



Great things are happening here!

Police Department

Fire Department

County Seat

Municipal Services

Washington & Jefferson College

Public Water and Sewer

Community organizations

Elm Street Program

Small town feel

Main Street Program

Washington Area School District

Washington Hospital

Citizen's Library

Civic Pride

Recycling

Washington Park

Community Events

Neighborhood Playgrounds

Neighborhood Pool (at Park)

Arts Community

This page is intentionally left blank



Community facilities are often a broad topic and can span many types of services provided – everything from basic utilities to schools and public safety to amenities such as libraries and social clubs and organizations. These services have a great impact both on residents’ quality of life but also on the decision of businesses to locate within the City and Borough, and more importantly, impact upon municipal budgets. Examining the services offered may yield important areas where partnerships can be created and money saved, and may also reveal areas where services can be improved, or where new services are needed.

Community Amenities Questions to Consider:

- ☒ What do municipal service providers need to improve?
- ☒ What are the areas where partnerships make sense? Which are feasible?
- ☒ How can residents be better served?

A. COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

City of Washington

Administration

The City of Washington is a Third Class City and is run by a strong mayor-council form of government. The council consists of the mayor and four members elected by residents for four-year overlapping terms. The City consists of the following departments: Shade Tree Commission, Police Department, Fire Department, Street Department, Washington Park, Parking Authority, Garage/Electrical, and Accounts and Finance.

The City also has the following committees:

- ◆ Planning Commission
- ◆ Economic Development Council
- ◆ Zoning Hearing Board
- ◆ Appeals Board
- ◆ Civil Service Board
- ◆ Business District Authority and Board



The taxing structure of local municipalities is dictated by Pennsylvania law. Certain properties, including churches, non-profit cemeteries, public property, schools, and libraries are classified as tax-exempt which means they pay no taxes to taxing authorities. Local taxes can include property tax, occupational privilege tax, and earned income tax.

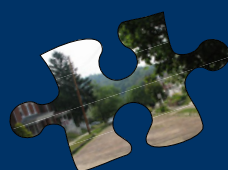
In the past five years millage rates have changed within the City of Washington. [Table 6-1](#) displays rates from 2006 to 2010. Millage rates increased from 2008 to 2010; however they are currently lower than what they were in 2007 and 2006. The City uses the Land Value Tax (LVT) system that is different than the traditional property tax. The LVT system puts the tax upon the land, not the building or property on the land.

Table 6-1: Mileage rates within the City of Washington (2006-2010)					
<i>Year</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
Land	107.63	100.63	82.63	210.52	210.52
Building	3.5	3.5	3.5	14	14
Total	111.13	104.13	86.13	224.52	224.52

Budget

Anticipated revenue for the City's 2011 budget was \$11,837,936. Revenues comes from a variety of sources within the City; real estate taxes, Act 511 taxes, licenses and permits, fines and forfeits, interest, rents, and royalties, grants/intergovernmental revenue, department earnings/CHGS services, and miscellaneous revenue receipts. Other financing receipts in the 2011 budget include the sale of property, equipment, and supplies, interfund operating transfers, and proceeds/short term debt. Real estate taxes make up almost half of the total revenues the City receives. The second biggest source of revenue is Act 511 taxes, which is also referred to as the Local Tax Enabling Act, which authorizes a variety of different taxes for municipalities and school districts. These include the earned income tax, amusement tax, mercantile tax, per capita tax, occupation tax, and business privilege tax. In the anticipated 2011 revenue the Act 511 taxes make up 17 percent of the total revenues to be received by the City.

Anticipated expenditures for the City's 2011 budget were \$11,837,935. Total



expenditures include departmental expenditures, miscellaneous expenditures, interfund operating transfers, and debt service. Departmental expenditures include public affairs, accounts and finance, public safety, public works, and parks and public buildings.

Departmental expenditures make up almost half of the total expenditures of the City, at 46 percent. Of that public affairs and public safety respectively are the top two most expensive departments. The public affairs department includes salaries and expenses for the City Clerk, Solicitor, Grant Administration, Police Protection, Electric/Safety, and the Parking Office. The public safety department includes salaries and expenses for fire protection and code enforcement.

Miscellaneous expenses include contributions to pensions, insurance, dues, Social Security/Medicare. Debt service includes payments towards loans and bonds.

Fire Protection

The City of Washington Fire Department provides fire protection services for the City of Washington and East Washington Borough, who has a contract with the City. The Fire Department is a completely paid department with 21 firefighters and one chief and no volunteers. The main funding sources consist of the city budget, Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), other grants, and donations. The department is not permitted to hold fundraisers. Many members of the department are certified in various fields; two are certified as paramedics, 18 as EMTs, and one as a first responder.

In 2010, the department responded to 1,600 calls, which included fire alarms, accidents, and emergency medical services. However, in terms of emergency medical services, the department does not transport, that is the responsibility of Washington Ambulance.

Currently the Fire Department is located by the Washington County Courthouse and Washington County jail. There are potential plans to relocate the department along State Route 19 as part of the State Route 19



Corridor Project. The Redevelopment Authority of Washington County is trying to secure the property for the department to provide a more centrally located building. The current building could then be sold and it is thought that the County may be willing to buy it since it is in close proximity to the Courthouse and Jail.

Police

The City of Washington Police Department has thirty (30) full-time officers. The City should have between thirty-one and thirty-two but due to recent retirements they are understaffed. The City is currently working to get those positions filled. All officers are Act 120 certified as required by Pennsylvania. Act 120 is the Municipal Police Officer's Training Academy and is certified by the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Police officers are required to live within ten miles of the City's boundaries. Currently the department only provides service to the City of Washington. However, if another municipality is in need of help they will respond.

