore School
- 8. Swain School
- 9. Western Salisbury Elementary School

Municipal & County Services

- 10. Eastern Salisbury Fire Company
- 11. Lehigh County Treatment Center
- 12. Salisbury Township Municipal Building
- 13. Salisbury Police Department
- 14. Salisbury Public Works Department
- 15. Western Salisbury Fire Company
- 16. Western Salisbury Fire Company

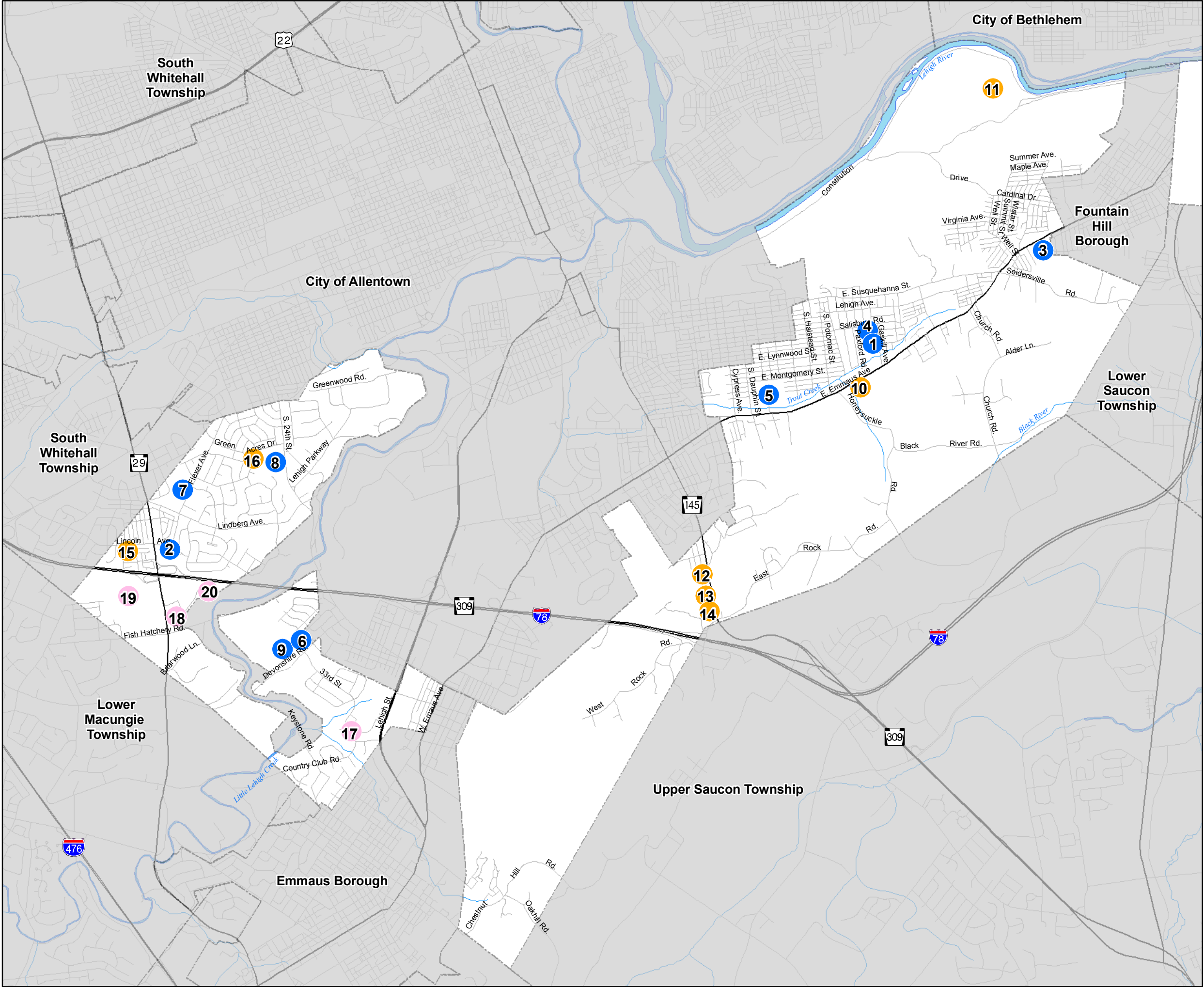
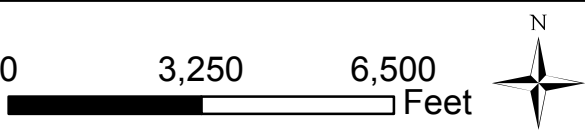
Health Services

- 17. Devonshire Nursing Home
- 18. Manorcare Health Services
- 19. Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest
- 20. Sunrise Senior Living

December 2011

Base Information Provided By:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.



