

Survey 1 Results Summary

February 26, 2025

The Assets that Residents Appreciate...

Housing options	19	The availability of affordable housing and the variety of housing options.
Parks and recreation	17	Sites like the Marina, river, and playground, and local events like the "Norry Block Parties."
Local services	16	Police and fire protection services for their presence and proactiveness.
Family and Community	15	A strong sense of belonging and local pride among "good" neighbors.
Rural context	15	Offering a calm and peaceful setting, low crime, and low traffic.
Travel/transportation options	9	Easy access to highways, and ability to walk to and within the town.
Location	8	For convenient highway access to cities and essential services.
Reasonable Cost of Living	5	Manageable living costs and low taxes.
Safety	5	The low risk of crime in a small town and "tight" community.
Job availability	3	Even though job availability is not a main asset, it is a consideration.

The Conditions for which Residents Desire Change...

Transportation	• Better street and road conditions, including the need for repaving, pothole repairs, and drainage. (30) • Clear street signs and adequate lighting (in some areas). (6) • More biking and walking trails (5). • Safer walking conditions/lighting on sidewalks and streets/roads (4). • More public transportation options. (2)
Recreation & Community	• Improve/Increase parks and recreational opportunities - Liberty Hollow, town playground, Pineknottter Park, and the riverfront. More parks, courts, and playgrounds (10), and the pool (4), for all ages. • More community events to bring residents together (7) and more civic engagement/service (2). • Improved maintenance of parks and public spaces. (6) • More supervised activities for children (3), spaces for youth/young adult (4), and senior services (1).
Government and Services	• Stronger leadership for improving community/economic conditions from officials and staff. (13) • Lower taxes (12), i.e., more cost-efficient/consolidated services, e.g., police, fire protection, and administrative offices (7) and/or more/higher quality services, such as leaf collection (5), trash collection and recycling facilities/options (5). • Stronger police enforcement of noise ordinances and speeding laws (5). • Stronger code enforcement (4).
Economic Development	• More small businesses (13), bigger business and industry with job options (6), and restaurants (8). • Maintain farmland and rural character. (5) • Need for a grocery store open 7 days a week (3). • Develop heritage tourism as an economic engine. (3) • Develop small-scale hydroelectric power on the Susquehanna River to fuel the local economy and attract tech industries (2).

Survey 2 Report

Northumberland Borough-Point Township Joint Comprehensive Plan

May 22, 2025

Northumberland Borough and Point Township are developing a joint 10-year community plan. The plan focuses on local community and economic conditions that Borough and Township officials can change or influence—with assistance from regional partners.

Survey 2 was a follow-up to the Fall 2024 survey, which asked what citizens like about living and working in the Borough and Township and what changes or improved conditions they would like to happen over the next decade. This survey sought feedback on the planning team’s findings to date and citizen perspectives on how the community should manage growth and development.

Survey 2 was distributed electronically on April 7, 2025 to citizens who had asked to be notified of public involvement opportunities in their responses to the Fall 2024 survey and as a paper insert to the Spring 2025 edition of the Pineknotter News, which was delivered to each mailing address in the 17857 zip code later that same week.

The survey closed on May 9, 2025 and garnered 131 responses; 72 more responses than the Fall 2024 survey. Results are reported for the joint area and by municipality.

Key Findings – we’ll have this for the 5/22 meeting

- 1. Survey 2 affirmed that these are the top desirable qualities of the Norry-Point Community; 84.7% of respondents agree.**
 - The variety and affordability of housing options.
 - Parks, river access, and local events.
 - Local police and fire protection services.
- 2. Survey 2 affirmed these are qualities that should be better or different in the future; 85.5% of respondents agree.**
 - better maintenance of streets and roads.
 - better maintenance of existing parks.
 - consolidation of borough and township services that maintains level of service and reduces cost to the taxpayer.
- 3. Survey 2 affirmed there is some interest in more community facilities or expanded community services; 68.0% agree with all; 14.5% agree with at least one item; 35.9% are willing to pay more in local taxes.**
 - more parks (sports courts/fields and playgrounds).
 - more recreational activities and programs for children and youth.
 - more community and cultural events.
 - additional services, such as trash collection/disposal, recycling, yard waste disposal/recycling.

4. When offered three general approaches to growth management, preferences were mixed:

- Grow upward; 35.1% and preferred by more Township respondents than Borough respondents
- Grow outward in traditional small-town patterns; 21.4% and preferred by more Borough respondents
- Grow outward in suburban patterns; 16.0% and preferred by more Borough respondents
- Not sure; 19.8% and preferred by more Township respondents
- Blank; 7.6%

5. Most respondents support commercial and industrial development (57.3%). Another 29.8% support commercial development only.

6. Respondents some support expansion of smaller multi-family housing options ranging from 2-unit to 9-unit structures as well as additional senior living options.

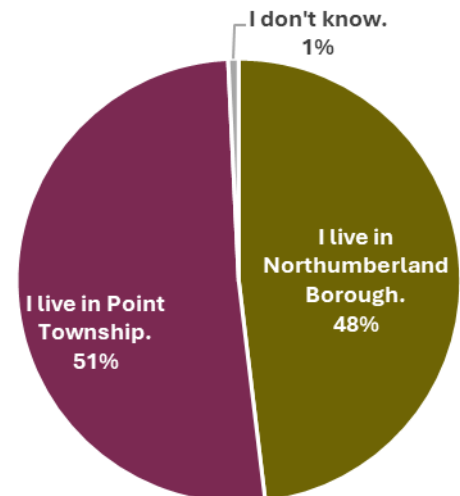
7. A slight majority of respondents (58.0%) support allowing taller buildings; 37.4% believe taller buildings should only be allowed in select locations.

Survey Results

Question 1. Are you a resident of the Borough or the Township?

- 63 from Northumberland Borough (48%)
- 67 from Point Township (51%)
- 1 not specified, though the street address indicated a Township household (1%)

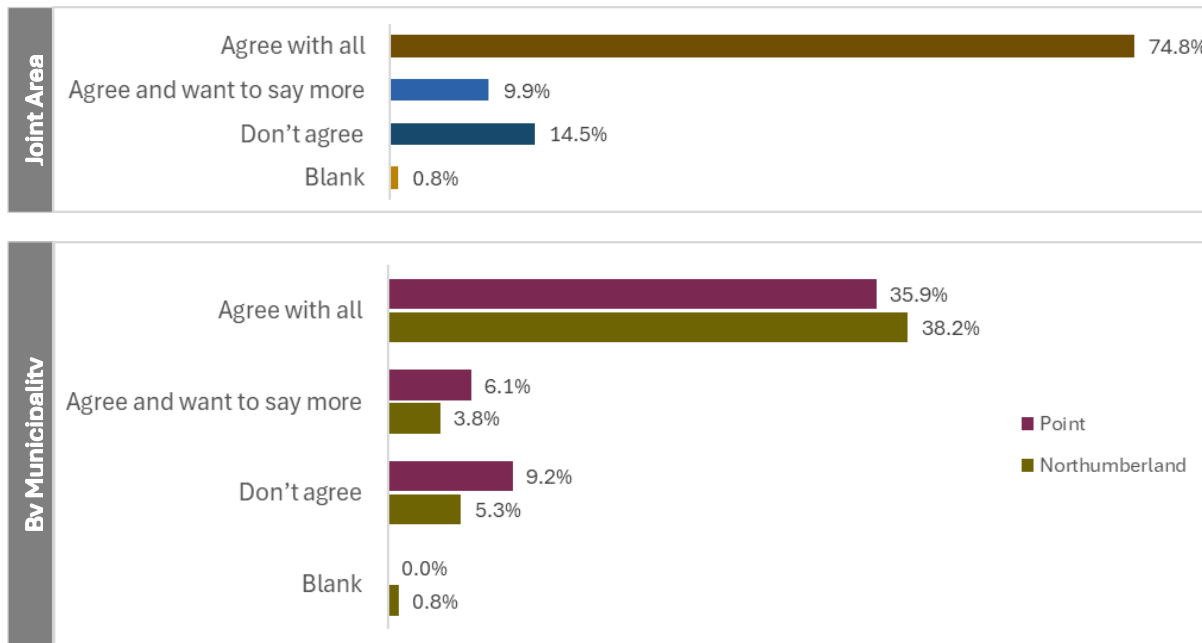
The populations of Northumberland Borough and Point Township have been nearly equal since 2000. At 52%, the survey response overrepresents the Township slightly.



Question 2. We heard—these are the top desirable qualities of the Norry-Point Community.

1. The variety and affordability of housing options.
2. Parks, river access, and local events.
3. Local police and fire protection services.

Do you agree with these 3 top qualities? Explain your response using the comments below.

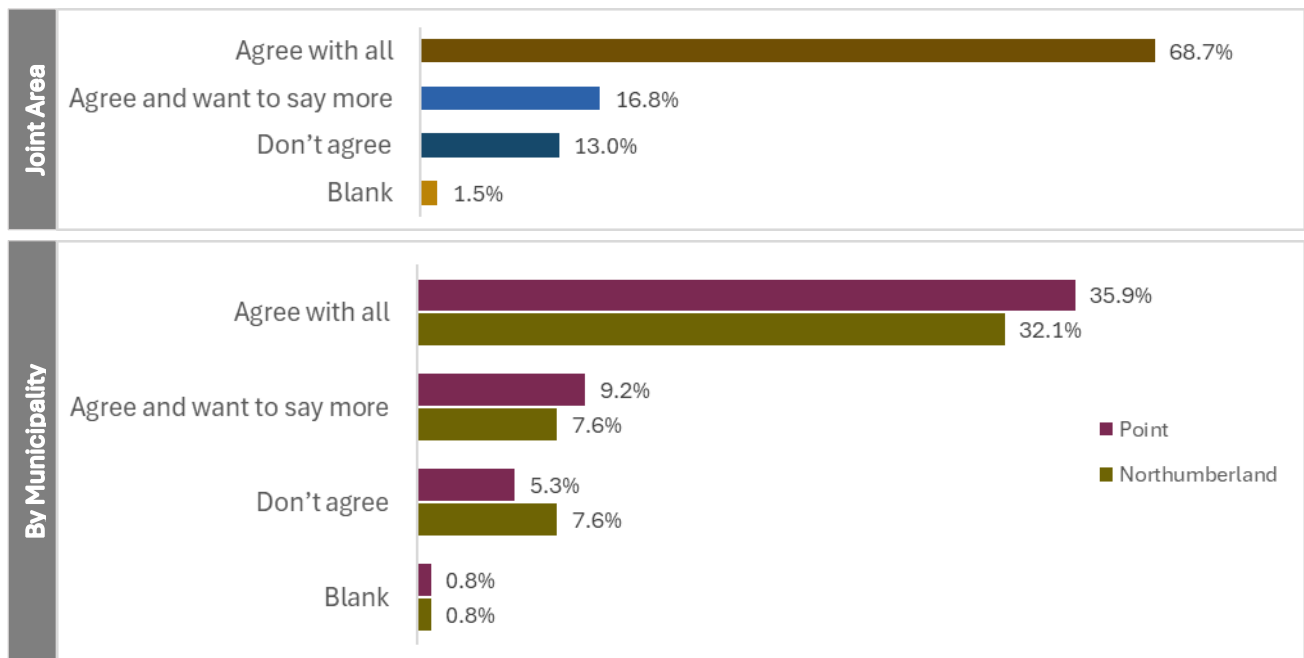


Perspectives among Comments		
	Point Township	Northumberland
Agree with all	And concern about fire protection services and a desire for more local restaurants.	Appreciation for parks and recreation.
Agree and want to say more	Value for the area's peaceful, rural character and praised local services, but also concerns for limited teen recreation, loss of amenities, housing affordability, high taxes, and lack of landlord support.	Desire for a crime-free, family-oriented community while preserving individual rights, but also concern for unaffordable rentals, overpriced properties, high real estate taxes and negative impacts of low-cost rentals as well as dissatisfaction with fire department response.
Don't agree	Value for the quiet, small-town feel, but also concern for high taxes, unaffordable housing, poor roads, limited recreation, and weak police response. Suggestions included more community support and better neighborhood upkeep.	Emphasis on Norry's historic value and geographic location plus concern for poor infrastructure, high electricity costs, noise, speeding, and weak code enforcement. Suggestions included better parks, river access, and diverse businesses.