Most of the funding of the department comes from the City of Washington. The department occasionally receives grants from the state; however it is not a significant amount of money. Money they do receive goes towards liquor control, the aggressive driver program, traffic enforcement, and the DUI County Task Force.

Crime within the City is a mix of different types. Some areas of the City do have more prevalent crime than other parts. Traffic accidents are not a major issue as traffic patterns haven't changed in the past twenty years.

Currently the department has five (5) marked police cars, two (2) SUVs with high mileage, and three (3) unmarked police cars. The department is in need of bullet proof vests that are \$1,000 each. The ones the officers are currently using have a five (5) year life expectancy and have been worn now for four (4) years. The department is also in need of more storage space.

The department works currently with the Washington School District on the DARE program.



Public Works

The department currently has eight full time employees including two operators, three drivers and three laborers. There is one part time employee, hired on a seasonal basis, as well. Currently the Street Superintendent position is vacant. The City expects to have the position filled by the end of 2011. The department oversees approximately 52 linear miles of roadway, which does not include the alleys that are also the department's responsibility.

The department's equipment includes:

- Two newer two and one half ton trucks (purchased in 2010 and 2011)
- Two five ton trucks
- Two ten ton trucks
- One leaf blower
- One high-lift
- One bobcat
- One pavement roller
- One street paver

The department receives funding from primarily two sources—City's general operating budget and Liquid Fuels (PennDOT funding described further in Chapter 5). The City does have a three to five year road improvement project plan and each street has been toured as of 2008. A grading system was implemented to identify streets in need of immediate repair and / or life expectancy. On a day to day basis, regular maintenance is preformed ward by ward or by complaint, if applicable. Most of the summer months are spent repairing roads, patching pot holes or sealing cracks.

Refuse Collection

Garbage pickup is every Monday in the City and the cost for the year is \$175. Garbage is picked up by Waste Management.

Recycling Services

The City of Washington provides recycling services to its residents on designated Mondays (usually once a month). The City provides containers for the recycling to be put in and additional containers are available at City



Hall. Materials that can be recycled include glass, plastic, bi-metals, and steel cans. Newspapers and other paper can be recycled. The City also offers residents spring and fall leaf pick up. This occurs on the first two Tuesdays in April and every Tuesday and Thursday in October and November. The City requires commercial businesses to also recycle. Businesses have to recycle aluminum containers, office paper, corrugated cardboard, and leaf waste. There are various drop off locations throughout the project area as well.

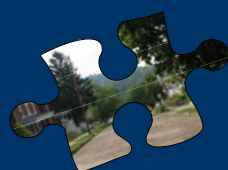
Utilities

Public sewerage is provided by the Washington-East Washington Joint Authority. The Authority serves the City of Washington, East Washington Borough and Canton, North Franklin, South Strabane, and parts of Chartiers Townships. There is an ordinance for a mandatory tap in. The tap has to be installed within 90 days and the cost is \$1,135. The total monthly cost to the consumer is \$18 per month. The Authority is operating under a current Act 537 plan that was updated in 2009. Issues of concern include inflow and infiltration issues in the collection system, excessive stormwater inflow and parts of the collection system are over 100 years old and consist of clay pipe. PA American Water provides water service to the City and the Borough as well as numerous other municipalities throughout Washington County. The average monthly cost to residential consumers is approximately \$48.45. This is higher for industrial and commercial users and varies depending on their water consumption. The primary water source is the Monongahela River and the average flow for the area is 12 million gallons per day. Peak flows depend on the weather and other factors. According to representatives from PA American Water there are currently no issues with the source of water or any other aspects of providing water service to the project area.

East Washington Borough

Administration

East Washington Borough government consists of a mayor and seven council members. They meet the second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Borough Building. The borough has a website: <http://>



www.eastwash.com/

Board and Commissions of the Borough include: Planning Commission, Park and Shade Tree Commission, Civil Service Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Board of Code Enforcement Appeals, Washington-East Washington Joint Authority, Citizens Library, and Council Vacancy Board.

Budget

The 2010 budget for East Washington Borough includes total income of \$790,350.40 and total expenses of \$696,350.40. In 2010 the Borough had a surplus of \$94,000. Since 2008, the Borough has experienced an increase in revenue but has also experienced an increase in expenses as well. The proposed budget for 2011 includes an increase in expenditures. Revenue is projected to also increase due to an increase in charges in services and licenses and permits.

Income in the Borough includes revenues from charges for services, fines and forfeits, inter government, license and permits, taxes, and unclassified operations. Taxes make up most of the income, at approximately 61 percent of the total revenue received. Charges for services are the second highest income generator at approximately 15 percent.

Expenses include culture and recreation, general government, health and human services, highway and streets, insurance, other financing uses, public works and sanitation, and public safety. Public safety expenses consist of 41 percent of the budget, which is the highest of all the expenses. Highway and streets consist of 18 percent of the budget and public works and sanitation consist of 15 percent of the budget.

Fire Protection

The City of Washington provides fire protection for East Washington Borough.

Police

East Washington Borough has its own police force which consists of one (1) full-time chief and fourteen (14) part-time police officers. All officers are Act 120 certified. There is no residency requirement for officers; however the Chief



does live within the borough. The service area includes just the Borough; however they will assist Washington and Jefferson if needed. The borough police department also has working relationships with South Strabane Township and the City of Washington police forces on various issues.

The borough mainly funds the department as grants have been dwindling. In the past grants were received for tasers and computers. Most of the crime within the borough is domestic; there are no businesses within the borough which limits types of crime. Local traffic accidents are not common either.

