

A photograph of the Venango County Courthouse, a large red brick building with white architectural details and two prominent domes. Two people are standing in front of the building on a paved walkway, holding a large sign. The sign features the '250' logo and text about a historic preservation grant project. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

Venango County **Regional** Planning Commission Annual Report **2025**



Courthouse Roof Replacement Project (see page 12)

DIRECTOR & STAFF

Joshua Sterling "Well, 2025 was... a lot. So, bear with me, here..." Executive Director

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission office closed out 2025 looking considerably different than it did when the year began. The year entailed two leadership transitions and planning for a complex restructuring of job descriptions to facilitate continued growth in our recycling program, more efficient delivery of services, and overall anticipated taxpayer cost-savings.

Former Planning Director Hilary Buchanan announced her intention to pursue another role in April and stepped down from her position in May; and she is dearly missed around the office. She had bravely led the department since the beginning of 2022, and was previously Deputy Director starting in 2018. Her years of service were characterized with meticulous organization, an appreciation for well-documented processes, and a thoughtful approach to all initiatives. Following her departure, Deputy Director and Recycling Coordinator Erik Johnson kept our fiscal processing in order, filling a crucial leadership gap with calm conviction. Johnson's role in the office was absolutely critical during this time to maintain municipal services and the various programs administered by the Department. In June, the County hired Dennis Tobin as Planning Director. At the time of Tobin's hiring, I was promoted to a newly-created position of Chief Appropriations Officer.

During Tobin's short time in our office, he affectionately referred to himself as "Señor SALDO" and discussions began regarding possible staff reorganization options, which might have included a shift in job responsibilities to streamline the administration of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) as it related to stormwater regulations. A month later, Tobin resigned; and the Commissioners promoted me to the Executive Director role in July. Upon my promotion, we continued exploring the idea of staff reorganization, which included avenues to realize the long-held goal of expanding our recycling program following years of success with the Community Recycling Center, at 134 Hangar Drive near the Venango Regional Airport. We acknowledged this would require a broad restructure of the Planning Commission's staff responsibilities. Considering the machinery and manual labor that is fundamental to the recycling program, staffing the center full-time necessitated that two existing staff be permanently relocated to the center – for both worker safety and to effect the desired expansion of services.

In turn, arrangements were made to move both Erik and Jason Dillion, the Planning and Recycling Assistant, to the Recycling Center for a full and seamless transition that was completed in early 2026. As a result of the planning and discussion during the end of 2025, **Recycling is now officially a division of the Planning Department.** Jason is also continuing his vital work as the home inspector for the Venango County Housing Rehabilitation Program, where he has gained and maintains a wealth of understanding and knowledge of the myriad elements that make our living spaces safe and healthy.

With Erik's move out of the Planning office, Land-Use Planner Jenna Dillion would go on to take his fiscal responsibilities and was promoted to Deputy Director officially in 2026. She also began training on stormwater and floodplain administration to package those duties onto the same desk as subdivisions and land developments. Jenna is the central staple in the office, as she knowledgeably navigates the intersection of private development and public policy that assures new developments are also new good neighbors in our communities.

Geospatial Analyst Alex Shreffler added transportation planning to her workload; and she will become a key figure to projects, committees, and planning initiatives in the transportation field. Over the years, Alex has demonstrated an immeasurably-sharp attention to detail and ability to thoroughly learn new programs and regulatory requirements. I am excited to see her flourish in transportation planning.

Our collective reorganization efforts, with the support of the Commissioners, has allowed me to continue administering the county's Community Development Block Grant Program and Housing Rehabilitation Program while maintaining all existing services and retaining experienced, well-trained staff. All of these moves will ensure the Venango County Regional Planning Commission continues to operate efficiently and effectively.

Throughout this year of changes, Jenna, Alex, Jason, and Erik performed their duties with unflinching commitment to not only our department, but to the County as a whole. I am extremely proud to be in a position to lead such a tremendously talented and dedicated office."

Kindest Regards,

Joshua Sterling



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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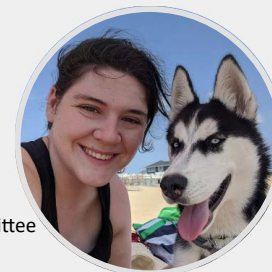


Erik Johnson
Deputy Director

- Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP)
- Certified Professional Recycler
- Venango County Safety Committee

Jenna Dillion
Land Use Planner

- PA Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Venango County Safety Committee



Alexandria Shreffler
Geospatial Analyst

- Keystone GIS (formerly PAMAGIC)
- Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS)
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
- PA Association of Floodplain Managers (PAFPFM)
- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM)



Jason Dillion
Recycling & Planning Assistant

- Home and building Inspector
- Mold and Environmental Inspector
- PA Certified Lead Risk Assessor
- PA Certified Asbestos Inspector
- PA Certified Radon Testing Individual



The **mission** of the **Venango County Regional Planning Commission** (VCRPC) is to support and advise all municipalities and other partners to aid in growth, development, and land use in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

SUBDIVISIONS

A total of sixty-two (62) Minor Subdivisions were approved in 2025. Twenty-three (23) of these were part and parcel subdivisions, where no new lot is created. Between the remaining thirty-nine (39) subdivisions, fifty (50) new lots were created in 2025. These numbers do not reflect any new lots or part and parcel subdivisions created in the City of Franklin or Sandycreek Township. An overview of plans reviewed and permitted is shown in Figure 1.

