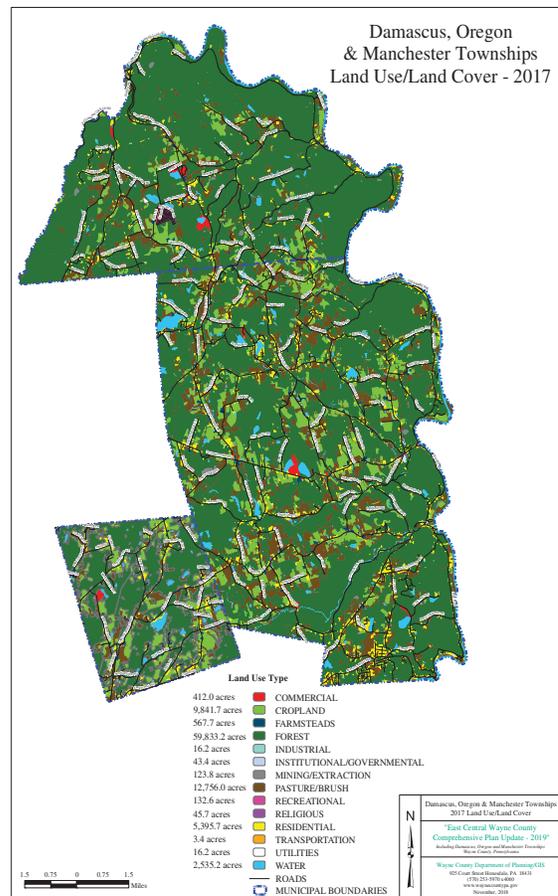


# **COUNTY TOPICS**

# Wayne County Land Use / Land Cover Update

In August of 2007, the Wayne County Planning Department completed an Agricultural Land Use/Land Cover Study that broke the entire County out according to one of fourteen land use/land cover categories. The study analyzed aerial photography from 1959 as a starting point and compared it to aerial imagery from 1997. Wayne County Tax assessment data and local knowledge also supplemented the effort. It resulted in the first comprehensive look at how land use/land cover had changed during that target period. Since that original study took place, the land use/land cover data analysis was completed again by utilizing aerial imagery of the County from 2008. In 2017, an aerial photo survey was again obtained for Wayne County. This new imagery has again provided our office with the opportunity to update the land use/land cover for the entire County.

The derived data, which includes both maps for visualization and raw numbers, is important to both the planning efforts of individual municipalities and the County as a whole. The data can be utilized to understand trends and how the County's land is changing. Last year when the most recent update process began, the Lake Region municipalities of Hawley Borough, Palmyra Township and Paupack Township were in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan. Our office provided the updated statistics and mapping for this specific region in support of this effort, and this project is now nearing completion. Additionally, in late 2018 and early 2019, our office also completed a similar updating process for the East Central Wayne County municipalities of Damascus, Oregon and Manchester Townships who are also in the process of completing a joint municipal Comprehensive Plan Update. The figure to the right is an example of a map of the current land use/land cover that exists in the three municipalities participating in the effort.



Aside from these two focus areas, the Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS staff has continued delineating the current land use/land cover for the remainder of the County. This work will continue and the overall project will be completed in 2019. The data acquired will provide an opportunity to compare the current land use/land cover information against the previous study years, dating all the way back to the inception of the analysis in 1959. This overall comparison will help identify land use trends in the County and where future ones may lead in support of Wayne County's own Comprehensive Plan update effort that will commence in the near future.

# Wayne County GIS

The Wayne County Planning/GIS Department works on a number of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) projects such as the daily maintenance of setting addresses, amending building footprints, revising tax parcel lines, and updating the County’s 911 system. Our office also plays a support role to other Wayne County departments and offices that either use GIS directly or rely on GIS data for their daily work and an assortment of projects. Beyond that, the County’s GIS serves the public through data requests, custom cartography, aerial mapping products, and an interactive online mapping application.

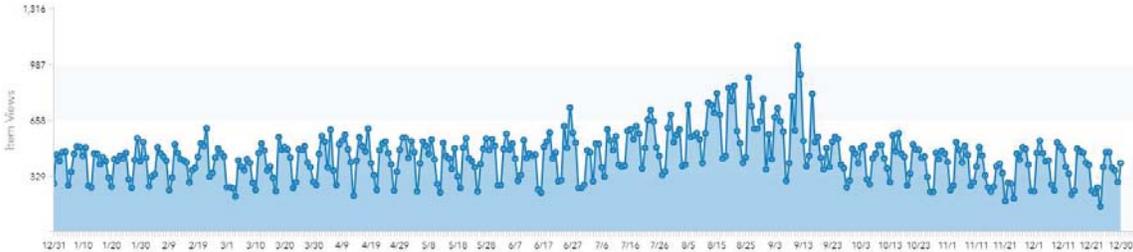
The following are examples of County GIS projects from 2018 and some of the ongoing projects worked on throughout the year.