Question 3. We heard—these are qualities that should be better or different in the future.

1. better maintenance of streets and roads.
2. better maintenance of existing parks.
3. consolidation of borough and township services that maintains level of service and reduces cost to the taxpayer.

Do you agree that these 3 features need attention and resources to adequately serve the community?

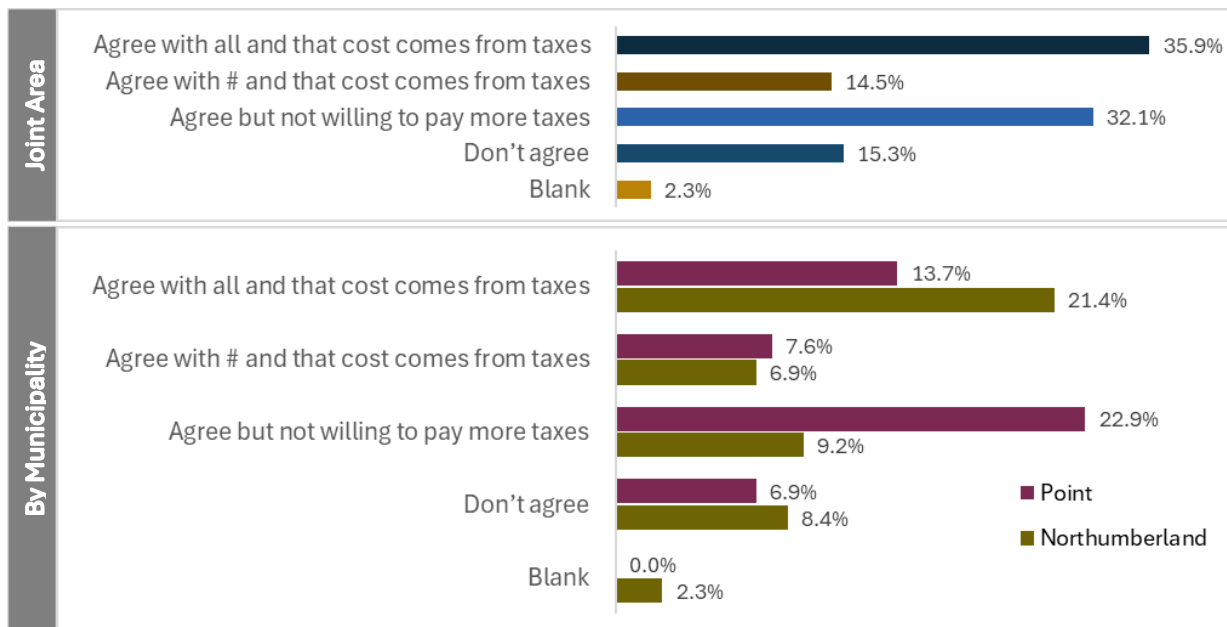


Perspectives among Comments		
	Point Township	Northumberland
Agree with all	As well as rising sewer costs.	As well as poor sidewalk conditions and blighted properties. Some questioned cost savings and called for a plan to address.
Agree and want to say more	Especially road repairs and maintenance.	Especially road, snow, and property maintenance and broader support for consolidated parks and emergency services.
Don't agree	Road and park maintenance <u>and</u> code enforcement and civic pride (i.e., property maintenance). Most opposed service consolidation and questioned its benefits.	Road and park improvements <u>and</u> historic preservation and community clean-up. Most opposed service consolidation.

Question 4. We heard—there is some interest in more community facilities or expanded community services.

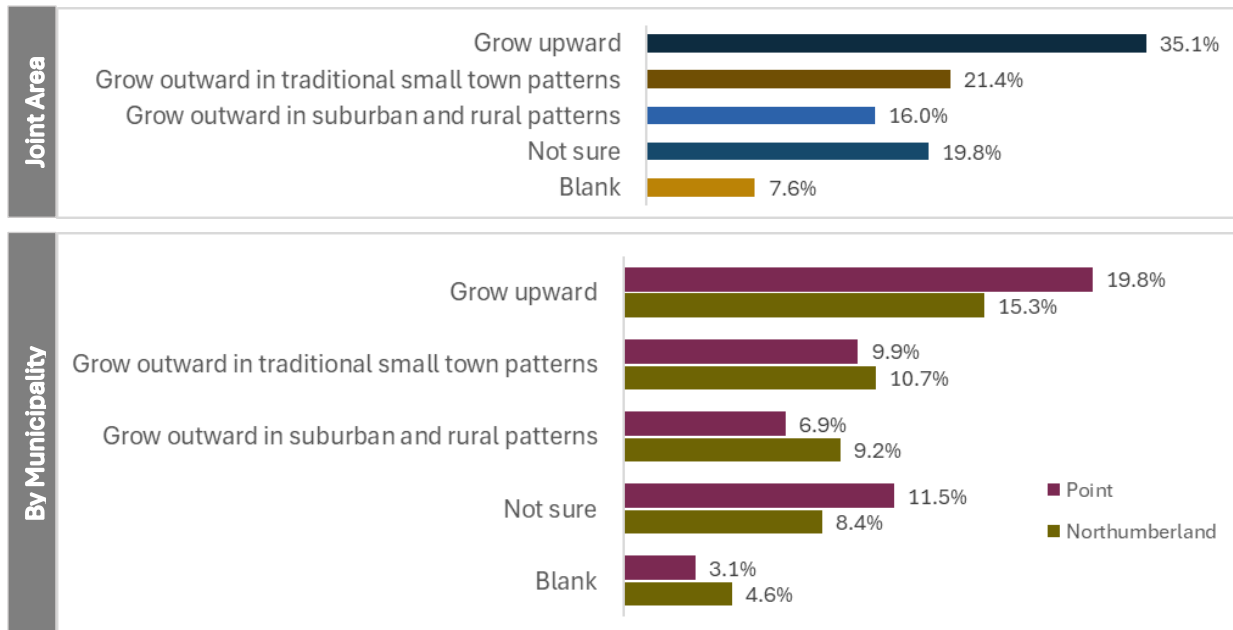
1. more parks (sports courts/fields and playgrounds).
2. more recreational activities and programs for children and youth.
3. more community and cultural events.
4. additional services, such as trash collection/disposal, recycling, yard waste disposal/recycling.

Do you agree that the Norry-Point community would be a better place to live if these facilities and services were added?



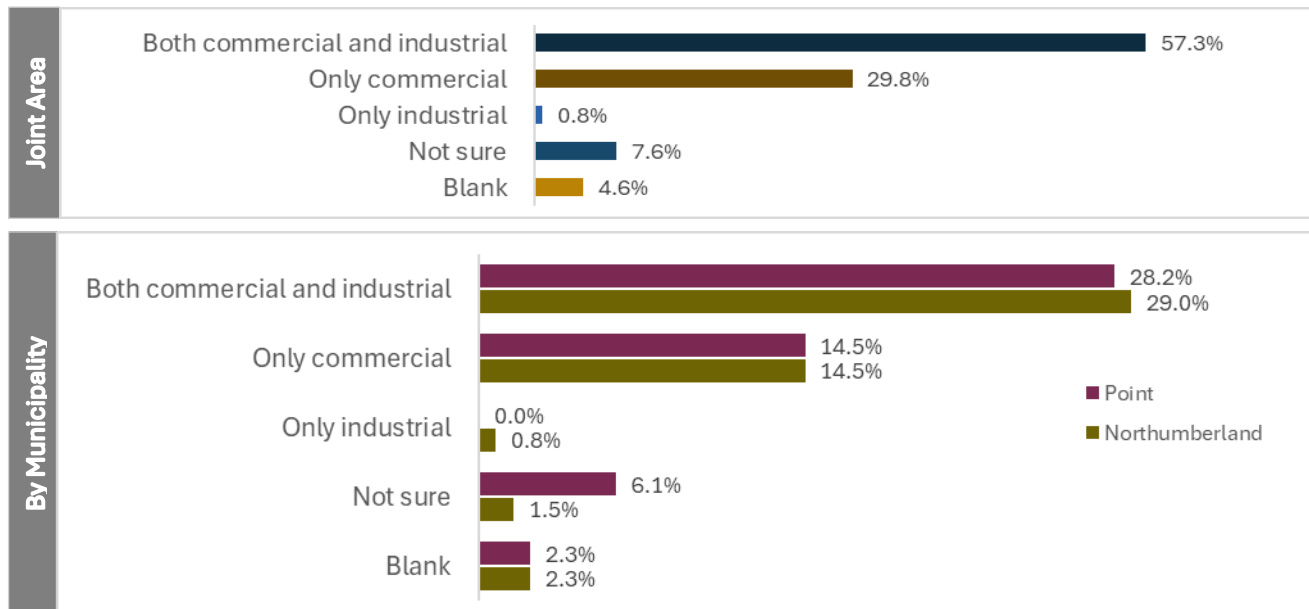
Perspectives among Comments		
	Point Township	Northumberland
Agree with all and understand that add'l costs are paid by local taxes	Emphasized recycling, yard waste disposal, and bike/pedestrian access; preferred more restaurants and businesses over events.	Expressed desire for a new pool with event space, better playgrounds, and yard waste services. Taxes should only cover gaps in operating costs.
Agree with # and understand... costs are paid by local taxes	Cited #4 most often (5), followed by #1 (2), #2 (2), and #3 (1).	Cited #4 most often (5), followed by #1 (4), #2 (3), and #3 (3); emphasized teen activities, consolidated trash collection, and tax-funded cultural events.
Agree but not willing to pay more taxes	Especially for Item #4, but not through tax increases.	Better use of existing funds to support select community upgrades.
Don't agree	Current services are sufficient.	Current services match community needs. Better use of existing funds to support zoning enforcement.