REQUESTING A SUBDIVISION

1. Discuss the lot plan with our office and obtain application materials.
2. Hire a professional licensed land surveyor to develop a survey plan.
3. Submit the survey plan to our office for preliminary review.
4. Once approved, submit six (6) notarized copies of the plans, a completed application, and a \$30 check or money order to cover the recording fee (made out to the Venango County Register & Recorder).
5. Expect approved plans to be distributed within 90-days to the following parties:
 - Planning Department
 - Assessment Office
 - Register & Recorder
 - Municipality
 - Sewage Enforcement Officer
 - Returned to the applicant via mail

SALDO WAIVERS

The Planning Commission Board considered and approved two (2) requests for waiver from sections of the Venango County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). The first waiver was concerning the submission of a geotechnical report (SALDO 403.D.26), and the second was from the minimum lot size requirement of one-acre (SALDO 506.A.3).

LAND DEVELOPMENTS

Eight (8) plans for land development received conditional approval in 2025. Of those plans, six (6) plans received final approval from the VCRPC and were able to begin construction: Commonwealth Charter Academy (Cranberry), UPS (Cranberry), BFS (Cranberry), Tycoon Saloon (Oil City), The Storage Place (Rouseville), and Pathways (Oil City). The two (2) plans that did not receive final approval in 2025 were for community-scale solar projects in Jackson and Oakland Townships. To highlight the concentrated development observed in the last decade, a summary of commercial development in a portion of Cranberry Township in the US 322 Corridor is presented in Table 1 and Figure 2. This corridor is one area identified in the Venango County Comprehensive Plan (2024) as a priority to continue to encourage economic growth.

Table 1. Recent land developments in the 322 Corridor (Cranberry Township).

Approved (Year)	Land Development
2016	Cranberry Retail Plaza
2017	Aldi-Cranberry Expansion
2018	Sheetz Rebuild 4 Your Car Connection Lot
2019	Cranberry Storage
2020	Clarion Federal Credit Union (Top Tier)
2022	VA Clinic
2023	McDonalds Drive-Thru
2024	Cardinal Solar Frankie's Frozen Custard Rossbacher Insurance Addition
2025	Marshalls* Commonwealth Charter Academy 2 Cousins Pizza BFS

*Originally approved as part of phase 3 of the Crannberry Retail Plaza project and constructed in 2025

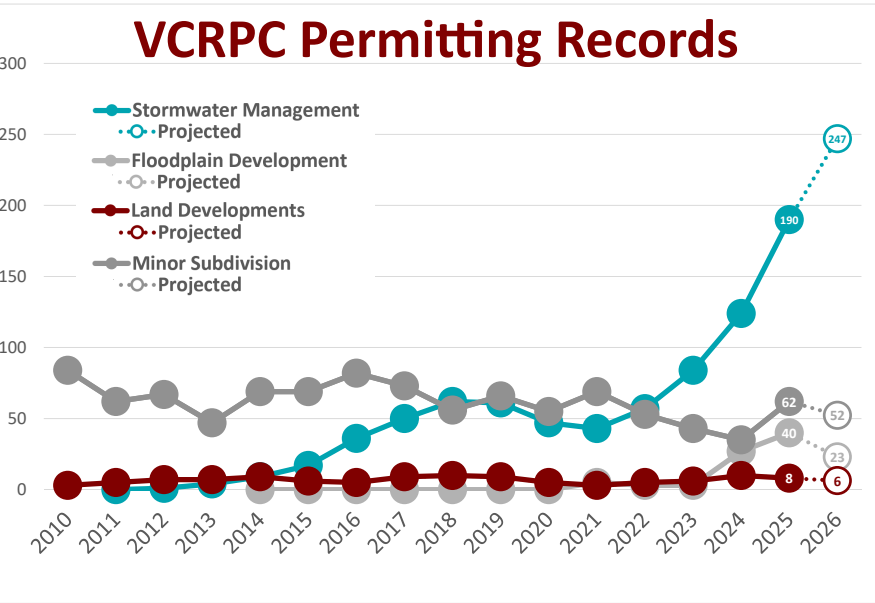


Figure 1. Permitting records since 2010 with approximate projections for 2026.