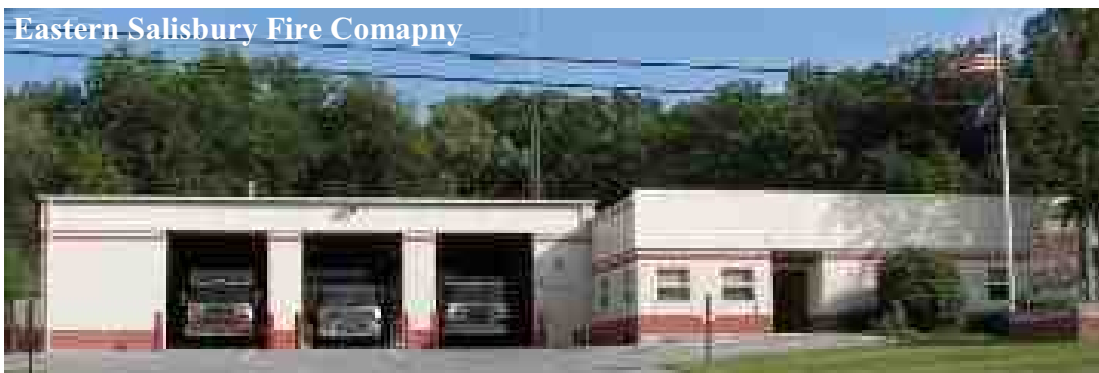
Fire Protection

Salisbury Township is served by three volunteer fire companies (Map5.1):

1. **Eastern Salisbury Fire Department**, Fire Station #1, located at 1000 East Emmaus Avenue.
2. **Western Salisbury Fire Department**, Fire Station #2, located at 3425 Eisenhower Avenue; and
3. **Western Salisbury Fire Department**, Fire Station #3, located at 2694 Green Acres Drive

Fire protection needs include such items as additional fire fighters, new equipment and on-going training. Both fire companies have websites with additional information:

- <http://www.easternsalisburyfire.org>
- <http://www.westernsalisbury.org>



Emergency Medical Service

Ambulance service is provided by:

- Cetronia Ambulance Corp in the western portion of the Township;
- Emmaus Ambulance Corp in the Lehigh Street corridor; and
- St. Luke's Emergency Transport Services in the eastern portion of the Township.

Library

Salisbury Township participates and funds the Allentown Free Library located at 1210 Hamilton Street in Allentown. The millage currently is set at .18 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This means that a property assessed at \$75,000 pays \$13.50 towards the support of the Library. Residents have the opportunity to become a cardholder, borrow books, and have access to computers free of charge.

Schools

Salisbury Township comprises the Salisbury Township School District. The district includes four schools (Map 5.1):

- Salisbury High School (grades 9-12)
- Salisbury Middle School (grades 6-8)
- Harry S. Truman Elementary School (grades K-5)
- Western Salisbury Elementary School (grades K-5)

All information pertaining to the Salisbury Township School District can be found at www.stsd.org/.

According to the Salisbury Township School District, the enrollment for the current school year (2010–2011) is 1,633 students, a decrease of 2.2 percent from the previous year. Enrollments have continued to show slight decreases over the past five years. The School District continually monitors enrollment trends and has a capital plan for addressing needed improvements.

Table 5.2
Salisbury School District Enrollment, 2006–2010

School Year	Total Enrollment	Change From Previous Year	
		Number	Percent
2010-2011*	1,633	(-36)	-2.2%
2009-2010**	1,669	-50	-2.9%
2008-2009**	1,719	-76	-4.2%
2007-2008**	1,795	-12	-0.7%
2006-2007**	1,807	-48	-2.6%

Sources: *Salisbury Township School District
**Pennsylvania Department of Education

Other schools in Salisbury Township include:

- Kids Peace
- Lehigh Christian Academy
- St. Thomas Moore School
- Swain School
- Wiley House

Recreation and Open Space

Salisbury Township has a Recreation Advisory Committee that guides the recreation and park systems programs. The five member board is appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Salisbury’s parks are maintained by the township’s public works department.

Small parks such as Berger and Louise Lane Park serve the immediate neighborhood while Walking Purchase Park and the Robert Rodale Reserve are beneficial to residents and non-residents of the township (Map 5.2). Within the township opportunities have risen in the past to jointly own, maintain and provide security for certain tracts of land. Walking Purchase Park / Lehigh Mountain Park are jointly owned by Salisbury Township, City of Allentown and Lehigh County. In addition to the municipal lands Salisbury has lands owned by Wildlands Conservancy and the Salisbury School District that provide public recreation sites.



Laubach Park

Privately owned recreation sites add to the wealth of outdoor public recreation opportunities that are in Salisbury Township. Waldheim Park offers property owners/renters a rustic village setting at the base of South Mountain. Other areas such as Lehigh Country Club and Kids Peace Broadway Campus Recreational Area provide recreational opportunities to all economic sectors of the public. In addition, local church’s and private schools have recreational sites within Salisbury Township.

Table 5.1 provides a listing of all public and private recreational sites within the township.



Devonshire Park

**Table 5.1
Public and Private Recreation Sites**

Map ID	Name	Estimated Acreage
Public Recreation Sites		
1	Berger Park	0.24
2	Buehler Properties	36.69
3	Cedar Crest Gardens	3.15
4	Devonshire Park	13.12
5	Dodson Park	2.83
6	Emmaus Borough Open Space	19.89
7	Franco Farm Recreation Area	87.78
8	Green Acres Park	2.88
9	Harry S. Truman Elementary School Recreational Area	4.42
10	Klines Lane Athletic Field and Open Space	22.99
11	Laubach Park	14.23
12	Lindberg Park	19.76
13	Little Lehigh Parkway (partial)	18.95
14	Louise Lane Park	0.93
15	River Road Playground	0.63
16	South Mountain Preserve	321.83
16	Robert Rodale Reserve	481.67
17	Salisbury Middle School and West Salisbury Elementary Recreational Area	16.07
18	Salisbury Township Senior High School Recreational Area	11.66
19	South Mountain Big Rock Park	55.71
20	South Mountain Reservoir	115.35
21	Lehigh Mountain Park / Walking Purchase Park	603.61
	Total Public Recreation Sites	1854.36
Private Recreation Sites		
22	Boots and Saddles Riding Club	60.99
23	Christ Methodist Church Athletic Fields	3.16
24	Kids Peace Broadway Campus Recreational Area	0.58
25	Lehigh Country Club	251.30
26	Mountain House Girl Scout Camp	14.80
27	Saint Thomas More School Recreational Area	3.32
28	South Mountain Grove	35.22
29	The Swain School Recreational Area	5.26
30	Trident Club	2.98
31	Unami Fish and Game Association	38.37
32	Waldheim Park	39.88
	Total Private Recreation Sites	455.86