Question 5. Based on recent trends, 2000-2023, the Norry-Point community is projected to continue to grow. Which of these general growth management approaches do you prefer?



Perspectives among Comments		
	Point Township	Northumberland
Grow upward	Respondents value open space, ecosystem preservation, oppose unnecessary growth, and support solar energy to reduce taxes.	Respondents want sustainable development, stormwater control, and growth without tax hikes or developer breaks.
Grow outward in traditional	No comments.	No comments.
Grow outward in suburban	No comments.	No comments.
Not sure	Respondents are concerned about overdevelopment, want infrastructure costs covered by developers, prefer revitalizing existing areas, and support limited growth focused on major routes to preserve community character.	Respondents find the growth question too vague, want clarity on job types and locations, and ask for allowing small businesses on private property.
Blank	Respondents doubt current management capabilities, want better control over growth, and express concern about inadequate enforcement.	Respondents favor revitalizing existing properties, oppose large-scale development, support integrated affordable housing, and want to preserve the small-town character and environment.

Question 6. Should the Borough and Township emphasize commercial and/or industrial development in planning for the future?



Perspectives among Comments		
	Point Township	Northumberland
Both commercial and industrial	Preference for reuse of existing sites and support for small business growth.	Support for commercial and industrial development that avoids environmental harm, especially in already developed or areas zoned for such use.
Only commercial	No comments.	Preference for local businesses, restaurants, and offices over industrial or warehouse development, citing poor infrastructure access and existing noise concerns.
Only industrial	No comments.	No comments.
Not sure	Preference for commercial over industrial development; oppose large warehouses and uses with significant environmental impacts.	Successful commercial growth requires local spending, which may be difficult in the current economy.
Blank	No comments.	Improve education (schools) to improve community and economic stability.

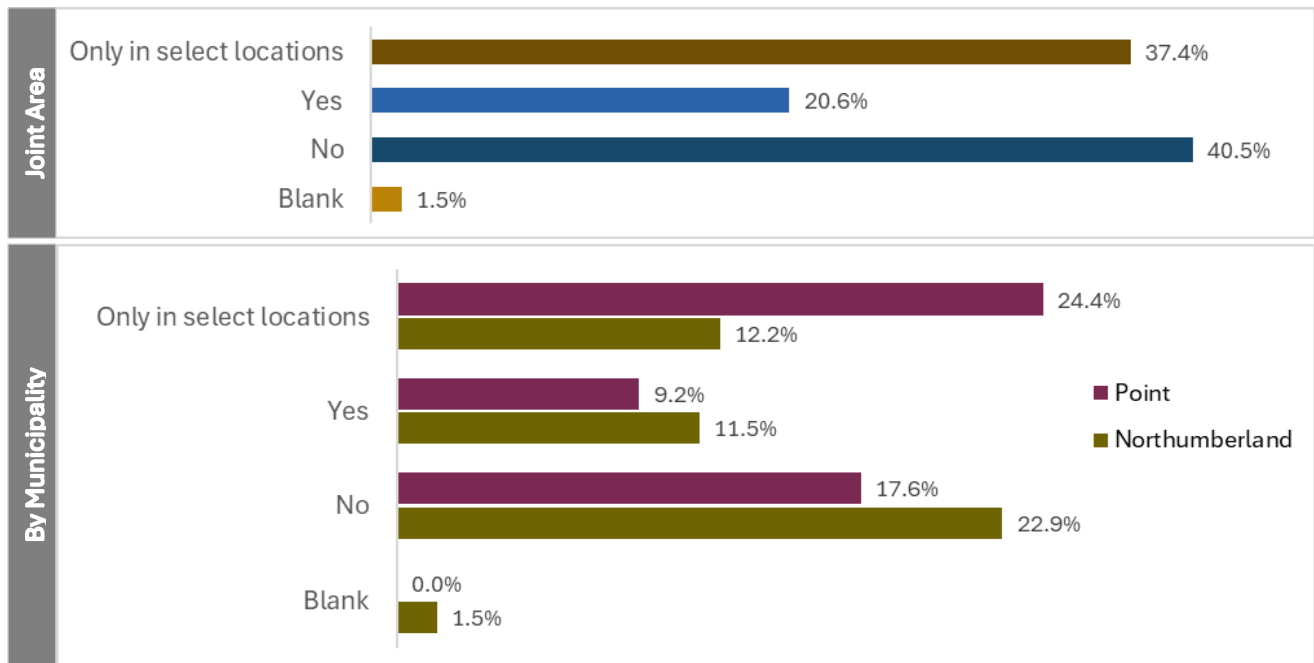
Question 7. Should development policies allow or incentivize housing types that are uncommon in the Norry-Point community today? Each of these types comprises less than 10 percent of all housing units.

The table below shows the most common response for each housing type. The answer offered included: “No more of this type,” “A few more of this type,” “Several more of this type,” and “Many more of this type”.

	No more	A few more	Several more	Many more	No more	A few more	Several more	Many more	No more	A few more	Several more	Many more
2-unit houses	38	45	26	11	28	26	8	3	10	18	18	8
3- and 4-unit houses	52	38	21	6	38	16	8	2	14	21	13	4
Small apartment buildings (5-9 units)	45	51	20	5	31	25	5	3	14	26	14	2
Mid-size apartment buildings (10-19 units)	63	39	16	3	40	19	5	1	40	19	5	1
Large apartment buildings (20+ units)	89	18	10	2	55	6	3	1	22	20	11	2
Single family homes for rent	31	39	30	22	17	24	17	7	33	12	7	1
Independent-living/Active-living units for seniors	20	58	27	18	11	33	15	7	14	15	13	14
Assisted-living for seniors	22	62	20	19	12	36	10	8	9	24	12	11

Respondents expressed a strong desire for thoughtful, balanced housing development that supports a diverse and stable community. They emphasized the importance of maintaining and revitalizing existing housing stock. They supported a mix of housing types—such as townhomes, condos, and assisted-living facilities—with a preference for owner-occupied units over rentals, especially rentals owned by non-local landlords. They advocated for planning that aligns with the community’s identity and goals, whether that means attracting young families, professionals, or retirees. Some also questioned the role of government in providing housing, suggesting that market forces should meet housing needs.

Question 8. Should taller building heights be allowed?



Response to the question about taller building heights was mixed. The most common response from Township residents was “only in select locations,” while the largest plurality of Borough residents said “no.”

Northumberland: Borough respondents suggested that areas like Milton Industrial Park, the former Keystone Insurers Group site, or existing commercial sites are suitable for taller buildings.

Point Township: Township respondents were open to taller buildings in locations like Route 11, Water Street, and the bypass area, emphasizing a reduced building footprint and environmental impact and provided emergency services can adequately serve the building.

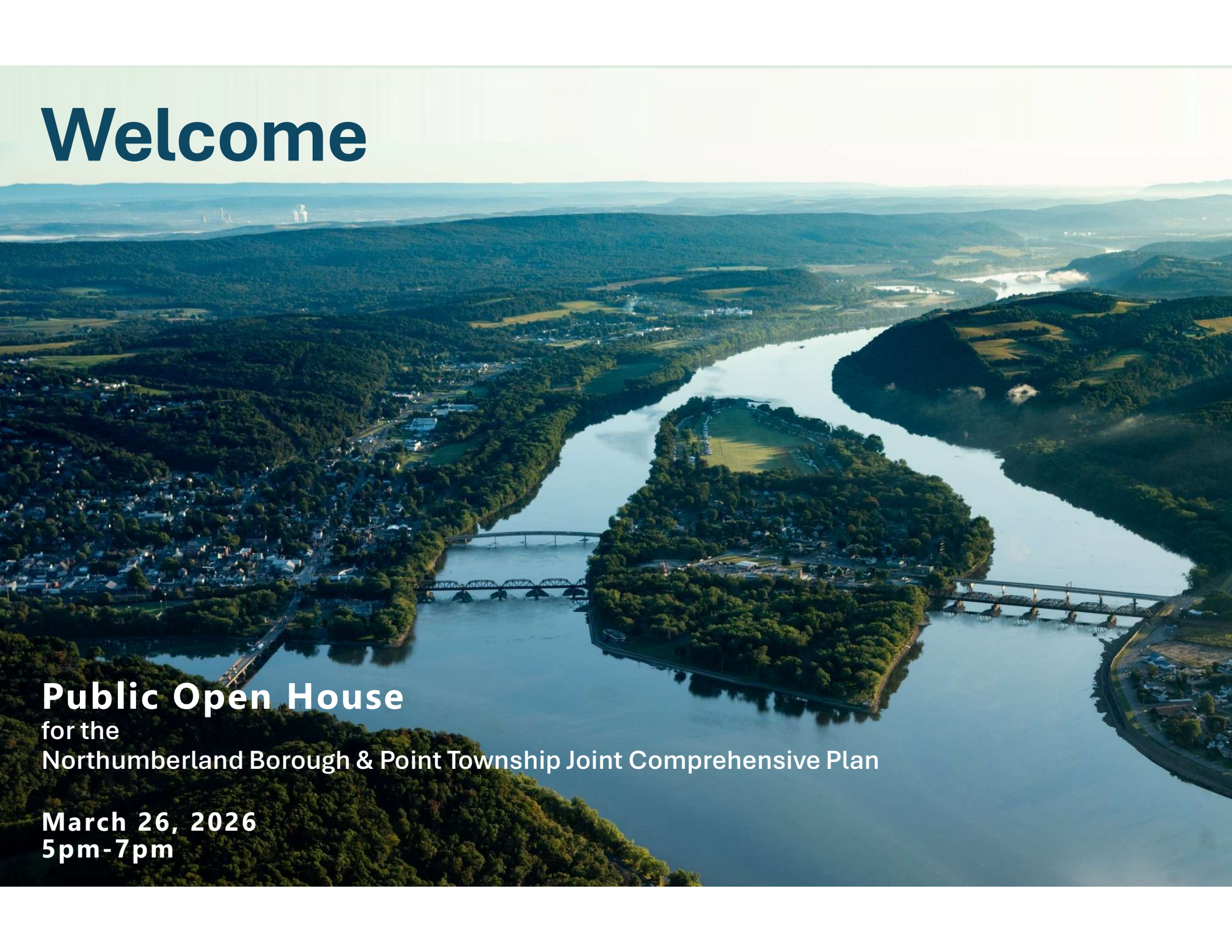
Question 9. Would you like to be notified about future opportunities to talk about the Norry-Point 2035 plan?

34 residents shared an email address. 12 were new requests for future notifications.

Question 10. Are you interested in helping to make your community a better place?

28 Residents shared an email address. All had previously expressed interest in volunteering in the Fall 2024 survey.

Welcome

An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a lush, green valley. The river has a meandering path, with a small peninsula in the center. Two bridges cross the river: a smaller one on the left and a larger, multi-arched one on the right. A small town with numerous houses is visible on the left bank. The background shows rolling hills and distant mountains under a clear sky.

