

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

## Introduction

The adequacy and availability of community facilities and services are essential in establishing municipal priorities and budgets. Further, they are directly related to and influenced by future development and demographic changes of the Township. These facilities and services are critical components in the overall quality of life and effective governance of Thornbury.

This chapter focuses on addressing the primary challenges and opportunities to achieve positive outcomes as it relates to community facilities and services.

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# Challenges & Opportunities

The following challenges and opportunities were identified as part of the inventory and analysis of Township facilities and services presented in Chapter 7: Existing Township Conditions.

- Implementation of an effective communications strategy with Township residents and businesses, reflective of current trends and methods of communication.
- Expenditures for facilities and services will continue to rise, but tax revenues are not anticipated to grow at a rate sufficient to offset these projected increases.
- State and federal mandates related to stormwater management will likely result in a need for additional revenues to ensure full compliance with MS4 permitting.
- Emergency service providers tasked with responding to new situations with relatively flat funding sources.

## Goals and Objectives

### Community Facilities and Services Goal

Provide appropriate levels of government services that are cost-effective, environmentally sound, and meet the needs of current and future Township residents and businesses.

#### Community Facilities and Services Objectives

##### Municipal Government

1. Maintain an efficient Township budget responsive to the evolving needs of residents in the provision of services and facilities.
2. Explore inter-municipal (shared) provision of services.
3. Maintain open communication with Township residents and businesses through the Township website, newsletter, and other media, and consistently investigate new means of effective communication.



*Township administrative staff and regular board meetings are located at the Township Building adjacent to Cheyney University*

## Water Supply

4. Ensure adequate and safe water supply throughout the Township and support expansion of public water facilities as necessary.

## Stormwater Management

5. Ensure proper management of stormwater runoff through regulations that are current with evolving technology and practices.
6. Encourage use of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), green infrastructure, and other voluntary measures to reduce runoff and encourage infiltration and groundwater recharge.
7. Coordinate with the Chester County Conservation District (CCCD) to ensure full MS4 compliance as part of development projects.



*Example of a riparian buffer at the Brandywine at Thornbury community. This type of BMP can be implemented to improve the quality of stormwater runoff*

## Solid Waste Disposal

8. Ensure adequate solid waste disposal and recycling services and facilities are accessible to Township residents.

## Emergency Services

9. Continue to contract for Township policing services and support emergency responders.
10. Support an emergency services system that protects the health and safety of Township residents.
11. Continue to ensure the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), is up-to-date and provides guidance for all emergency situations that may impact the Township.



*Good Will Fire Company of West Chester is one of three companies providing fire protection services to the Township*

## Education

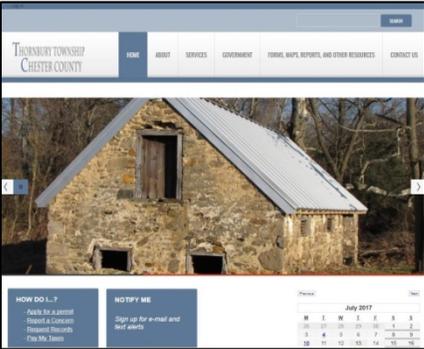
12. Continue to support both public and private institutions and their provision of adequate school facilities to serve growth in the Township.
13. Recognition of Cheyney University for historic and cultural impacts and support their efforts to continue as an institution of higher learning.
14. Support the programs of area public libraries.

## Healthcare

15. Support quality health care services and human service programs.

# Recommendations

Recommendations 6-A thru 6-Q below detail how Thornbury Township can provide and promote appropriate community facilities and services for its residents and business owners. Given that certain community facilities and services are largely beyond the Township’s control, some recommendations focus on voluntary and educational efforts. Implementation of the recommendations identified below will help Thornbury achieve its community facilities and services goal.



The Township website provides up-to-date information on issues impacting Thornbury

## Municipal Government

- 6-A.** Evaluate the methods utilized for communicating with the public, and adapt as needed to incorporate new mediums (i.e. social media, YouTube channel, etc.).

To be effective, public outreach needs to reach all residents and businesses, and convey current information. Thornbury’s website should regularly be updated and continue to serve as a clearinghouse for all Township information. As social media evolves and grows the Township should periodically review how it connects with its residents, businesses, and visitors, augmenting the newsletter.

- 6-B.** Evaluate the feasibility of relocating the Township office to a location within the Township.

Presently the Thornbury Township building is being leased from and is located in Thornbury Township, Delaware County. As needs arise in the future requiring additional space and/or significant technological upgrades, consideration should be given to relocating to a location within the municipal boundary.