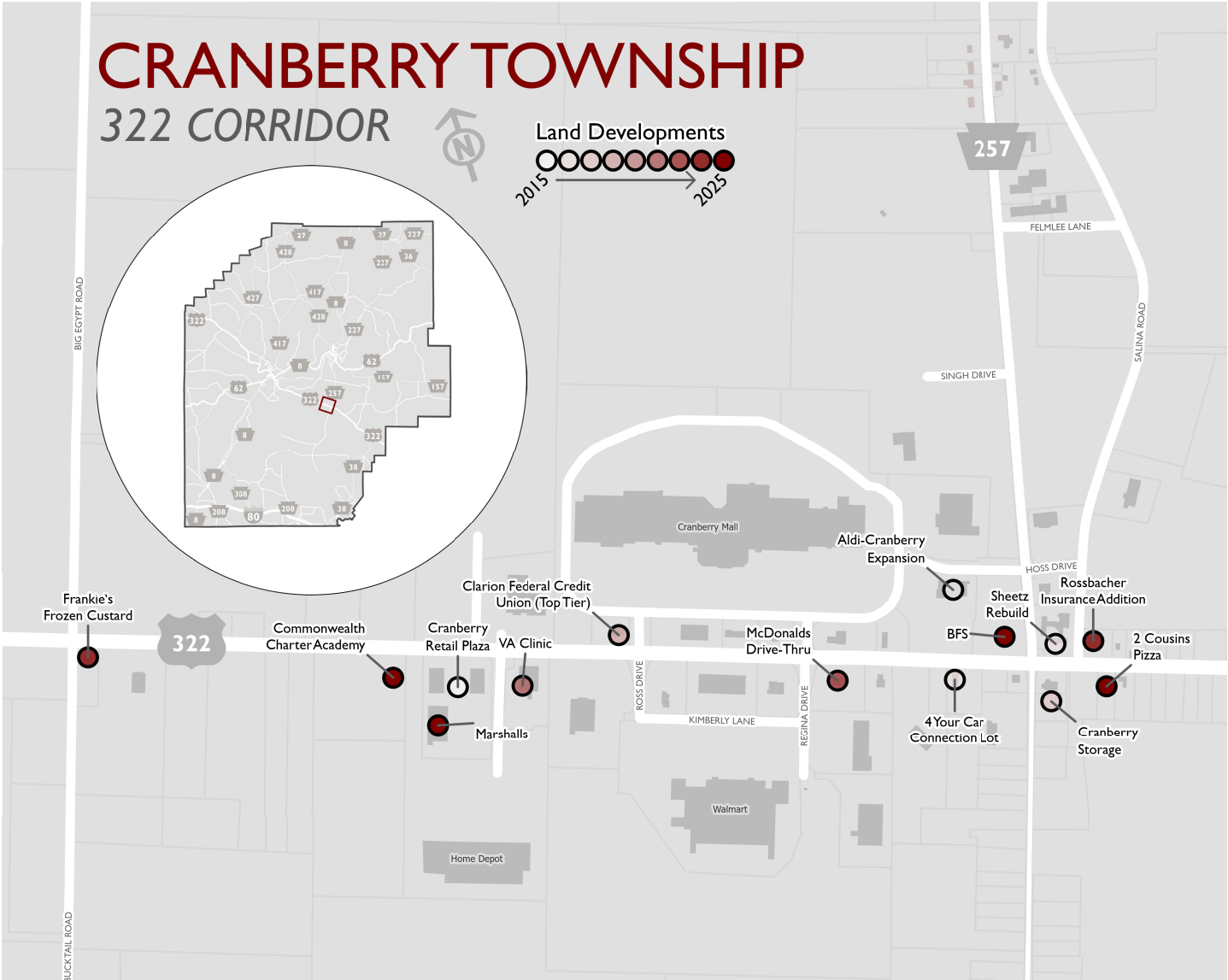


Figure 2. Map of land developments built in the 322 corridor in Cranberry Township since 2015.



Figure 3. PA Charter Academy approved in 2025



Figure 4. BFS approved in 2025

FEMA FLOODPLAIN AUDIT (2024-PRESENT)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began conducting Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) with municipalities across Venango County in early 2024. The objective of these visits was to evaluate the implementation of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements and to test the feasibility of a national pilot program to conduct audits on a county-wide basis. As the administrative delegate for many municipalities, the VCRPC was the ideal choice for serving as a coordinator to assist with establishing standard operating procedures, researching and compiling records, and resolving findings. The following municipalities were enrolled in agreements for technical assistance with the VCRPC for floodplain & stormwater regulations:

- ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP
- BARKEYVILLE BOROUGH* (new)
- CANAL TOWNSHIP
- CLINTON TOWNSHIP
- CLINTONVILLE BOROUGH
- COOPERSTOWN BOROUGH
- CORNPLANTER TOWNSHIP
- CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
- EMLENTON BOROUGH
- FRENCHCREEK TOWNSHIP
- IRWIN TOWNSHIP
- JACKSON TOWNSHIP
- MINERAL TOWNSHIP
- OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
- CITY OF OIL CITY
- OILCREEK TOWNSHIP
- PINEGROVE TOWNSHIP
- PLUM TOWNSHIP
- POLK BOROUGH
- PRESIDENT TOWNSHIP
- RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
- ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
- ROUSEVILLE BOROUGH
- SANDYCREEK TOWNSHIP*
- SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP
- SUGARCREEK BOROUGH
- UTICA BOROUGH
- VICTORY TOWNSHIP

*Floodplain Agreement only

Major progress occurred in 2025, including the close-out of about half of 173 development violations identified by FEMA (see Figure 5). The remaining findings will be addressed within the allotted two-year time frame and a target completion date of June 2026.