Salisbury Township
Comprehensive Plan

MAP 5.2
Parks & Outdoor
Recreation

Public Recreation

1. Berger Street Park
2. Buehler Properties
3. Cedar Crest Gardens
4. Devonshire Park
5. Dodson Park
6. Emmaus Borough Open Space
7. Franko Farm Recreation Area
8. Green Acres Park
9. Harry S. Truman Elementary School Recreational Area
10. Klins Lane Athletic Field and Open Space
11. Lauback Park
12. Lindberg Park
13. Little Lehigh Parkway
14. Louise Lane Park
15. River Road Playlot
16. Robert Rodale Reserve
17. Salisbury Middle School & West Salisbury Elementary Recreational Area
18. Salisbury Township Senior High School Recreational Area
19. South Mountain Big Rock County Park
20. South Mountain Reservoir
21. Walking Purchase Park

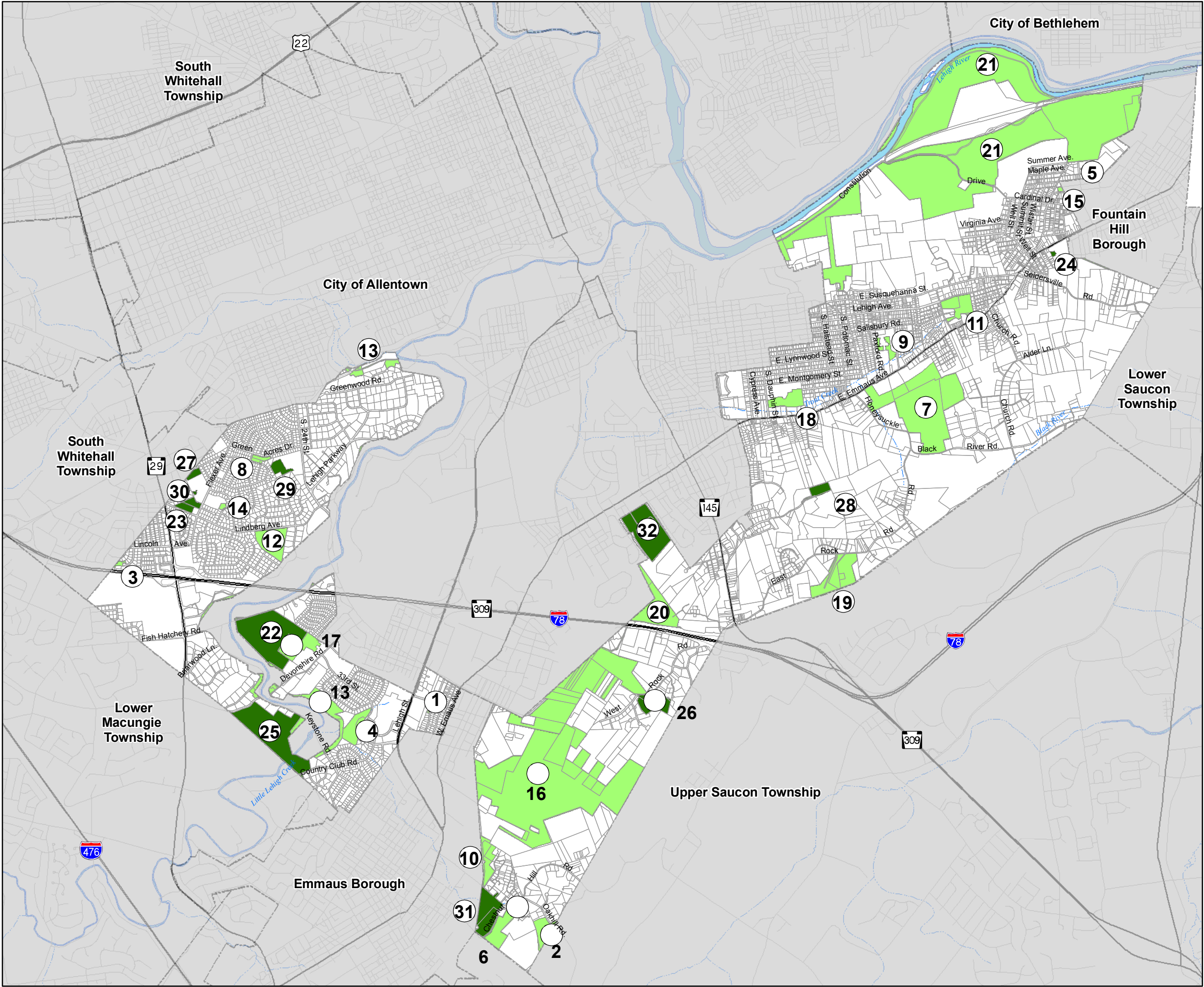
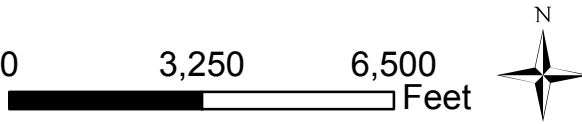
Private Recreation

22. Boots & Saddle Riding Club
23. Christ Methodist Church Ballfield
24. Kids Peace Broadway Campus Recreational Area
25. Lehigh Country Club
26. Mountain House Girl Scout Camp
27. Saint Thomas More School Recreational Area
28. South Mountain Grove
29. The Swain School Recreational Area
30. Trident Swim Club
31. Unami Fish & Game Commission
32. Waldheim Park

December 2011

Base Information Provided By:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.



