

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



INTRODUCTION

Lower Allen Township is updating its 2006 Comprehensive Plan to identify and prioritize the Township's strategic goals and objectives for the next 10-year horizon. The Plan will serve as a blueprint for the Township to address challenges in the community and build upon and improve existing community assets.

As a key foundation to "implementable" plans, the Township will identify the top 5-10 key issues or challenges that are present in Lower Allen today and outline an implementation strategy with short-term, intermediate, and long-term action items. The issue identification process will be informed through quantitative data collection and a robust community engagement plan to draw upon local, qualitative information and insight.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

In Pennsylvania, county governments are required to prepare and adopt Comprehensive Plans every 10 years as a mechanism to study land use and to create a policy guide for decision making. These plans outline existing conditions – demographics, housing, employment, parks and recreation, transportation, water and sewer, and others – and then craft strategic goals and objectives to improve a community's livability, sustainability, and public services.

While municipalities such as cities, townships, and boroughs are not required by Pennsylvania law to conduct comprehensive plans, many municipalities opt to as a commonly acknowledged best practice in local government.





Comprehensive Plan Schedule 2017

January – March

- Research and data collection to establish existing conditions
- CAC meetings commence
- Stakeholder interviews and focus groups

April – June

- Issue identification and prioritization
- Visioning Week public participation
- Online public survey

July – September

- Goals and objectives
- Implementation strategy

October – December

- Draft plan
- Public Open House
- Plan adoption

HOW RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND PROPERTY OWNERS CAN BE INVOLVED

The Township has developed a community engagement plan that includes a multifaceted approach to receive public input throughout the planning process. By collaborating with residents and stakeholders throughout plan development, the Township aims to build a consensus-based vision for issue identification and implementation.

Public engagement opportunities will include:

- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Stakeholder interviews and focus groups
- Online public survey
- Visioning Week featuring multiple public events
- Public Open House to review draft plan

More information about each of these public involvement opportunities will be available on the Township's website beginning in March 2017.

ABOUT THE CONSULTANT TEAM

Lower Allen Township selected Michael Baker International through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process to serve as the prime consultant for the plan. Michael Baker has provided community planning and engineering expertise to public- and private-sector clients in Pennsylvania and across the nation for more than 75 years. Vernon Land Use, LLC is supporting Michael Baker as a sub-consultant and specializes in community engagement.

LEARN MORE

Contact: Erin Trone
Assistant Manager
Lower Allen Township
717-975-7575
etrone@latwp.org