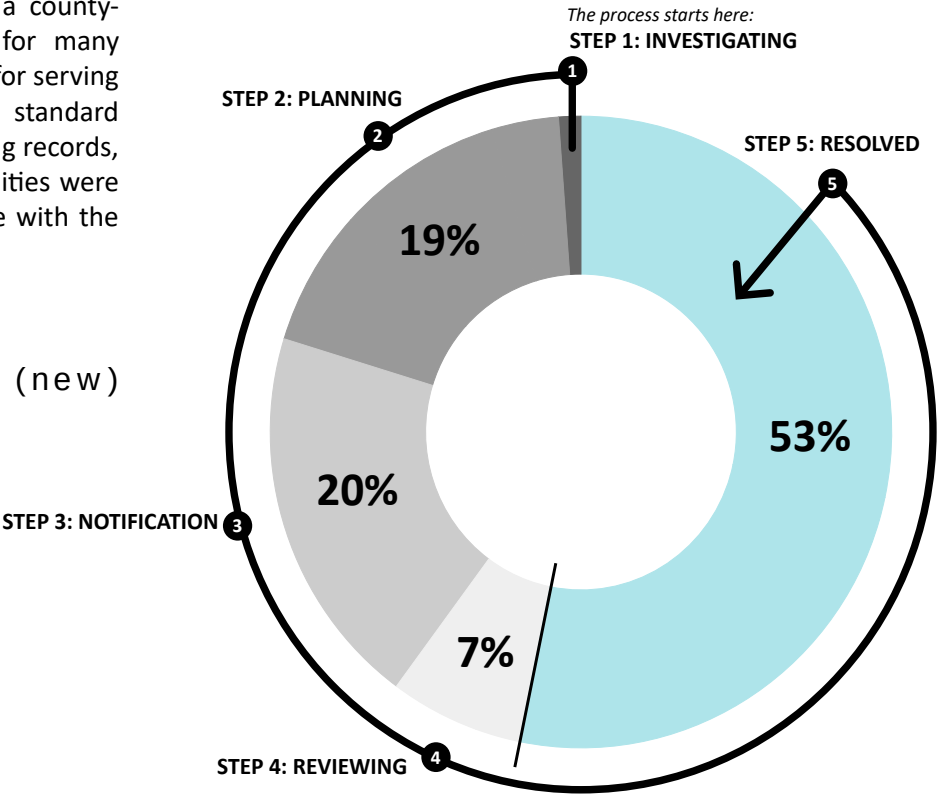


Figure 5. Chart depicting the current status of 173 floodplain audit violations in the following steps: 1) Investigation, 2) Planning, 3) Notification, 4) Reviewing, and 5) Resolved.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Our office provides technical review of projects to ensure compliance with local stormwater regulations. For the third consecutive year, there has been a 50% increase in small project stormwater applications (Figure 1), which underscores the effectiveness of outreach and education to the municipalities regarding coordinated building permit review. Small projects are considered those proposing less than 5,000 square feet of impervious surface area, which typically includes buildings, parking areas, and driveways. Certain other exemptions are also permitted, which allows for the approval of projects without the need to develop a formal engineered stormwater management plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

The Venango County Infrastructure Bank (VCIB) Program was established in 2022 to fund transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure improvement projects that support economic development, as well as public health and safety. The VCIB Program provides reduced-interest loan financing for up to 100% of eligible project costs, including soft costs, to support infrastructure and other improvement projects Countywide. The Infrastructure Bank is administered by the VCRPC, in coordination with the Venango County Commissioners and County Fiscal Department. Although there were no new projects in 2025, the funds rollover and will continue to be available in future years.

AT-RISK BRIDGE PROGRAM

Venango County collects an annual distribution—like many counties and municipalities in the Commonwealth—from Act 13: Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee, of which the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund is nested under. The County has chosen to allocate their portion of their Act 13 funds toward the At-Risk Bridge Program, which is a reimbursible grant administered by the County in coordination with PennDOT and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. The At-Risk Bridge Program fund supports the replacement or rehabilitation of bridges which are at-risk, structurally deficient, or weight-restricted based on load rating. Applications are collected year-round, reviewed in order once complete applications are received, and considered for funding based on available allocations. Although there were no projects funded in 2025, these funds roll-over in a capital reserve fund which may be drawn in later years.

BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) were established by the federal government to ensure highway bridges on public roads throughout the United States are inspected according to basic safety standard. Program oversight responsibility is passed on to PennDOT who provides for the routine inspection of all locally-owned bridges on public roads over 20-feet in length. The VCRPC administers agreements with the municipalities to manage the inspection process through a joint-contract with the engineering firm STV, Incorporated and ensures compliance with all federal requirements. A portion of funds from PA Acts 44 (PA Turnpike Funds) and 89 (Gasoline Tax & Licensing Fees) helps to fund inspections and other associated costs for bridge projects. The municipalities of Venango County own a total of fifty-one (51) bridges, and the County owns nineteen (19) bridges, for a total of seventy (70) bridges mandated by the NBIS program.

COUNTY AID PROGRAM

The Venango County Aid program is a competitive grant developed to assist local municipalities by allocating funding toward project requests, which are reviewed, ranked, and awarded on an annual basis and funded by the County's distribution from the Liquid Fuels Act 39 Fund. Eligible projects for these funds include construction, maintenance, and repair of roads and bridges, and the County has continued to fund municipal requests in the form of County Aid since the inception of the program in the early '90s. Projects awarded in 2025 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. County Aid awards in 2025.

MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AWARD
Cherrytree Township	Paving 1.29 miles of Cherrytree Road from Buxton to Fairview	\$ 30,000.00
Cornplanter Township	Multi-phase paving, improvement, and repair to Moody Run Road	\$ 30,000.00
Irwin Township	Daylighting Eakin Road and Phase 2 Reconstruction Gibb Road	\$ 30,000.00
Mineral Township	Application of an asphalt binder to Center Church Road	\$ 30,000.00
Oicreek Township	Paving Coe, Shamburg and Miller Farm roads from each intersection	\$ 30,000.00
Pleasantville Borough	Milling and Paving New Street from West Street	\$ 30,000.00
Rouseville Borough	Paving and improvements on Hiland Avenue	\$ 25,000.00
Emlenton Borough	Replacement of multiple catch basins	\$ 20,000.00
Cooperstown Borough	Berm repairs/maintenance to address stormwater issues	\$ 15,000.00
Rockland Township	Installation of pipe and catch boxes on Mays Mill Road	\$ 10,000.00

The Venango County **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** establishes a framework to improve communities, project for future conditions and trends, and establish a vision that reflects the ideas and goals of the residents and stakeholders. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) authorizes the development of comprehensive plans and requires all counties to update their plans every 10 years. Although the scope of the Plan is too vast for any one organization to complete alone, the VCRPC is responsible for coordinating with community partners to ensure that local projects align with the shared priorities and assist with documenting implementation efforts. The Plan is organized into three (3) main priorities, which are then split into specific goals and actions. An overview on the current status of implementation is summarized in the below charts and can be interpreted using the key below on the right side of the page. Each "slice" of the chart represents one prioritized Action referenced in the Plan, and the radiating levels of color from the center of each chart shows the level of progress accomplished across all 45 of the reported projects listed in *Table 3*. More information about the specific Actions (i.e. 1.1.1) referenced in the charts below can be found in the full Plan published online at www.venangocountypa.gov/Comp-Plan or you may contact our office for a printed copy.