Public Open House

for the
Northumberland Borough & Point Township Joint Comprehensive Plan

March 26, 2026
5pm-7pm

Open House

About the Comprehensive Plan and the Open House

Local Planning and the Comprehensive Plan

Public Interest and Public Involvement

Purpose of the Open House

The Northumberland Borough & Point Township Comprehensive Plan

The Background: Trends

The Analysis

Your Thoughts and Feedback

Vision & Development Objectives

Future Land Use Maps

Priorities

Next Steps: Draft Plan, Review, and Adoption

Open House

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*The Comprehensive Plan is
1 of 7 planning tools authorized
by the state*

for use by local government:

- *zoning ordinance,*
- *subdivision and land
development ordinance,*
- *official map,*
- *capital improvements plan
(and impact fees, and the
two planning bodies,*
- *planning commission*
- *zoning hearing board*

*The comprehensive plan is the
tool that guides changes and
updates to other tools.*

Open House

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The purpose of local government planning is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the public (all citizens).

This planning process offered three opportunities for public input/feedback prior to the formal review:

- *Citizen Survey 1 – Fall 2024*
- *Citizen Survey 2 – Spring 2025*
- *Open House – Spring 2026*

Open House

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Purpose of the Open House

The purpose of the open house is open house is to:

- *Raise awareness*
- *Ask for feedback; ID gaps, additional concerns before the draft plan is circulated for formal review by local officials and other public agencies.*

Open House

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The Analysis...

The Background

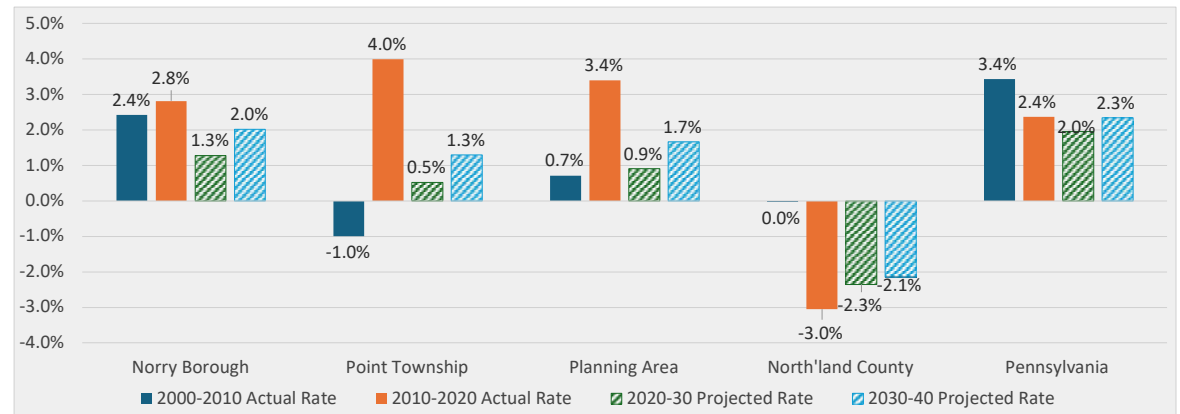
Population

Population Counts and Estimates, 2000-2020 and 2023, and Trend Projections, to 2040

Population	Census Counts			Estimate	Trend Projections			Change	
	2000	2010	2020	2023	2030	2035	2040	2020-30	2030-40
Norry Borough	3,714	3,804	3,911	3,874	3,960	4,000	4,040	50	80
Point Township	3,722	3,685	3,832	3,808	3,850	3,870	3,900	20	50
Planning Area	7,436	7,489	7,743	7,682	7,810	7,870	7,940	70	130
North'land County	94,556	94,528	91,647	90,120	89,490	88,530	87,570	-2,150	-1,920
Pennsylvania	12,281,---	12,702,---	13,002,---	12,961,---	13,256,---	13,411,---	13,566,---	253,950	310,270

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020; 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates.

Rates of Actual Population Change, 2000-2020, and Projected Population Change, 2020-2040



The Background

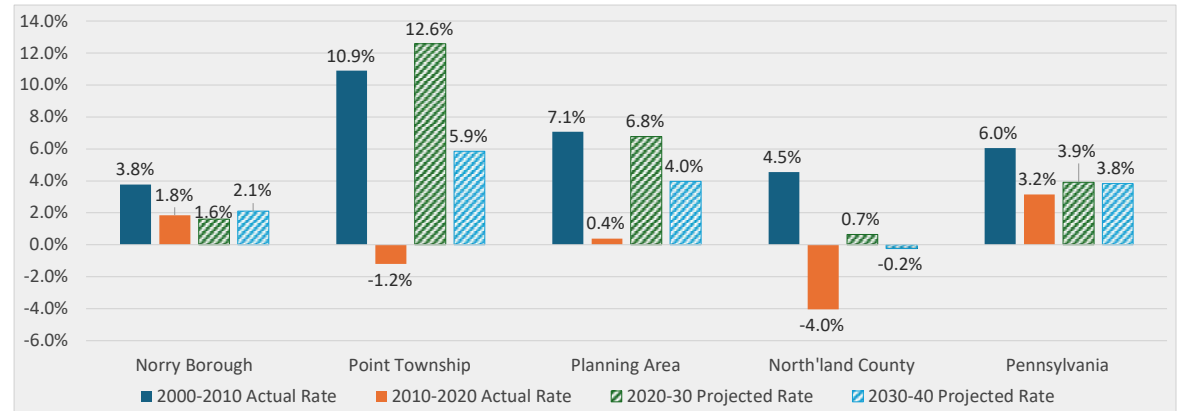
Housing Units

Housing Unit Counts and Estimates, 2000-2020 and 2023, and Trend Projections, to 2040

Housing Units	Census Counts			Estimate	Trend Projections			Change	
	2000	2010	2020		2030	2035	2040	2020-30	2030-40
Norry Borough	1,772	1,839	1,873	1,861	1,900	1,920	1,950	30	40
Point Township	1,523	1,689	1,669	1,860	1,880	1,930	1,990	210	110
Planning Area	3,295	3,528	3,542	3,721	3,780	3,850	3,940	240	150
North'land County	43,164	45,125	43,300	43,395	43,580	43,530	43,480	280	-100
Pennsylvania	5,249,---	5,567,---	5,742,---	5,779,---	5,967,---	6,081,---	6,195,---	224,620	228,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020; 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates.

Rates of Actual Housing Unit Change, 2000-2020, and Projected Housing Unit Change, 2020-2040



The Background

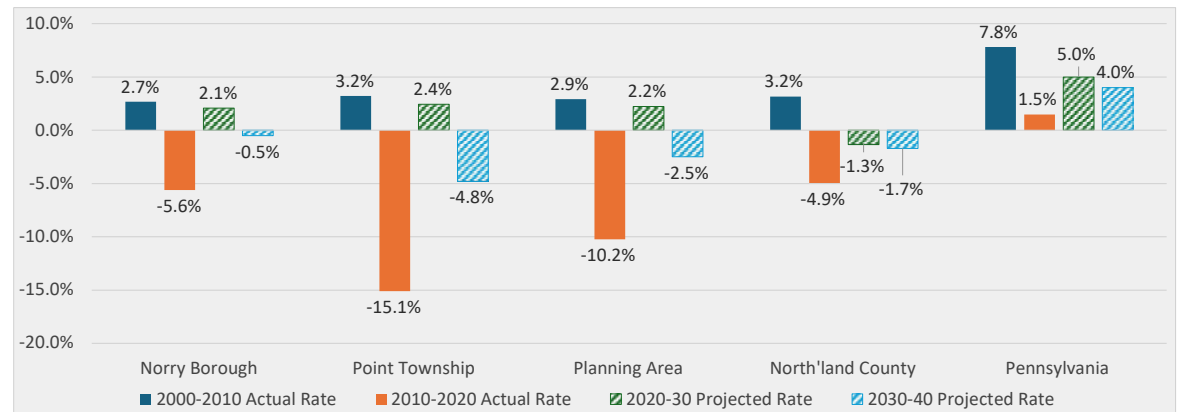
Resident Workforce

Resident Workforce Counts and Estimates, 2000-2020 and 2023, and Trend Projections, to 2040

Resident Workers, 16 yrs and older	Census Counts			Estimate	Trend Projections			Change	
	2000	2010	2020	2023	2030	2035	2040	2020-30	2030-40
Norry Borough	1,981	2,034	1,920	1,998	1,960	1,960	1,950	40	-10
Point Township	1,867	1,927	1,636	1,786	1,670	1,630	1,600	40	-80
Planning Area	3,848	3,961	3,556	3,784	3,630	3,590	3,540	80	-90
North'land County	44,146	45,547	43,299	42,767	42,720	42,360	42,000	-570	-730
Pennsylvania	6,000,---	6,470,---	6,566,---	6,690,---	6,894,---	7,032,---	7,170,---	328,350	276,170

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020; 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates.

Rates of Resident Workforce Change, 2000-2020, and Projected Change, 2020-2040



The Background

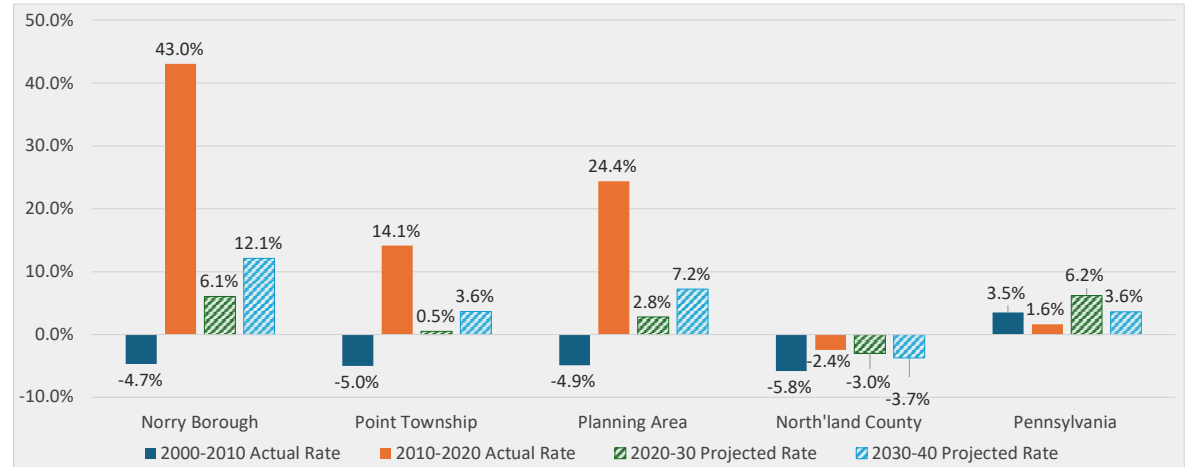
Jobs

Job Counts and Estimates, 2000-2020 and 2022, and Trend Projections, to 2040

Employment	Census Job Counts				Trend Projections			Change	
	2002	2010	2020	2022	2030	2035	2040	2020-30	2030-40
Norry Borough	965	920	1,316	1,271	1,400	1,480	1,570	80	170
Point Township	1,763	1,675	1,912	1,862	1,920	1,950	1,990	10	70
Planning Area	2,728	2,595	3,228	3,133	3,320	3,430	3,560	90	240
North'land County	28,974	27,290	26,628	26,834	25,830	25,350	24,880	-800	-960
Pennsylvania	5,205,---	5,389,---	5,476,---	5,786,---	5,817,---	5,923,---	6,028,---	341,---	210,---

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020; 2023 ACS 5-year Estimates.