## Water Supply

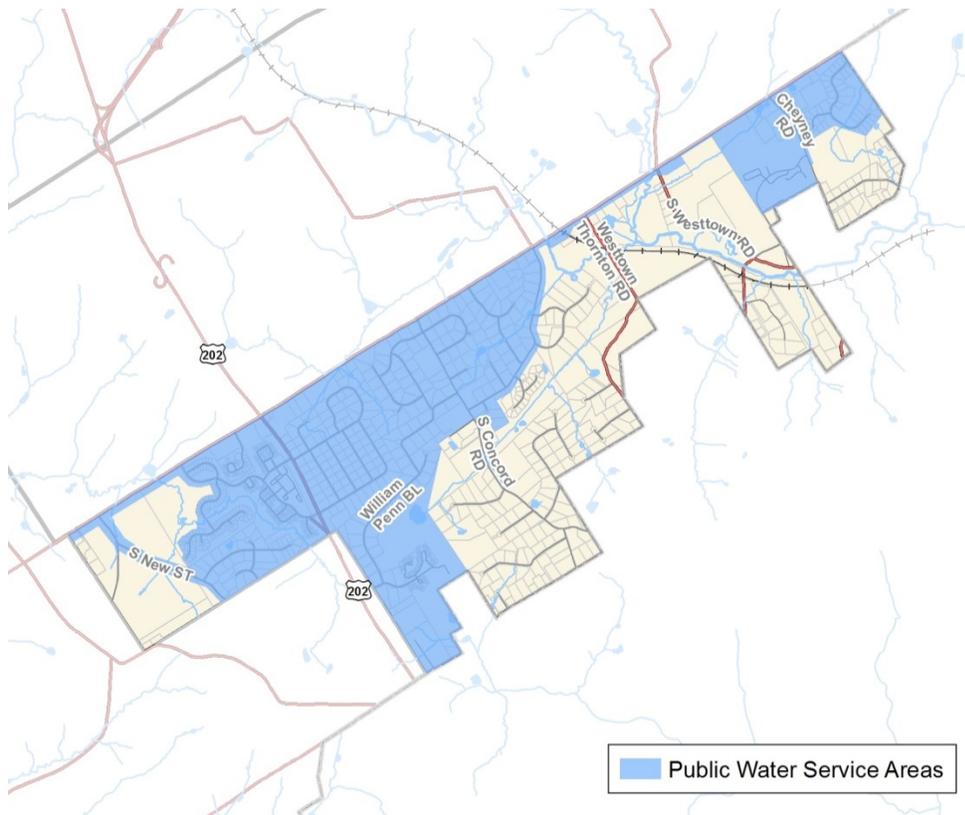
- 6-C.** Continue to support the use of private wells to supply water for properties outside public service areas, while evaluating the feasibility and costs associated for expansion of public water infrastructure in the event it becomes necessary.

Access to a reliable, clean and safe water supply is mandatory for residents of the Township. The Township will continue to support the use of private wells for water supply in accordance with regulations enforced by the Chester County Health Department. Further, the Township should have an open dialogue with both Aqua PA and the Chester Water Authority on both the feasibility and costs of expansion of the public water service area in the event of contaminated wells or depleted aquifer.



Aqua Pennsylvania is the primary supplier of public water throughout the Township

Figure 6-1: Thornbury Water Service Areas



Source: CCPC, 2017.

## Stormwater Management

- 6-D.** Sponsor workshops for Township residents and businesses on Best Management Practices (BMPs) and how they can be implemented to address stormwater management for both quality and quantity.

Providing educational opportunities for residents to learn about stormwater management and BMPs can help in the fulfillment of MS4 requirements. Specifically, by informing residents of what they can do to proactively minimize impacts of stormwater, the Township may be able to meet defined MS4 mandates without having to undertake costly capital improvement projects.

- 6-E.** Consider incentives for residents who voluntarily incorporate BMPs addressing stormwater issues.

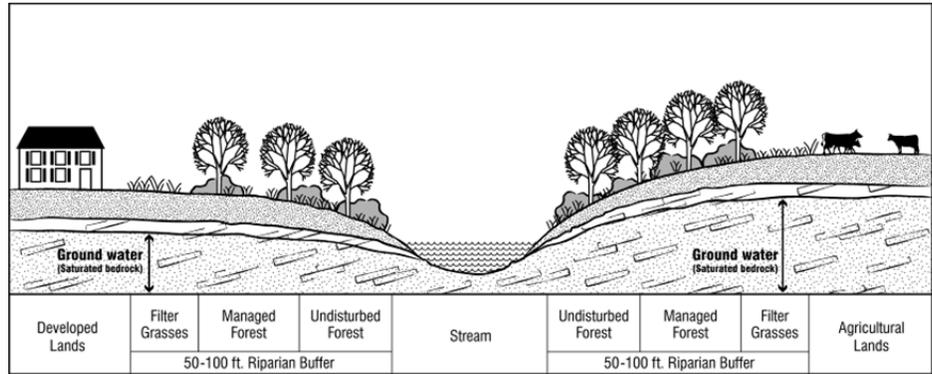
Providing incentives to residents who voluntarily implement stormwater management and BMPs can help in the fulfillment of MS4 requirements. Incentives can further reduce the need to undertake more costly projects from the Township's end in meeting MS4 goals.