The department has three (3) police cars, one of which is new. The department is always in the need of new equipment. The current police department is a concern as it is upstairs and there are no holding cells. Therefore, the Borough uses the City of Washington's holding cells.

The borough currently allows residents the choice of bringing prescription drugs to the department for disposal.

Public Works

The Public Works department in the Borough consists of one full-time employee. The Borough used to hire seasonal employees; however that has not occurred in the past few years. The department maintains 10 square miles of road and is mostly funded by the Borough. The department has participated in the Agility program in the past. Equipment that the borough owns includes:

- ◆ 1 tractor (front-end loader)
- ◆ 1997 10 ton GMC dump truck
- ◆ 2011 F440 5 ton dump truck
- ◆ Mini black top roller (at least 25 years old)

The Borough is in need of a street sweeper or access to one and a newer black top roller. The Borough does have an agreement with South Strabane Township on the use of their street sweeper, however they will not use it on brick streets and sometimes the sweeper is not available when the Borough needs it.

Currently, the Borough stores most of its equipment in one garage however as there is a lack of space in the garage, the borough also rents another



garage behind the borough building.

There are no road projects planned currently, the main goal is to keep up with maintenance work. Areas of concern include brick streets that need re-laid as well as alleys that need paved as they are hard to maintain.

Refuse Collection and Recycling Services

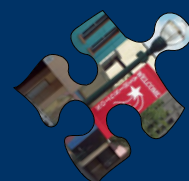
East Washington residents pay \$185.00 per year to the Borough for weekly garbage pickup and every other week recycling pickup on Tuesdays. Allied Waste is contracted with the Borough for the garbage and recycling services.

Utilities

Public sewerage is provided by the Washington-East Washington Joint Authority and public water is provided by PA American Water as described on page 6-7.

Earned Income Taxes

Act 32 of 2008 will change the way local earned income taxes are collected in Pennsylvania. The new law mandates that by 2012 employers are required to withhold Local Earned Income Taxes (EIT) on behalf of their employees. In addition, counties are to appoint an official agency to handle the collection of EIT; in Washington County, it will be handled by Keystone Collections Group. Therefore, municipalities along with school districts will no longer directly provide for the collection of their EIT revenue. This may have an impact on municipalities budgets because they may not receive the payment of the EIT at the beginning of the year.



Parks and Recreation

Washington Park

Washington Park is located in Ward 5 in eastern Washington and is only accessible from US 40. A large community park, Washington Park offers a variety of facilities and activities for families and children of all ages. Park hours are April –October from 8am to 10pm and November –March from 8am to 5pm.



Overall, the facilities within the park appear to be in good condition; many facilities are ADA accessible. The pavilions, lighted with water and electricity, are available for rent. There are playgrounds nearby and each has access to outdoor charcoal grills and restroom facilities (port-a-johns).

The Vernon C. Neal Sportsplex, located within the park and associated with the Brownson House, offers a variety of youth and adult indoor sports leagues (soccer, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, inline skating, etc.).

Table 6-2: Facilities at Washington Park	
Community Pool	Pavilions
Pool with diving boards and slides	Stone Pavilion
Splash/baby pool	Main Pavilion (2 levels, stage)
Playground Equipment	Kiwanis Pavilion
Picnic Tables & Benches	Lion’s Club Pavilion (near pool)
Restrooms	Tennis Courts
Park Office	Available for Rent (\$3/hour per person)
Vernon C. Neal Sportsplex (indoor)	Ball Fields (Baseball/Softball)
Frontier History Center Log Cabin	Pony League Baseball Fields
Picnic Areas with Charcoal Grills	T.W.I.S.T. Fields
Nature Trails	Mustang Fields
	Tubby Denson Field



The park is also home to the Pony League World Series held each year in August at Low Hays Pony Field. All facilities within the park are shown on [Table 6-2](#).

7th Ward Playground

The playground is located at the corner of Donnan Ave and School Ave in a single-family residential neighborhood. Overall, the facilities within the playground are in fair to poor condition. There are no hoops on the basketball court and graffiti does exist. The ADA accessibility is good, however. There is a potential for conflict between the youth using the basketball court and younger kids and families using the playground equipment. Vandalism and drugs were noted as concerns in this playground. While the court is lighted, additional lighting surrounding the playground may help curb these activities.



Facilities are shown on [Table 6-3](#).

Table 6-3: Facilities at 7th Ward Playground	
Playground	Basketball Court (lighted)
Play Structure	Pavilion (water pump)
Climbing Structure	Picnic Tables
Swing Set & Baby Swing Set	Open Field (mowed) with walking path
Merry-Go-Round	
Spring Animals	
Slide & Teeter Totter	



8th Ward Playground



The playground is located at the corner of Baird Ave and Broad St in a single-family residential neighborhood. Overall, the facilities within the playground are in fair to poor condition. There was graffiti noted on the slide. Similar to the 7th Ward Playground, potential exists for conflict between ages of youth using the basketball court and younger kids and

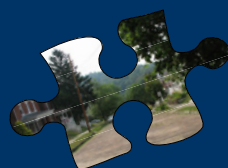
families using the playground equipment. Lack of lighting may contribute to concerns regarding vandalism and drugs at night. [Table 6.4](#) displays all existing facilities available to users.

