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Introduction and Goal and Objectives

This Chapter provides an inventory, analysis, and recommendations for how to best manage Oxford Region’s community facilities and services, and how they can be better coordinated between the Region’s municipalities and beyond the Region’s boundaries. Implementation of these recommendations may occur through the separate actions of the Region’s municipalities or through regional coordination. Regardless of the method of implementation, the intended effect is to provide facilities and services that benefit the Region and address the objectives identified for community facilities and services in accordance with the following goal:

Provide and promote the establishment of accessible, efficient, and dependable community facilities and services for the health, safety, welfare, and educational needs of the Region’s residents within reasonable municipal fiscal limits.

Plan Objectives

The Community Facilities and Services Plan focuses on how best to achieve the following Objectives:

Municipal Facilities and Services

- 8-A** Continue to evaluate existing municipal facilities and services to identify current deficiencies and future needs.

Educational Facilities

- 8-B** Promote the development and maintenance of school facilities and programs to ensure high quality educational opportunities.
- 8-C** Support the Oxford Public Library in an equitable manner as an important resource center for the Region.

Emergency Services

- 8-D** Support an emergency services system (fire, police, ambulance) that protects the health and safety of residents by coordinating the efficient allocation of services, initiating preventive measures, and providing a rapid response to all emergencies.

Health Care and Human Services

- 8-E** Coordinate with emergency service providers and health care institutions to ensure access to vital health care services for all residents of the Oxford Region.
- 8-F** Support development and delivery of community education programs that stress the importance of healthy lifestyles on issues such as nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, prenatal care, and management of chronic health conditions.
- 8-G** Support continuation and expansion of human services programs and improve service accessibility, especially for disadvantaged populations.
- 8-H** Coordinate with countywide, regional, and local entities to assess the housing, health, and support services needs of a growing senior citizen population.
- 8-I** Promote outreach to the Latino community to assist in meeting the unique health and human services needs of this population.

Utilities

- 8-J** Coordinate land use and utility planning efforts between the Oxford Region's municipalities and utility service providers to ensure effective, consistent, and cooperative infrastructure planning throughout the Region and the provision of adequate supplies and facilities for current and future uses.
- 8-K** Promote the integration of local and regional planning efforts with those of utility providers and water suppliers in order to provide a safe, sustainable drinking water supply.

- 8-L** Promote the integration of local and regional planning efforts (including the preservation of agriculture) and those of utility providers and approved and adopted wastewater facility plans in order to ensure public health and safety and planned growth and redevelopment.
- 8-M** Support an effective, environmentally sound, fiscally responsible, and sustainable integrated waste management system.
- 8-N** Support the design, construction, maintenance, and improvement of stormwater management infrastructure to protect public health and safety, and to provide effective and efficient prevention, or at a minimum, management of stormwater runoff while addressing Chesapeake Bay Strategies.

Municipal Facilities and Services

Municipalities in the Oxford Region maintain facilities and provide services to meet municipal needs as well as the needs of the Region’s population. The list of necessary services varies slightly between the communities but for the most part can be separated into the following four categories: municipal buildings and administration, municipal finance, volunteer groups and citizen participation, and municipal consultants.

Municipal Buildings and Administration

In spite of the fact that all of the Region’s municipalities have active websites, for many residents of the Region, including the Plain sect, their municipal buildings and administrative personnel are their only access to municipal services.



Municipal Buildings

While the Oxford Region encompasses a very large land area of approximately 81 square miles, municipal administration buildings are located within one mile of the Route 10/Baltimore Pike corridor, with the only exception being Elk Township. The exact locations of the municipal buildings, and the year in which each municipality was established, are listed below in Figure 8-A and shown on the map in Figure 8-D, on page 8-10.

Figure 8-A: Municipal Facilities Information and History

Municipality	Address	Year
East Nottingham Township	158 Election Road Oxford, PA 19363	1718
Elk Township	952 Chesterville Road Box 153 Lewisville, PA 19351	1857
Lower Oxford Township	220 Township Road, Oxford, PA 19363	1797
Upper Oxford Township	1185 Limestone Road Oxford, PA 19363	1797
West Nottingham Township	100 Park Road P.O. Box 67 Nottingham, PA 19362	1718
Oxford Borough	401 Market Street, PO Box 380, Oxford PA 19363	1833

Source: Municipal Websites, 2011

Municipal Administration

Township governments in the Region are established under Pennsylvania’s Second Class Township Code. In each of the Region’s five townships an elected board of supervisors serves as the governing body with the authority to hire township personnel (engineer, solicitor, codes enforcement or zoning officer, secretary, etc.) and appoint representatives to the various authorities, boards, and commissions (ABCs). With the exception of East Nottingham Township, which has a five-person board, the municipalities in the Region govern with a three-person board.

While the secretaries and administrators (part-time and full-time) oversee the administration of Township services and activities, Oxford Borough is the only municipality which employs a manager. Oxford Borough governs in accordance with Pennsylvania’s Borough Code and operates with a Borough Council (for 2012 the Borough has a 7-person Council).

In regard to the availability of administrative services (office hours), the Borough and the municipalities immediately adjacent to the Borough (East Nottingham and Lower Oxford) have office hours Monday through Friday. The municipalities furthest from the Borough and with limited commercial and residential land uses (Upper Oxford, West Nottingham, and Elk) have part-time hours limited to certain days of the week. As the economy improves and the population of the Region increases, the need for additional personnel or expanded municipal hours may be identified.

When asked what services could be improved the following were named: administration, public hours (at municipal buildings), and zoning officer responsiveness.

Community Facilities Survey

Municipal Websites

All municipalities in the Oxford Region maintain a website with varying levels of information and applicability. The opportunities for these websites are unlimited and their utilization is discussed in detail in Chapter 3: Regional Policies and Coordination:

Oxford Borough	www.oxfordboro.org
East Nottingham Township	www.eastnottingham.org
Elk Township	www.elktownship.org
Lower Oxford Township	www.loweroxfordtownship.com
Upper Oxford Township	www.upperoxford.org
West Nottingham Township	www.wnt-gov.org

RECOMMENDATION FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Action 8-1 Evaluate current municipal budgets, facilities, programs, and staffing needs to assess whether they can meet the demands of projected population increases and the corresponding needs for expanded services.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-A

Volunteer Groups/Citizen Participation

Strong support, understanding, and involvement from residents for the various municipal programs are essential to the operation of municipalities in the Region. Municipal newsletters and websites help to inform residents on various programs and issues such as recycling and emergency management. Public information meetings provide residents with an opportunity to offer input to the planning process of the Region and its municipalities.

Citizen participation allows the municipal leaders in the Region to seek local input and to inform residents of municipal programs.

The establishment of various Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs) and citizen groups has helped to address local issues such as open space preservation, recreation, historic preservation, and crime prevention. The Region views citizen participation in these programs as essential and extremely valuable. Such groups provide informative assistance, promote good

municipal/resident relations, and reduce various administrative costs. The level of volunteerism in the Region has been adequate and remained so over the last several decades. Figure 8-B is a list of the various municipal volunteer organizations and citizen participation groups:

Figure 8-B: Municipal ABC's
Source: Municipal Websites and Planning Committee feedback.

	East Nottingham	Elk	Lower Oxford	Upper Oxford	West Nottingham	Oxford Borough
Planning Commission	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zoning Hearing Board	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Historic Commission		✓		✓	✓	
Open Space Committee/Review Board	✓	✓	✓			
Emergency Management Coordinator	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Recycling Coordinator			✓			
Town Watch						✓
Park and Recreation Committee				✓		
Webmaster/Website Coordinator			✓			✓
Board of Auditors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Roadmaster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Action 8-2 Encourage committees, commissions, and citizen participation groups to provide quarterly status or progress reports to the elected officials.

Action 8-3 Establish a volunteer recognition program to promote volunteerism and periodically acknowledge those residents that significantly contribute at the municipal and/or regional level.

✓These actions address Objectives 8-A, 8-B, 8-C, 8-D, 8-E, 8-F, 8-G, and 8-I

Municipal Finance

Community Facilities and Services represent a significant portion of a municipality's budget. In turn, the annual budget of a municipality will determine the levels of service the municipality is able to provide and maintain.

Tax Burden in the Region

With the exception of school taxes, there have been very few local tax increases in the last 10 years. However, with community support, four of the six municipalities in the Region have enacted an open space tax. The open space revenues come from an increase in property tax as discussed in Chapter 10: Open Space Inventory and Plan. (See Figure 10-D)

Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

A CIP establishes a framework for financing necessary capital improvements and helps to determine the capital expenditures for each year in the upcoming five to ten year period. Municipal officials in the Region should consider the following steps in creating, revising, or maintaining a CIP:

By reviewing the CIP on an annual or semi-annual basis, the elected officials can 1) minimize annual budget fluctuations and 2) thoroughly review potential capital purchases before the actual investment is made.

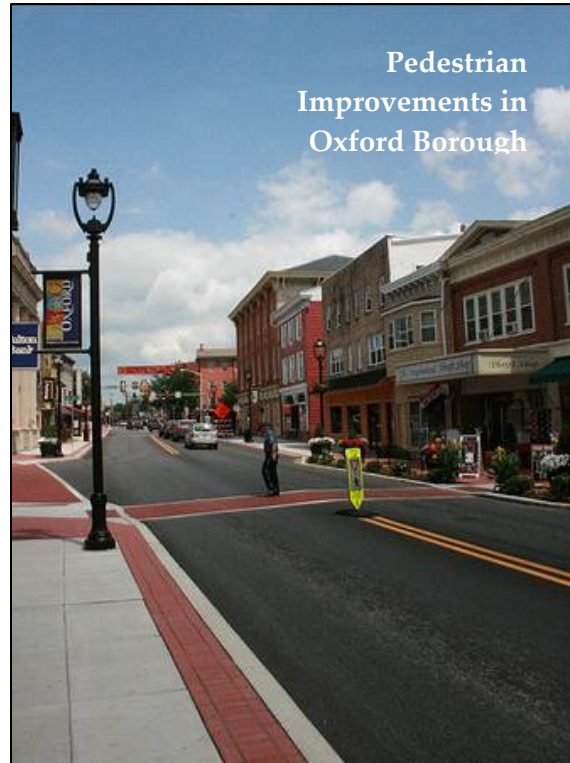
- 1. Establish Priorities.** Setting priorities will help determine which year a desired purchase should be scheduled. The relative importance of a project can be based on the following criteria:
 - **Immediate Need:** High priority items including improvements needed to remedy a danger to public health and safety or to meet a required state or federal regulation.
 - **Short-term Need:** This category includes improvements needed to correct existing deficiencies, but which are not considered public safety hazards. Items which need to be purchased in the near term, such as open space which may not be available in the future, can also be appropriate in this category.
 - **Long-term Need:** Those items that are desirable but where funding can be flexible because there is no immediate need.
 - **Ongoing:** These improvements are desirable but not pressing and are not feasible within the time frame of the current CIP.
- 2. Research Each Item in the CIP.** In order to establish a capital budget it is necessary to estimate the cost of various items to be included in the CIP. The cost of the item, along with its relative priority, helps determine in which year the item can be scheduled.
- 3. Identify Possible Funding Sources.** The availability of grants and low interest loans should be explored along with estimates of projected budget surpluses in coming years. The immediate availability of outside funding (through a grant, for example) to pay for a low priority item, might justify moving that item up in the funding priority schedule.