- 6-F.** Evaluate existing ordinance provisions as they relate to stormwater management and amend as necessary to promote implementation of

natural riparian buffers (See Figure 6-1) and the contemporary BMP technologies.

As Township ordinances are living documents, they should be reviewed periodically by the Township administration, planner, and engineer. These reviews are critical in ensuring the Township's regulatory structure is consistent with state and federal law as well as incorporates contemporary standards and guidelines where applicable. Further, preserving and restoring riparian buffers are among the most effective techniques used to protect and enhance the quality of groundwater, surface water and wildlife habitats.

Figure 6-2: Forested Riparian Buffer



Source: CCPC, 2012

**6-G. Consider adoption of a stormwater utility fee if at such time necessary to ensure full MS4 compliance.**

In order to fully achieve MS4 goals, a dedicated funding source may become necessary. Pennsylvania Act 68 of 2013 authorizes authorities to collect fees for the financing of stormwater planning, management, and implementation. A stormwater utility fee can be enacted and levied on all properties within the Township, regardless of tax-exempt status. The fees collected can then be utilized for maintenance of existing facilities, development of new ones, and public education.

## Solid Waste Disposal

**6-H. Continue to allow for residents to select their own solid waste hauler.**

**6-I. Consider placement of additional recycling centers at locations such as Cheyney University and the Commons at Thornbury shopping center.**

The current recycling facility at Goose Creek Park is the only public recycling center currently available in the Township. In an effort to continue to promote recycling of consumer materials, the placement of additional recycling locations in the Township will improve convenience and encourage this goal.

**6-J. Consider the sponsoring of e-waste and hazardous material recycling events.**

E-waste is dangerous to deposit into a landfill because of the heavy metals and other toxic materials that may impact groundwater when concentrated.

Further, proper disposal of e-waste may also reduce incidences of identity theft. It can be difficult and/or costly for residents to recycle these items, so sponsoring an e-waste recycling event can better promote this practice.

## Emergency Services

**6-K.** Establish an Emergency Management Committee to coordinate updating of the Township EOP, help emergency responders coordinate during emergencies, and assist in recovery efforts after an emergency event.

**6-L.** Ensure the EOP is up-to-date and addresses contemporary situations and/or threats.

EOPs need to be updated on an annual basis to ensure effective and efficient operations in the case of a disaster. The Township's Emergency Management Coordinator should lead this effort in full coordination with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services.



*Good Fellowship Ambulance provides ambulance services for the Township*

**6-M.** Coordinate with Chester County Emergency Services to ensure all addressing within the Township complies with the criteria set forth for E-911 addressing standards.

Chester County Emergency Services has specific standards to be followed in the development of addresses throughout the County. Specific areas of concern are addresses on corner lots and ensuring they are addressed on the street where the driveway is located. This is critical for first responders as to not confuse where a place is located when responding to a call. Direct coordination with the County should always occur for both new addresses as well as the setting of new addresses at existing locations.

**6-N.** Encourage residents to register for ReadyChesco and support public training events for basic first aid practices including CPR.

ReadyChesco is a free service and system that helps County and Local officials send emergency text alerts and voice calls to you quickly to provide ongoing government information during an emergency. Further the sponsoring of workshops and events to teach basic first aid practices can support the work of emergency responders.

## Education

**6-O.** Support both public and private institutions and their mandate to provide for high quality education to the children of the Township.

Communication regarding issues such as transportation and community use of school facilities at both Cheyney University and The Concept School is appropriate. Schools routinely fill a gap for community needs, such as before- and after-school child care or fields and courts for recreation leagues.

An open dialogue between the Township and local schools should be maintained through regular meetings to discuss issues of concern.

**6-P.** Continue to support both Cheyney University and The Concept School as learning institutions and critical members of the community.

Cheyney University and The Concept School have been located in the Township since 1902 and 1972 respectively. Both provide for local educational opportunities and are part of the fabric of the community. The Township should investigate policies and possible amendments to Township ordinances in order to best support the needs of these institutions moving into the future.



*Cheyney University has been partially located within the southeast portion of the Township since relocating in 1902*

## Healthcare

**6-Q.** Encourage healthier lifestyles through the sponsoring of public events addressing health issues at Township Parks.

## Implementation

Priorities for implementation of the recommendations are established in Chapter 2: Implementation Strategies.