Table 6-4: Facilities at 8th Ward Playground	
<i>Playground</i>	<i>Basketball Court</i>
Play Structure	<i>Pavilion</i>
Climbing Structure	<i>Picnic Tables</i>
Swing Set	
Slide	
Spring Animals	

Park and Dewey Playground



Park and Dewey Playground is located at the corner of SR 18 and Dewey Avenue in a single-family residential neighborhood. There is a commercial business adjacent to the park and high traffic volume on SR 18. Overall, the facilities within the playground are in fair condition. As with the other playgrounds, the potential for



conflict exists between youth using the basketball court and younger kids and families using the playground equipment. Facilities within the park are shown on *Table 6-5: Facilities at Dewey Park*.

Table 6-5: Facilities at Dewey Park	
<i>Playground</i>	<i>Basketball Court</i>
Play Structure	<i>Pavilion (lights, water pump)</i>
Climbing Structure	<i>Picnic Tables</i>
Swing Set & Baby Swing Set	
Merry-Go-Round	
Spring Animals	
Slide	

Ramage Field

Ramage Field is located off Meadow Avenue and surrounded by mostly industrial uses. The field is fenced on two sides with an existing backstop for baseball or softball. While accessible from both Woodland Avenue and East Wylie Avenue, there is no signing and the field is difficult to find.



East Washington Borough Park



The playground is located off Thayer Street and surrounded by a single-family residential neighborhood. Larger in size than a typical tot lot, the playground is geared towards younger children and families and there are no facilities for older children. Overall, the facilities within the playground are in good condition; however, there is no ADA accessibility. Facilities are shown on Table 6-6.

Table 6-6: Facilities at East Washington Borough Park	
Playground	Pavilion (no electricity or water)
Play Structure	Picnic Tables
Climbing Structure	Open Play Area
Swing Set & Baby Swing Set	Benches/Glider
Merry-Go-Round	
Teeter Totter	



Educational Facilities and Services

City of Washington School District

Students within the City of Washington and East Washington Borough attend the City of Washington School District. The total enrollment of the district is 1,585 with a total of three schools; Washington High School, Washington Park Middle School, and Washington Park Elementary School. Students in grades nine through twelve attend the Washington High School located on Allison Avenue. The Middle School (grades 6-8), the Intermediate School (grades 3-5) and the Primary School (grades K-2) are all located in the Washington Park facility on East Wheeling Street. Bus transportation is provided for students attending K-8.



The Washington School District employs 149 professionals and 9 administrators. The school district is currently undergoing a major renovation project at the high school. The project was split into multiple phases. Phase one, which included substantial infrastructure improvements and reconstruction of the cafeteria, large group instruction room/theater and the library, was completed in May of 2011. Phases two through eight consisted of renovating the third and fourth floors, finishing the elevator to the upper floors, renovating the gym and weight room, finishing various science labs, and refinishing the lockers. The District is currently completing the final phases, which include renovating the ground and first floors, finishing the middle school office, stairwells, and hallways and is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2012.



The 2010 graduating class at Washington High School included 97 graduates. Awards and scholarships for the Class of 2010 totaled \$1,630,281.00. Of those graduates the following statistics were available:

- ◆ 44 percent will attend a 4-year college or university
- ◆ 12 percent will attend a 2-year college
- ◆ 18 percent will attend a trade, business, or career/technical school
- ◆ 14 percent will secure employment or will enter the workforce
- ◆ 4 percent will enter the military
- ◆ 4 percent will secure employment with certifications already earned
- ◆ 4 percent are undecided

Washington and Jefferson College (W&J)



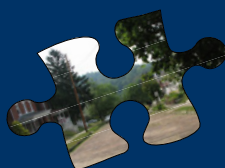
W&J is located in the City of Washington and East Washington Borough. The college was founded in 1781 and is one of the oldest, four-year liberal arts colleges in the United States. The college is well known for its pre-law and pre-health program, more than 90 percent of students apply to law or health-related schools. W&J is fully accredited by the

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Approximately 1,400 undergraduate students attend W&J full-time and more than 80 percent live on campus. The campus is a total of 60 acres, with more than 40 buildings, and a 54 acre biological field station.

Faith Christian School



Faith Christian School is a private school located in East Washington Borough along State Route 136. Enrolled in the school are a total of 140 students with 9 classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium and staff of 17. The school offers preschool, kindergarten, and grades one through twelve. Transportation to the school is



done by parents or the regular bus systems of surrounding school districts. The school does offer various sports, such as boy's basketball and volleyball, girl's volleyball, co-ed basketball and soccer, and cheerleading. Classes are available in art, home economics, foreign languages, drama, journalism, broadcasting, and computer programming.

Citizens Library

Citizens Library is located in the City of Washington at 55 South College Street. The library was founded in 1870 and was located in the Town Hall until 1965. The current building has been occupied by the library since 1965 and needs many capital improvements.



The library holds many programs for library patrons. The children's department includes programs such as toddler story time, pre-school story time, family night story time, Saturday clubs, discovery club, chess club, as well as summer reading clubs. Middle school and high school students can enjoy Bookburst, a program for readers the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Other programs include Mystery Book Lovers and Reading for Enjoyment and Discussion Group, SAT testing preparation, Noontime Book Reviews, and theater trips (<http://www.citlib.org/history.htm>).

The library is funded from the state, local municipalities, the Washington and Trinity school districts, and private donations. The City provides \$25,000 to the library each year.



Medical Services

Washington Hospital



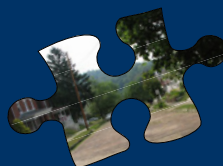
The Washington Hospital is located in portions of the City of Washington and South Strabane Township. Services include cancer care, children's therapy center, diabetes education and management, emergency care, employee assistance program, family medicine, Greenbriar Treatment Center, health education learning place, heart, lung, and

vascular center, hospice care, occupational medicine, orthopedics and neuroscience, radiology, rehabilitation, respiratory care, surgical services, teen outreach, urgent care, the Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center, women's center, women's health and obstetrics, and wound and skin healing center.