The *Salisbury Township Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* was adopted in December, 2005. The plan outlines goals for preserving natural areas and open space as well as goals for enhancing and updating parks located within the township. The plan calculates total recreational lands per one thousand people, according to the National Parks & Recreation Association guidelines, and states “When factoring in this collection of park and open space, the amount of available land far exceeds the recommended ratio.”

The *Lehigh Mountain Park Master Plan* focuses on the conservation of over 500 acres located in the heart of the Lehigh Valley. Lehigh Mountain Park exists today through over 20 years of partnerships between the Wildlands Conservancy, the County of Lehigh, City of Allentown and Salisbury Township. The park originated as two distinct areas: the Lowlands (300 acres) and the Uplands (230 acres) according to the plan. These protected acres serve as habitat for flora and fauna, protect and enhance water quality /sources, and allow for recreation and eco-tourism opportunities. According to the plan, the most immediate priorities for protecting and developing Lehigh Mountain Park are:

- Develop a resource conservation plan to protect the ecological integrity of the Uplands forest and to preserve or restore the Park’s historic features,
- Install gated access to the Park to eliminate illegal uses and dumping,
- Clean up the areas where illegal dumping has taken place, and
- Install signage describing the site, its allowed uses and emergency information.



Sanitary Sewer Service

The majority of the developed areas of Salisbury are served by public sewage service (Map 5.3). Outlying uses and uses on South Mountain rely upon individual on-lot septic tanks with absorption fields.

The majority of Salisbury is served by the Allentown wastewater treatment plant on Kline's Island. Salisbury is authorized to use 2.09 million gallons per day of treatment capacity, with the actual use averaging 1.216 million gallons per day. The collection system is under the direct control of the Township Government.

An area of eastern Salisbury adjacent to Fountain Hill is served by the Bethlehem wastewater treatment plant. Salisbury is authorized to use 20,600 gallons per day of capacity, with actual use averaging 16,000 gallons per day.

The two main sewage interceptor lines serving Salisbury follow the Little Lehigh Creek and Trout Creek. The sewer system was also extended to serve a portion of East Rock Road and an additional area on South Pike Avenue near Old South Pike Road.

The Township is required to have an Official Sewage Facilities Plan. One of the main intents of a sewage facilities plan is to clearly designate areas that are and are not planned for extension of public sewers. This designation then becomes legally binding on developers, unless an amendment is officially accepted to the Plan. The Township's current Official Sewage Facilities Plan was prepared in 1994. The Plan recommended that the following areas should be studied for sewer service alternatives because of the higher percentage of problem sites:

- Overlook Springs
- Ironwood Lane
- E. Rock Road, Saucon Avenue, Mt. Top Lane
- Honeysuckle Road

Malfunctioning on-lot septic systems are a health hazard for both the affected homeowner and for the surrounding neighborhood. Many property owners in Salisbury Township use on-lot septic systems. Sewage drains out of the home through a pipe and discharges into the septic tank. Septic tanks are watertight chambers of various shapes (typically cylindrical or rectangular) and sizes constructed of various durable materials (typically concrete) which are resistant to corrosion or decay. The tanks detain the sewage, allowing sufficient time for solids to settle (becoming sludge) and the floatable scum layer to rise to the top. The sewage flows through pipes, trickling out through perforations into a stone bed, percolating through the soil.

As the septic system is used, the sludge continues to accumulate in the bottom of the septic tank. As the sludge level increases, the sewage has less time to settle before leaving the tank. If sludge accumulates too long, no settling occurs, and solids escape into the absorption field. Eventually, the absorption field becomes clogged, and the system may malfunction.

To maintain the septic system in good working order, the tank (or cesspool) **MUST** be pumped periodically. All too often, people wait for visible evidence of system problems (sluggish toilets or spongy, moist areas in the lawn), which is often too late for pumping to correct the malfunction. For a properly designed septic system, the tank should be inspected and pumped every 1-5 years. The frequency of pumping depends on several factors, such as the capacity of the septic tank, the amount of wastewater generated, and the volume of solids in the wastewater. It is imperative that people utilizing on-lot sewage disposal are made aware of the importance of periodic tank pumping.

Since most of Salisbury Township will likely continue to use on-lot sewage disposal, steps should be taken to ensure the safety and health of the general public. State and local regulations minimize problems associated with the siting, design and construction of on-lot septic systems. Ordinances which require the testing, acceptance and preservation of a secondary as well as a primary absorption area on each lot proposing to utilize on-lot sewage disposal help ensure adequate area to construct a replacement system, should the primary system malfunction at any time. After a system has been designed and installed, maintenance becomes the most important aspect of preventing system malfunction.

Two of the most cost-effective ways of reducing water and sewage costs is through a) water conservation and b) reducing infiltration of stormwater into the sewage lines. The Township has undertaken efforts to reduce stormwater infiltration.