As discussed above, the CIP should be reviewed and revised annually or semi-annually to adjust for shifting priorities or changes in available funding. In order to assure that all municipal needs are considered, this annual or semi-annual review could be undertaken as a joint effort by the Board of Supervisors, representatives of various ABCs, and municipal staff.

Municipal Example: Oxford Borough’s Revitalization Plan sets up capital projects and proposed expenditures.

Shared Municipal Services

Act 247 recognizes the value of municipalities working together to address the need for new or expanded community services and facilities in Article 1101(6): “To provide for coordinated highways, public services, and development.” The shared provision of services can provide more consistent service and eliminate duplication of services between municipalities. Potential areas where two or more municipalities could share services include zoning and code enforcement, tax administration, municipal police coverage, solid waste disposal, and the purchase of electrical power.



Multimunicipal Example: Four of the six Oxford Region municipalities worked together with the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA) for several years to develop a regional Act 537 (Sewage Facilities) Plan. Lower Oxford and East and West Nottingham Townships, and Oxford Borough were seeking to provide service to designated growth areas to facilitate the expansion of appropriately-scaled commercial and industrial development and serve areas with failing or outdated systems. (Please see the discussion on page 8-31).

Cooperative Purchase. The cooperative purchase of bulk items offers lower unit prices on materials through the purchase of large quantities. Joint purchasing can include 1) the purchase of capital goods, 2) the purchase and bulks goods (such as road maintenance materials), and 3) the provision of joint municipal services.

Land Use and Municipal Finance

Commercial growth in the Oxford Region has not been consistent with the rapid growth that has occurred in the Region's more suburban areas, creating a tax revenue imbalance.

Without the supporting commercial development and tax revenues, municipalities can experience fiscal stress.

Residential development, especially the single-family subdivisions that have dominated the suburban landscape, generates a demand for community services and infrastructure that is not completely offset by property tax revenues paid. The Future Land Use Plan identifies a Commerce area in the Region for targeted commercial and industrial development. This will help to balance municipal budgets, continue to steer commercial development to designated centers, and provide residents with commercial support facilities. This is discussed in greater detail in Chapter 5: Land Use Inventory and Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE

- Action 8-4** Establish or continue to implement a formal capital improvements plan or program (CIP) to plan fiscally for expansions of or improvements to facilities and services.
- Action 8-5** Explore grants and other sources of revenue to address specific facility or service needs as well as planning and regulatory programs.
- Action 8-6** The Region, or a group of municipalities, should continue to participate in the joint purchase of materials or the shared provision of services that could result in cost savings and greater efficiency.
 - ✓These actions address Objective 8-A

Municipal Consultants

Municipal officials in the Region hire professional consultants for a variety of purposes. For example, municipalities contract for the services of a municipal engineer, tax collector, and code enforcement officer. In addition, the municipality and zoning hearing board, in compliance with the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), each retain a solicitor to provide legal counsel. Municipalities also hire consultants on an as needed basis to assist with planning and ordinance work and other special studies. This multimunicipal comprehensive plan is the product of a Vision Partnership Program (VPP) Grant whereby the Oxford Region retained the staff of the Chester County Planning Commission as their consultant.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MUNICIPAL CONSULTANTS

- Action 8-7** Continue to use professional consultants when appropriate to bring expertise and experience to the municipalities and the Region without the financial commitment of additional part or full-time municipal employees.
 - ✓This action addresses Objective 8-A

Educational Facilities

Educational facilities include all schools offering any combination of kindergarten through twelfth grade (public, private, or charter), higher education facilities, and libraries. Pre-school and daycare facilities (including those offering kindergarten) were not considered as part of this planning effort. Although municipalities have no direct control over educational institutions, there is a significant influence and interaction regarding land use, economic development, transportation, and community development between municipalities and educational facilities, which warrants coordination between the entities.

K - 12 Schools

Kindergarten through twelfth grade (K – 12) schools located within the Oxford Region include the Oxford Area School District (OASD), Bethany Christian School, Sacred Heart School, and several schools associated with the Plain Sect community. Figure 8-C lists each school, grades served, current student enrollment, total student capacity, and the percent capacity at which the school is currently operating for the OASD schools, and grades served and student enrollment for the private schools. (Locations for these schools are noted on Figure 8-D)

Figure 8-C: Oxford Region K – 12 Schools

School	Grades Served	Enrollment	Capacity	Enrollment/Capacity Percentage
Oxford Area School District				
Jordan Bank	K	310	405	77%
Elk Ridge	1 – 2	435	518	84%
Nottingham	2 – 4	690	805	86%
Hopewell	5 – 6	625	750	83%
Penn’s Grove	7 – 8	600	784	77%
Oxford High School	9 – 12	1,161	1,250	93%
Totals	-	3821	4512	85%
Private Schools				
Bethany Christian School	K – 8	387 (including 129 Oxford Region residents)	*	*
Sacred Heart School	K – 8	248 (including 181 Oxford Region residents)	*	*
Plain Sect Schools (multiple locations)	1 – 8	269 (30 - 40 per school)	*	*
Totals	-	904	-	-

* Unknown.

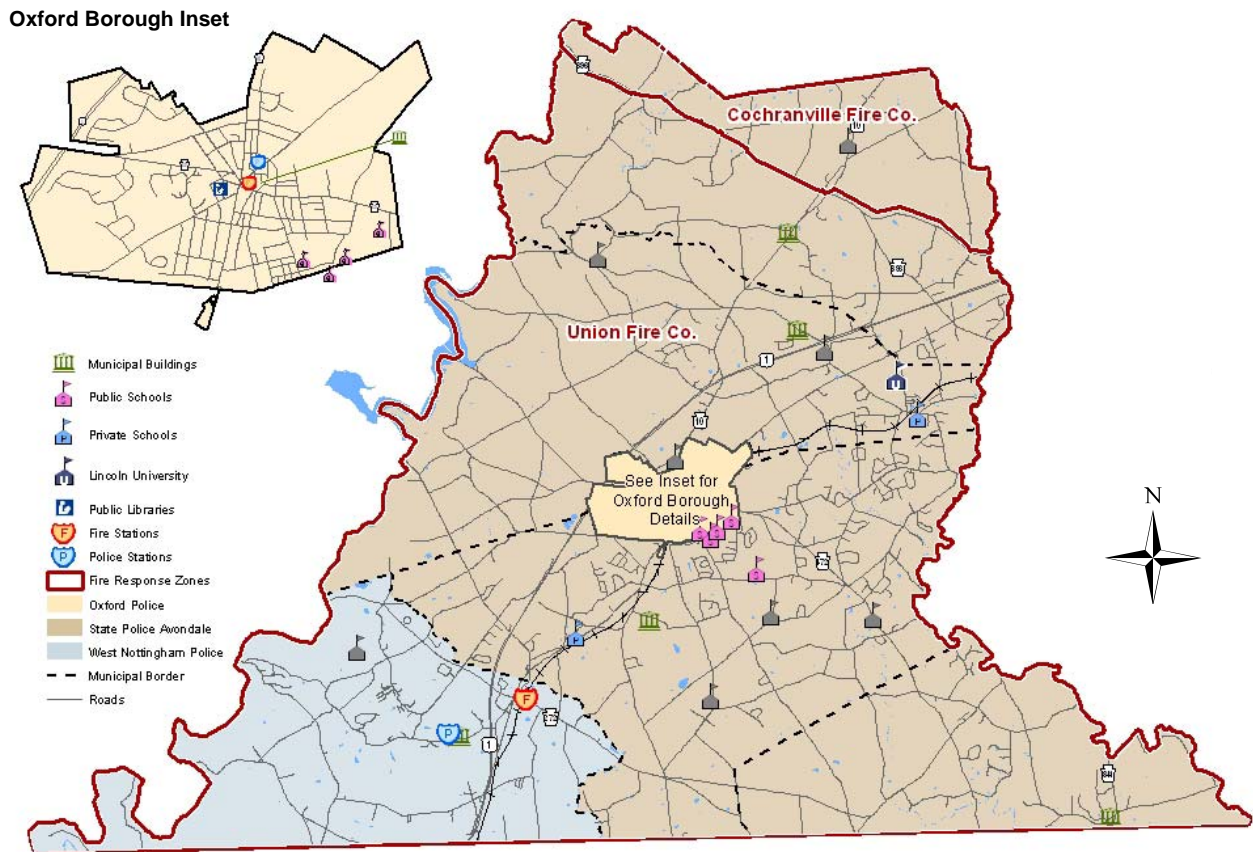
Source: OASD, as of January 2012

OASD serves a total of 3,821 students. The private schools identified in Figure 8-C enroll a total of 579 Oxford Region students. In addition, 110 Oxford Region students are home-schooled, and 483 Oxford Region students attend Avon Grove Charter School (located outside of the

Oxford Region). Students within the Oxford Region educated outside of the OASD system total 1,172.

Schools impact their local communities in a variety of ways. Land use is a critical interaction, with new residential development spurring population growth to which the schools must respond. OASD recently completed a multi-phase construction project, with the opening of the Hopewell School to serve grades five and six. OASD has no further building renovations or new construction planned at this time, and a review of the student enrollment numbers and building capacity indicates room for population growth within each school building. Overall, OASD is operating at 85% capacity. Communication between OASD and the municipalities regarding proposed development would improve the ability of the district to respond to projected population growth, protecting the critical education resource of the community.

Figure 8-D: Community Facilities and Services in the Oxford Region



Engagement between schools, both public and private, and their local community can help make the schools an important community resource, not just for education, but for other community uses as well. OASD notes that community demand for its gym facilities currently exceeds supply, with youth basketball, adult basketball, and adult volleyball using the facilities most. Other community uses of the OASD indoor facilities include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, theater groups, dance groups, a quilting group, and East Nottingham Township for voting

purposes. Outdoor uses include youth baseball, soccer, and football, for which the existing supply meets the current demand. (See Chapter 15: Recreation Inventory and Plan) Municipal understanding of the role that all schools play in supplying these facilities will help municipalities understand where community needs are, and are not, being met.

An important consideration for the Oxford Region is the safety of the students as they arrive and depart the schools. Municipalities should be looking for opportunities to improve the ability of students to walk or bike to school, and to provide or improve sidewalks, signage, and bike lanes where appropriate.

