



3909 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 901, Camp Hill, PA 17011
phone: 717-731-1161 LindaK@mandl.net
800 Vinial Street, Suite B-414, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
phone: 412-323-1950 KarenA@mandl.net
www.mandl.net

Armstrong County COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Client

The County of Armstrong adopted the comprehensive plan in 2005. The County's Department of Planning and Development provided oversight for the project and participated in all aspects of the plan. The County seat is located in Kittanning, PA.

Project Description

This was the first comprehensive plan ever undertaken by the County. The Plan is a statement of the County's official policy relative to land use, housing and economic development.

Challenges

Armstrong County is a predominantly rural county with limited public infrastructure. As a result, it has historically lacked the development impetus that is prevalent in other counties contiguous to Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. The challenge facing Armstrong County is to capitalize on the Route 28 corridor as an economic development highway. One of the County's economic development goals is to create a series of development nodes at interchange areas along Route 28 that would be fully supported with utility infrastructure. Another goal is to revitalize smaller Boroughs and business districts that are already served with public water and sewer. These goals are consistent with the County's broader objective of preserving farms, open space and rural character.

Solution

M&L worked with the County and its Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to define specific areas where new development would be appropriate and to target these areas for utility infrastructure. It is anticipated that these growth areas will someday achieve the critical mass of population and employment base to sustain the County's economy. In the meantime, the County will focus on expanding public transit and preserving the smaller residential neighborhoods and business districts as safe and attractive areas in which to live and shop. By limiting infrastructure expansion in rural areas, the County hopes to preserve agricultural enterprises and natural resources that provide scenic beauty and outdoor recreational amenities to its residents.

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