Water Service

Most of the developed areas of Salisbury (other than homes on South Mountain) are served by public water service (see Map 5.3). Water service is provided to residents and businesses of Salisbury by four methods:

- public water service from the Borough of Emmaus to areas that are immediately adjacent to the Borough,
- public water service from the City of Allentown to the majority of the developed areas of western and eastern Salisbury,
- public water service from the City of Bethlehem to developed areas adjacent to Fountain Hill,
- a relatively small, private central water system serving numerous homes north of Fish Hatchery Road (west and south of the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center property), and
- individual private wells for scattered homes and businesses, including homes on South Mountain and portions of areas west of Fountain Hill on the base of Lehigh Mountain.

Portions of Salisbury make up the drainage area that flows towards the intakes, wells or reservoirs of all three of these public water systems, except the City of Bethlehem sources. Emmaus, Allentown and Bethlehem have DEP approved Source Water Protection Plans.

Public Works

The Salisbury Township Department of Public Works is located at 3000 South Pike Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103. The Department of Public Works' responsibilities are diverse and complex and cover all four seasons. The Director of Public Works is responsible for the administration of services. The Department is comprised of a Utility Division, which handles all water and sewer matters and a Highway Division which handles all street, parks and ground. At times employees from both Divisions perform joint activities and tasks, such as snow plowing. The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining the Township's physical infrastructure, vehicle maintenance, and yard waste drop-off centers and leaf and branch pick-up.

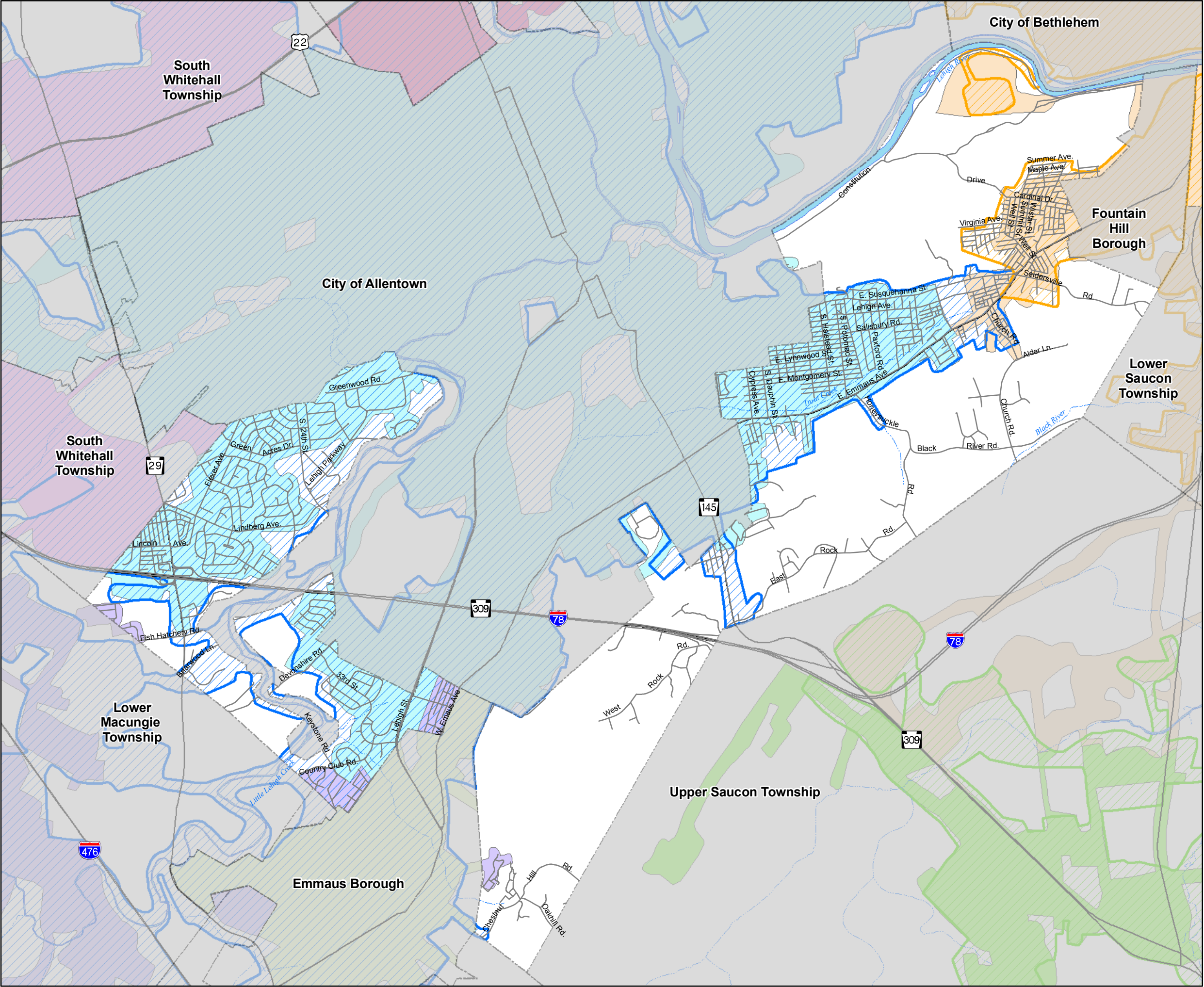
Key services include:

- Vehicle Maintenance
- Storm Drains and Water Run-off
- Sanitary Sewer System
- Water Line Delivery System
- Parks
- Road Maintenance and Reconstruction
- Street Cleaning
- Snow Plowing and Removal
- Traffic Line Painting
- Leaf Collection
- Branch Collection

Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste

Curbside trash is collected two days a week, bulky / whitegood items (appliances) of reasonable size and weight can be scheduled for pickup (one item per residential dwelling per week). Salisbury Township participates in single-stream recycling where all recyclables (paper and containers) can be mixed together in one container. The Township also offers two Summer Yard Waste Drop Off Centers:

- Devonshire Drop Off Center along Devonshire Road across from the Wester Salisbury Church; and
- Franko Drop Off Center behind the Eastern Salisbury Fire Company.