Year 0
2024

☒ Establish priorities & goals

☒ Adopt a comprehensive plan

☒ Develop an implementation reporting system

Year 1
2025

☒ Make progress on at least 20 actions

☒ Produce the first report on progress

☒ Document success stories

Year 2
2026

☐ Make progress on at least 20 actions

☐ Perform a gap analysis

☐ Document success stories

Year 3
2027

☐ Make progress on at least 20 actions

☐ Work with stakeholders to review & strategize

☐ Document success stories

Year 4
2028

☐ Make progress on at least 20 actions

☐ Begin outreach campaign for feedback & input

☐ Form a steering committee

Year 5
2029

☐ Make progress on at least 20 actions

☐ Review & discuss new priorities and goals

☐ Prepare to amend proposed updates to Plan



"When you align daily **ACTIONS**
with long-term **GOALS**,
progress becomes inevitable."
Allison Dunn, Entrepreneur & Planner



PROJECT REPORTS

As stated in the Venango County Comprehensive Plan (2024), the Annual Report is expected to include "a description of actions taken by the County and partners over the past year that helped achieve the Priorities and Goals set forth in the Plan" (p. 38). In an effort to present this information as briefly as possible, a survey was conducted in January 2026 to collect information about how projects are contributing to each Action in the Plan.

The survey form (developed using ArcGIS Survey123) requested information about the project, including a brief title and description, as well as an estimate of current progress (as a percent). Information for a total of 45 projects was submitted and recorded (*Table 3*).

Once all the data was collected, the projects were sorted into main Priority groups, and a total "investment" value (in dollars) was calculated for each group with projects that had been completed or were considered ongoing (or perpetual). The results of this calculation is presented in *Figure 6*. After summarizing the data, each instance of an action supported by a project was counted to sum a total of 155. In order to show progress toward each Action, the progress of all contributing projects was averaged to generate an aggregate value binned into status groups: Prospective, Started, Ongoing, and Complete. The results are presented on pages 7-8 of this report.

Want to contribute next year? Visit www.venangocountypa.gov/Comp-Plan or scan the code to learn more about how to participate.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PLANS

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The County has been in the process of updating its Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Management Plan since 2023. This is a state mandated plan that counties in Pennsylvania are required to implement every 10-year cycle—with 2015 being last time Venango County approved a plan update. The main goal of these plans is to secure landfill capacity for the county moving forward into the next decade. In addition, the County can review its current recycling program and set goals/initiatives forth to enhance programmatic sustainability.

In 2025, the County of Venango, with the assistance of the Venango County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Nestor Resources Inc. consulting firm, finalize a draft of the Plan which went out for public comment in October-November. During this comment period, the County received feedback and was able to create a final draft which was later approved by the County Commissioners in January 2026. The completion of this Plan provides the region and recycling program with a comprehensive roadmap for solid waste/recycling initiatives to work towards for next 10 years.

AMD/AML PLAN

In 2023, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission was awarded a \$112,479 grant through the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation’s Acid Mine Drainage and Acid Mine Lands program. In 2025, that funding resulted in an extensive mapping and sampling of the polluted waterways, and a list of priority projects and plans to remediate the mine drainage into both the Scrubgrass Creek and South Sandy Creek. This included extensive work, sampling, and analysis done by consultant Hedin Environmental. The prioritized projects will guide future remediation work to clean up these natural waterways in our community.

HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission (Northwest Commission) throughout 2025 worked with 4Ward Planning to compile a new resource for regional economic development and infrastructure initiatives aimed at strengthening community systems. The Toolkit will provide the region’s urban and rural governments with practical guidance tailored to their unique needs, promoting housing development that integrates effectively with existing infrastructure and aligns specific strategies with economic development goals.

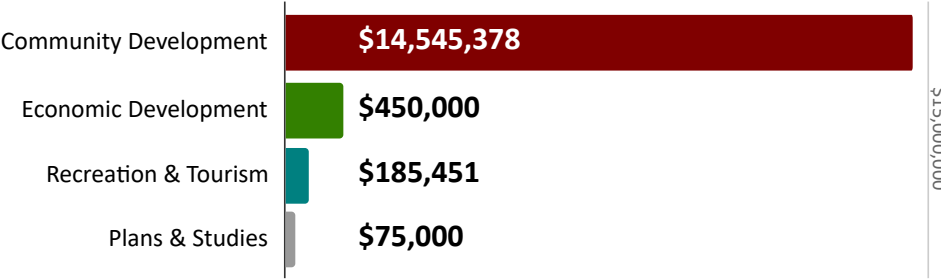


Figure 6. Total reported dollars invested in Venango County Projects in 2025.

Table 3. Projects undertaken during 2025, reported by partner organizations in early 2026.

