

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

MUNICIPAL OPERATION

The operations center for governmental activities in Center Township is located at 419 Sunset Drive. The municipal building consists of several offices, a workroom and a meeting room. The meeting room also serves as a local office for State Representative Frank LaGrotta. The offices serve as the headquarters for the Director of Public Works, Treasurer, and secretary.

The Township also owns a maintenance building located next to the Unionville Fire Department, which houses the municipal equipment necessary to maintain, plow and scrape over sixty-seven (67) miles of roadway. This roadway figure includes almost 11.5 miles of Act 32 Turnback mileage. The Township's road crew consists of 4 full-time employees supervised by the newly created (1998) position of Director of Public Works.

WATER SERVICE

A majority of the residents of the Township are serviced by individual wells; however, this number has been dwindling during the past decade, with the overall percentage now just below fifty percent (50%). The remainder of the populace is served by public systems. Water service, at this time, is limited to the south-central and southwestern portions of the Township. As of December 31, 1999, all of the Township's water will be supplied by the Pennsylvania American Water Company. The maximum amount of which may be purchased is 240,000 GPD (gallons per day). In 1995, the average daily intake was 215,994 GPD. Treatment is provided by PA American with the Township Municipal Water Authority providing storage in one tank with a capacity of 475,000 gallons. Another storage tank is planned for the future in order to provide optimum service and maintenance capabilities. The water system services over one thousand two hundred (1,200) residential and forty-one (41) commercial customers. During the 1995 fiscal year, 4,663 lineal feet of 8" PVC 900 and C-900 pipe was installed as an extension to the service area, most of which was through private development requests. Future expansion of the system will continue to be at private developer's requests.

SANITARY SEWER

Almost sixty percent (60%) of Center Township households are served by a public sewer collection system, that being a collection and treatment system owned and operated by the Butler Area Sanitary Authority (BASA). The service area of the BASA overlaps that of the public water systems in most areas.

As with the water service, any extension of sanitary sewer collection facilities will occur through private developers.

The treatment facility, which is located in Butler Township, south of the City of Butler, has a design treatment capacity of ten (10) MGD (million gallons per day). The average daily flow for 1993 was 6.2 MGD, with the 1994 average being between 6.5 and 7.0 MGD. These figures indicate that the BASA facilities are adequate at this time and have additional capacity for expansion.