Salisbury Township Comprehensive Plan

MAP 5.3 Water & Sewer Service Areas

Water Systems

- ALLENTOWN
- BETHLEHEM
- EMMAUS
- LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY (LCA)
- SOUTH WHITEHALL
- UPPER SAUCON
- WHITEHALL

Sewer Systems

- ALLENTOWN
- BETHLEHEM
- UPPER SAUCON

December 2011

Base Information Provided By:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

0


3,250

6,500

Feet

N

↑



Urban Research & Development Corporation
URDC 28 West Broad Street Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 610-865-0701

Additional information regarding trash, recycling and yard waste is available on the Salisbury Township website at <http://salisburytownship.org>.

Men's Community Corrections Center and Detox / Rehab Center

Lehigh County's Men's Community Center, located at 1600 Riverside Drive, is a 300-bed community-based facility that houses male work release participants. This pre-release program affords individuals the opportunity to secure work prior to release, to pay their court costs and child support, and to develop a work ethic. Participants also perform community service work.

Lehigh County is also building a 31-bed Detox and Rehab Center at its Riverside Drive site. Twenty-one (21) beds will be used for rehab and 10 beds would be used for detox.

Community Facility and Services Goals

1. Maintain high-quality community facilities and services for current and future development in the most cost-efficient manner.
2. Continue to cooperate with other municipalities and other entities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of services whenever possible, such as libraries, police, fire, ambulance/rescue, recreation, maintenance, and administration.
3. Continue to provide, maintain and enhance park, recreation and open space areas, and offer recreational programs.
4. Ensure there is economical, efficient public water and sewer service for existing and future development.
5. Manage the rate, volume, and quality of storm runoff for public safety and welfare and the protection of property and the environment.
6. Assure environmentally responsible and economical solid waste disposal and recycling services.
7. Provide adequate government administration.
8. Strengthen the school/community link by developing a strong relationship with the Salisbury Township School District which involves sharing more information and facilities, and establishing stronger communications.

Community Facility and Services Recommendations

Education and Library Service

1. **Maintain and strengthen the relationship between the Township and the Salisbury Township School District.**

Salisbury Township and the Salisbury Township School District should maintain and strengthen their relationship. The school district is a major contributor to the quality of life in the area and provides invaluable services not only in education but in life skills development. The Salisbury Township School District, like other school districts in Pennsylvania, employs a separate planning process for identifying capital needs for public education. Nevertheless, the district can

develop strong liaisons with the township. The Township should foster strong relationships with the school district. Examples of potential cooperation include:

- Serving on community and school advisory boards.
- Developing agreements for joint use and maintenance of school and/or municipal parks.
- Sharing data and other research results.
- Supporting plans for developing new infrastructure, including school and park improvements.



Enrollments and development activity should be continually monitored by the school district. The Salisbury Township School District's long range plan should continue to be used as a guide for future school planning.

Salisbury Township and the school district should regularly discuss the status of proposed and potential developments. Monitoring development and sharing information about developments are critical to school district plans for future growth.

2. Continue to support the Allentown Public Library.

The Township should continue to support the Allentown Public Library. This support can be provided through an annual contribution, as in the past, and through letters of support in grant applications.

Trash Collection, Recycling and Solid Waste Facilities

1. Continue curb-side trash collection and recycling.

Weekly trash collection and recycling pickups are important services that should be continued. The service works to keep Salisbury Township clean and litter free. Grants should be sought, when and if available, to help reduce costs.

2. Target areas to control bulk trash dumping, and continue to organize trash and litter clean-up events.

Some areas of the Township are the scene of unlawful trash dumping, such as along Constitution Drive through Walking Purchase Park. This area and other areas should be targeted for continued clean-up events. Gates, surveillance cameras and additional policing should also be explored to help control dumping.

3. Carefully control solid waste facilities.

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act of 1988 (Act 101) grants powers and assigns duties to counties and municipalities relating to solid waste management. Counties are responsible for preparing and implementing a waste management plan. The plan must contractually assure the existence of waste disposal capacity for a ten-year period. Solid waste disposal in Salisbury should be in accord with the *Lehigh County Municipal Waste Plan*.

Although it is unlikely that a sanitary landfill would be proposed in Salisbury Township, given the limited amount of suitable land and the current PA DEP regulations, other solid waste facilities such as transfer stations could be proposed in the future. Given their inherent nature, these facilities should be carefully regulated through zoning to avoid land use conflicts and traffic problems.

The Township's yard waste drop off sites are a major benefit. The adequacy of these sites to accommodate current and projected demands should be continually monitored.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- 1. Use and update the adopted Salisbury Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.**

The goals, objectives and recommendations in Salisbury Township's *Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan* (adopted in 2005) should be used and updated to help guide park, recreation and open space improvements in the Township.