Community Organizations

Community Action Southwest

Community Action Southwest (CAS) is a non-profit organization whose geographical target population includes not only the City of Washington but all of Washington County and Greene County, as well. CAS has been providing programming to assist low to moderate income families in Washington and Greene Counties since 1965, when it was initially founded by a group of community leaders whose initial focus was to identify and assist in rectifying the local conditions that led to poverty. While the scope of programming has greatly expanded in the years since, the initial focus is still the prime motivation behind the organization's efforts. They see their role in the community as a provider of services which will mobilize and empower those in poverty by incorporating self-help and education into all of their services.



Currently, CAS operates over 50 programs and serves almost 18,000 people annually in the two counties. Their offices are presently located at 150 West Beau Street in the City of Washington, and they have an annual budget of nearly \$14,250,000 and employs about 300 individuals. It is directed by a 22-member Board of Directors which is comprised of equal representation of the public sector (local elected officials), private sector (business, church and labor) and target sector (representatives of the poor who are democratically elected within their communities).

Services provided fall into one of several broad categories:

- **Education**, which includes Early Childhood Services such as pre-K programming, Head Start and Early Head Start, parenting classes, adult and family-based literacy programs, GED classes, community computer access for children and adults.
- **Health**, which includes eldercare programming, senior centers, in-home care, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.
- **Housing**, which includes administration of Washington County low-income housing programs and grants such as utility assistance, budget / credit counseling for home owners, mortgage consulting, and USDA Rural Housing initiatives.
- **Finance & Work**, which includes free assistance with income tax filing, the Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program for those on public assistance, the supported work program, and other job development programs such as Community Action Works.

Highland Ridge Elm Street Program

The Highland Ridge Community Development Corporation (CDC) / Elm Street Program is the result of a community-driven effort to revitalize and maintain the Highland Ridge neighborhood in the City of Washington. Its inception began in 2000 as a grassroots effort focusing on improving the social and economic climate of the



neighborhood, particularly increasing awareness of crime and public safety issues as well as deteriorating housing stock. As this grassroots effort grew and evolved into a CDC, the organization established relationships with the City of Washington, the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington (RACW), and other major stakeholders including the Lemoyne Multi-Cultural Community Center, Washington Federal Savings Bank, the NAACP, and local churches. Motivated by this momentum, the City of Washington assisted the Highland Ridge CDC in obtaining Elm Street status and preparing a five-year plan focusing on comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. The Elm Street program, a grant initiative funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), is similar in scope to the Main Street program except that Elm Street focuses on residential neighborhoods instead of Main Street commercial corridors. The Elm Street program provides assistance and resources to enhance both the adjoining downtown / commercial area as well as improving the viability of older residential neighborhoods. The unique approach combines efforts to improve public safety, enhance the appearance of older housing stock, create a pedestrian-and bicycle- friendly environment, increase green space and recreational opportunities, and create a sustainable neighborhood organization that can build consensus and cooperation among key stakeholders.

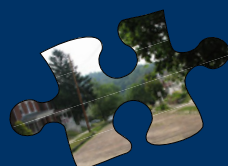
Highland Ridge CDC is located at 100 Ridge Avenue in the City of Washington.

Bradford House



The Bradford House Historical Association dedicates its efforts to caring for and operating the historical site and former residence of David Bradford, a lawyer who participated in the Whiskey Insurrection in the late eighteenth century. The house includes many artifacts from that time period and is open as a museum to the public from

April through December. In addition to traditional fundraising activities to



keep the house in good working order, the David Bradford House organization also sponsors a number of educational school tours, special events, and community outreach programs. The Bradford House is located at 175 South Main Street in the City of Washington.

Washington County United Way

The Washington County United Way focuses its efforts on directing donations to fund programs and services that help populations in need, whether that need is a continual economic need due to poverty or low-income, or an immediate need in the face of natural disaster or personal tragedy. Currently, Washington County United Way funds 46 programs at 29 local agencies, including programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters, Washington Hospital Teen Outreach, Washington County Literacy Council, Washington Community Arts and Cultural Center, the Red Cross, Washington County Food Bank, Washington City Mission, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA for Kids), and Cornerstone Care. The Washington County United Way's investment in community programming and services totals \$457,549 for 2010-2011. They are located at 590 Washington Road (Route 19) in South Strabane Township.

Lemoyne Center

The Lemoyne Center, currently located at 200 North Forrest Avenue in the Highland Ridge neighborhood, was first established in 1956 and is one of the oldest organizations serving the minority community in the region. It offers a multitude of community service programs with special emphasis on the minority and underserved populations of the region. It was closed for four years due to flood and fire damage but has been restored and expanded and is incredibly successful in the community. Programs offered include daycare services, sports and recreational programming, educational assistance, and programming for infants and young children. The Center was actually the first in the country to utilize





Head Start programming. Summer programming, focused on recreational activities, include an 8-week “Camp Challenge” program that runs daily and incorporates not only sports and physical activity but educational elements as well with trips to museums to explore history, science, social studies, math, and reading. The Center also offers an evening version

of Camp Challenge which is referred to as “B-Ball for All.” The focus of B-Ball for All is on basketball tournaments and is aimed at keeping youth off the streets and giving them goals to strive to achieve. The LeMoyne Center also offers playground equipment for area children to use.



During the school year, programming includes homework assistance and mentoring for those in the free or reduced lunch program. The homework assistance is offered through Sylvan Learning Center and individual tutoring is also available through local teachers and community volunteers.