Rates of Job Change, 2000-2020, and Projected Job Change, 2020-2040



The Analysis

Assets

- Susquehanna River, North and West Branches
- Montour Ridge, bluffs
- Agricultural lands
- Priestley House
- Northumberland Historic District
- Vacant buildings and land zoned for development
- 65 acres of public parks and recreation land

- Shikellamy State Park
- Lake Augusta
- Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway (CSVT)
- Colleges and universities
- Cost of living

Challenges

- Natural Hazards, e.g., floodplain
- Railroad tracks
- Lack of local jobs, especially for college-educated individuals; *young people moving away*
- Older housing stock; *cost to maintain*
- High rental vacancy
- Local government capacity; small staff members
- Heavy truck traffic
- Heavy reliance on personal vehicle ownership

The Analysis

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Opportunities

- Retain/Attract young professionals and families with:
- **Downtown** destination for jobs, living, stores and services, civic events, tourism
 - *Space for entrepreneurs*
 - *Build on local history*
 - *Enhance bike-pedestrian access and safety*
 - **Riverfront**
 - *Expand recreation sites and trails*
 - *Attract tourists and \$*
 - **Economic development** on lands planned/zoned for development
 - In downtown
 - Agricultural diversification

Challenges

- Natural Hazards, e.g., floodplain
- Railroad tracks
- Lack of local jobs, especially for college-educated individuals; *young people moving away*
- Older housing stock; *cost to maintain*
- High rental vacancy
- Local government capacity; small staff members
- Heavy truck traffic
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Open House

About the Comprehensive Plan and the Open House

Local Planning and the Comprehensive Plan

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Your Thoughts and Feedback **on the draft Plan's directives,
shown in the poster set:**

Vision & Development Objectives

Future Land Use Maps

Priorities (2)

Next Steps: Draft Plan, Review, and Adoption

Welcome

Public Open House Poster Set

for the
Northumberland Borough & Point Township
Joint Comprehensive Plan

A 10-year Plan for
Community and Economic Development

March 26, 2026
5pm-7pm

Printing of this poster set
on a home printer is not advised.

Posters were formatted as 24" x 36" sheets.

Zoom/enlarge on screen to read text and maps.

Thank You

for your time and interest
in the future of our community.

If you are viewing this poster set online and
have comments or questions,
see slide 9 for the anticipated timeframe
of upcoming public meetings.

FAQs about the Comprehensive Plan

What is a comprehensive plan? Who is it for?

A comprehensive plan is a report (with charts and maps) that articulates a vision for a community's future development and the goals and objectives that will help achieve that vision over a 10-year planning horizon.

Once adopted, elected officials use the plan to prioritize:

- updates to municipal ordinances,
- capital improvements, and
- other initiatives

to maintain or improve quality of life in the local community.

Who leads the preparation of a comprehensive plan?

Local officials from Northumberland Borough and Point Township delegated the preparation of this plan update to a planning committee and contracted with Gannett Fleming, Inc. of Camp Hill, PA, now GFT Infrastructure, Inc., to facilitate data-gathering and analysis, public outreach, and preparation of the plan text and maps.

When the planning committee deems the draft complete, the Borough and Township planning commissions will review the draft plan and elected officials will review and adopt the plan—after conducting public meetings.

What does this comprehensive plan address?

The major elements of the plan include:

- projections of population, housing needs, working age residents, and jobs,
- a development vision for the community in the year 2035,
- goals and objectives for development regulations, infrastructure improvements, and service changes,
- priority projects and initiatives
- actions items.

Based on past trends, the population, housing unit count, and jobs have increased slightly (less than 5 percent) since 2000; slow growth is likely to continue.

The draft plan anticipates that current zoning can accommodate slow growth through 2024 and calls for:

- updating the zoning ordinances, primarily to address modern uses, like warehouses/distribution centers and data centers;
- publicizing public projects like roadway and utility improvements;
- building capacity for downtown revitalization
- exploring further recreational development along the riverfront
- expanding and diversifying agriculture as alternatives to traditional crop and livestock production.

Vision & Objectives for 2035

Vision

Residents of Northumberland Borough and the Point Township truly value the small-town, countryside, and riverside living that the community offers. As the community looks forward to its future, there is a cautious optimism about growth accompanied by a desire for thoughtful development that brings in new jobs, helps to fund new facilities and improved services, stewards natural resources, and sustains local heritage and culture.

1 ► Does the vision statement below represents what you, the residents, want the future development of the community?

Vision Statement for 2035

In 2035, the Norry-Point community will be an emerging riverfront destination...

...where small-town and suburban development patterns provide business and job opportunities across a variety of industries and housing choices aligned with local needs and income.

... with a vibrant, walkable, and accessible downtown where residents and visitors shop, socialize, and discover connections to local history and the river.

...where farms, woodlands, and pockets of green space yield food and forest products, conserve rural character, and protect environmental quality.

... with abundant access to outdoor recreation along the riverfront, in community parks, and along land and water trails.

Development Objectives

2 ► Are these the objectives and principles that officials should bear in mind as they update policies and consider annual budgets?

Land Use

Manage development to sustain small-town and rural characters; accommodate modern uses; and increase permitted use intensity in select locations.

Principles:

- Promote uses, activity, and public infrastructure that sustain Northumberland's role as a center of community activity.
- Support reuse of existing buildings and redevelopment of developed lands.
- Mix daily and weekly uses (shops, eateries, services, and parks) within walkable and bikeable distances and along transit routes.
- Expand existing development patterns where feasible.
- Manage development, such as building scale, building orientation, and parking and alternative access, to protect community character.
- Manage development impacts, such as drainage (stormwater), air and water pollutants, noise, and light, to protect environmental quality.

Economy

Increase economic development investment.

Principles:

- Accommodate diverse and growing industries, such as manufacturing, technology, healthcare, and tourism, as well as education and workforce training.
- Create a positive customer experience in downtown Northumberland—with beautified streetscapes, enhanced facades, and improved accessibility—to attract new businesses.
- Communicate regularly with county and regional economic development offices comparing local opportunity sites and market trends and interests.
- Encourage small business growth and startup interest, e.g., through referrals to regional and state resources.

Housing

Provide housing options for people at all stages of life.

Principles:

- Allow a variety of housing types, sizes, and densities within neighborhoods.
- Accommodate modern rental units and units suitable for first-time homebuyers.
- Accommodate housing options for seniors, including assisted living and independent living facilities, as well as support housing modifications for aging in place.
- Promote the maintenance and preservation of the current housing stock, especially multi-family housing and housing with historic significance.
- Support affordable living through varied housing options in walkable neighborhoods and along transit routes.
- Manage short-term rental housing to protect the availability and affordability of long-term housing.

Transportation

Provide safe, convenient local travel and transportation options and access to regional transportation systems.

Principles:

- Provide and maintain "complete streets" for all local users—pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and passenger and truck drivers. Complete streets are safe, accessible, and continuous facilities for each mode that is known to travel in corridor or segment.
- Maintain public roadways and operations in a state of good repair.
- Periodically assess safety hazards, including driver behavior and enforcement efforts, and determine needs for improvement.
- Coordinate with the regional transportation planning agency, the SEDA-COG MPO, to identify and prioritize improvement needs to the regional transportation system.

Community Facilities and Services

Maintain and enhance community facilities and services.

Principles:

- Assess community needs through environmental and system studies and citizen surveys.
- Provide public services to meet health, safety, and well-being of all residents.
- Enhance and/or expand municipal services, as feasibly supported by municipal budgets or cooperative arrangements.

Natural Resources

Protect natural features of significant economic or cultural value; restore ecological systems, where beneficial and feasible.

Principles:

- Protect high-quality agricultural soils from development.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as waterways, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, and habitats of rare, threatened, or endangered species, as designated by county, state, and federal agencies, from development and its impacts.
- Conserve locally valued natural features and protect them from development impacts.

Historical & Cultural Resources

Preserve and interpret historical and cultural resources for present and future generations.

Principles:

- Preserve the man-made features, records and stories that define the community's significance by its people, places, and events.
- Collect, document, and archive present-day people, places, and events.
- Provide educational programs, activities, and events to interpret features for residents and visitors.

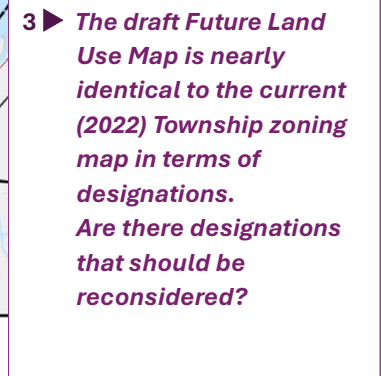
Future Land Use & Character Types

These 10 classifications identify patterns of land use (activity) and built form that Northumberland Borough and Point Township want to maintain or attain, as shown on the Future Land Use Maps. After plan adoption, these features should be formalized as regulation in the municipal zoning ordinances and/or subdivision and land development ordinances.