The Planning Committee indicated that there is not currently an adequate level of coordination between the Region's municipalities and the School District

Community Facilities Survey

Quarterly or bi-annual meetings between the municipalities, OASD, and the private schools to communicate on issues such as enrollment, new school construction, approved residential subdivision plans, community uses of school facilities, student commuting patterns and safety, and other issues of interest would be beneficial to all entities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR K – 12 SCHOOLS

Action 8-8 Encourage the integration of all K – 12 schools, public and private, with their local community to facilitate communication and coordination on issues of mutual interest and foster support of K – 12 schools in the local community.

Action 8-9 Support the installation of appropriate safety measures (e.g. signage, sidewalks, bike lanes, trails) for students commuting to their schools, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists.

Action 8-10 Establish a formal relationship with the OASD to regularly communicate and share information about plans and programs, proposed and approved subdivision and land development plans, and use of school facilities for community and recreational purposes.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-B

Chester County Technical College High School

Opened in the Fall of 2008, the Chester County Technical College High School is a hybrid school that is a collaborative effort of the Chester County Intermediate Unit and Delaware Community College. The 125,000 square foot school offers career and technical programs for high school students, including horticultural studies, childcare, culinary arts, automotive and engine technology, and home construction programs. Delaware County Community College offers associate degree programs to college students at the same location. The school offers dual enrollment classes for high school students, enabling a student to graduate from high school with up to 16 college credits. The school is located on Pennock's Bridge Road in Penn Township.



Higher Education – Lincoln University

Lincoln University currently enrolls approximately 2,000 students, 74% of which reside on the 422 acre campus, which is located in Lower Oxford Township. In addition to being an education resource, the University offers employment, hosts seminars, and opens its library to community members. Communicating and coordinating on issues such as utilities, emergency management, security, and traffic issues will benefit both the local municipalities and their relationship with this important community resource.



RECOMMENDATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Action 8-11 Support Lincoln University as a valued member of the community that provides employment, hosts community events and technical seminars, provides library services to the surrounding community, and provides higher education to hundreds of students on an annual basis.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-B

Public Libraries

Two public libraries are located within the Oxford Region: the Langston Hughes Library at Lincoln University (see above) and Oxford Public Library. Both of these libraries provide significant services to residents of the Oxford Region.

1. Langston Hughes Library

Currently under renovation to improve services, Lincoln University’s library has more than 185,000 volumes. Residents of the Oxford Region can obtain a “Community Member” library card and access most library services, including internet service.

2. Oxford Public Library

Oxford Public Library, established in 1874, is the oldest library in Chester County. Part of the Chester County Library System, Oxford Public Library houses more than 50,000 items. In addition, the Oxford Public Library hosts English as a Second Language classes, children’s storytimes, movie night, and provides internet service and a meeting space for local community groups. An expansion of the Oxford Public Library (See photo below), that will double its size at the existing location, is in the planning stages. The expansion will ensure that the Library provides quality services to the Region’s growing population. Plans call for several green features for the building and site, including a green roof, geothermal HVAC, porous pavement, rain gardens, and native plantings. A groundbreaking date for construction has not been set at this time.





The Oxford Public Library noted compliance from all municipalities in the Oxford Region for at least the minimum funding level, which currently is one dollar per capita. Some of the municipalities provide additional support. Grant and volunteer support have been critical to the Library and its services.

☑ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Action 8-12 Monitor services provided by the local libraries in order to encourage appropriate services for residents.

Action 8-13 Determine equitable funding for the Oxford Public Library at the municipal level and budget appropriately on an annual basis.

See also Action 8-4 (capital improvements plan or program)

Action 8-14 Publicize within the local community the need to support (with funding and time) the Oxford Public Library and the services it provides the community.

See also Actions 8-4 and 8-5 (volunteerism)

✓ These actions address Objective 8-C

The Bookmobile was identified as a service that should continue to be supported and utilized in the Region

Community Facilities Survey

Emergency Services

Emergency management services (EMS) include police, fire, and ambulance services. An important consideration with these services is the changing demographics of the Region. From

Size of service areas, response times, and [lack of] volunteerism are concerns in regard to emergency services

Community Facilities Survey Summary

a growing population that requires more services to the longer work commutes of many residents that take them further away from their home, the demographics of the Region are impacting EMS. Local residents (volunteers) continue to provide the fire response in the Oxford Region. A lack of understanding of the need for EMS volunteers and growing work commutes lead to fewer residents available to provide these volunteer services. In addition, the role of outside providers, mutual aid agreements, and the interaction and

communication between the many entities involved in EMS response in the Oxford Region are key considerations. While each service requires its own discussion, there are several recommendations that span all of the services. Figure 8-D depicts police, fire, and ambulance first response areas in the Region.

Outside of the traditional emergency response provided by police, fire, and ambulance providers, each municipality has a responsibility to its residents to prepare for a variety of emergency situations, such as snow storms, flooding, and other hazards. Preparation of an Emergency Management Disaster Plan is one step municipalities are required to take to identify potential hazards and plan an appropriate response. Identification of an Emergency Management Coordinator is another important step for municipalities, as is participation in the Special Needs Registry. This registry is a coordinated effort at the County level to better identify those who are most at risk during a disaster because they are unable to receive, understand, or act upon emergency protective orders. Anyone that might require extra help in an evacuation or other disaster situation is encouraged to register in order to aid emergency response and planning. Oxford Regional Emergency Management (OxREM) is a local effort, begun in 2009, to better coordinate regarding emergency management. The organization held a table top drill in 2010, conducted in cooperation with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Action 8-15** Disseminate information to area residents on prevention and preparedness such as use of fire alarms, proper display of house numbers, escape plans, and 911 protocols.
- Action 8-16** Encourage and support volunteer Emergency Management Service (EMS) providers to seek grant funding from the state and federal levels.
- Action 8-17** Continue/create record-sharing coordination between the municipalities and local EMS providers to provide information on new development in the Region.
- Action 8-18** Adopt an ordinance ensuring minimum acceptable in-building radio coverage for emergency communications.
- Action 8-19** Ensure emergency service providers and municipal officials have the appropriate National Incident Management System (NIMS) training as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Action 8-20** Participate in the Special Needs Registry to better identify who would need special assistance during emergency situations.
- Action 8-21** Create/update, on an individual municipality basis, Emergency Management Disaster Plans on a regular basis in cooperation and coordination with Chester County Department of Emergency Services, local Emergency Management Coordinators, and Oxford Regional Emergency Management (OxREM).

Action 8-22 Monitor state police and local police, fire, and ambulance service staffing levels and response times to determine if adequate protection is provided.

Action 8-23 Determine equitable funding for the volunteer fire and ambulance companies at the municipal level and budget appropriately on an annual basis.

See also Action 8-4 (capital improvements plan or program)

✓ These actions address Objective 8-D

Police Services Currently three entities provide police protection within the Oxford Region:

The Oxford Borough Police Department

The Oxford Borough Police Department (OPD) covers the Borough of Oxford and provides assistance to the Pennsylvania State Police for the townships within the Region. The OPD’s 2010 actual budget was \$905,939. Base salaries made up approximately 79% of the 2010 budget. Fully staffed, the OPD has ten full-time officers and four part-time officers. The OPD moved into a new facility at 57 North Fourth Street in 2010, which provides an improved space for interview rooms, detention areas, lab equipment, and evidence storage. The OPD provides assistance to both the West Nottingham Township Police Department and the State Police beyond the Borough boundaries, as necessary. Figure 8-E presents the activities and revenue streams for the OPD from 2008 through 2010.



West Nottingham Township Police Department

West Nottingham Township also has a local police department, consisting of a chief and three officers, all part-time. Coverage is not full-time, and is not intended or expected to become so in the near future.

Figure 8-E: Oxford Police Department Activity, 2008 - 2010

Activity	2008	2009	2010	3 Yr Total	3 Yr Average
Involvements	10345	8954	8968	28267	9422
Initial Investigation	1222	1087	798	3107	1036
Supp. Investigation	346	268	318	932	311
Parking Tickets	1,406	1,539	970	3,915	1,305
Traffic Citations	631	367	596	1594	531
Non-traffic Citations	*	121	105	226	113
Criminal Arrests	*	103	143	246	123
Tickets Paid	\$11,210	\$11,527	\$8,058	\$30,795	\$10,265
District Court Fines	\$35,437	\$37,842	\$30,983	\$104,262	\$34,754
DUI Fine	\$6,633	\$3,922	\$5,195	\$15,750	\$5,250
Fingerprints	\$405	\$290	\$360	\$1,055	\$352
Parking Meter	\$11,173	\$12,613	\$9,034	\$32,820	\$10,940
Accident Reports	\$875	\$920	\$1,030	\$2,825	\$942
Total Revenue	\$65,733	\$67,114	\$54,660	\$187,507	\$62,503

*Not tracked prior to 2009.

Source: Oxford Police Department (OPD) Activity, 2008-2010

Pennsylvania State Police

Outside of Oxford Borough, and including West Nottingham Township when there is no local police staffing, the Oxford Region is provided police protection by the Pennsylvania State Police. The closest PA State Police location is the Avondale Barracks, which is staffed by Troop J.

Clearly there is a significant difference in police coverage across the Region. While Oxford Borough felt it necessary to have a local police department starting in the early 1920s, only West Nottingham Township has followed this lead, and to a more limited extent. Through this Comprehensive Plan process, the current police response times in different parts of the Region were discussed, with varying opinions. OPD response times were noted to be very good, with PA State



Police responses times considered less satisfactory. West Nottingham response times were noted to be good when there was staffing; otherwise residents must rely on the PA State Police. As the population increases in the Region, local demands may exceed the current level of police protection. Shared police services or a multi-municipal police force may be necessary in the future to adequately provide police protection to the Region's residents. Examples of this within Chester County include agreements between the Parkesburg Police Department and neighboring municipalities for a set number of policing hours, or the regional coverage provided by the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department. The Region must remain aware of policing needs and be prepared to respond when necessary. See Figure 8-D for police and fire/ambulance response zones.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICE SERVICE

Action 8-24 Track future regional interest in expansion of local police service and/or shared police services.

Action 8-25 If and when appropriate, conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential cost and benefits of a multi-municipal police force.

✓ This action addresses Objective 8-D

See Actions 8-22 and 8-23

Fire Service

Most of the Oxford Region is provided fire response by Union Fire Company No. 1. A small portion of the Region, north of Route 896/Pusey Mill Road, is covered by Cochranville Fire



Company. (See Figure 8-D on page 8-10) Union Fire Company No. 1 covers the remainder of the Oxford Region, the largest fire district in Chester County. Union Fire Company has a fire station within the Borough of Oxford (Station 21) and a substation in West Nottingham Township (Nottingham Station). The Nottingham Station was added to improve response times to the southern portions of Union Fire Company’s first response area. The Fire Company also owns property in East Nottingham Township that would accommodate a station, should the

need arise. In 2011, Union Fire Company responded to approximately 600 fire incidents. The Fire Company is a volunteer operation, with no paid staff. Funding is gathered through a combination of municipal contributions, fundraising activities conducted by the Fire Company, individual donations, and grant funding as available. See discussion of Volunteer Groups/Citizen Participation on Page 8-5.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRE SERVICE

Action 8-26 Promote and publicize the need for and benefits of volunteer fire service.