Extracurricular activities such as dance, track and field, cooking classes, and music classes are offered to those students who finished their homework early. Some recent class offering have included first aid, drill team, horticulture, literacy programs, knitting, African drum, sign language, arts and crafts, and etiquette classes.

The Lemoyne Center also partners with the Washington County Food Bank and on Saturdays, offers pantry items to those in need. Its operating budget is approximately \$220,000 a year which is sourced mostly from foundations and other non-profits such as the United Way.

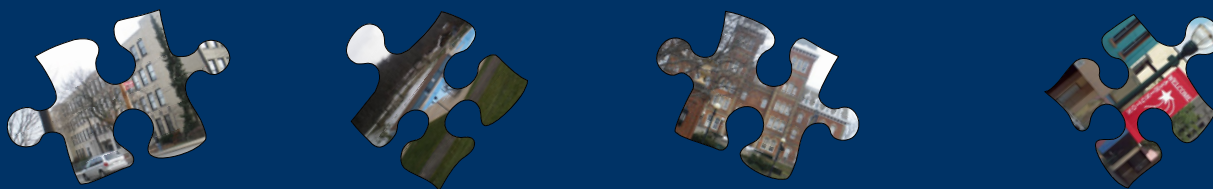


Salvation Army

The Salvation Army in Washington serves all those in the region who feel they are in need and particularly aims to help those in less fortunate situations or those who desire spirituality and Christianity in their life. Their services include fundraising to assist those in impoverished conditions, particularly women, children, and families, as well as general ministry and charitable services for women, yoga classes, men's fellowship, and older adults ministries for those 55 and older. The Washington Salvation Army also runs a volunteer visitation program to provide companionship and comfort to those who are elderly, invalid, or otherwise shut-in. There are also summer camps, music and art programs, Christian education, and community service programs offered for children and young adults / teens. The Washington Salvation Army is located at 60 East Maiden Street in the City of Washington.

Washington City Mission

The Washington City Mission is a non-denominational, Christian social services organization located at 84 West Wheeling Street. It primarily serves the homeless, poor, and needy of the Washington region but will offer its services to any in Western Pennsylvania who are in need. The City Mission served nearly 400 homeless men from 2008 to 2009 by providing shelter (beds) as well as meals. The shelter attends to a vastly underserved population and was over capacity 203 days and at capacity 34 days out of the 2007 to 2008 year. Likewise, from 2008 to 2009, the City Mission served over 150 homeless women and 27 children, with 121 women and 56 children being turned away in the last quarter of 2008. To assist in meeting this demand, the City Mission has tripled the number of beds since 2003 from 13 to 40. In addition to the shelter and meals provided, the City Mission also administers a program it calls the "Next Step" program. This effort is an extension of the men's shelter and provides living quarters to men who have successfully completed the recovery program and have gainful employment but have not yet saved enough for an apartment of their own.



TRIPIL

TRIPIL, which stands for Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living, is a center for independent living and an organization that advocates for the civil rights for people with disabilities and promotes living well with a disability. It serves the Southwestern Pennsylvania area with a focus on Washington, Greene, and Fayette Counties. It has been in operation out of Washington since 1991. Members pay dues which fund the facilities, which provide peer support and attendant care. TRIPIL also receives grant funding from the state legislature through the PA Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and from the U.S. Congress through the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. TRIPIL also collaborates with the PA Office of Long Term Living and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging to provide personal care assistance and help moving out of nursing homes.

The organization operates 4 office locations which include the main headquarters at 69 East Beau Street in the City of Washington; they also maintain offices in Uniontown, Waynesburg, and Charleroi. Each location has a free internet café for members. In 2000, the organization bought the entire building in which it is housed in Washington and in 2010 began a capital campaign to raise funds to replace it.

Services offered by TRIPIL include personal assistant services, nursing home transition services, educating the disabled about available new technology and assisting with procurement, housing referrals and technical assistance to help find affordable, accessible housing options and home modifications, training for independent living skills, and peer support.



B. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Priority issues were identified for Washington and East Washington through the various public input methods described in Chapter One. The following were identified as priority issues for the Community Services element.

Lack of resources to efficiently provide all services

Both the City and Borough provide a great number of quality services to their residents. There are limitations, however, in terms of staffing and funding, which makes providing community services challenging at times.

City of Washington Services

- Specific issues of concern to the fire department include street signs that are difficult to read, absentee landlords, storm water runoff, and the safety of vacant buildings, especially along Main and Chestnut Streets. Another issue is the need of consolidation amongst fire departments, especially as funding is becoming increasingly scarce.
- The police department is in need of more officers, bullet proof vests and additional storage space.
- The Street Department is in need of several pieces of equipment including a street sweeper, several trucks, roller and jack hammer in the immediate future. The current facilities are inadequate both in terms of energy efficiency and storage space, which causes a vast majority of equipment to be stored outside. This leaves the equipment susceptible to theft and vandalism. There are also serious concerns regarding reductions in funding for the department making it difficult to ensuring safe transportation facilities.
- Citizen's Library is in need of capital improvements such as a new heating and air conditioning system, new plumbing and electrical systems and external surface of the building needs to be cleaned.



East Washington Borough Services

- The police department has limited space and no holding cells.
- The public works department needs a street sweeper and new black top roller.



Another aspect of providing services that was identified as a need, is energy efficiency. Determining methods to save on energy costs will not only help the communities function more efficiently, but significant cost savings can be realized through instituting energy efficient measures.