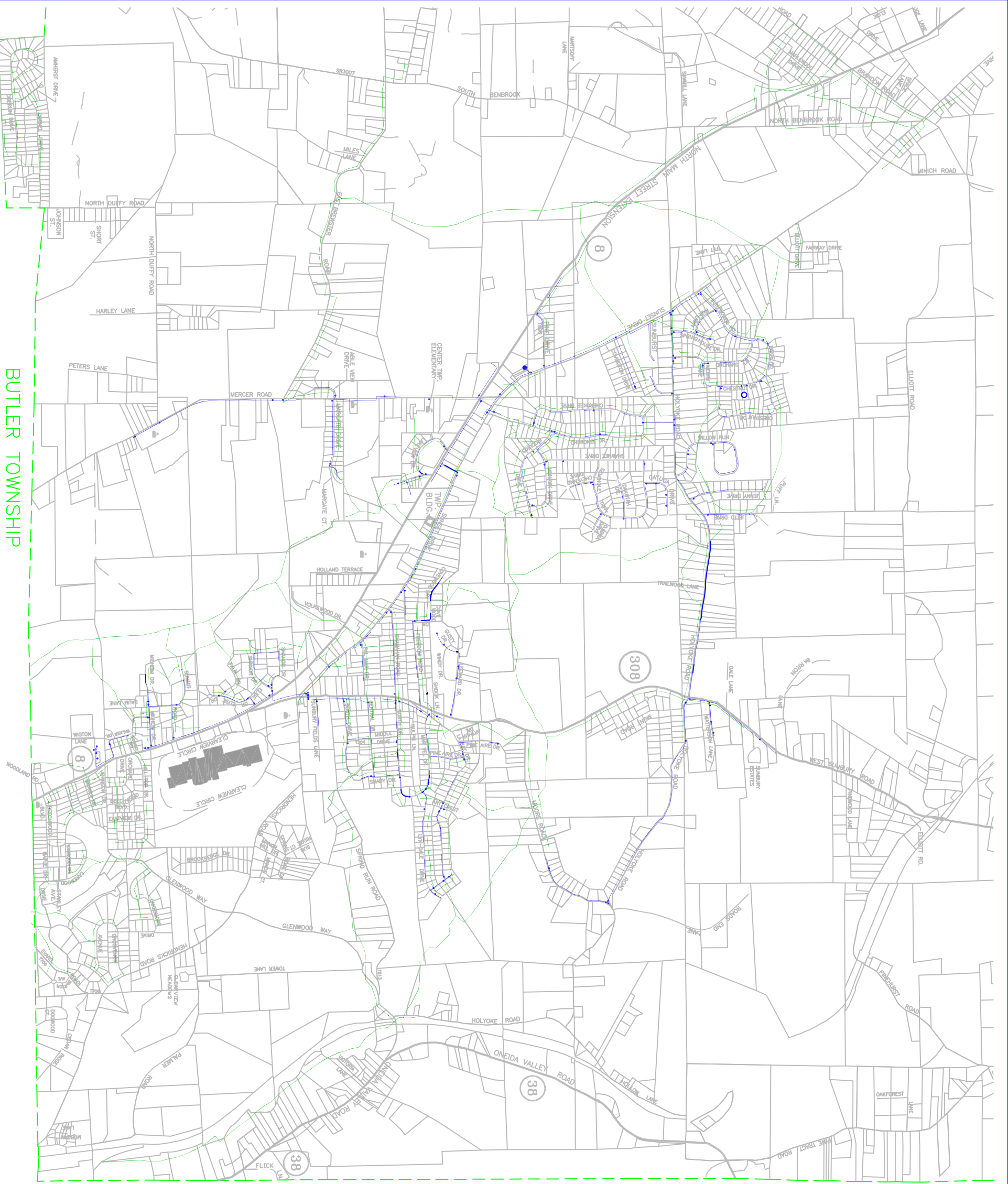
PUBLIC SAFETY

Center Township does not employ a municipal police force and has developed an agreement with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to patrol township roads and streets, and to answer all safety calls. The PSP has provided around-the-clock service for Township residents.

It appears that public sentiment is shifting towards the provision of more extensive police services, particularly in the more densely developed areas of the Township. Determining the need for police services includes several factors within the Township:

- community size
- population density
- land use patterns
- crime rates
- socio-economic factors

The Institute of Local Government at the University of Pittsburgh has established general guidelines for determining the size of a municipal police force and the manpower needed. The level of service recommended is 1.75 to 2.00 police officers



BUTLER TOWNSHIP

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

**CENTER TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

LEGEND:

- WATER LINES
- SEWER LINES



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per 1,000 population and at least one (1) patrol car per 5,000 population. Based on these figures, Center Township has the population base to consider its own police force.

Butler County has developed a 9-1-1 system which has been activated within the past two (2) years. The Township is participating in the system and has had each address "matched" to 9-1-1 mapping in order to provide maximum coverage to each individual property.

In the area of rescue services, Center Township is home to the only certified SCUBA Rescue squad in Butler County. The SCUBA Rescue squad also assists Armstrong, Lawrence and Mercer Counties and the Butler County State Police barracks.

The Unionville-Center Township Volunteer Fire Department has approximately twenty (20) active members, including twelve (12) that have been certified as EMT's (Emergency Medical Technician), nine (9) as paramedics and two (2) as first responders. The duties of the fire department includes fire protection, rescue, EMS (Emergency Medical Service) and SCUBA rescue.

The equipment available to the department includes:

- 2 Engine Pumpers
- 1 Brush Truck
- 1 Sir Truck (with cascade and SCUBA)
- 1 Rescue Truck - Heavy/Medium Duty
- 1 Boat (SCUBA response)

For a limited membership, the Unionville-Center Township Volunteer Fire Department provides excellent coverage to the residents.

RECREATION

Center Township does not include a recreation program as part of the services it provides to its' residents. Any recreation facilities found within the Township are owned by other public or private bodies. The following table identifies the existing facilities, ownership, size and available on-site activities.

TABLE 1

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES*

Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Activities Available
Center Twp. Elem.	Butler School	1.6	Playground & equipment
Center Twp. Elem. School	Butler School	14	4 Little League fields, 1
ATA Taekwondo Center	Private	--	Martial Arts instruction
Butler Area Radio Society	Private	10	open field
Butler County Soccer	Quasi-private	4.95	5 soccer fields; concession stand
Clearview Mall	Private	--	Movie theaters
Hartwig Field	Private	4	Little League field
Hull Plan Park	Private	36.3	2 acre lake; horseshoe pits;
The Perfect Swing Driving	Private	19	Public golf driving range; golf
Pioneer Drive-In	Private	23	Drive-in movie theater; flea
Richland Wildwood	Private	161	Trap field; picnic tables
Stoughton Acres Golf	Private	180	Public 18-hole golf course;
Timberly Heights Park	Private	21.1	1 acre lake; bathhouse; picnic
Unionville Volunteer Fire	Quasi-public	--	social hall
Total Acreage		474.95	

* as per the Butler County Comprehensive Recreation Plan

During the mid-summer of 1997, the Township created and distributed a survey seeking public direction on the possible purchase and development of fifty (50) acres for a community park. Upon tabulating the returned surveys (about a 50% response), it was clear that the residents felt that it was not necessary to expend Township funds on recreation facilities. A major factor in this response could well be the proximity of Moraine State Park, a regional recreational facility providing a wide range of outdoor activities throughout the years, which is less than fifteen (15) minutes away.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

Even though the Township is not required to recycle various solid waste products by Act 101, the Supervisors have elected to purchase recycling containers and now provide one (1) free container to each new resident for use with the individual's solid waste haulers, either BFI, Tri-County, Vogel or Waste Management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The construction and/or expansion of facilities and municipal services must be coordinated with existing and proposed land uses. Needs should be based on resident desires, public safety requirements and the character of the area (growth; rural; redevelopment) where the expansion of facilities/services is planned. In Center Township, community facilities and services should be provided at those levels adequate for rural and rural/suburban uses, but not expanded to stimulate pressure for development and urban sprawl.