Infrastructure in Cheltenham Township, PA

**Challenges**

- Waste Water System
- Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan
- School District of Cheltenham Township Facilities
Infrastructure in Cheltenham Township, PA

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Cheltenham Township

- Founded by Quakers ~ William Penn era.

- Eras
  - Mill town (1690 - early 1900s)
  - Gilded age (1870s to early 1900s)
  - Railroad suburb (late 1800s to WWII)
  - Postwar suburb (post WWII - late 1900s)
  - Older inner ring suburb (late 1900s to present)

- Issues
  - High taxes
  - Limited opportunity for tax base growth.
  - Aging infrastructure
Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer System

Old System In Need of Improvements
- Estimated $23.74 million construction cost for improvements.
- Caused by limited maintenance and limited periodic upgrades.
- System is governed by PA Department of Environmental Protection under PA Sewage Facilities Act, Act 537.
- Planning area includes parts of other municipalities.
- Cheltenham is "down stream" from other sources of waste water.
PA Act 537 Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer Plan Area

New Sewer connection limits are in place by PA Department of Environmental Protection until parts of plan are implemented.
Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer System

Other Jurisdictions in 537 Plan Area
- Philadelphia (Philadelphia Water Department) - processes waste water.
- Abington, Jenkintown, Springfield as "up stream" communities with sewage that flows to and through Cheltenham.
- The other jurisdictions need to sign on to the 537 plan, and up stream communities need to pay parts of costs.
Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer System

Issues
- Cost (paid for by bonds, taxes and fees).
- Agreements by various jurisdictions and PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
  - DEP approves and oversees plan.
  - DEP approves new sewer capacity.
  - parts of the costs for the improvements in Cheltenham are paid for by Abington, Jenkintown and Springfield.
- Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) approves level of sewage from Cheltenham in to PWD and Cheltenham pays PWD.
School District of Cheltenham Township Facilities

Issues
- Older buildings.
- Lack of planning.
- Lack of maintenance and planned periodic upgrades.
- Limited funding and high taxes.
- Limited ability to raise taxes.
- Debt limits.
Cheltenham School District Building Timeline | Interactive Web Page - BETA

Directions/Information
- Design Revised 12.28.13 | Data Revised 12.28.13
- Different views (Timeline, Map) show different parts of the same data set in different ways.
- Search, click on items or drag on the timeline or map to find details.
- Some dates are approximate.
- See History and Development of the School District of Cheltenham Township by Alexander W. Scott, where part of the data for this Web page was developed.
- Designed by David L. Cohen, AICP.

Search

8 items filtered from 28 originally (Reset All Filters)

Title
1. Administration Building (was formerly Lynnewood Elementary, which opened in 1952)
2. Cedarbrook Middle School
3. Cheltenham Elementary - Rebuilt
4. Cheltenham High School Current
5. Elkins Park School
6. Glenside Elementary - Rebuilt
7. Modulars at Elkins Park School
8. Myers Elementary

Category
1. Administration Building
2. Elementary School
3. High School
4. Junior High School
5. Middle School

http://www.swingingsammy.com/cheltenhamsd/csdbuildinghistory.html
Building Projects

- Renovated Myers Elementary (2009-2013)
- New Glenside Elementary (2010-2011)
- New Cheltenham Elementary (2011-2013)
- New Wyncote Elementary (2013-2015)
- Cedarbook Middle School (future unclear; proposed modulars)
  (to be closed Jan./Feb. 2014)
- Elkins Park School
  (needs major renovations or to be rebuilt)
- Cheltenham High School
  (needs major renovations)
- Administration Buildings
  (new facility needed)
Same basic problems not resolved 10 years later.

December 2013 -->

The mold wins: Cedarbrook Middle School to close

By Jessica Parks, Inquirer Staff Writer

POSTED: December 10, 2013

September 2003 -->

Districts battling mold and deadlines Schools in Cheltenham and North Penn should be at least mostly ready today. One Pottstown school is behind.

By Connie Langmaid, Inquirer Staff Writer

POSTED: September 23, 2003
School District Planning Issues

- Focus on building design and not planning.
- Lack of long-term planning.
  - Buildings designed as one-off projects.
  - Lack of site design planning in terms of broader community issues.
- No capital budget or long-term facilities plan.
- Demographic study recently completed after four major building projects had been built or designed.
- Improvements made in response to crises without capital planning and lack of systematically upgrading and maintaining buildings.
- Limited options for new building locations.
Presentation

Conclusion

• Under maintained aging infrastructure will eventually fail.
• Lack of long-term planning leads to planning after a crisis or results in working on a project by project basis.
• Funding restraints; the more you wait to fix infrastructure the more it costs to replace it.
• Lack of planning expertise and capacity.
• Infrastructure often not viewed as a critical need until a crisis develops.
Infrastructure in Cheltenham Township, PA

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Presentation: Overview
- School District Planning Issues
- Building Projects
- Infrastructure in Cheltenham Township, PA

PA Act 537 Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer System
- Old System in Need of Improvements
- Restored 1990s and 2000s
- Roadway systems in place and updated regularly
- School District of Cheltenham Township