Cost of Fire and Police

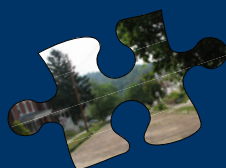
The City has a paid fire and police department with pensions, which are very large portions of their budget. The City uses the Act 205 Pension Funds tax to offset costs for the pensions.

Perceived lack of safety in the City

Through the various public involvement efforts for the Comprehensive Plan, a feeling of unsafe conditions, especially in the Central Business District (CBD), some of the residential neighborhoods and park areas was brought up as an issue. This could be due to numerous reasons including lack of lighting, businesses closing early, vacant structures, and previous offenses.

Poor perception of the Washington School District

The Washington School District is a very big asset for both the City and the Borough as evidenced by the very successful student workshop that was held as part of the Comprehensive Planning process. The perception of this district, especially when compared to neighboring districts, is not as positive as it should be. While the school district does promote itself through regular newsletters and ads in the Observer Reporter, more work needs to be done to highlight the positive aspects of the district and its facilities and students.



Lack of an indoor community center and other recreation facilities

While the City and Borough residents do have access to the Washington Park, several neighborhood playgrounds and the LeMoyne Center, there is a lack of an indoor community center that would provide recreation and community/social opportunities such as meeting and computer rooms.

There is also a need for updated and new recreation facilities throughout the City and Borough. A Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan would identify needs specifically in terms of recreation facilities and programs and identify methods to meet those needs.

Local perception of Washington and Jefferson College (W&J)

W&J is a key asset for both communities and while they own a lot of land in the project area and do not pay taxes, they positively contribute to both the City and Borough in many other ways. The college contributes financially as well as donates staff and student volunteers and community meeting space. A formal mechanism is need to make residents and other stakeholders aware of these positive aspects as well as identify additional partnership opportunities.



C. ACTION PLAN

Goal = Strengthen partnerships to provide high quality facilities, services and community events for our residents, businesses, workforce, students, and visitors

Objective = Improve the capacity of the City and Borough to identify and implement priority projects

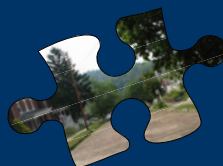
☒ **Enact an intergovernmental cooperation agreement**

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code gives communities that participate in a Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, the authority to enact an intergovernmental cooperative planning and implementation agreement. This is a document that establishes a process to achieve general consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances, and capital improvement plans in participating municipalities. It also allows the communities to establish a committee (possibly a joint planning commission) to oversee plan implementation.

In order to effectively implement the Comprehensive Plan, both communities should adopt this agreement by ordinance. This will provide a mechanism to assist with resources to implement the plan as well as a tool to measure progress.

☒ **Hold regular retreats with the joint planning commission (or other committee)**

An annual or bi-annual retreat with the committee assigned to assist with implementation will help to educate members of the committee on their role. These meetings can also serve to identify priorities for the upcoming year in terms of projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan.



☑ Hold regular meetings in each Ward / Neighborhood

Residents often feel disengaged from elected officials. They may also feel that they do not have the opportunity to be fully heard at regular council meetings due to limited time and other agenda items. To help combat this, City and Borough Council should hold regular (perhaps quarterly) meetings out in the Wards or specific neighborhoods. These meetings could rotate so that each area has a chance to attend one of the meetings (this is especially important in the City due to the fact that there are eight Wards).

City and Borough Council should also work with the residents, business owners and community groups, if applicable, in each Ward or neighborhood to identify a neighborhood liaison. This person or persons would help with the logistics as well as to help ensure that people come out to the meeting. Those living and working in particular areas of the City or Borough may feel more comfortable attending a meeting that is supported or facilitated by someone they know. An example, may be the Elm Street Manager in the City's Highland Ridge Neighborhood.

Objective = Establish partnerships to provide services more efficiently

☑ Conduct a regional police study

A letter of intent should be submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development to complete a police feasibility study for the Project Area. The study will look at population, road miles, and other issues to determine how much the cost would be to each participating municipality if a regional police force was instituted as well as the response times to ensure the safety of those living, visiting and working within the coverage areas. The City and Borough should contact other neighboring municipalities to determine if there is interest in participating in the study. By forming a regional police force, the City could realize cost savings that could be used to towards purchasing needed equipment. The Borough would not have to provide police facilities within their boundaries. A similar study was conducted by the University of Pittsburgh for the Mon Valley region. They could also be a potential resource.



- ☑ Determine interest from neighboring municipalities for forming a Council of Governments (COG)

A COG is an entity that serves a region (usually multiple municipalities but it can also be on a County level). The COG's responsibilities can vary depending on the needs of the communities it serves, but some examples include:

- Joint purchasing
- Formalized agreements to share equipment
- Regional planning
- Mapping services

Sharing equipment and staff could help the City with the issues they are having with decreasing funding especially for their street department.

The City and Borough should contact surrounding municipalities to determine if there is regional interest in developing a COG. Successful examples can be found locally in Allegheny County and Greene County.

- ☑ Determine alternate ways of providing high quality fire services

Investigate the feasibility of the City of Washington Fire Department utilizing a combination of volunteers and paid staff to help save money. A feasibility study would help to determine if the same level of services could be provided while saving money through a reduction in paid staff. The Municipality of Mount Lebanon in Allegheny County provides fire service through a combination of paid and volunteer staff, and could be contacted for more information.

- ☑ Form a Town and Gown committee with W&J

Town and Gown committees have been successful in many college towns in offering a forum for the municipality and the college to discuss issues that pertain to both entities. In this particular case, the committee should include representatives from both Washington and East Washington and W&J. A committee could also help to publicize the positives that the college brings to the project area.