Land Use/ Character Type Color	Downtown Business <i>Brown</i>	Downtown Neighborhood <i>Peach</i>	Suburban Mixed Use <i>Red</i>	Suburban Neighborhood <i>Gold</i>	Countryside <i>Yellow</i>	Agri-Community <i>Lime Green</i>	Riverfront Conservation & Development <i>Moss Green</i>	Upland Conservation <i>Forest Green</i>	Industrial <i>Purple</i>	Regional Rail <i>Gray</i>	Land Use/ Character Type Color
Purpose:	Accommodate moderately intensive commercial and residential uses, including mixed-use buildings, in pedestrian-scale block and building patterns	Sustain existing urban neighborhood uses and built patterns; accommodate higher development intensity	Accommodate moderate-intensity uses and facilities to support commercial and economic development	Accommodate low- to medium-density neighborhood with complementary neighborhood-scale uses	Accommodate low-impact uses while conserving land and natural resources	Support agricultural use and other low-impact uses (e.g., agri-tourism, and recreational opportunities tied to farming)	Conserve the riverfront (ecosystem, floodplain, and scenic landscape); accommodate low-impact uses that support culture, recreation, and economy	Conserve woodlands and natural resources; allow very low-impact development	Accommodate intensive commercial and industrial uses	Accommodate freight rail and passenger rail service and facilities	Purpose:
Primary Uses:	Small- to medium-scale retail and office; institutional (educational, health care, social service and local government); medium and high-density housing	Medium and high density residential (ranging from single to multi-family units); neighborhood/small-scale commercial; and institutional (educational, health care, social service and local government)	Commercial retail and office; light industrial; warehousing and storage facilities; civic/cultural facilities; and institutional services (educational, health care, social service and local government)	Low-medium density residential uses (single-family homes, duplexes, townhomes)	Low-density residential uses (e.g. single family homes on large lots)	Farmland and agricultural production; Rural residential (farmsteads, homesteads)	Land and water management; Parks and Outdoor recreation; Cultural and Entertainment uses (e.g. interpretive center, outdoor performance space)	Woodlands	Manufacturing; Warehousing, storage/distribution; e-commerce/ fulfillment facilities; truck parking facilities	Freight rail facilities; rail maintenance facilities; rail station.	Primary Uses:
Secondary Uses:	Low-density residential (limited to existing homes and minor additions); recreation (mini or pocket parks)	Low density residential; recreation (mini and neighborhood parks, trails)	High- medium density residential; low-density residential (limited to existing homes and minor additions); recreation facilities (parks, trails, river access)	Limited home-based business; limited civic and institutional (educational, health care, social service and local government); neighborhood parks and trails	Recreation (parks and trails); small-scale commercial (shops); limited civic and institutional uses (educational, health care, social service and local government); agriculture	Small-scale retail (farm markets, home- and farm-based shops); agri-tourism (farm stays, tasting rooms, seasonal events); agri-recreation (pick-your-own farms, corn mazes, nature trails); educational and demonstration farms	Limited residential development; Limited small-scale commercial and retail (e.g., cafés, galleries, seasonal markets)	Outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, environmental education; trails); limited forest residential development	Commercial office; commercial retail, Research & Development labs; Recreation facilities (trails) and access	Commercial retail and services; Rail trail per rail owner/operator permission.	Secondary Uses:
Water & Sewer Service:	Public Water and Public Sewer	Public Water and Public Sewer	Public Water and Public Sewer	Public Water and Public Sewer	Public Water and Public Sewer, as provided; on-lot wells and on-lot septic systems	Public Water and Public Sewer, as provided; on-lot wells and on-lot septic systems	Public Water and Public Sewer, as provided; on-lot wells and on-lot septic systems	On-lot systems; public or community systems only to protect public health	Public Water and Public Sewer	Public Water and Public Sewer	Water & Sewer Service:
Transportation System:	Gridded streets, signals, as warranted; bus transit routes and stops; sidewalks/crosswalks/pedestrian signals; on-road bike lanes, bike racks, repair stations; on-street and off-street parking (as side, rear, or structured parking)	Gridded streets; bus transit routes and stops; sidewalks/crosswalks; on-road bike lanes, bike racks; off-road trails, bike repair stations	Interconnected streets and active transportation networks; bus transit routes and stops; sidewalks/crosswalks or pedestrian/bicycle paths; on-road bike lanes; bike racks, repair stations; off-street parking	Interconnected streets; pedestrian/ bicycle paths (especially to schools and parks); shoulders/crosswalks; sharrows/ shared roads; off-street parking	Collector and local streets; rural roads; pedestrian/bicycle paths; off-road trails	Collector and local streets; rural roads; multi-use trails (walking, biking, horseback riding); limited public transit (seasonal or demand-based, e.g. tourism shuttles)	Local roads; on-road and off-road pedestrian/bicycle trails; river/stream access; limited public transit (seasonal or demand-based, e.g. tourism shuttles)	Rural roads; on-road and off-road pedestrian/bicycle trails	Collector roads and local streets; sidewalks where appropriate; bus transit service and stops/shelters	Freight transportation; potential regional passenger rail; rail crossing facilities and warning signals; rail trail	Transportation System:
Natural Resource Priorities:	Street trees/urban forestry; bioswales; emphasis on native species; flood mitigation and stormwater management.	Street trees/urban forestry; bioswales; emphasis on native and pollinator species	Urban forestry; minimize impervious surface, maximize pervious materials and infiltration; natural area site buffers and management; flood mitigation and stormwater management; native tree/landscape species	Open space conservation/greenways; riparian and wetland buffers; forest and habitat conservation; minimal impervious cover and maximum infiltration	Agricultural land/soil preservation; waterway (riparian) and wetland buffers; forest and habitat conservation; wellhead protection	Soil conservation and erosion control; sustainable land management practices; riparian buffers; minimal impervious cover and maximum infiltration	Waterway (riparian) and wetland buffers; water/stream access; flood mitigation and stormwater management.	Forest and habitat conservation; Waterway (riparian) and wetland protection; water/stream access	Waterway (riparian) and wetland buffers; wellhead protection; natural area buffers and management; flood mitigation and stormwater management.	Waterway (riparian) and wetland buffers; natural area site buffers and management; flood mitigation and stormwater management.	Natural Resource Priorities:
Historic Resource Priorities:	Adaptive reuse of historic structures and sites; conserved building facades; use of compatible/complementary design features; National Register nominations	Adaptive reuse of historic structures and sites; use of compatible/complementary design features; National Register nominations	Adaptive reuse of historic structures and sites; use of compatible/complementary design features in new construction, infill, or re-development	Use of compatible/complementary design features in new construction, infill, or re-development.	Adaptive reuse of historic structures and sites (including barns and mills, farmsteads, rural landscapes)	Preservation of historic farm structures; interpretation of agricultural heritage; adaptive reuse of farm structures as tourism and education facilities	Preservation of cultural landscapes and viewsheds	Adaptive reuse of historic structures and sites; historic landscape designations	Adaptive reuse of historic/existing industrial structures and sites; use of compatible/complementary design features in new or re-development; interpretive murals	Adaptive reuse of historic/existing rail structure and rail lines; education signage and display to highlight history of rail	Historic Resource Priorities:
Design Characteristics:	Minimal setbacks; active ground floor façades (doors and windows), street furniture; wayfinding signage; commercial signage standards; murals and public art; pedestrian lighting; planters/garden boxes and baskets	Compatible setbacks; lighting; on-street and off-street parking (as side, rear, or structured parking)	Mixed-uses within sites and within structures; moderate setbacks; streetscapes and plazas; setbacks consistent with neighborhood character; buffers; lighting in public street facing areas.	Maintain neighborhood character; Street trees and lighting in parks; landscape buffers; setbacks consistent with neighborhood character; low impact lighting	Landscaped buffers; large setbacks, low impact lighting, integration with natural topography and viewsheds.	Large setbacks and open fields; rustic and natural materials; minimal lighting to preserve night skies; limited commercial signage to preserve rural character; interpretive signage	Mixed uses within sites and within structures; setbacks compatible with adjacent uses; signage standards	Landscaped buffers; large setbacks; low impact lighting.	Compatible or buffered building scale and height toward adjacent non-industrial properties and streets; signage standards; street trees on frontages; lighting	Lighting at crossings; screen and landscape buffers to adjacent residential uses; signage standards	Design Characteristics:
Land Use Practices & Tools:	Infill/Redevelopment; Transfer of Development Rights (receiving zone); Business Improvement Districts (BIDs); Architectural Design Guidelines, Parking Management Strategies	Infill/Redevelopment; Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND); Transfer of Development Rights (receiving zone); Architectural Design Guidelines	Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND); Transfer of Development Rights (receiving zone); Roadway/Highway Access Management, Complete Streets (Policy), Planned Unit Developments (PUDs)	Low Impact Development (LID); Clustered Development; Conservation Subdivision; Transfer of Development Rights (sending zone); Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) principles.	Low Impact Development (LID); Clustered Development; Conservation Design; Transfer of Development Rights (sending zone)	Agricultural Conservation Easements; Cluster development to preserve farmland; Agritourism zoning overlays; Right-to-Farm protections; Transfer of Development Rights (sending zone); Low Impact Development	Conservation easements; Floodplain regulations; Riparian buffer ordinance; Clustered Development	Large-Lot or Conservation Subdivision Zoning; Conservation Easements; Riparian buffer ordinance; Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs; sending zone); Timber Harvest Regulations	Industrial Performance Standards (environmental); Road/Highway Access Management; Environmental Impact Review; Brownfield Redevelopment Incentives.	Performance Standards (environmental); Road/Highway Access Management; Environmental Impact Review	Land Use Practices & Tools:
Reference Pattern of Development:	Downtown Selinsgrove, Downtown Bloomsburg, Downtown Danville, Downtown Lewisburg	Neighborhoods within the boroughs of Selinsgrove, Bloomsburg, etc.	Country Cupboard (Lewisburg), Proposed Redevelopment of former Kmart headquarters (Troy, Michigan)			Agri-tourism farms: Ard's Farm (Lewisburg, PA), Cherry Crest Farm (Lancaster, PA), Schantz Haus (Davidsville, PA), Hope Hill Lavender Farm (Pottsville, PA)	City of Warren Riverfront, Live Oak Bank Pavilion Riverfront Park (Wilmington, NC)	Kittatinny Ridge Corridor, Carbon County, PA	Bridgeworks Enterprise Center (Allentown, PA)	Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (restoration of passenger rail service), York County Heritage Rail Trail County Park	Reference Pattern of Development:

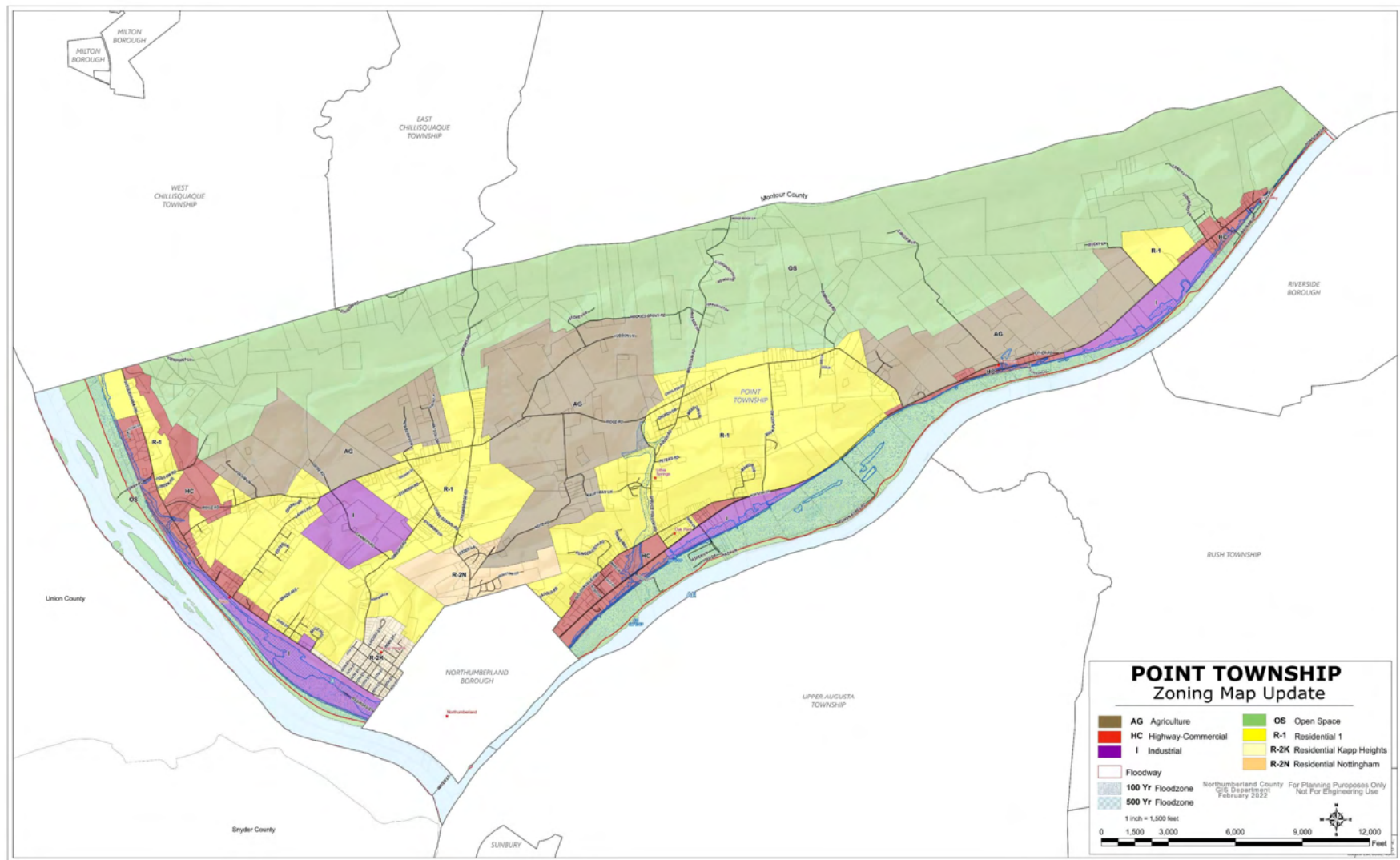
Preferred Future Development Pattern; implemented through the Township Zoning Ordinance & Map

See next slide for zoning map at the same size as future land use map.