- 2. Work with the City of Allentown and Lehigh County to implement the Lehigh Mountain Master Plan.**

Salisbury Township, the City of Allentown and Lehigh County jointly own Lehigh Mountain, which includes Walking Purchase Park. The *Lehigh Mountain Master Plan* (2010) provides recommendations for recreational use and natural feature preservation. Salisbury Township should continue to work the City and County to implement the Plan. All three entities should cooperation in the pursuit of grant funding to assist with implementation.

- 3. Offer a variety of recreational programs.**

The Township, with the assistance of the Salisbury Township Recreation Director, should continue to offer recreational programs to Township residents. Township now offers a Summer Playground Program at four of its parks (Green Acres, Lindberg, Devonshire and Laubach); Township children who have completed kindergarten through age 12 are eligible to participate in a variety of activities. The Township, with input from the Recreation Director and the Recreation Advisory Committee, should explore additional recreational programs that could be provided to serve all age groups.

4. Use the Salisbury Township Recreation Advisory Committee to provide input on needed park improvements and recreational programs.

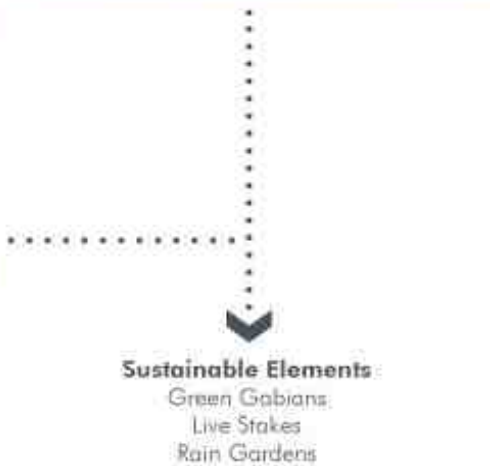
The Salisbury Township Recreation Advisory Committee should continue to provide suggestions on needed park improvements and recreation programs. Each year the Committee prepares a “Project List” of needed improvements to the Township’s existing parks.

5. Use PA DCNR’s Top 10 Best “Green/Sustainable” Practices

The Township should use the following green/sustainable practices at its recreation and conservation sites:

- Promote groundwater recharge infiltration and manage storm water on site;
- Create and/or enhance riparian and wetland buffers;
- Minimize impacts or changes to the natural landscape;
- Include an abundance of trees on the site;
- Maintain and/or enhance native wildlife habitat;
- Manage invasive species on the site and plant natives;
- Minimize unnecessary and “costly” maintenance practices (pesticides, fertilizers, mowing, leaf collecting, watering, etc.);
- Reference “LEED” certification guidelines for buildings and implement what is practical;
- Maximize walkability to the site and within the site; and
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation experiences on the site.

The use of these practices will help in developing sustainable sites that are practical, conserve resources and have a positive impact on the environment.



Sustainable Elements
Green Gables
Live Stakes
Rain Gardens

Storm Drainage

1. Upgrade the Township's existing storm water system over time.

Salisbury Township should upgrade its storm water system as opportunities arise. This should be accomplished as part of street reconstruction and new development, and with financial assistance from state and/or federal sources, if possible.

2. Require developers to adequately address and control storm water.

When new development takes place, State law requires developers to address and adequately control storm water drainage. This should be enforced, in part, by the Township through up-to-date regulations in zoning, and subdivision and land development ordinances.

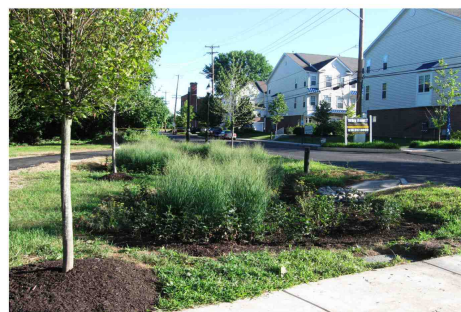
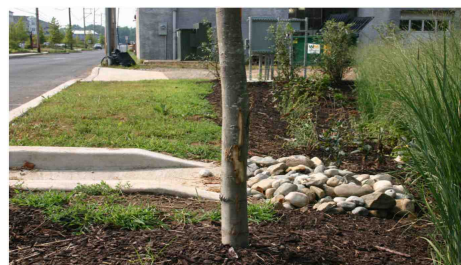
3. Identify and correct storm water infiltration problems.

This can be done by continuing to identify and correct infiltration. Grant funding should be pursued to pay for studies and improvements.

4. Use vegetation and other techniques to control storm water.

The following techniques can be used to help control storm water:

- Minimize the amount of natural vegetation that is disturbed by new development, on wooded slopes.
- Encourage the planting of thick vegetation along waterways and drainage channels.
- Promote alternatives to large, unlandscaped storm water basins, such as directing water into stone-filled infiltration trenches, “raingardens” or underground “dry wells” so that more runoff can be absorbed into the ground instead of just stored and released.



5. Meet requirements of the Federal/State MS4 Stormwater Program.

The MS4 program is a joint Federal/State environmental program that is designed to improve water quality by properly managing stormwater runoff. Salisbury Township is one of many municipalities that will face increasing requirements under this program in the next few years.

The first step of the program is to provide public education about actions that residents and businesses can take to protect water quality. The DEP website has many educational materials that can be posted on the Township website or that can be printed as handouts.