Priority	Project Title (number of total actions supported, n=155)	Lead Organization/Agency	Status	Prospective	Started less than 50%	Ongoing more than 50%	Complete	Perpetual ongoing projects
Economic Development								
Infrastructure								
	County Aid (Liquid Fuels)	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	X
	National Bridge Inspection Program	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	X
	At-Risk Bridge Program	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	X
	Infrastructure Bank	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	X
Workforce								
	Whole Home Repair Program – Workforce Development	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	
	Robust Workforce, Job Accessibility, and Economic Mobility	Bridge Builders Community Foundations		X	X	X	X	
Community Development								
	Clintonville Food Bank Support	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	
	Community Recycling Center	County of Venango (Recycling)		X	X	X	X	X
	Backyard Conservation Workshop	Venango Conservation District		X	X	X	X	
	Modular Classroom Extension	Christian Life Academy		X	X	X	X	
	Dean Road Bridge Over Little Sandy Creek Replacement	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	US 62 and 322 from SR 8 to US 322	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	I-80 ITS at Barkeyville	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X	X	
	SR 257: Fletcher Land to US 62	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	Oil City Corridor WNYPA Railroad	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	SR 2023 Bridge over Porcupine Creek	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X	X	
	SR 3003 Bridges over I-80 East Bound and West Bound	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X	X	
	SR 3021 Slide Group #1	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	SR 3023 Bridge over Mill Creek	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X	X	
	SR 3101 Bridge over I-80	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	SR 3102 Bridge over SR 8	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X		
	2025 Reflective Pavement Markings	PennDOT District 1-0		X	X	X	X	
Housing								
	Home Rehabilitation	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	X
	Older Adult Housing	Cranberry Economic Development Committee		X	X			
Revitalization								
	Rehabilitation of Blighted Residential Structures	Venango County Land Bank		X	X	X		
	Courthouse Roof Replacement	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	
	Lyric Theatre	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X			
	Pollinator Garden	County of Venango (Recycling)		X	X	X	X	X
	Allegheny River Cleanup	County of Venango (Recycling)		X	X	X	X	
	Revitalization of the first floor of 100 Seneca	Venango County Economic Development Authority		X	X	X	X	
	Restoration of 1101 Buffalo Street	Franklin Preservation		X	X	X		
	Oil City Hotel Demolition & Site Preparation	City of Oil City		X	X	X	X	
Recreation & Tourism								
Improvements								
	Two Mile Park Restroom	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X	X	
	Improved Two Mile Park Amenities	County of Venango (Planning)		X				
	Upgraded Hiking and Biking Trails	Oil Region Alliance		X	X	X		
	PA Trail Maintenance in Oil Creek State Park	Friends of Oil Creek State Park		X	X	X		
Plans, Studies, Publications, & Reports								
	AML/AMD Reclamation Plan	County of Venango (Planning)		X	X	X		
	Stormwater Management Plan Update	County of Venango (Planning)		X				
	Recreation Maps	County of Venango (Planning)		X				
	Economic Corridor Maps	County of Venango (Planning)		X				
	Solid Waste Management Plan Update	County of Venango (Recycling)		X	X	X		
	Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	County of Venango (Public Safety)		X	X	X	X	
	ATV Trail Network	County of Venango (Commissioners)		X				
	Justus Park Riverfront Feasibility Study	Venango Area Chamber of Commerce		X	X	X	X	
	NWPA Housing Development and Planning Toolkit	Northwest Regional Planning Commission		X	X	X		

For more information about these projects, please feel free to reach out to our office.

VENANGO COUNTY COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTER

In 2025, the Venango County Community Recycling Center completed its fifth year in operation. Public use of the site continues to grow steadily year to year and, with this increased demand, capacity on-site has grown to compliment this need. The Recycling Center has historically relied on state grant funding to provide fundamental capital investments to the facility to enhance long-term sustainability of the program. The County also generates revenues via performance-based grants and processing of cardboard material to offset costs, which then helps to reduce the facility’s impact on the County budget.

Located at 134 Hangar Drive in Franklin, Pennsylvania—right next to the County’s regional airport—this property is County-owned. In the true spirit of recycling, the County opted to “re-use” this property—formerly known as the “County Garage”—for the recycling center. Materials currently accepted include: Plastics #1(PET), #2(HDPE) and #5, Metal and Aluminum Cans, Glass Bottles(all colors), Paper Products (newspaper, office paper, magazines and paper board), and Corrugated Cardboard.

For more information on the Venango County Community Recycling Center and the County Recycling Program, please visit the county website at www.venangocountypa.gov/Recycling or contact the Recycling Facility Manager, Erik Johnson at Erik.Johnson@venangocountypa.gov.

SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

In 2025, the County of Venango hosted four (4) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)/Electronic recycling events and one (1) Tire Collection event. These special collection events provide residents and businesses access to properly recycle or dispose of materials that cannot be disposed in the regular municipal waste streams. Furthermore, this program is very important in helping to mitigate illegal dumping activities throughout the County by coordinating this service for the public.

At events held on March 1st, May 31st, August 2nd, and November 1st, a total of 22,767 pounds of HHW was collected via the program. This type of waste includes all manner of paints and toxic household chemicals that can contaminated ground water if leached from the landfill. In addition to this material, a total of 31,892 pounds of Electronics were collected and recycled at these events. In total, approximately 560 households attended these events in 2025.

The County hosted one Tire Recycling Collection Event (May 17th) at the Venango County Community Recycling Center for residents and businesses to drop off their old tires. A total combined weight of 23,620 lbs of tire waste was collected from the public to be recycled—keeping this material from littering rural roads and hillsides. Properly disposing of tires effectively eliminates this material from collecting water on properties which provides a breeding ground for mosquitos that carry the West Nile Virus.



Figure 7. A serious junk haul collected by volunteers during the Allegheny River Clean-Up event hosted by the Venango Conservation District (VCD) and supported by the Community Recycling Center and other key partners. Photo credit to the VCD.



Figure 8. Accessible public restroom overlooking Justus Lake.

SUPPORTING RECREATION
TWO-MILE PARK RESTROOM

A new handicapped-accessible public restroom is now open at Two Mile Run County Park (Figure 8), following the completion of construction in fall 2025. The new facility was constructed near the fishing pier and day-use area, at the north end of Justus Lake. Site preparation and construction was completed by Park staff and two contractors, Horizon Construction and Fuller Building Group. The project was funded through a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant.

ALLEGHENY RIVER CLEAN UP

On September 27th 2025, the County of Venango (PA Cleanways of Venango Co.) partnered with the Venango Conservation District, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWER), and Outdoor Allegheny River Services (OARS) participated in a River fFloat Clean-Up along a stretch of the Allegheny River from Oil City Marina Boat Launch to OARS at 3rd Street in Franklin. A total of seven (7) local volunteers pitched in to clean the shore line and shallows of trash and debris throughout the day. Approximately, 1000 pounds of material (tires, trash, scrap metal, recyclables, etc.) was removed from the Allegheny River watershed as a result of the efforts of this event (Figure 7).

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

HOME REHABILITATION

The Venango County Housing Rehabilitation Program completed projects on four (4) homes, with an average project value of \$45,130. These projects totaled a \$180,522 investment into the County’s housing market. The decrease in completed projects compared to previous years can primarily be attributed to delays in the project qualification process due to changes in home ownership for applicant addresses, as well as applicant more ineligibility determinations.