Waste Water - Sanitary Sewer System
- Other Sanitary Systems
- Act 537 Plan Area
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Act 537
- Funding from Act 537 plan to provide wastewater treatment facilities

School District of Cheltenham Township Facilities
- School facilities
- Related infrastructure
- Sewage and water systems
- Sustainability initiatives
Environmental Planning at DVRPC

Public Participation Task Force

Presented by:
Christopher Linn, AICP
Manager, Office of Environmental Planning

January 2014
Environmental Planning Initiatives

- Regional Data Collection and Coordination
- Technical and Financial Assistance
- Regional Green Infrastructure and Open Space Planning
- Regional Trail Network Development
- Municipal Planning
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Coastal Zone Management
2011 Protected Open Space Inventory

Nine-County DVRPC Region

- Federal
- State
- County
- Municipal
- Nonprofit
- Preserved Farmland
- County Boundaries
- Municipal Boundaries

Sources: Bucks County Planning Commission, Burlington County Department of Economic Development and Regional Planning, Camden County Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation, Camden County Improvement Authority, Chester County Planning Commission, Delaware County Planning Department, Gloucester County Planning Division, Mercer County Planning Division, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Natural Lands Trust, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation
Locally Funded Open Space Programs

2013 Active Programs

- Municipal Funding - Dedicated Tax
- Municipal Funding - Bond
- Municipal Funding - Tax and Bond
- County Funding - Dedicated Tax
- County Funding - Bond
- County Funding - Tax and Bond
- County Funding - Other

Note: Municipalities that previously issued bonds dedicated for open space will excluded the funds are not shown.

For municipal and county open space funding details, see [http://www.dvrpc.org/open_space/](http://www.dvrpc.org/open_space/)
Greenspace Network
Conservation Focus Areas
Grants and Technical Assistance

RETURN ON ENVIRONMENT

The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania

SUMMARY REPORT

MUNICIPAL TREE MANAGEMENT

MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION TOOL #15
JULY 2009

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Natural Areas and Aquatic Resources

- Project
- Wetlands
- Flood Plain
- Riparian Buffer - 300 ft.
- Woodlands > 10 acres
Urban Green Stormwater Infrastructure

The Urbanized Landscape
Moving Towards Watershed Destruction

- 75% Surface Flow to Pipes
- 15% Evapotranspiration
- 5% Interflow
- 5% Infiltration
Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Multiple Shades of Green

Level 3 - Landscape Actively Manages Stormwater Runoff

ASLA 2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPO

Slide courtesy Kevin Perry, Nevue Ngan and Associates
Regional Trail Network Development
Network Fragmentation

The Circuit
Filling Gaps to...
Philadelphia has the highest rate of bicycle commuters of the ten largest cities in America, nearly double of second place Chicago.

2.16%
CircUit
Greater Philadelphia's Regional Trail Network

Existing Trails
Trails in Progress
Planned Trails

CHESTER
To Wilmington, Baltimore, and Washington, DC

Delaware
To Philadelphia

GLoucester
To New Brunswick, Newark, and NYC

BURLINGTON

May 2012
750 MILES OF TRAILS

CONNECT the Circuit

ConnectTheCircuit.org
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REI)

DVRPC REGIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

dvrpc

A new grant program to further the creation of Greater Philadelphia's regional multi-use trails network.

Expressions of Interest
due Friday, July 8th, 2011

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Manayunk Bridge
Spring Garden Street Greenway
Grays Ferry Crossing
Municipal Planning Studies

- Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Township of Mantua, Gloucester County, New Jersey
- Farmland Preservation Plan for the County of Cumberland, New Jersey
- Environmental Resource Inventory for the Township and Borough of Princeton, New Jersey
Climate Change Resiliency

Storm Surge of Approximately 10 feet
Climate Change Adaptation
SEPTA and Climate Hazards

SOURCE OF WEATHER-RELATED DELAY

Delay Minutes
- Heat: 60%
- Winter storm: 7%
- Heavy rain, wind: 7%
- Summer thunderstorm: 16%
- Snow: 6%
- Tropical Storm/Hurricane: 4%

Annulments
- Heat: 65%
- Winter storm: 2%
- Heavy rain, wind: 32%
- Summer thunderstorm: 2%
- Snow: 16%
- Tropical Storm/Hurricane: 4%
Chester City Climate Change Project Team

Ann Faulds
Jaclyn Rhodes

Bill Payne

Sari Rothrock
Karen Holm

Chris Linn
Liz Compitello

Michael Dunn
Dana Spindler

NOAA Coastal Services Center
Hurricane Surge Inundation

Source: Hurricane Surge Inundation areas for category 1 through 4 hurricanes arriving at high mean water. The hurricane surge elevation data used to define these areas was calculated by the National Hurricane Center using the Sea Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) Model. The SLOSH model hurricane surge elevations have an accuracy of +/- 20 percent. The hurricane surge inundation areas depict the inundation that can be expected to result from a worst case combination of hurricane landfall location, forward speed, and direction for each hurricane category.
Coastal Zone Management
Coastal Zone Management
Questions?

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