Action 8-27 Encourage continued participation in the Pennsylvania Fire Incident Reporting System (Penn FIRS)

✓ This action addresses Objective 8-D

See Actions 8-22 and 8-23



Ambulance Service

Union Fire Company No. 1 Ambulance Division provides the Basic Life Support ambulance response to the entire Oxford Region. Union Fire Company employs five full-time and 15 part-time paid staff for ambulance response. Over 2,200 incidents were recorded for 2011. The Ambulance Division is supported financially by community and municipal contributions, as well as patient revenues. Advanced Life Support response for the Oxford Region is provided by Southern Chester County Emergency Management Service (SCCEMS)/Medic 94. The Medic 94 station is located in Jennersville (at the Jennersville Regional Hospital), outside and to the east of the Oxford Region. The service was established in 1983 specifically to improve Advanced Life Support response in southern Chester County, and Medic 94 currently provides first response for a total of 18 municipalities. During the comprehensive plan process, response times for ambulance service were noted to be good.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

See Actions 8-22 and 8-23

Health Care

While not traditionally explored within local comprehensive planning documents, health care is an issue taking on local, regional, and national significance. Access to quality and affordable



health care is one of the building blocks of sustainable communities. While the municipal governments in the Oxford Region do not directly provide health care services, they do have the responsibility for protecting the

health, safety, and welfare of the residents. A community plan for health care begins with an assessment of need and an inventory of existing resources.

The Oxford Region is served by Jennersville Regional Hospital and affiliated diagnostic and medical providers located in neighboring Penn Township. The hospital offers comprehensive medical, wellness, and outreach services. The medical campus at Jennersville is a tremendous resource for the Region. The members of the Planning Committee indicated that there is a need within the region for more private practice physicians and that the municipalities would support expansion of that type of medical resource.

There may, however, be health care needs that are not generally evident to community leaders. A countywide health and human services survey conducted in 2002¹ revealed a number of issues of concern for residents of the Oxford Area School District municipalities. *Health Insurance* and *Medical Coverage* were identified as concerns for respondents across the Region. In addition, *Overall Health* and *Health Care Providers* were seen as a concern by clusters of respondents that largely reflected the distribution of Latino/Hispanic and African-American populations in the Region. Contributing factors for the concerns expressed in the survey could include limited income, lack of transportation, and/or lack of health insurance. In addition, the language barrier for non-English speakers can be a significant obstacle to accessing adequate and appropriate health care.

¹ Study: Planning for a Healthy Chester County, 2003.

Health Care Taskforce

In 2006, the Health and Welfare Foundation of Southern Chester County facilitated multiple focus groups seeking input regarding the health and human services needs of communities in the southwestern part of the county. A total of three focus groups were held for the Oxford area. Through this process and the survey described above, consistent health care needs were indicated relative to disadvantaged populations in the Oxford Region.

The high cost of housing, though not specific to health care, has the impact of limiting the amount of household income that is available for medical and dental expenses among low-income households. Meeting other basic needs, employment, access to health care and health insurance were consistently identified as concerns, particularly among the Latino population in the Region. Non-English speaking residents struggle to find accessible health care when no interpretation services are available. In addition, for the many households without a car, the lack of public transportation makes it impossible to access services even as near as the Jennersville Regional Hospital.

Addressing these concerns and improving access to quality healthcare for all residents of the Region could begin with a detailed needs assessment conducted in partnership with health and human services providers and regional funding entities possibly including the Health and Welfare Foundation of Southern Chester County and the United Way of Southern Chester County. Through this effort, the Oxford Region would work toward meeting the health, safety, and welfare needs of the community.

RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTH CARE TASKFORCE

Action 8-28 Develop an Oxford Region health care task force to initiate and oversee a needs assessment that will identify gaps in health care services and facilities and make recommendations for strategies to fill those gaps for all underserved residents of the Region. (www.hwfsc.org)

✓This action addresses Objective 8F and 8H

Access to Medical Services

As discussed earlier, residents of Oxford Region have access to many services provided at the Jennersville Regional Hospital campus in Penn Township. Trauma care, however, is not available at Jennersville. The closest trauma centers to the Oxford Region are Lancaster General Hospital, Paoli Hospital, and Christiana Hospital in Newark, Delaware. Accident victims in need of trauma services must be transported, ideally by helicopter, to one of the regional centers. Trauma flight services may be provided by Sky Flight Care based at Brandywine Hospital (Coatesville) or Christiana Care's Lifenet.

Access to health care services in general may be limited by the lack of knowledge or understanding by some residents in need of care. Working with county-wide and local health care providers and information/referral agencies, local officials and staff are better equipped to assist residents in the Region in need of medical or dental services.

☑ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

Action 8-29 Provide information to residents concerning the availability of and access to emergency medical services in the Region, including air transport to regional trauma centers when needed. (www.christianacare.org/lifenet)

Action 8-30 Coordinate with local non-profit health care providers to implement health and human services information and referral clearinghouse to assist residents of the Oxford Region in need of health care services.

✓These actions address Objective 8E

Primary Care and Wellness Programs

Another apparent gap in health care in the Region is access to services for low-income families, in particular access to medical and dental care for children from low-income households. The Plain Sect community may also be underserved by doctors and medical facilities in the region. With limited funds to spend on basic needs and often with no health insurance, many low-income families will forego the preventative care and wellness visits that are critical to a child’s health maintenance. Also, lack of transportation for families without cars is very limiting.

Approximately 18% of families with children under 5 years of age in the Oxford Region are living at or below the federal poverty level.

American Community Survey
5-year average from 2005 - 2009

Local non-profit groups, many with offices at the Oxford Neighborhood Services Center (ONSC), offer assistance for residents in accessing local services. One example, the Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC), assists needy families with accessing prenatal and postpartum care, providing parenting education, and enrolling eligible clients in income-based health insurance programs like CHIP (PA Children’s Health Insurance Program). Other agencies offering health-related services through the Neighborhood Services Center include the Chester County Health Department and Northwestern Human Services (a non-profit provider of mental health services). In addition, the Walmart store currently being constructed in Lower Oxford Township is expected to feature a medical clinic which may offer services at reduced cost to local residents.

☑ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIMARY CARE AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Action 8-31 Assist with referrals to local and regional non-profit and County agencies that provide prenatal and postpartum health care services for low-income women, infants, and children. (www.ccmhc.org/programs1.asp)

Action 8-32 Encourage Jennersville Regional Hospital to continue or expand public outreach wellness programs provided at local OASD schools. (www.jennersville.com)

✓These actions address Objectives 8F and 8I

Bilingual Services

Providing services to the people with limited English proficiency, notably Latinos in the Oxford Region, is becoming a critical issue for communities in southern Chester County. American Community Survey data (ACS) from 2005-2009 shows that the percentage of Latinos in the Oxford Region is 9.6%, which is nearly double the countywide number of 5.0%. A health and human services focus group of Latino residents was conducted in the spring of 2006, by the Health and Welfare Foundation of Southern Chester County. The residents expressed the feeling that the experience of using the health care system was daunting and expensive. Some local physicians require cash up front from patients who do not have health insurance.

Accessing dental care is also challenging. There are dental clinics in Coatesville (the Brandywine Center) and in West Chester (Community Volunteers in Medicine), but few families have transportation available to get there. Poor command of the English language is a significant barrier for some Latinos to accessing appropriate care. Proper interpreter assistance is important for non-English speakers to communicate their concerns and to understand the treatment options and costs. The nearest clinic with bi-lingual medical staff is in Kennett Square (Project Salud). However, even traveling to the Kennett area can be a challenge. Where there is public transportation available, non-English speakers may not know how to access the services.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BILINGUAL SERVICES

Action 8-33 Assist Spanish-speaking residents in accessing services provided by Project Salud, a primary health care provider located in the Kennett region, or other regional health clinics with bi-lingual staff and services. (www.cvim.org)

✓This action addresses Objective 8-I

Senior Citizen Wellness

As the regional population ages in step with statewide and nationwide trends, affordable, long-term health care for seniors is a general area of concern. Countywide population forecasts prepared by the Penn State Data Center (2008) project that, between 2010 and 2020, the population of residents who are age 65 and older will increase by 39.7%. Further, persons age 65



and older currently (ACS 2005-2009) represent 12.2% of the county's total population, but that is expected to increase to 14.0% by 2020. Similar trends might be expected in the Oxford Region.

There are several options for long term care as of 2011 that are available to residents of the Region. The Ware Presbyterian Village in Oxford Borough offers options for seniors including assisted living apartments (52 units currently and 61 proposed) and a secured memory support unit and health center (137 beds). There are waiting lists maintained for these facilities. Also, in Penn Township just outside the

Region, the Ruston House at Jenner’s Pond, part of the Penn Township continuing care retirement community, offers assisted living, skilled nursing, and Alzheimer’s care options.

Considering the projected growth in the over 65 population, it is likely that the need for assisted living and skilled nursing beds within the Oxford Region will increase over the next 10 years.

☑ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN WELLNESS

Action 8-34 Support programs coordinated through the Oxford Senior Center or other local non-profit agencies that provide education regarding topics such as nutrition, exercise, and management of chronic health conditions to increase the time that seniors can remain living independently.

Action 8-35 Provide incentives to developers and operators of senior citizen health care facilities or programs to locate or expand facilities and services within growth areas of the Region.

✓These actions address Objectives 8E, 8-F, and 8H

Human Services

Human Services are, by their nature, targeted to low-income and other disadvantaged populations. In Chester County, the most affluent county in Pennsylvania, the cost of living is high comparatively speaking and households with lower-incomes struggle to meet their basic needs including housing, utilities, food, clothing, and medical care. According to the American Community Survey (3-year average data from 2005-2007), the median household income in the Oxford Region was \$68,339, as compared to the County median of \$80,818. More recent data (ACS 2005-2009) show that 7.6% of families in the Region are living at or below the poverty level, as compared with 3.6% countywide.

Approximately 460 families in the Oxford Region had incomes at or below the poverty level

*American Community Survey
5-year average from 2005 - 2009*

Housing costs for low-income families in the Oxford Region can consume a large percentage of monthly income making it more difficult to keep up with other expenses. In addition, a number of factors restrict the ability of some to move up the income ladder. Lack of transportation, limited access to education and training opportunities, lack of affordable daycare options, and limited-English proficiency contribute to the stagnation of incomes for disadvantaged families. Human services providers seek to fill in some of those gaps such that income advancements can be made and basic needs are met for all members of the community.