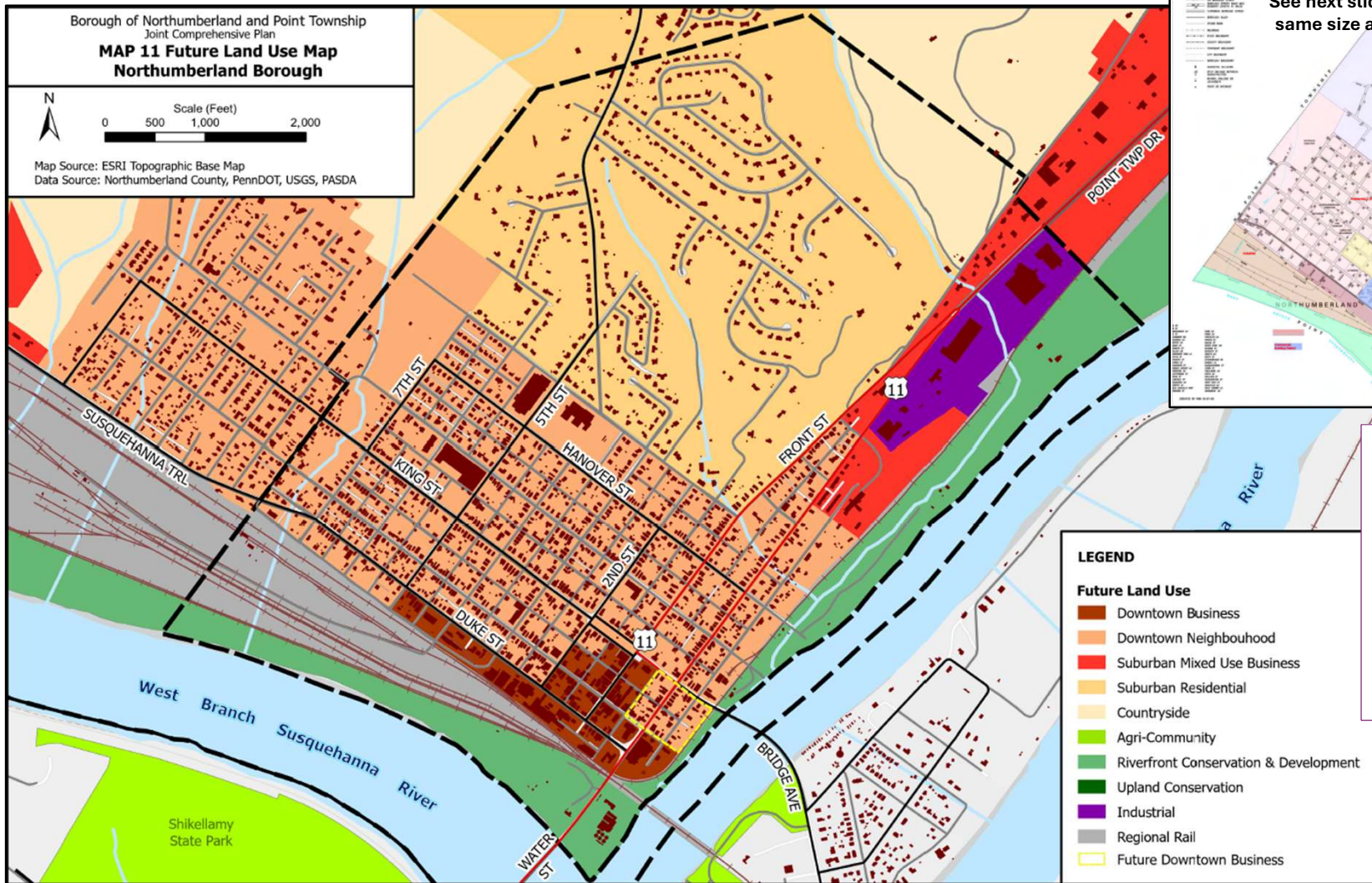
Future Land Use Map – Point Township

Preferred Future Development Pattern; implemented through the Township Zoning Ordinance & Map



Future Land Use - Northumberland

Preferred Future Development Pattern; implemented through the Borough Zoning Ordinance & Map



See next slide for zoning map at the same size as future land use map.

4 ► *The draft Future Land Use Map is nearly identical to the current Borough zoning map in terms of designations. Are there designations that should be reconsidered?*

Zoning Map- Northumberland

Relabeled for clarity



Priorities

Zoning Updates

► UPDATE ZONING ORDINANCES AND ZONING MAPS

1. **Review guidance and model municipal ordinances for new and emerging uses** from state and county sources for the following.

Utility-Scale Solar & Agrivoltaics

- Utility-scale solar installations
- Agrivoltaics, which combine solar installations with active farming.

Data Centers & AI Infrastructure

- Data centers.

Logistics, E-Commerce, and Last-Mile Delivery

- Micro-fulfillment centers, which can also supply products to nearby retail stores
- Dark stores, i.e., retail spaces used only for online order fulfillment
- Autonomous vehicle staging or charging areas, where vehicles await their next load.

Urban Agriculture & Food Systems

- Vertical farms, i.e., layered production often using soilless growing methods
- Hydroponic and aquaponic facilities
- Rooftop garden boxes and greenhouses, particularly on a household scale
- Urban livestock (e.g., chickens, bees), similarly on a household scale

Agritourism & On-Farm Experiences

- Farm visits
- Harvest festivals
- U-pick operations for fruits and vegetables

Creative Expression & Cultural Uses

- Live-work artist studios
- Artisan manufacturing, single or co-tenant
- Pop-up retail or temporary event spaces
- Performance facilities, indoor and outdoor

Flexible Mixed-Use and Hybrid Spaces

- Hybrid retail/production spaces, operated for one or more producers
- Live-work-light-industrial combinations, such as for glass, metal, or material production or processing

New Housing Typologies

- Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
- Tiny homes and tiny-home villages
- Modular and prefabricated housing
- Missing-middle housing types (duplexes, triplexes, courtyard apartments)

Accessory Uses for Electric and Autonomous Mobility

- EV charging stations (public and private)
- Electric bike/scooter share hubs
- Autonomous vehicle drop-off and pick-up zones
- Mobility hubs, combining transit, micromobility, and rideshare access; more common in larger urban centers

- 5 ► **Are there land uses that you are particularly in favor of or concerned about, from this list or other? Let us know. The plan can recommend that officials consider potential requirements or impacts of new uses before in making future regulatory updates.**

Local Roads & Infrastructure

► PUBLICIZE PLANNED AND SCHEDULED PROJECTS VOLUMES

1. **Continue to regularly maintain and improve the street and roadway network**, including drainage, and **to publicize planned and completed projects.**
2. **Maintain and enhance water and wastewater system efficiency** by improving conveyance systems (reducing water loss in water lines, and inflow and infiltration in sewer lines).

► MONITOR CHANGING TRAFFIC PATTERNS & VOLUMES

1. **Track traffic volumes (total and truck-specific) on Ridge Road and US Route 11 as PennDOT releases traffic counts over the next five years.** Traffic patterns are indeed changing due in part to the northern section of CSVT being open to traffic.

Average annual daily traffic on Ridge Road has increased, slightly. While traffic volumes along Ridge Road has grown, values for total traffic and trucks remain at the low end of PennDOT's traffic volume scales for roadways of the same class (major collector).

2022: 1,913 vehicles per day, including 96 trucks.

2025: 2,039 vehicles per day (+126), including 103 trucks (+7).

Average annual daily traffic on US Route 11 has decreased.

2022: 13,202 per day between King Street and the Borough line and >12,000 on other segments

2025: <10,000 per day between King Street and the Borough line and <12,000 on other segments

An additional increase in traffic on Ridge Road can reasonably be expected when the southern section of CSVT is complete. Increased traffic on Ridge Road will cause greater wear and tear on the pavement, pavement markings, etc., requiring increased maintenance by PennDOT. It may also create delays for motorists entering Ridge Road at intersections and from private driveways. Both are typical and expected impacts of incremental traffic growth.

PennDOT's position has been that the traffic increase is expected to be manageable with minor improvements. PennDOT is currently designing minor improvements to intersections and flatten several curves.

6 ► **Do you see these or other priority needs for mobility and local infrastructure?**

► ENHANCE / EXTEND BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

1. **Adopt a Complete Streets Policy that frames local commitment to safe, accessible bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.** The SEDACOG MPO has prepared a model policy and checklist for municipal review and customization.
2. **Continue to pursue priority projects of the 2019 Bicycle-Pedestrian Audit:**
 - **The Point Riverfront Trail**, a 0.6-mile gravel trail along the confluence of the North Branch and West Branches in Northumberland. Estimated cost of \$200,000, for design and construction, and additional \$380,000 to stabilize the riverbanks.
Status: This concept has been hindered by Norfolk Southern's resistance to allow the trail to pass beneath the railroad bridge.
Alternate Route: If the railroad bridge remains a barrier to trail development, consider an alternate route that would connect the Joseph Prestitley House and Acorn Fields with the Point via a parallel on-street route, such as Prestitley to Queen, crossing to the north side of Water to the pedestrian underpass of the railroad to Pineknott Park to the Point.
 - **North Branch Canal Trail to Danville** – see Riverfront Development
 - **Intersection Enhancements** – PennDOT's 2023 intersection improvements did not improve the visibility of the crosswalks, which are designated pedestrian street-crossing locations. The Borough should request that PennDOT install high-visibility crosswalks at all marked pedestrian crossings of state highways through the Borough. Maintenance of the high-visibility pavement parkings should be discussed prior to installation.

