

Call to Action

For decades, community planning has played a significant role in Kennett Township government. The Township has a history of pro-active planning efforts. The Township's Planning Commission (KTPC) was formed in 1964 and has since actively responded to planning and development issues.



The first Township Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 1971 with major revisions completed in 1982, 1992, 2004, and most recently with this 2015 Plan update. Recommendations of those plans have served as the basis for zoning and land development ordinance revisions, creation of several township commissions to assist the Board of Supervisors, and initiation of many other planning-related efforts in the Township. It is *critical* to the Township to continue this tradition of pro-active planning into the future.

Since the time of the last Comprehensive Plan in 2004, population increases, demographic shifts, land use changes, and growth pressure in the Township as well as the 2008 global economic recession have contributed to the need to revisit Comprehensive Plan policies and recommendations. These factors have been accompanied by increases in traffic, greater demand for public services, increased pressure on sensitive resources, and changes to the Township's traditional rural landscape. Loss of farmlands, woodlands, historic structures, and open spaces has contributed to changes in the Township's traditional rural character. These changes are of *clear* concern to the Township whose overarching goal is to retain its traditional rural character and quality of life for its residents while still addressing and responding to inevitable change. The Township recognizes a balance is needed between meeting changing demands and the ability of the land to sustain development and new uses. Through this Plan, the Township seeks to establish principles on which planning decisions are based on environmentally sound and sustainable principles, infrastructure capabilities, and the need to meet legal requirements. All of these factors led to the initiation of this 2015 Township Comprehensive Plan update.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan defines public policy for short and long range municipal planning. It is not an ordinance; rather it provides critical policy support for municipal zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances and other municipal regulatory documents.

Kennett Township's Comprehensive Plan defines the policy direction and identifies recommended strategies to guide decisions on land use, natural and historic resources, circulation, community facilities, and regional planning. This 2015 Comprehensive Plan provides a 10 to 20 year vision for the Township.

The Comprehensive Plan is required under state law. It is enabled under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA MPC), Act 247 of 1968, as amended. Kennett Township's Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the requirements of the PA MPC.

How is this Plan organized?

Kennett Township’s Comprehensive Plan is comprised of three main components:

1. A set of **planning goals and objectives** that comprise the planning policies of the Township. The goals and objectives serve as guidelines for directing future growth and development, community services, infrastructure, resource protection, energy conservation, and cooperative planning in the Township and provide a framework for recommended plan strategies. (Chapter 2)
2. A set of **plan chapters** that inventory and analyze existing conditions and their implications, and provide resulting planning recommendations. Existing conditions include trends, patterns, and influences in population, housing, land use, community facilities and services, and transportation in the Township as well as natural resources, historic and scenic resources, and regional influences. An understanding of these conditions and their implications for the future are essential to developing plan recommendations. The planning recommendations serve as ‘the centerpiece’ of the Comprehensive Plan and suggest the strategies for achieving the Township’s vision for the future. (Chapters 4 - 13)
3. An **implementation plan** that serves as a reference and summary of all plan recommendations. It provides the timeframe and priority, key parties to be involved, and primary approach(es) for implementing recommendations. Also included is a cross-reference to the plan chapter where a more detailed discussion of a recommendation can be found. (Chapter 2)

Community context information from a regional and demographic perspective (Chapter 3) and relevant mapping is also included within this Plan update.

Plan Update Process

KTPC, among other duties, is responsible for the preparation of and monitoring the implementation of the Township Comprehensive Plan. This Plan update is the product of the KTPC with active input from other Township groups, the Township Board of Supervisors, and the public. The Board of Supervisors authorized the update to the Plan. Township groups, including the Environmental Advisory Council and Historic Commission, advised on subjects specific to their duties. Monthly KTPC meetings where the Plan update was discussed were advertised and open to the public to attend and ask questions. Public input was also sought through a public information meeting in Fall 2014 and Public Hearing in Summer 2015. Coordination and consistency with *Kennett Area Regional Comprehensive Plan*¹ and Chester County Comprehensive Policy Plan, *Landscapes*², was also considered. The 2015 Kennett Township Comprehensive Plan should continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and revised as needed to address changing situations. The Plan should be evaluated and updated every 10 years per state law, the PA MPC.



¹ Kennett Area Regional Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2000 by the townships of Kennett, Pennsbury, Pocopson, and East Marlborough and the Borough of Kennett Square. These five communities as well as New Garden Township comprise the Kennett Area Regional Planning Commission (KARPC), however New Garden Township chose at the time to not participate in the regional comprehensive planning process.