There are some demographic groups that tend to struggle more than others with securing affordable housing and meeting other basic needs. Senior citizens on fixed-incomes, individuals with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and homeless or near-homeless people are frequently targeted by human services programs. Recently, human service providers

in the Oxford Region have seen an increase in requests for assistance from people who had not sought assistance in the past. The recent downturn in the national economy, associated job losses, and other financial hardships have resulted in requests for assistance from middle-income families who had themselves been donors to community programs in the past. Community leaders and elected officials will be expected to address these needs within the Oxford Region.

Oxford Neighborhood Services Center

The Oxford Neighborhood Services Center (ONSC), located on South Third Street in the Borough of Oxford, is a private non-profit agency that is committed to assisting people to achieve health and stability in their lives. The agency offers information and referral services, case management, operates an emergency food cupboard and thrift store, and offers numerous types of emergency assistance to individuals and families. Approximately 40% of the clients served at ONSC are Spanish-speaking and require interpreter or translation assistance.

ONSC is a United Way funded agency and also receives funding from Chester County government (Human Services Development Fund) and receives private contributions from churches, organizations, and individuals. Canned goods and non-perishable food items are donated to the food cupboard for distribution to the needy. Requests for emergency food assistance have increased significantly since 2008 and donations are greatly needed. The ONSC also accepts donations of clothing, household items, and furniture. Donated items that are not provided to individuals and families in need are passed along to the Neighborhood Thrift Shop whose proceeds benefit the Center. ONSC works closely with many county-wide and regional agencies and can assist clients in obtaining services in a timely manner.



RECOMMENDATION FOR OXFORD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES CENTER

Action 8-36 Encourage charitable giving and volunteerism to support Oxford Neighborhood Services Center or other non-profit entities serving disadvantaged individuals or families in the Oxford Region. (www.unitedwayscc.org/VolunteerOpportunities.asp)

✓ This action addresses Objectives 8E and 8-F

See also Actions 8-2 and 8-3 (volunteerism)

Supportive Services for Seniors

There are approximately 2,300 seniors (age 65 and older) living in the Oxford Region, which represents 9% of the total regional population (ACS 2005-2009). As discussed earlier, that percentage is expected to grow over the next 10 years as the baby-boomers continue to age into retirement. "Aging in place" is a concept that promotes maintaining seniors in their own homes for as long as possible by providing needed supportive services and avoiding or postponing a move to a health care facility.

Having affordable and accessible housing options for seniors will be an important factor in maintaining a high quality of life for the Region's seniors.

The Oxford Area Senior Center (OASC), on East Locust Street in Oxford Borough, provides services and resources to senior



citizens including a daily meal, congregate activities, recreational, nutritional, and developmental programs as well as information and referral services, all to support the OASC's mission to enhance the seniors' quality of life. The Center is a valuable resource for the Region's senior citizens. In support of those who are "aging in place," the Senior Center and the Neighborhood Services Center have partnered to implement the *Adopt a Friend* program which makes volunteers available to aging, disabled, or other isolated people within the community. Program volunteers make home visits to assist with tasks of daily living, provide transportation for shopping and medical appointments, and provide companionship for program members. The number of senior citizens participating in programs has increased in the last several years. In 2011, approximately 1,400 seniors were served.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Action 8-37 Support through referrals and outreach the continuation and enhancement of programs and services for senior citizens provided by the Oxford Area Senior Center. (www.oxfordseniors.org)

Action 8-38 Work with County and regional entities to conduct a needs assessment for senior citizen housing in the Oxford Region.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8G and 8H

Early Intervention

U.S. Census data has shown that there are many female headed households with small children that are living at the bottom of the income scale in the Oxford Region. The negative impact of poverty on child development is well documented. Ideally, intervention should begin during the prenatal period, to ensure proper nutrition and medical care. Providing follow up during the postpartum period is also critical, as well as support and intervention for preschoolers and their parents.

The Maternal and Child Health Consortium provides prenatal and postpartum services through the Healthy Start program – Oxford location, including medical, nutritional and infant care support. The majority of clients served by the program are Latino and come from low-income households.

The Chester County Intermediate Unit administers the Head Start program in Chester County. Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. The Headstart Program serves low-income households. The majority of children in the Oxford Program are Latino. The program provides preschool education and offers mental health services, health care and nutrition support, and parenting education.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

Action 8-39 Provide public outreach for and referrals to the local Healthy Start and Head Start Programs, or other early intervention programs which serve low-income women and children.

✓This action address Objective(s) 8G

Workplace Wellness

Employers, and the communities they serve, benefit from a local workforce that is able to maintain good health and wellness. That can be a challenge, however, for low-income wage earners in the Oxford Region, particularly those with limited English proficiency. Many do not have access to basic health care and wellness information.

Quality health care services can be difficult, if not impossible, for low-income individuals and families to access.

An employer site-based wellness model was implemented by Project Salud (La Comunidad Hispana). The “Work Healthy” program was a grant funded partnership between Project Salud and three of the larger mushroom growers in the region. The program provided work-place primary care services including health and behavioral health screening, physical examinations, care for illness and injury, ongoing care for chronic diseases, and health and social service referrals. The program also addressed health education on tobacco cessation, fitness, and stress reduction among other topics. With the conclusion of the grant period, services are now available on site at La Comunidad Hispana.

Employers in the Oxford Region could consider the benefits of a workplace wellness initiative where there is not currently one in place.

RECOMMENDATION FOR WORKPLACE WELLNESS

Action 8-40 Assist local employers to access available resources for on-site workplace wellness, health education, and illness prevention programs for their employees.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-F and 8-I

Support for Social Service Agencies

As the Region's population grows, and considering recent rises in unemployment and economic hardship, the need for social service assistance is also likely to grow, at least in the near term.

Food banks may need to expand and human service agencies may need more space to serve more clients. The number of requests for basic needs assistance has increased from 2010-2011.

Emergency assistance (rent, mortgage, utilities) from Oxford Neighborhood Services has decreased over the last year because of decreases in funding. Human service agencies with staff located at the Oxford Neighborhood Services Center include:

- Human Services, Inc.
- Crime Victim's Center
- Maternal and Child Health Consortium
- Family Service of Chester County
- Northwestern Human Services
- New Life Youth and Family Services
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Many others, including numerous churches and the Salvation Army, are located elsewhere in the Borough. Municipalities can support zoning and subdivision/land development approvals needed for location and expansion of facilities and support agencies by sharing information about available services with community residents.

RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Action 8-41 Provide opportunities for social service agencies to locate or expand offices which offer services to residents in the Region.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8G

Access to Fresh Produce

The Neighborhood Services Center food cupboard saw a 16% increase from 2010 to 2011. The food program provides canned goods and other non-perishable items, but does not distribute fresh produce.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE

Action 8-42 Improve access to fresh produce for low-income families in the Region. (www.chestercountyfoodbank.org/about-gleaning)

✓This action addresses Objectives 8F and 8G

Public Transportation Services

The SCCOOT bus line is the regularly scheduled public transit service that travels as far south as Oxford Borough. The bus makes numerous stops along the Route 1 corridor and then travels to West Chester after a stop at Longwood Gardens. SCCOOT provides a Spanish language translation of the bus schedule to assist the significant number of Latino residents in the southern part of the County. However, surveys, focus groups, and social service providers

indicate that many Spanish speakers in the region are not aware of available public transit or how to use it.



The Rover line, operated by TMACC, provides transportation for seniors and the disabled at discounted fares. Service must be scheduled in advance. General ridership is permitted at full fare which varies depending on trip length. Again, low-income seniors and people with disabilities tend to be more isolated and marginalized populations and may need specific outreach in order to access the available services.

☑ RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Action 8-43 Promote enhancement and expansion of public transportation services to assist senior citizens, low-income households, and people with disabilities with access to jobs and supportive services. (www.krapfbus.com/rover)

✓This action addresses Objective 8G

See also Actions 9-43 through 9-47 in Chapter 9: Transportation Inventory and Plan.

Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities

Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities are part of the Region’s basic infrastructure and are integral to the health and safety of the Region’s residents. While the municipalities do not necessarily directly provide these services, in some cases, they can influence or participate in programming in an effort to help strengthen the commitment and need to the community.

Existing Water and Sewer Facilities

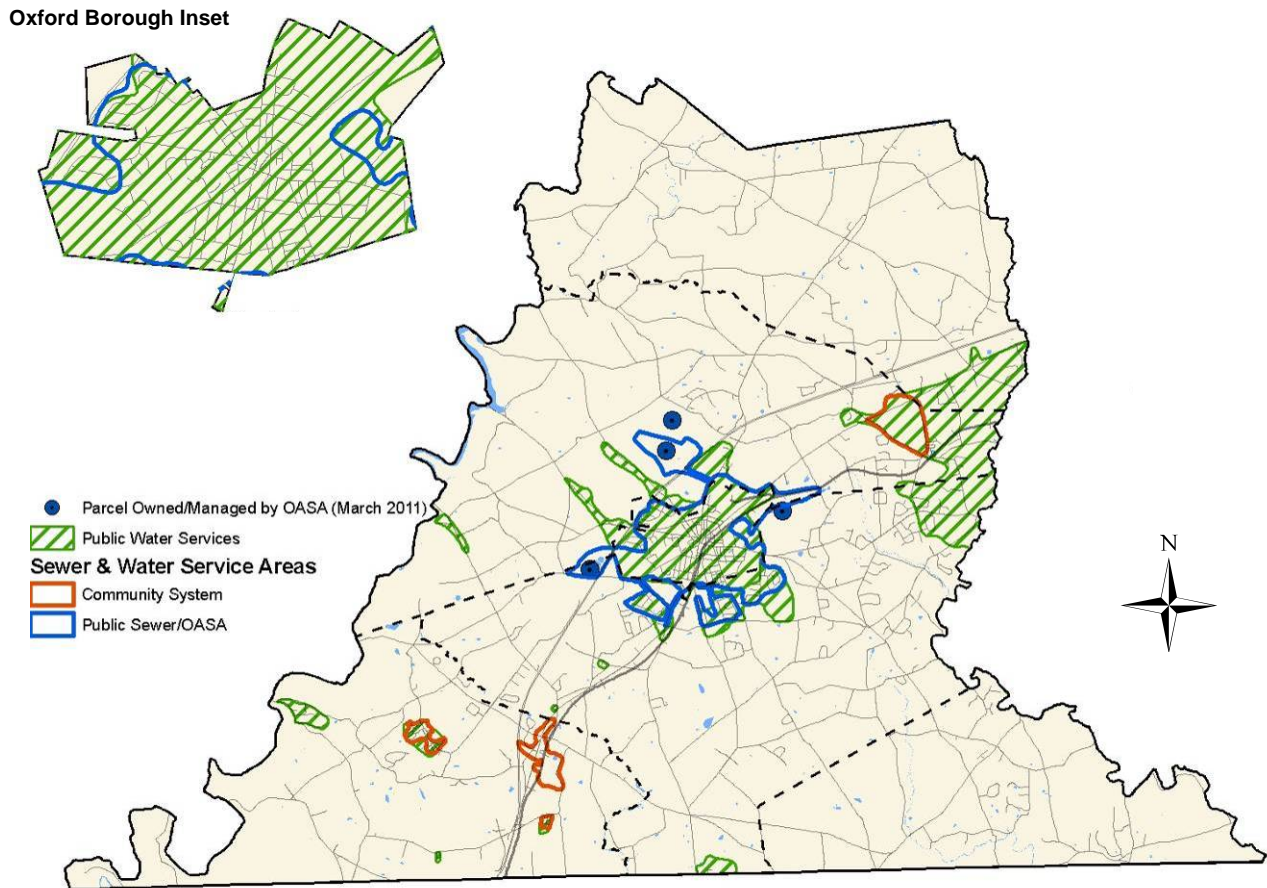
There are several types of water and sewer facilities that exist in the Oxford Region. They include the Oxford Area Sewer Authority’s public system, a public water supply system, community on-lot sewage disposal systems, individual on-lot disposal systems, community water supplies, and individual water supplies or wells.