Priorities

Downtown Revitalization

By improving the streetscape, supporting local businesses and entrepreneurship, and creating opportunities for housing, the downtown can become a more attractive and active destination—filling underutilized and vacant spaces, generating jobs, and bringing more everyday life to the streets.

► BUILD CAPACITY FOR REVITALIZATION

1. **Identify officials, citizen and business volunteers willing to help.** Solicit their ideas for low-cost and sponsored improvements, events, and activities in downtown. Pursue 1-2 feasible suggestions per year under their leadership or with their assistance.
2. **Ensure the Borough Planning Commission membership includes a downtown perspective.** If needed, identify candidates for the next vacancy.
3. **Explore revitalization support services** (and cost) available from SEDA-COG.

7 ► **Are these steps realistic and within reach?**

► EXPLORE SUCCESSFUL REVITALIZATION EXAMPLES

1. **Identify examples of successful revitalization**—in small communities, riverfront communities, and clustered communities pursuing revitalization. Ask SEDA-COG, PA DCED, and the PA Downtown Center for examples and contact information.
2. **Contact/Visit suggested communities.** Ask about their experience. Explore their marketing, make a visit, observe building, street/sidewalk, and parking conditions, and drop into businesses to chat with owners and managers about what's working.
3. **Select 2-3 communities as peer communities**—people who can continue to share experiences and give guidance, informally.

► SELECT A REVITALIZATION MODEL OR PROGRAM

1. **Explore several proven downtown revitalization program models.** Attend webinars and conferences, learn what each program offers, and what each program expects or requires.
2. **Evaluate which program is best suited** to Northumberland, its character, and its revitalization leadership—whether Council and staff, or Council and volunteers, or a combination.
3. **Establish an organizational structure** for revitalization the next 2-3 years. Define a purpose or mission statement to keep the work on track—again just for the next few years.

► DEFINE A DOWNTOWN IDENTITY, VISION, AND GOALS

1. **Define the features and qualities that distinguish the downtown** so that these elements can be maintained protected and qualities can be sustained.
2. **Develop a vision for downtown in 5-10 years.** Imagine what downtown could offer as a business location (advantage) and a customer/visitor experience—from arrival and circulation to the mix of retail, restaurant, and services—aspects that would make it a worthy destination.
3. **Identify a few goals**—future conditions that Borough and volunteers will work achieve.

Note: These "definitions" are required by all formal revitalization programs. They take time to develop, incorporate with feedback from a wide array of stakeholders, and refine—again these are 2-3 year tools and can be revisited as goals are achieved and other conditions change.

► FOCUS ON A FEW BLOCKS

1. **Assess where current downtown conditions are closest to goals.** For example, this might be the 000 and 100 blocks of Queen Street and the 200 block of Front Street. It might include more or fewer blocks on these or other streets, like the 000 block of King Street or portions of Duke Street.
2. **Determine if efforts should continue in these blocks only or be expanded.** Consider the time and resources available, program guidance, and the experience of peer communities.
3. **Develop and implement a 2-3 year action plan to improve the "focus" blocks.** Report progress and accomplishments, and acknowledge volunteers.

Riverfront Development

Northumberland Borough and Point Township are uniquely bordered by two branches of the Susquehanna River, yet the town community is minimally connected to the riverfronts and waterways. The Norfolk Southern railyard impedes access to the West Branch and the North Shore rail line, to the North Branch.

The river could be a powerful tool for economic development and tourism. Any or all of the following concepts could be explored and refined, connecting the community to the river and enhancing its role as a cultural and economic engine that supports local businesses, draws visitors, and enhances quality of life.

► A Central Susquehanna Heritage Park

1. **Determine the County's long-term interest in parcel ownership and short-term support for interim development.** Master planning could take several years and significant funding. Interim development of small-scale features could be accomplished and begin to yield public benefits and potential private investment interest.
2. **Identify examples of similar parks/facilities and potential operational models.** Talk with owners/managers about their planning, development, and operations experiences. Visit sites for firsthand experience of space, facilities, and amenities. Evaluate which facilities, features, and amenities are desirable for the local site.
3. **Explore (and begin to assemble) potential regional planning and development partners,** e.g., SEDA-COG, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, and PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and Bureau of State Parks.

► A Riverfront Business District

The Future Land Use Map shows a future business district between Water Street and Bridge Avenue, as well as the adjacent blocks toward downtown. This 4-block area sits on a bluff above the North Branch, protected from most frequent flooding. With management of the vegetation at the top of the bank, this area could offer views of the river for dining and private events at food and beverage establishments.

1. **Assess property owner interest and market feasibility.**
2. **Conduct site assessment and initial planning.**
3. **Update zoning and associated ordinances.**

8 ► **Do you see the riverfront playing a stronger or different role in the community in the future? How so?**

► North Branch Canal Trail

The North Branch Canal Trail is envisioned as a multi-municipal greenway corridor that adaptively reuses the historic North Branch Pennsylvania Canal and towpath to provide a continuous, low-impact recreational route along the Susquehanna River. The trail will connect river towns, celebrate cultural heritage, support healthy lifestyles, strengthen local economies, and protect natural and scenic resources, while functioning as a key land-based component of the Susquehanna Greenway network. It was originally planned to connect Danville, Montour County to Catawissa, Columbia County to Bloomsburg, also Columbia County. Efforts to plan and build the trail have been led by the Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC), in cooperation with Columbia County.

1. **Explore County support for trail extension.**
2. **Seek coordination or partnership with MARC.**
3. **Assess property owner interest.**
4. **Conduct trail feasibility/master planning to determine segment phasing.**

Draft, Review & Adoption

When and where can I see the full draft plan?

The planning committee will review comments following the open house and determine if revisions are needed. They anticipate that the draft plan will be posted on the Borough and Township websites in early to mid April.

Who will review the draft plan?

The municipal planning commissions will each conduct a public meeting before taking action to recommend the draft plan to the elected officials. Check the municipal websites for upcoming planning commission meeting dates and agendas—potentially April 21 for the Township planning committee and April 23 for the Borough planning commission.

Northumberland County, the school district, and adjoining municipalities will also have an opportunity to review and provide comments.

The elected officials will each advertise and conduct a public hearing before taking action to adopt the comprehensive plan. Dates have not yet been established. Watch for public notices in the Daily Item or check municipal websites for advertised dates.

Adoption is anticipated at Council and Board meetings in June or July.

9 ► Tonight's Final Feedback

How do you see yourself being involved in shaping the future of Northumberland Borough and Point Township?

Whether you want to “keep it the way it is” or to change/improve specific conditions, both take time and effort.

If you would be interested in sharing your knowledge, skills, or abilities to advance one or more of the priorities, provide your name and contact information on the comment sheet. This is not a commitment, just an openness to be contacted. Your information will not be shared.

Drop your comment sheet in the box at the sign-in table.

Open House Attendance & Comments

Attendance

Twenty-two (22) people attended the open house, plus six (6) planning committee members, two (2) consultants, and the township office assistant. Seven (7) attendees provided an email address on the sign-in sheet.

Attendees heard about the open house via:

- Borough/Township website - **0**
- Daily Item - **2**
- Social Media - **5**
- Pineknott News - **3**
- Other - **2**

Four (4) comment forms were submitted; two (2) listed name, email, and phone number.

Though unable to attend, Jeff Johnstonbaugh, Director of the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library, and Wes Farhringer, PA DCNR, contacted the project manager to express interest in helping to implement the plan. Additionally, the Northumberland County Commissioners were unable to attend and the office requested more information.

Overview Presentation and Q&A

The project manager, Michelle Brummer, AICP, spoke about the purpose of the comprehensive plan and introduced a series of five posters that presented text and future land use maps from the draft plan.

Questions following this overview included:

1. *Is this (open house) information available online? It's a lot to read.*

A link will be posted online next week. The full draft plan will be posted after the committee considers the comments from the open house.

2. *Are there recommendations for shared services between Northumberland Borough and Point Township? The article indicates that the citizens expressed support for shared services in their survey responses.*

The Borough and Township are informally working toward better communication and cooperation. As these basic practices improve, they can consider more formal cooperation for specific municipal services.

General Comments

Submitted on the comment form or reported from conversations by the consultant

1. Which projects/initiatives are most likely to improve the community over the long term? Why?

- *I would like an opportunity to review the final draft plan before issuing final public comment.*
- *Sharing services with Northumberland, such as police and fire.*
- *Economies of scale reduce cost to the municipality and to the taxpayer. (verbal)*

2. Which recommendation(s) are you ready or hesitant to support? Why?

- *Please consider delaying the joint comp plan until after the meeting with PennDOT.*

3. Were any critical issues missed? What is the issue and how do you feel it should be addressed?

- *More focus on Ridge Rd. and the increased traffic to make Ridge Rd. safer while making more areas along Ridge Rd. for highway commercial areas. Especially near gas lines and public sewer.*
- *Where are the cost-saving proposals for shared services?*

Open House Attendance & Comments

- *The Arts and Appreciation. Fine and performing arts are a part of the community and need local, public space for display and performance. (verbal)*

Specific Comments

1 ► Does the vision statement represent what you, the residents, want the future development of the community?

- ☐ Yes, as drafted - **2**
- ☐ Yes, if modified to mention: 0

2 ► Are these the objectives and principles that officials should bear in mind as they update policies and consider annual budgets?

- ☐ Yes, as drafted - **2**
- ☐ Yes, if modified to mention: 0

3 ► The draft Future Land Use Map is nearly identical to the current (2022) Township zoning map in terms of designations. Are there designations that should be reconsidered?

- *Agri-community (and) Countryside (see #5)*
- *No*

4 ► The draft Future Land Use Map is nearly identical to the current Borough zoning map in terms of designations. Are there designations that should be reconsidered?

- *We don't want any allowable uses in current zoning taken away from property owners.*
- *No*

5 ► Are there land uses that you are particularly in favor of or concerned about, from the list of modern land uses under Update Zoning?

- ☐ I'm particularly supportive of uses, such as (X because Y): **0**

- ☐ I'm concerned about uses, such as (X because Y): **2**

- *We would like to be notified if any current or existing zoning definitions or classifications are changed or proposed to be changed. Please consider making a residential-highway commercial district along highways like Ridge Rd., where it can be done safely.*
- *Agri-community (and) Countryside because of housing development.*

6 ► Do you see these or other priority needs for mobility and local infrastructure?

- *No*

7 ► Are these steps for downtown revitalization realistic and within reach?

- *Doubtful*
- *Yes*

8 ► Do you see the riverfront playing a stronger or different role in the community in the future? How so?

- *Yes, recreation and camping and future entertainment opportunities.*
- *No, scenery and activities are limited.*
- *(Yes) Canal trail to Danville*
- *(Yes) Bring more people to the area and to local businesses*

9 ► How can you help to shape the future of Northumberland Borough and Point Township? Which projects or initiatives would you consider supporting with your volunteer time skills, knowledge or other resources?

The names and contact information of the two respondents will be provided to the municipal offices only.