The program also encourages signage on stormwater inlets that lets people know that the inlets drain directly to waterways, as opposed to being carried to a treatment plant. The goal is to avoid dumping of used oil and other contaminants. There should be publicity about local businesses that are willing to receive used motor oil.

A related element involves the Federal/State NPDES permit system. This system generally requires a detailed plan, DEP and Conservation District review, and issuance of a permit if more than one acre will be disturbed. This requirement even applies for redevelopment projects. To obtain the permit, “Best Management Practices” are typically instituted to protect water quality and promote recharge of runoff into the groundwater. However, great care is needed in the design of infiltration methods in areas of the township that have limestone geology, to avoid the creation of sinkholes.

Each municipality is required to put into place procedures to minimize water pollution from municipal operations. For example, trucks that were loaded with potential contaminants cannot be washed in a location where the runoff may enter a waterway. The EPA is specifically requiring that townships document all of these procedures.

Eventually, the MS4 program is expected to require that municipalities spend funds to retrofit existing stormwater detention basins and drainage channels to improve water quality.

Sanitary Sewer Service and Central Water Service

1. Use and update the Township’s Act 537 plan.

The township’s Act 537 plan should continue to be periodically updated to evaluate sanitary sewer service needs and to make recommendations for improvements to the sanitary sewer system, and extensions into appropriate new service areas.

2. Identify and correct infiltration and inflow (I&I) problems.

The Township should continue to identify and correct infiltration and inflow problems to the sanitary sewer system. This will reduce storm water infiltration flows into the Township's sanitary sewer system and thereby help control costs.

3. Continue to work with City of Allentown and protect source water areas.

Salisbury Township should continue to cooperate with the City of Allentown in providing an adequate supply of quality water to the Township. The Township should coordinate service needs and allocations with the City as more development takes place. It will be important to protect the identified source water protection areas in the Township (Zone A and Zone B for the Little Lehigh intake) and incorporate appropriate best management practices to maintain a high quality water supply.

4. Encourage more water conservation.

Salisbury Township should encourage water conservation wherever possible. Building codes enforced by the Township should require the use of water saving plumbing fixtures in new residential construction. Industrial and commercial users should be encouraged to recycle and reuse water, especially cooling water. The Township's code enforcement personnel should, at a basic level, be able to provide information to commercial and industrial applicants on how they can improve efficiency and reduce the demand for water.

While no such developments have been proposed to date, in the future large water bottling operations for off-site use should be controlled to the maximum extent allowed by the law. Some communities treat large bottlers as industrial uses limited to an industrial district due to the large numbers of tractor-trailers and loading/unloading operations. Other communities allow bottlers with special exception approval but require water studies and very large minimum lot size requirements which ensure that land will be preserved to allow recharge.

Water conservation should be practiced by each and every individual. There are various ways to reduce water consumption in the home. Low-flow shower heads, toilets, and sinks are all available. Public education is important to make sure that residents know about methods and devices available for water conservation. Changing individual water usage habits is a difficult process. Informational pamphlets and public workshops promoted by the municipal governments, such Salisbury Township, can be effective public education tools.

Hospital and Health Services

1. Continue to cooperate with area hospitals and health providers.

Lehigh Valley Health Network and the Township should partner on community projects and programs, in line with their common mission to improve the health status of the community. Working together to provide recreational trails, fitness trails, trail linkages and park improvements are just some of the possible joint-venture projects that should be pursued.

2. Periodically examine the need for additional health services.

Healthcare providers and organizations should periodically examine the need for additional facilities and services in the area.

Police and Fire Protection

1. Continue and enhance the Salisbury Township Police Department.

Salisbury Township should continue to provide adequate funding for its local police force. The Township and the Police Department should continue to identify and address needs (equipment, building improvements, etc.). Opportunities for grant funding should continue to be pursued. The police should also continue to cooperate with the police forces in the City of Allentown and other area municipalities, and with the State Police. Since police service is one of the most expensive local services, consideration should be given to working with adjacent municipalities on such items as joint purchases, and the sharing/coordination of certain responsibilities where appropriate.

Neighborhood Block Watch Programs should be promoted. The Block Watch Program puts residents and police together to prevent crime and solve neighborhood problems. This partnership requires cooperation, communication and community involvement.

2. Strengthen fire, ambulance, and rescue services.

As discussed earlier in this chapter, fire, ambulance, and rescue services are provided by the Eastern Salisbury Fire Department and Western Salisbury Fire Department. The fire departments should continue mutual aid agreements with the other area fire departments and continue to periodically make improvements to equipment and vehicles, as needed. The possibility of consolidation should be examined. Other needs that should be addressed include: training, retaining and recruiting new members, and new equipment including a mini-pumper, and a combined rescue-pumper body.

Also, it is important that the emergency service providers train together, and coordinate the provision of the specialized vehicles, equipment, and similar needs. Police, fire, EMS and other emergency service providers should meet periodically to discuss key items, such as emergency management planning and coordination.

Municipal Administration and Facilities and Services

1. Cooperate with adjacent municipalities to share costs and services.

Salisbury Township and the adjacent municipalities should continue their cooperation and explore more ways to share costs and services. The “Shared Municipal Services” program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, provides matching grants to promote the cooperation among municipalities in order to increase the efficiency of public services.

2. Maintain and improve municipal buildings..

Improvements to existing buildings and the development of any new future buildings should be planned and scheduled as part of a Capital Improvements Program (see *Implementation Tools* section in the chapter of the Plan).