For instance the following is a list of donations (monetary and otherwise) that the College has provided to the City and Borough over the last few years:

- ◆ City Swimming Pool repairs: \$80,000
- ◆ Comprehensive Plan: \$32,000
- ◆ Police Car: \$20,000
- ◆ Street Repairs: \$12,000
- ◆ Fire Department equipment: \$10,000
- ◆ Community Festival: \$7,500
- ◆ Storm Water management: \$20,000

In addition to monetary donations, the college also donates rooms and beverages/snacks for community meetings, room for mayoral debate, use of college property for festivals, etc.

W& J students also donate their time. In 2009-2010 students contributed 19,000 hours of service for things like student teaching, volunteer services to non-profits, and raised over \$25,000 for charity.

The college president has also recently helped to raise money from local businesses for a new City fire truck.

- ☑ **Work with the County to determine additional partnerships opportunities**

Currently the City and County share 911 operations. There could be other areas for partnerships. The City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County created a Citizen's Advisory Committee in 2006 to explore opportunities for sharing of services and possible consolidation of governments. While this was a much larger effort than is needed here, the City and County should form a committee to discuss partnerships and cost saving opportunities.



Objective = Improve safety (and the perception thereof) throughout the City and Borough

- ☑ Work with the Police Department to institute walking beats

Having police officers on the ground walking through neighborhoods is a very effective deterrent for crime. While there are issues with staffing within the police department, instituting regular walking beats alternating through various neighborhoods and wards, is a great way to increase police presence throughout the project area.

- ☑ Hold “Meet and Greets” with the Police Department on a regular basis

In addition to walking beats, having the police officers meet with local business owners and other organizations is a good way to increase police presence. This will also help people to feel safer when they actually know the police officers in their community. Educational programs with the School District and College are another way to improve the perception of safety and help to provide tips on personal safety.

- ☑ Work with business owners to light up store fronts at night

Lighting up areas at night, even if the businesses are not open, goes a long way toward decreasing crime and increasing the sense of being safe. The City should work with the Business District Association and the local businesses to light up storefronts during evening hours. In addition to working with business owners to light up storefronts, the city should identify problem areas, such as dark alleyways, and provide lighting in those areas.

- ☑ Develop neighborhood watch programs

Neighborhood watch programs allow local residents to help protect their communities. It is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service. The City has a successful neighborhood watch program in the 8th Ward. This should be used as a model for the other wards /



neighborhoods throughout the City.

- ☑ Install cameras throughout the Central Business District (CBD)

The City has been searching for funding to purchase and install cameras throughout the CBD. This process should continue because this would be a very helpful tool in discouraging crime as well as identifying perpetrators.

- ☑ Secure parks and public spaces

Parks and other public spaces are important assets to any communities. However, they are often areas that experience loitering and criminal activity after hours. In order to ensure that these areas remain assets and not liabilities, they should be secured with locked gates and fencing. Security cameras should be installed as well once funding is secured to help decrease these unwanted activities.

Objective = Improve the perception of the Washington School District

- ☑ Publicize positive aspects via the media and local real estate agents

The school district already has a newsletter that is published three times a year and they currently purchase space in the Observer Reporter to advertise positive activities happening within the district. These efforts should be continued and supplemented with quarterly breakfast or lunch meetings with local realtors to share the positive aspects of the district.

- ☑ Conduct a feasibility study regarding merger with surrounding districts

While the Washington School District has many positive aspects that should be shared, there are limited resources with an aging and declining tax base. Informal discussions have been unsuccessful in the past with neighboring districts. If enrollment and the tax base continues to decline, a study should be conducted to determine interest and feasibility for merging with an adjacent district.



Objective = Ensure that recreation amenities meet the resident's needs

☒ **Coordinate with the national Y**

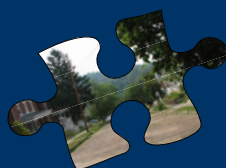
The City previously had a YMCA and a YWCA, but neither are in operation today. The national Y organization has indicated that they are interested in locating a facility within the City of Washington or South Stabane Township. The City should proactively work with the Y to present the case for a City location. The City is walkable, has a dense concentration of residents and day-time workers and includes other non-profit organizations that could benefit from a Y locating in the City (such as Community Action Southwest, the County Housing Authority, the City Mission, etc.).

☒ **Continue to work with W&J on a shared recreation center**

A shared recreation center between the City and W&J was recommended as part of the Central Business District Master Plan for the City of Washington (detailed in Chapter 2: Land Use). A suitable location and size for the center need to be worked out, but this should be pursued by both the City and the college as it would be a very valuable asset to residents and students. It would also strengthen partnerships between the City and the college.

☒ **Develop and implement a multi-municipal recreation plan**

The City and Borough began a process in the late summer of 2011 to create a multi-municipal comprehensive recreation plan. This plan will identify issues and priorities in terms of recreation programs and facilities in both communities. This plan should be completed and



implemented in order to increase recreational opportunities for City and Borough residents.

Objective = Increase the energy efficiency of public facilities and services

☒ Implement the recommendations of the City's energy audit

In 2011, the City underwent an energy audit by Linc Services. This audit identified a number of areas that should be updated within the City's facilities including lighting replacements, building control upgrades, retro-commissioning, boiler replacement, HVAC upgrades, building envelope improvements, air balancing and upgrading decorative lighting. These improvements and upgrades will save the City of Washington operating costs over the long term and can the program can be used as a means to address infrastructure upgrades without increasing the tax burden. The City is in the process of securing funds to begin the upgrades.

☒ Complete an energy audit for the Borough

The borough should complete an audit of their facilities, similar to what the City undertook, to identify areas where they could increase energy efficiency and realize cost savings.