The public sewer system (public water is provided by the Chester Water Authority), which is managed by the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA), mainly addresses the sewage disposal needs of Oxford Borough, but also treats and disposes of wastewater for portions of both Lower Oxford and East Nottingham townships. Once wastewater is treated at the OASA plant, located just west of the Borough, it is disposed of through spray irrigation, a land application method for treated wastewater where water is sprayed onto fields and reabsorbed back into the ground. This method of disposal is beneficial to the area because it not only recharges the groundwater supply for the area, but it also is consistent with the Chesapeake Bay initiatives and strategies, which do not allow for stream discharge of treated wastewater (a commonly used method of disposal). The map in Figure 8-F shows the general locations of OASA’s spray fields and treatment plant.

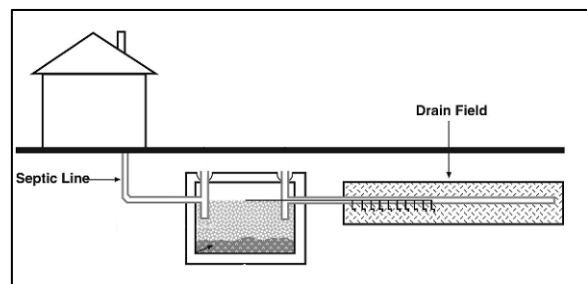
stream discharge of treated wastewater (a commonly used method of disposal). The map in Figure 8-F shows the general locations of OASA’s spray fields and treatment plant.

Figure 8-F: Existing Water and Sewer Service Areas



Other wastewater systems in the area include individual on-lot (not shown, due to the large number of systems) and community on-lot systems (shown as a red outline on Figure 8-F). These systems 1) gather wastewater on an individual or community basis, 2) treat the water in a sub-surface system, and then 3) allow treated wastewater to be reabsorbed back into the ground, ultimately recharging the groundwater.

Typical On-lot Sewage Disposal System



Public water, furnished by the Chester Water Authority, serves the residents of the Borough (and a small portion of Upper Oxford Township), as well as portions of Lower Oxford and East Nottingham townships. There are also several community systems that serve portions of Lower Oxford, East and West Nottingham, most of which serve higher density developments, such as mobile home communities and apartments.

Cooperative Planning Efforts

One of the major issues facing the Region, as identified during the development of this Plan, is an ongoing need for public sewer and water expansion to support commercial and industrial growth. In order for the designated commercial corridor (Commerce) of the Region to thrive, this infrastructure would be required. (See Figure 5-G: Future Land Use) In order to effectively plan for the future, the municipalities of the Oxford Region should continue to examine and assess the future needs of all water users, in an effort to plan for future capacity, in both supply and disposal, which would be consistent with *Watersheds*, the water resources element of the County comprehensive plan, *Landscapes2*. This planning will ensure that residents and businesses will be able to access what has been allocated to them in a fashion that 1) does not deplete the natural resources of the Region and 2) is compliant with the initiatives set forth for the Chesapeake Bay.

On May 12, 2010 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

(www.chesapeakebay.net)

If the Region continues to participate in planning for these services in a coordinated and cooperative manner, it will also be provided with a clearer vision as to where planning efforts should target community and public infrastructure and where municipalities should continue to plan to maintain on-lot water and wastewater disposal systems. Planning cooperatively will allow the Region to avoid future shortfalls in capacity with the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA) and manage growth, in a realistic and accurate manner, to the designated growth areas: Suburban, Town Center, Town Residential, Village Center, and Commerce, which would inherently anticipate water needs and allow for water quality improvements. (See Figure 8-H)

RECOMMENDATION FOR COOPERATIVE PLANNING EFFORTS

Action 8-44 Actively participate in municipal and multi-municipal water and wastewater planning efforts.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-A, 8-J, 8-K, and 8-L

Integrated Water Resources Planning

In 2000, the Municipalities Planning Code called for water supply planning to be considered as part of local comprehensive plans. The limitations of available water supply resources to support planned growth must be considered in municipal and regional water supply planning. Collectively, these requirements both encourage and support municipalities in preparing planning documents to address the inter-relationships between natural water resources, future supply needs, and land use planning on a multimunicipal basis. This type of planning also allows for municipalities to guide the placement and expansion of infrastructure to support growth in designated growth areas, while protecting rural resource areas from undesired growth (See Figure 8-H).

Integrated water resource planning supports future needs and demands, allows for efficient expansion of infrastructure, and targets utility service expansion to areas designated for growth and economic development through an examination of need and supply. This type of planning process can also bring together utility providers and municipal planning objectives. Cooperative planning efforts that examine water supply and wastewater services through an integrated approach can more effectively avoid capacity issues through the consideration of ground water and surface water availability and limitations; the quality and quantity of water available; additional or new sources of water that may be needed; and the implications of each selected alternative, as it relates to achieving planning goals.

The comprehensive plan shall include a plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses and limitations, including provisions adequate to protect water supply sources...

Act 247 § 301 (b)

RECOMMENDATION FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

Action 8-45 Ensure safe and reliable long-term supply of water and wastewater disposal options, avoid capacity shortfalls, and protect natural resources while considering population growth and maintaining consistency with local and multi-municipal planning efforts.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-J, 8-K, and 8-L

Municipal Sewage Facilities Plans

In 1966, the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537), was enacted to correct existing sewage disposal problems, and to prevent future problems from being created. In order to meet these objectives, the Act requires planning of all types of sewage facilities, and the permitting and establishment of standards for the design of individual and community on-lot disposal systems (OLDS). The plan is also required to address existing sewage disposal needs or problems, account for future land development, and provide for future sewage disposal needs of the planning area. The sewage facilities program is largely administered by individual municipalities or groups of municipalities with technical and financial assistance and oversight from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP).

All municipalities are required by the Commonwealth to develop and implement an official sewage facilities plan that addresses both the present and future sewage disposal needs of the planning area. These plans are modified as new land development projects are proposed or whenever a municipality's sewage disposal needs change. PaDEP reviews and approves official plans and any subsequent revisions. Due to the rural character and identity of the Oxford Region, it is extremely important for the municipalities of the Region to make certain that their Act 537 Plans are developed and updated in a way that strikes a balance between both growth and preservation.

Figure 8-G: Municipal Act 537 Plans in the Oxford Region

Municipality	Plan Name and effective Date
East Nottingham Township	Oxford Area Sewer Authority Plan, October 2011
Elk Township	September 2010
Lower Oxford Township	Oxford Area Sewer Authority Plan, October 2011
Oxford Borough	Oxford Area Sewer Authority Plan, October 2011
Upper Oxford Township	Chester County 1969 Master Sewer Plan (per DEP correspondence, we reviewed both plans in 2008, were asked to be withdrawn, and were never resubmitted)
West Nottingham Township	Oxford Area Sewer Authority Plan, October 2011

Source: Municipal websites and Planning Committee feedback

☑ RECOMMENDATION FOR ACT 537 PLANNING

Action 8-46 Support development and re-development projects that integrate site design and sewage disposal methods that 1) implement current Act 537 planning, 2) minimize existing site constraints, and 3) are consistent with municipal and multi-municipal plans.

✓These actions address Objectives 8-J and 8-L

Participation and Coordination with Private Water and Sewer Providers

While not all of the Oxford Region’s municipalities are members of the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA), the entire Region should actively participate in coordinated and cooperative efforts as they relate to public water and sewer systems. The regional approach of the OASA and member municipalities could be beneficial in portions of the Oxford Region that currently do not have public/community sewer or water access, but may be in need, such as areas in the far western portions of West Nottingham. At a minimum, the municipalities should continue to coordinate and cooperate with OASA, as consistent with local Act 537 planning, to responsibly extend these services into designated growth areas as shown in Figure 8-H.

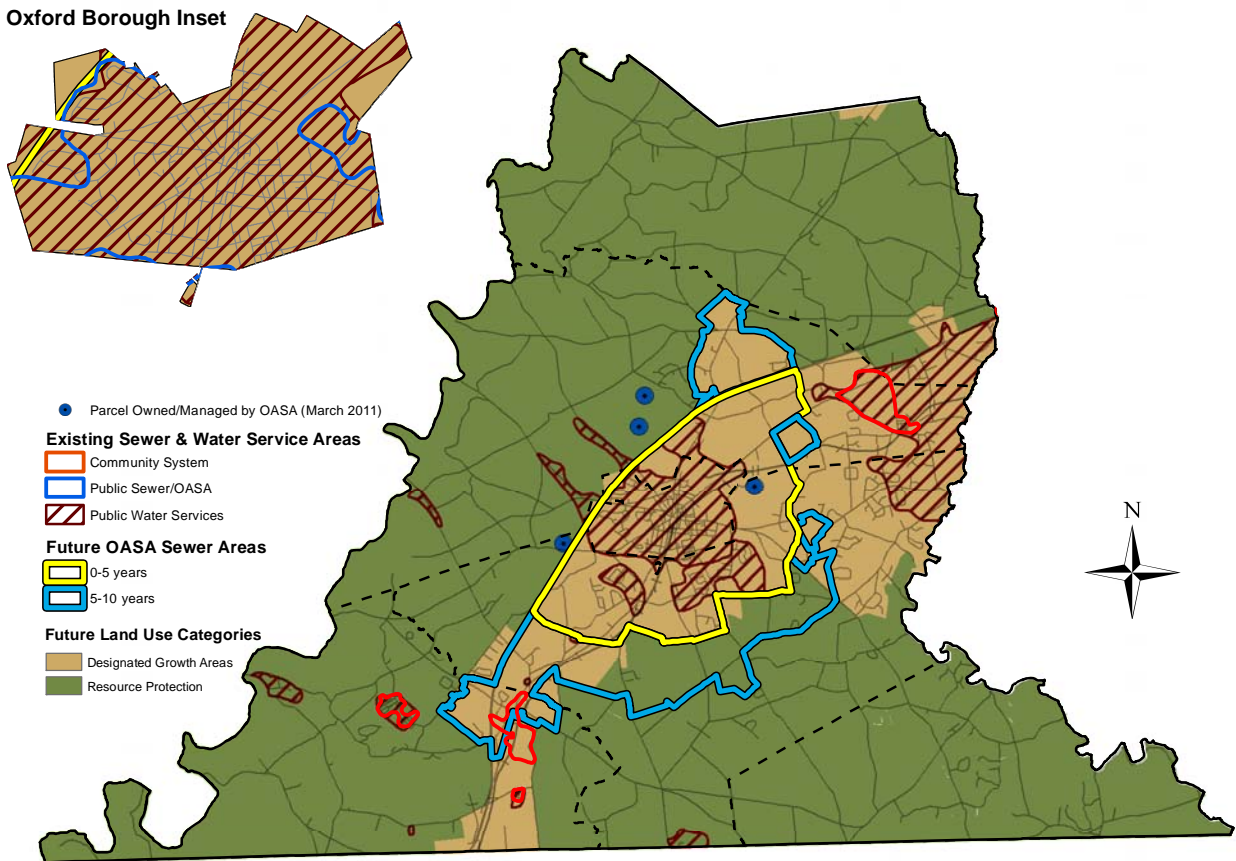
Municipal members of OASA: Lower Oxford Township, East and West Nottingham Townships, and Oxford Borough.