As for the funding streams for the Program the County received \$300,000 through the Pennsylvania Housing And Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) grant program, \$319,565 through the FFY2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and a \$750,000 grant through the HOME (HOME) Investment Partnerships Program. The CDBG housing rehab allocation comes jointly from the County entitlement program and entitlements administered on-behalf-of Sugarcreek Borough and Cranberry Township.

Over the life of these grants, the Program anticipates approximately eighteen (18) owner-occupied homes to be rehabilitated, based on a Program-wide average project cost of \$75,000. The goal of the program is to perform necessary health and safety repairs often delayed by low-income experiences in the hope that homes are preserved and neighborhoods improve over time.

COURTHOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT

After rainwater began making its way through the roof causing some minor damage and threatening worse, the Venango County Courthouse recieved a complete roof replacement. The Venango County Regional Planning Commission was awarded a \$100,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Historic Preservation Construction program to help offset the total project cost of just over \$1.1 million. The work was completed by Mid-State Roofing and Coating, and included the installation of new slate shingles, metal flashing, and copper roofing near the two Courthouse towers to match the original construction materials. This project was able to ensure the continued use of this historic building at the heart of Venango County for generations to come.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS

Communities are not created in vacuums, nor can their progress over time be realized in vacuum. The ongoing evolution of Venango County to meet the needs of its population requires partnerships across a range of public, private, and non-profit agencies. The Venango County Regional Planning Commission is proud to work with many local and regional organizations. In addition to benefits of private-public partnerships, regional cooperation with member municipalites, and general community engagement, we are grateful for the projects being completed and supported by the following organizations:

- Allegheny Realtors Association
 - Allegheny Valley Trails Association
 - Allegheny-Clarion Valley School District
 - Barrow-Civic Theater
 - Belles Lettres Club
 - Bridge Builders Community Foundation
 - City of Franklin: Community Development
 - City of Oil City: Community Development
 - Cranberry Area School District
 - Cranberry Economic Development Agency
 - Crawford Area Transportation
 - Debence Antique Music World
 - Drake Well Museum
 - Erie Arts & Culture
 - Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Franklin Area School District
 - Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority
 - Franklin Preservation
 - Franklin YMCA
 - Friends of Drake Well
 - Friends of Oil Creek State Park
 - Heritage Society of Oil City
 - McElhattan Foundation
 - Northwest Hospital Foundation
 - Northwest PA Regional Planning & Development Commission
 - Northwest Workforce Development Board
 - Oil City Area School District
 - Oil City Arts Council
 - Oil City Rotary Club
- Oil City YMCA
 - Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad
 - Oil Creek State Park
 - Oil Region Alliance
 - Oil Region Library Association
 - Outdoor Allegheny River Services
 - PA Heart & Soul
 - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 1-0
 - Pithole City Historical Site
 - PREP Program
 - Pumping Jack Museum (Crawford Center)
 - Rotary Club of Franklin
 - Titusville Area School District
 - Two Mile Run County Park
 - United Way of Venango County
 - Valley Grove Area School District
 - Venango Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Venango Conservation District
 - Venango County Airport
 - Venango County Commissioners
 - Venango County Economic Development Authority
 - Venango County Emergency Services
 - Venango County Historical Society
 - Venango County Human Services
 - Venango County Land Bank
 - Venango County Museum
 - Venango County Recycling
 - Venango Rotary After Hours
 - Venango Sports & Recreation, Inc.

Interested in being a community partner?

Reach out to our office to discuss potential projects, request letters of support/consistency, and to keep up-to-date on Comprehensive Planning initiatives in our area.

PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

The Planning Commission extends gratitude to **Sue Smith** for her long-standing dedication to the existence of the VCRPC since its inception. The Board is also grateful to **Greg Miller** for his completion of 10 years' service as a member and officer. Board members are currently eligible to serve up to two (2) consecutive five-year terms, and a majority of members must be locally elected officials.

CHAIR
Greg Miller Irwin Township, *Supervisor**

VICE-CHAIR I
Tracy Jamieson City of Franklin, *Resident*

VICE-CHAIR II
Jim Miller Polk Borough, *Supervisor**

VICE-CHAIR III
John McClelland Sugarcreek Borough, *Council**

MEMBERS
Ben Porter Clinton Township, *Supervisor**
Megan Weber Clintonville Borough, *Mayor**
Frank Pankratz Cranberry Township, *Planner*
Amy Whitehill Emlenton Borough, *Council**
John Neidich City of Franklin, *Resident*
Susan Smith Frenchcreek Township, *Resident*
Anita Fuchs Irwin Township, *Auditor**
Glenn Speer Oakland Township, *Resident*
Keith Klingler Oilcreek Township, *Supervisor**
Larry Baughman Sugarcreek Borough, *Council**
Ken Bryan Venango County, *Commissioner**

**Indicates an elected representative of their municipality*



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sam Breene *Chairman*
Ken Bryan *Vice-Chairman*
Chip Abramovic *Commissioner*



