

# PORTER TOWNSHIP ⇨ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## Local Initiative

The local officials of Porter Township are preparing a **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** to:

- to identify and inventory the changes which have taken place in the Township and particularly since the adoption of the 1999 Comprehensive Plan;
- to establish a framework for the conservation of the historic character, residential neighborhoods, open land, and environment while concurrently providing for sustainable growth and development;
- to provide the foundation for updated land use management tools, principally the zoning ordinance and the subdivision and land development ordinance to ensure well designed development and to minimize sprawl;
- to organize for the most efficient administration of local government and the delivery of community facilities and services.
- to address consistency with the 2006 Pike County Comprehensive Plan

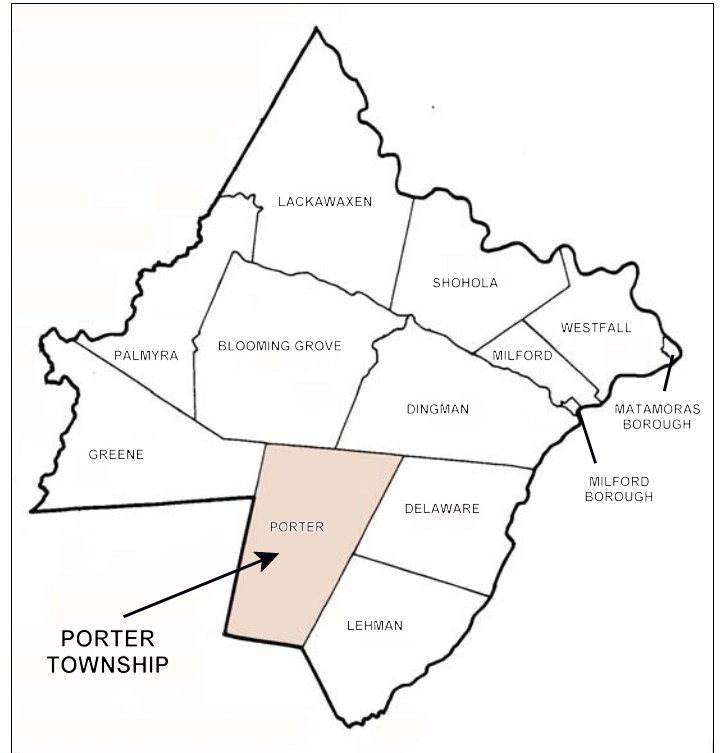
## Planning Process; Key Questions

Simply stated, a comprehensive plan is a starting point - a blueprint to guide the future development of the Township and should reflect the conditions, attitudes, situations, and goals of the community. The success of the planning program will be measured only in the form of accomplishment. Accomplishing the plan will be the responsibility of the area's residents. It will require public support and positive action by the Township's local officials. In short, the planning process involves finding the sometimes complex answers to four simple questions:

### Where are we?

The initial step in the process is the collection and analysis of information on a wide range of community characteristics and concerns aimed at defining the existing condition of the community and identifying planning implications.

- Community Character / Regional Location
- Growth and Development, and Land Use



Porter Township in Pike County

- Natural Features, Land Suitability for Development and Development Concerns
- Demographics and Economic Base
- Community Facilities and Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Planning and Development in Contiguous Municipalities, Pike County, and the Region

### Where do we want to be?

The Plan Goals and Objectives are a vision of how residents and local officials expect the community to develop and evolve into the future. The Goals and Objectives are based on public input and the findings of the background studies. Based on this community vision and the needs identified in the planning process, the plans are developed to guide the future growth and development of the Community including:

- ☞ Land Use
- ☞ Housing
- ☞ Transportation
- ☞ Community Facilities and Services
- ☞ Natural and Historic Resource Protection
- ☞ Open Space and Recreation

## **H**ow do we get there?

The specific means to effect the various plans are included in the Comprehensive Plan along with the actions and the responsible entities. Examples of implementation strategies include zoning ordinance and subdivision and land development ordinance updates, capital improvement budgeting, and historic structures preservation.

While the ultimate responsibility for each municipality lies with the elected officials, much of the work of implementation, assessment of the accomplishment of goals and objectives, and periodic Comprehensive Plan review can be accomplished by the Planning Commission and citizen volunteers who are appointed to special committees or task forces along with municipal officials.