To discourage higher intensity uses in places that the Region has not planned or zoned for, the extension of public water and sewer lines into areas targeted for open space or agricultural preservation should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Because of the way that the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) functions, the Region is encouraged to maintain active dialog with the PUC, and any “for profit” water utility, to provide important municipal input into water service expansions.

OASA Future Service Area Strategies

The map in Figure 8-H shows the future OASA service areas, both as they relate to the horizon of the OASA Act 537 Plan, as well as the future land use categories for growth and preservation for the Region. The first boundary, shown in yellow, is the geographic area that the OASA envisions they may serve first, during the first 5 years after the Act 537 Plan adoption date of October 25, 2011. These areas would be the most logical progression of the system, moving outward from Oxford Borough. The second area, bordered in blue, are the areas that the Authority envisions would be the maximum extent to which their lines may run by the end of the Act 537 Plan’s horizon, ten years from adoption. The municipalities generally agree with these boundaries recognizing that there are some outlying areas with failing systems, that OASA has agreed to accept operation and management responsibilities of, at a time when these systems are brought up to current DEP and OASA standards by the owners/managers of those systems.

Figure 8-H: Existing and Proposed Sewer and Water Facilities



Status of OASA Plan

The OASA Act 537 Plan was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on October 25, 2011. Communication with the Authority has indicated that USDA funding and PA H₂O grants are in place. An interim loan for construction of the projects has been secured.

Phase I. The first project, the Osborne Lagoon has been awarded construction contracts and will commence construction March 1, 2012. It is anticipated to be completed in 270 days or around mid to late November. Once the Osborne Lagoon has been approved for operation by PADEP, the consent order will be fulfilled, the moratorium for new connections lifted, and the capacity reinstated to 600,000 gallons per day (gpd).

Phase II. The second phase of construction is to equip the Ross spray fields for operation. It is anticipated that construction and operation of the fields will be completed in the spring of 2013. Once they are in operation, the treatment facility will be re-rated to 770,000 gpd.

Phase III. The third phase of construction will be the new wastewater treatment plant, which is projected to commence mid-2013 and be completed and operational in the fall of 2014. At that time, the total capacity for treatment/storage/disposal will be 990,000 gpd and sufficient capacity for the projected 20 year service area needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE WATER AND SEWER PROVIDERS

Action 8-47 Encourage active participation by all municipalities with OASA or any secondary provider to ensure coordination on sewer issues throughout the Region.

Action 8-48 Provide a liaison to private water providers that serve, or may serve the Region, or that withdraw water within the Region, such as Chester Water Authority through its withdrawal from the Octoraro Reservoir.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-J, 8-K, 8-L

Encourage Innovation

Because the entire Oxford Region is located in tributary watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay, the municipalities are required to implement the Chesapeake Bay Strategies and Total Maximum Daily Loads, as assigned to the watershed. One of the major effects of these strategies includes the fact that OASA cannot utilize stream discharge for treated wastewater. Because of this, the

A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

Environmental Protection Agency

Region should continue to utilize innovative wastewater treatment and disposal systems that will result in groundwater recharge, filter nutrients and pollutants out of wastewater and greywater, and achieve the Chesapeake Bay Strategies. In doing so, the Region will not only reduce their impact on

natural resources, but also should be able to reduce future requirements for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

The Chesapeake Bay watershed includes/impacts/involves all municipalities in the Oxford Region. As required by the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established (December 29, 2010) a TMDL for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. This TMDL has been created to improve impaired waterways by allocating pollutant load reductions that must be achieved for nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment.

Pennsylvania was required to submit for approval a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for achieving the load reductions assigned to Pennsylvania by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The Pennsylvania WIP divided pollutant loadings for Pennsylvania into seven categories:

- Agriculture;
- Forest;
- Wastewater treatment facilities;
- Urban/developed land;
- Septic systems;
- Resource extraction; and
- Air deposition to open water.

In order to meet these reductions set forth by the TMDL, the Region will need to continue to think innovatively through partnering with other agencies that might include the Chester County Health Department or DEP.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ENCOURAGING INNOVATION

Action 8-49 Continue to encourage the use of innovative wastewater treatment and disposal systems (with preference given to land application of treated wastewater) to reduce impacts on the Region’s natural resources and watershed water balances, and maintain consistency with the Chesapeake Bay strategies.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-K and 8-L

Rehabilitation of Aging Infrastructure

As infrastructure ages, and ultimately deteriorates, concerns increase about the ability of existing infrastructure to keep up with future needs and demands. System rehabilitation, including repair, renewal and replacement technologies, can restore functionality of both water and wastewater systems and allow for a much longer life span. The Region recognizes the need for upgrades to be made to some existing public systems, the potential need for upgrades for community systems, and the need to upgrade existing on-lot system problems, including holding tanks. While municipalities agree that there is a desire to remedy these issues, it is widely known that funding mechanisms at the state level are highly competitive, even though in the past year there have been several more infrastructure-related grant opportunities. In order to be more



competitive in this funding arena, municipalities should consider condition assessments of the systems that exist in their communities. These assessments are useful in an effort to rank those that require immediate attention to those that may require minimal upgrades for a system that may otherwise be structurally sound. Capital improvement programs can help fund these types of projects over the long-term, as money is not currently available to complete them.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REHABILITATION OF AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Action 8-50 Support infrastructure planning and upgrades that will encourage economic development and redevelopment within urbanized areas.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-L

See also Action 8-4 (capital improvements plan or program)

Discourage System Expansion in Designated Rural Resource Areas

To discourage suburban-type land use development in parts of the Region where agriculture has been identified as a priority for preservation, the Region should not extend public sewer and water infrastructure into these Resource Protection areas (Agricultural, Rural).

However, it may be necessary to extend service to these areas if public health and safety become an issue. (See Figure 8-H) The cost of land also becomes an issue with system expansion, both in development costs, but more importantly for the Region, in land disposal costs. One

of the major issues facing the Region and the OASA is finding enough “affordable” land for disposal. The Region must continue to maintain public sewer and water facilities in the urbanized and suburbanized areas to guide growth to those areas, as well as those areas experiencing malfunctioning systems.

When the Planning Committee was asked if existing (water and sewer) facilities should be expanded in the Region they answered: Where there are concentrations of failing systems; only in sewer service area(s); in Nottingham Village, and that it not be intended for expansion.

Communities Facilities Survey

RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCOURAGING SYSTEM EXPANSION

Action 8-51 Discourage the extension of public sewer and water facilities in the Agricultural Preservation and Rural Residential land use categories as described on Map 5-G.

✓This action addresses Objectives 8-A and 8-L

Maintenance and Testing of On-lot Systems

As part of the Act 537 process, municipalities are required to develop a septage management program where on-lot disposal systems exist. Such a program enables a municipality to oversee

Malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal systems can endanger public health through the contamination of drinking water supplies, degradation of the environment when discharging to the ground surface, and reduction of property value.

the operation and maintenance of on-lot sewage systems and reduce the occurrence of sewage disposal system malfunctions caused by neglect. Because the OASA is not responsible for municipal, individual, and community on-lot systems, it is imperative that the municipalities in the Oxford Region implement on-lot management programs to require the maintenance and pumping of all individual on-lot systems.

The recognition that owners are responsible for maintaining the systems is critical to their management. The County Health Department has information regarding sound practices for maintaining on-lot systems. The Region's municipalities should promote these materials as a simple, cost-effective approach in each municipality's management program.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MAINTENANCE AND TESTING OF ON-LOT WELLS

Action 8-52 Encourage the routine testing of on-lot wells used as a source of drinking water and educate the public on protecting the water quality of these wells.

✓These actions address Objective 8-K

Stormwater Management

Stormwater is water that runs off the surface of land, from rain events or melted snow. The more developed an area is, the higher the volume and rate of stormwater runoff. If left unmanaged, or mismanaged, stormwater runoff will convey pollutants into both surface water and groundwater. It is also a major cause of flooding, sedimentation, streambank erosion, habitat destruction, and other types of water quality and quantity impairments.

Increased development and state regulations have brought awareness to both residents and municipal officials regarding the issues connected with stormwater runoff. While major storm and flooding events are not common occurrences in the Region, some areas do experience severe and localized flooding that has damaged property and created impacts to roadways.



Because the entire Region is included in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, it is of great importance for the Region to be proactive in the reduction of storm water and flooding, as well as the maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls. Additionally, all of the

municipalities in the Region should be planning to update their stormwater management ordinances and regulations to meet the minimum standards that will be set forth in the County-wide Act 167 Model Ordinance and Minimum Standards which are expected to be adopted by the Chester County Commissioners by the end of 2012.

Figure 8-1: Municipal Stormwater Regulations in the Oxford Region

Municipality	Ordinance	Date
Upper Oxford Township	SLDO	June, 2010
Lower Oxford Township	SLDO	February, 2003
Elk Township	SLDO	August, 2007
West Nottingham Township	SLDO	?
East Nottingham Township	SLDO	November, 2009
Oxford Borough	SLDO	September, 1988

Source: Municipal websites

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Action 8-53 Ensure proper design and maintenance of stormwater management infrastructure.

Action 8-54 Provide public education and information about cost-effective and reasonable maintenance practices to owners and operators of stormwater management facilities and the general public.