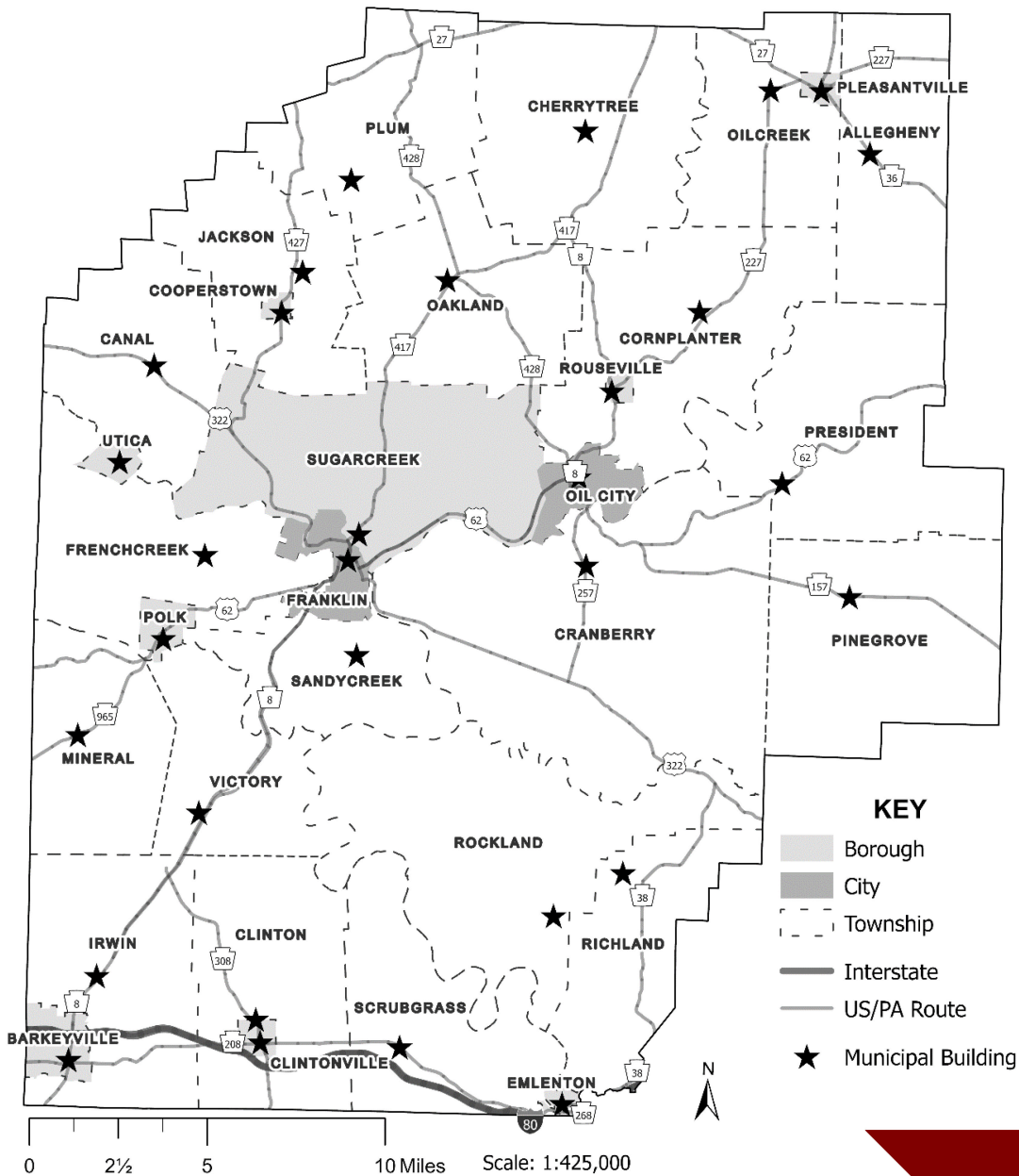
Planning Tomorrow Together

The Venango County Planning Commission was created in 1961 as a 9-member board. In 2005, the Venango County Planning Commission transitioned to a *Regional* Planning Commission and increased to a 15-member board appointed by the County Commissioners to represent both elected officials and residents of the member municipalities. The Commission's functions and responsibilities are governed by state law, primarily the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), which provides for the creation, funding, and operation of planning commissions at the discretion of each municipal or county government. The Commission is tasked with County-wide comprehensive planning and functional planning related to topics including community development, land use, environment, transportation, and economic development. The staff of the Planning Commission are shared amongst the members to provide technical assistance to all member municipalities informing decisions related to zoning, subdivision, land development, and other general planning considerations, including the pursuit of funding to complete community projects. The Commission also has access to a library of physical and digital resources as well as networks of information through membership and participation with major organizations, including the Pennsylvania American Planning Association. Regional planning and collaboration further informs local planning, and County characteristics and trends are compiled for use in evaluating proposed activities and projects and in preparing studies and plans. The Planning Commission seeks always to serve as the coordinator between local and regional planning organizations, an effort to bridge the gap and bring local and statewide issues together in the regional spotlight.

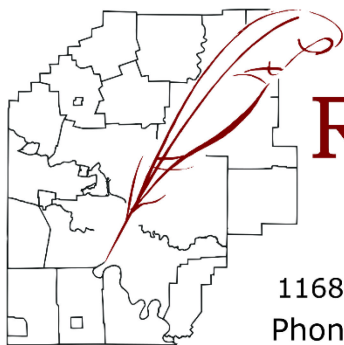
"Planning is a process of choosing among those many options. If we do not choose to plan, then we choose to have others plan for us."

Richard I. Winwood, Author

VENANGO COUNTY



ALLEGHENY Township
BARKEYVILLE Borough
CANAL Township
CHERRYTREE Township
CLINTON Township
CLINTONVILLE Borough
COOPERSTOWN Borough
CORNPLANTER Township
CRANBERRY Township
EMLENTON Borough
 City of **FRANKLIN**
FRENCHCREEK Township
IRWIN Township
JACKSON Township
MINERAL Township
OAKLAND Township
 City of **OIL CITY**
OILCREEK Township
PINEGROVE Township
PLEASANTVILLE Borough
PLUM Township
POLK Borough
PRESIDENT Township
RICHLAND Township
ROCKLAND Township
ROUSEVILLE Borough
SANDYCREEK Township
SCRUBGRASS Township
SUGARCREEK Borough
UTICA Borough
VICTORY Township



Venango County Regional Planning Commission

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Planning **Tomorrow** Together



www.venangocountypa.gov/Planning