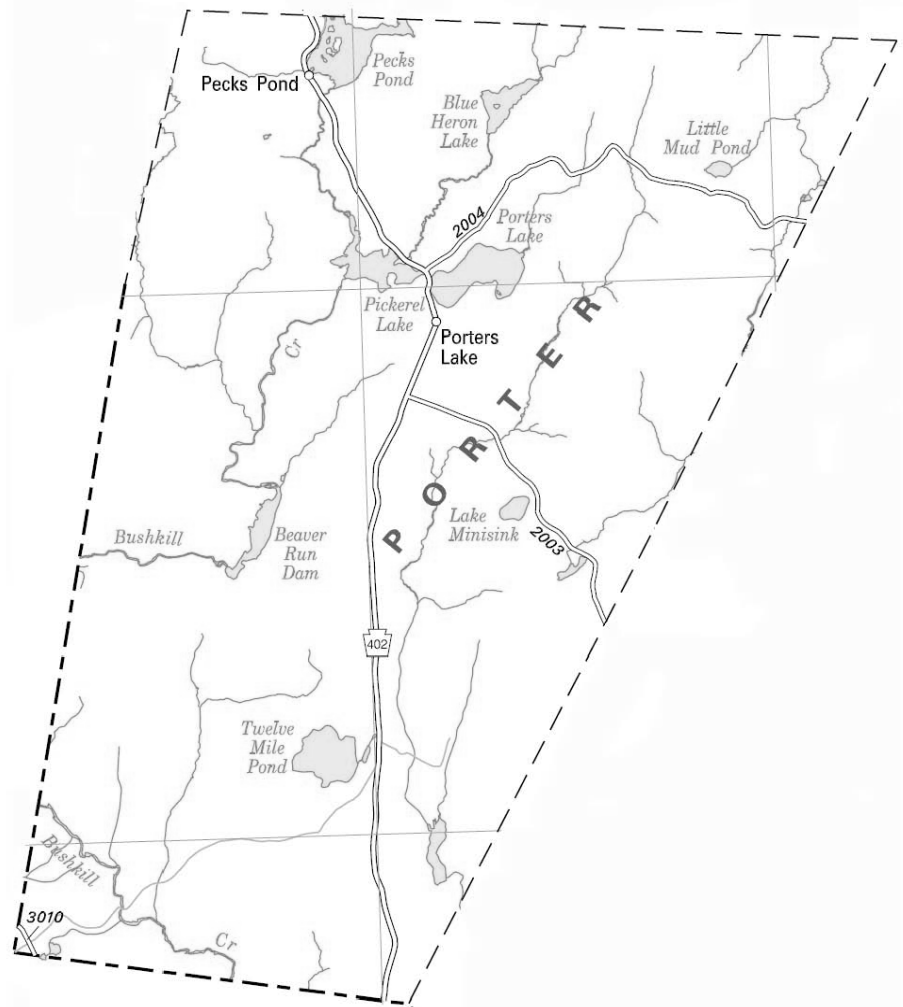
## **H**ow are we doing?

A comprehensive plan must not simply be considered a document on a shelf, but instead, one element of a community management process dependent upon the attitude and on-going foresight of the public officials charged with the responsibility of guiding the growth and development of the community. The plan should be used by the community when important decisions are made and its goals and objectives and prioritized actions should be reviewed at least each year to assess the community's accomplishments or the need to shift priorities for action.

## **P**lanning Committee

The Planning Process is being coordinated by a Planning Committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Members include:

Todd Banks	Bill Powell
Rob Hellyer	Susan Powell
Terri Koch	Robert Strohmaier
Jim Meglino	Greg Wells



## **H**ow can you participate?

The Comprehensive Plan Committee meets regularly and all meetings are open to the public. The Committee will also be conducting a number of public meetings throughout the process and notice will be advertised in local newspapers and will be posted on the web site noted below.

The Committee is also conducting a community survey that will be available at the township building, from Committee members and the Township web site.

## **P**lanning Process Information

Information about the planning process is available from Planning Committee members and:

- Porter Township Secretary Terri Koch; portertw@hughes.net
- [www.portertownship.net](http://www.portertownship.net) (find comprehensive plan)
- Carson Helfrich, Community Planning & Management, LLC; 857-0282; carson@communityplanning.biz