Action 8-55 Develop and identify municipal and multi-municipal funding mechanisms to plan, construct, monitor, map, maintain, improve, expand, operate and inspect stormwater infrastructure.

✓These actions address Objective 8-N

See also Action 8-4 (capital improvements plan or program)

RECOMMENDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Action 8-56 Support ordinance revisions, land use decisions, and land development designs that reduce stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation, and flooding.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-N

County Act 167 Plan

The PA DEP Act 167 Stormwater Management Act requires that all counties of the Commonwealth develop Stormwater Management plans for all watersheds within their boundaries. The County is developing plans for some specific watersheds, as well as a County-Wide Act 167 Plan. Currently, the County-Wide Act 167 Plan is still in Phase II of its progress for all of Chester County. The Phase I received approval from PADEP, in 2010, to use

Watersheds - An Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Chester County and Its Watersheds as the plan document for the County-wide Act 167 Plan. Phase II will include the completion of a model stormwater management ordinance and is expected to be submitted to PaDEP in the summer of 2012.

Municipalities will ultimately be required to adopt the minimum standards and criteria that are developed. Municipal involvement in the development of these standards is important so that municipal officials have already agreed, in theory, to the criteria and standards before they are sent to PaDEP for approval and ultimately for municipal adoption.

(www.chesco.org/water/cwp)

Stormwater Infrastructure

According to the Planning Committee, there are many aging stormwater infrastructure and systems throughout the Region which are comprised primarily of residential, commercial, and transportation uses. While the Region recognizes the repair and replacement of existing stormwater infrastructure to help reduce flooding and achieve water quality requirements (including both High Quality (HQ) and Exceptional Value (EV) streams), the group expressed their concern regarding the funding for these actions. (See Figure 12-4: Streams and Stream Designations) The type of systems requiring maintenance, upgrading, and replacement attention include 1) dispersed on-lot stormwater best management practices (bmps), 2) subdivision stormwater management systems, 3) urban stormwater sewer systems, and 4) regional flood control facilities.

Oxford Borough System

Oxford Borough has a storm water system that runs throughout the entirety of the Borough. Over the past ten years, they have received numerous Community Development Block Grants and Community Revitalization Program grants to help maintain the integrity of the storm sewer system.

RECOMMENDATION FOR STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Action 8-57 Support strategies, techniques, and initiatives to cost-effectively meet the long-term operation, maintenance, and management needs of the diverse and disconnected stormwater infrastructure that exists throughout the Region.

✓ This action addresses Objectives 8-N

NPDES Phase II and MS4 Requirements

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements are part of a program that is mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act administered by the PaDEP. Of the municipalities in the Oxford Region, only Upper Oxford is currently listed as an NPDES Phase II MS4 community. The NPDES Phase II program controls water pollution by setting permitted limits to pollutants that may be discharged from point source polluters, which include pipes and outfalls. Phase II, which was established in 1999, requires earth disturbances of one to five acres, as well as smaller urbanized area MS4s to obtain permits.

Point Source:
Pollution that can be traced back to a single origin or source such as a sewage treatment plant discharge.

Upper Oxford Township

The Township was issued a waiver through September 2012, as a Phase II community, would be required to have developed and maintain six minimum control measures (MCM's):

- 1) Public education;
- 2) public participation;
- 3) illicit discharge detection and elimination;
- 4) construction site runoff control;
- 5) post construction runoff management; and
- 6) pollution prevention from municipal operations.

However, because Upper Oxford does not meet the population threshold, they are not being required to have a permit at this time. For more information on the NPDES II MS4 program requirements, please refer to PaDEP website <http://www.dep.state.us> keyword: Stormwater. The regulations for these programs may be revised with the approval of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

Solid Waste Management

The municipalities in the Region are members of the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), which provides solid waste disposal service to southern Chester County. The landfill is located on over 300 acres in London Grove Township and has an expected capacity through 2017. SECCRA's long-term development plan includes a proposed expansion that would allow continued operation through 2037.



RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPORTING SECCRA

Action 8-58 Support the continued use of the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority Landfill as an essential element in Chester County's long-term solid waste management program.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-M

New Recycling Technologies

In 1988, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed into law the Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101). This act contains provisions that encourage and mandate recycling. It also reevaluates the role of municipalities and how they deal with solid waste management. Act 101 is mandatory when municipalities have a population of over 5,000 people and a density of 300 persons per square mile. While most of the municipalities in the Region do not meet this threshold, many have recycling programs that provide recycling bins at municipal buildings. The experience of the municipalities is that the public actively participates in these recycling programs. Because all of the municipalities are members of the Southern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), they expressed a desire for SECCRA to increase the types of items they recycle.



RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES

Action 8-59 Promote planning for, and the widespread application of existing and new technologies and techniques that reduce consumption of natural resources and reuse and recycle waste materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACCESS TO RECYCLING

Action 8-60 Ensure that residents are provided with convenient and accessible recycling pick-up or drop-off locations across the Region, in accordance with PA Act 101 (1988).

Action 8-61 Encourage all residents and business institutions to participate in recycling and waste reduction activities and to use products comprised of recycled materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND MUNICIPAL ENGAGEMENT FOR RECYCLING

Action 8-62 Support efforts to recycle additional types of materials as technologies and markets become available and encourage all municipalities and their residents to participate in regional household hazardous waste collection programs.

Action 8-63 Promote individual and community planning efforts and initiatives to provide education, outreach, and community-based and volunteer activities that increase awareness of the need for waste reduction and proper debris disposal.

✓These actions address Objective 8-M

Alternative Energy Sources

Currently the SECCRA and the Lanchester landfills participate in the use and development of alternative energy sources, in the form of methane gas recovery, which is generated by the landfills themselves. As future technologies develop, these landfills will need the support of their member municipalities and customers to proceed with expanding their technologies.



RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATIVES ENERGY SOURCES

Action 8-64 Support the development and use of alternative energy sources.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-M

Energy Transmission

Because Chester County is in a central location regarding energy sources, terminals, and markets for the East Coast, the Oxford Region is a prime location for pipelines and electric power lines and their rights-of-ways. One of the primary locations for these rights-of-ways is in agricultural fields where there are no residential or other land use conflicts. As energy demands increase, energy and pipeline companies are engaging in activities to replace and expand pipelines and corridors. As a result, there has been an increased amount of activity through communities, easements, and preserved lands as well as through land with environmental and cultural resources. While these replacements and expansions are critical for energy systems, they present challenges for land use, preservation, public safety, and natural resources throughout the Region. While there may be little municipal control over the processes that ultimately site these corridors, the Region should identify potential impacts and undesired side effects, including the location of future development, economic development, and nature preserves such as the Serpentine Barrens. The Region should also become involved as early in the process as possible to be sure that these concerns are voiced and addressed.



RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPANSION OF ENERGY CORRIDORS

Action 8-65 Consider the implications of future expansions of energy right-of-way corridors and easements on land use and local communities.

☑ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAND USE COORDINATION WITH UTILITY PROVIDERS

Action 8-66 Support coordination between franchise owners, service providers, municipalities, and affected landowners in planning the expansion of facilities.

Action 8-67 Encourage utility providers to share right-of-way space and to minimize land disturbance and easement impacts on surrounding lands throughout transmission and pipeline corridors.

Action 8-68 Require communication between service providers to prioritize the use and reuse of existing towers, and to locate new communication towers in areas where they are most compatible with land use patterns and protect viewsheds to the maximum extent practicable

✓These actions address Objective 8-J

Transmission Pipelines

The Oxford Region recognizes the existence of pipeline rights-of-ways located in portions of the Region and acknowledges a proposal to run a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline. Such transmission pipelines provide opportunities to meet the energy demands of the Atlantic seaboard but also pose risk for those communities potentially affected should a pipeline failure occur. Under normal circumstances, underground pipelines are relatively benign; however, where emergencies and failures occur, varied threats to public health, safety, and welfare can be significant. These include direct impacts such as contaminated soils and groundwater pollution to indirect impacts associated with cleanup (expanded access points, groundwater recovery and remediation facilities, expanded soil disturbance, etc.).

Potential Municipal Regulations

Should the Region decide to create regulations for transmission pipelines, they would need to be designed to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and regulate land uses in conformance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended. Among the needs to address are those surface land uses affiliated with transmission pipelines, appropriate access provisions for pipeline rights-of-way, and buffering and setback standards appropriate to reduce adverse impacts to residents should a failure occur. In addition to buffers and setbacks, the Region should examine the feasibility of increased communication with pipeline operators, particularly as related to new development proposals within proximity of transmission pipelines, and investigate measures to protect new land uses. Regulations should also comply with other applicable policies of this plan, Chester County's Landscapes2, and applicable statewide planning goals designed to meet the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The Region should also continue to coordinate its activities with those of the County and State as pipelines proceed through the permit review and construction phases.

RECOMMENDATION TO MONITOR PIPELINE ACTIVITY

Action 8-69 Continue to monitor existing and future pipeline activity and enact, where feasible, regulations that are complementary to the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

✓This action addresses Objective 8-J

Summary of Website References

Oxford Area School District (OASD): www.oxford.k12.pa.us

Lincoln University: www.lincoln.edu

Oxford Public Library: www.oxfordpubliclibrary.org

Oxford Police Department: www.theoxfordpd.com

Union Fire Company No. 1: www.oxfordfire.com

Oxford Neighborhood Services Center: <http://unitedwayscc.org/VolunteerOpportunities.asp>

Healthy Start Program: <http://ccmchc.org/programs1.asp>

Head Start Programs: www.cciu.org/headstart

Oxford Area Senior Center: www.oxfordseniors.org

Christiana Lifenet Air Medical Transport www.christianacare.org/lifenet

Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM): www.cvim.org

Jennersville Regional Hospital www.jennersville.com

Chester County Food Bank: www.chestercountyfoodbank.org/about-gleaning

Health and Welfare Foundation of Southern Chester County: www.hwfsc.org

Krapf Bus Companies (The Rover): www.krapfbus.com/rover

Chesapeake Bay Program: www.chesapeakebay.net

Chester County Water Resources Authority (WRA): www.chesco.org/water/cwp

Maternal and Child Health Consortium: www.ccmchc.org/programs1.asp

Figure (Map) Sources:

Figure 8-D: Community Facilities and Services in the Oxford Region

Data Sources: Municipal borders, Roads – Chester County GIS; Schools – CCPC; Police, BLS, and Fire Stations – Chester County GIS; Libraries – Chester County Planning Commission, 2000; Fire and Police Response Zones - Chester County GIS.

Figure 8-F: Existing Water and Sewer Service Areas

Data Sources: Municipal borders, Roads – Chester County GIS; Existing Sewer and Water Service Areas - OASA.

Figure 8-H: Existing and Proposed Water and Sewer Facilities

Data Sources: Municipal borders, Roads - Chester County GIS; Future Land Use Categories – CCPC and ORP; Existing and Proposed Water and Sewer Facilities – OASA.