## Wayne County Interactive Map

The Planning/GIS Department’s updated interactive web map continues to serve the public well. This map shows tax parcels and ownership, roads, and verified 9-1-1 addresses within Wayne County. Throughout 2018, the average number of map views per day was 455 and total yearly views equaled 165,462. The interactive map can be found on the Wayne County website (<http://waynecountypa.gov/>).



*Interactive map snapshot.*



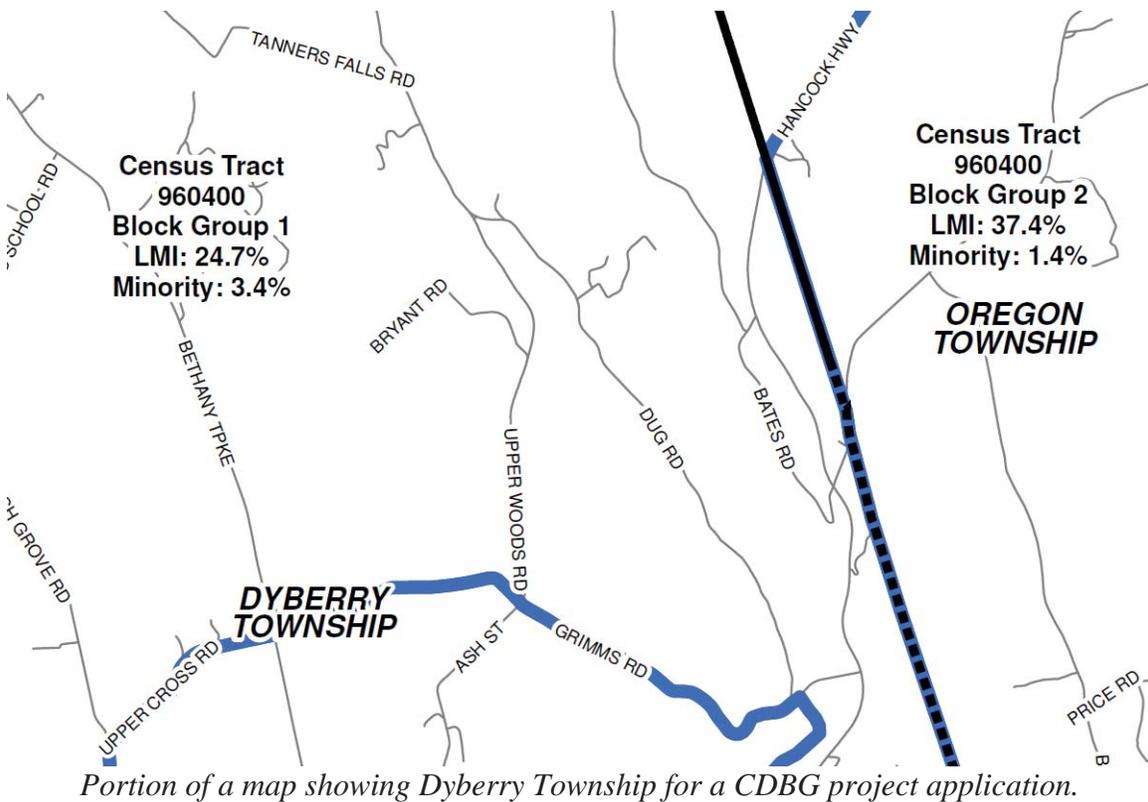
*Interactive map viewership numbers for 2018*

## Wayne County Assessment and GIS

The Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS works closely with the Tax Assessment Office to help maintain tax parcel data, right-of-ways, building footprints, the County's clean and green program (preferential tax abatement), and more. This is an ongoing relationship where information is exchanged between the two offices and all geographic information is maintained by Planning/GIS staff.

### Community Development Block Grant Mapping

Each year, Wayne County projects are awarded funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's (DCED) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Planning/GIS Department assists in the funding process by providing mapping services.



### Wayne County Agricultural Study

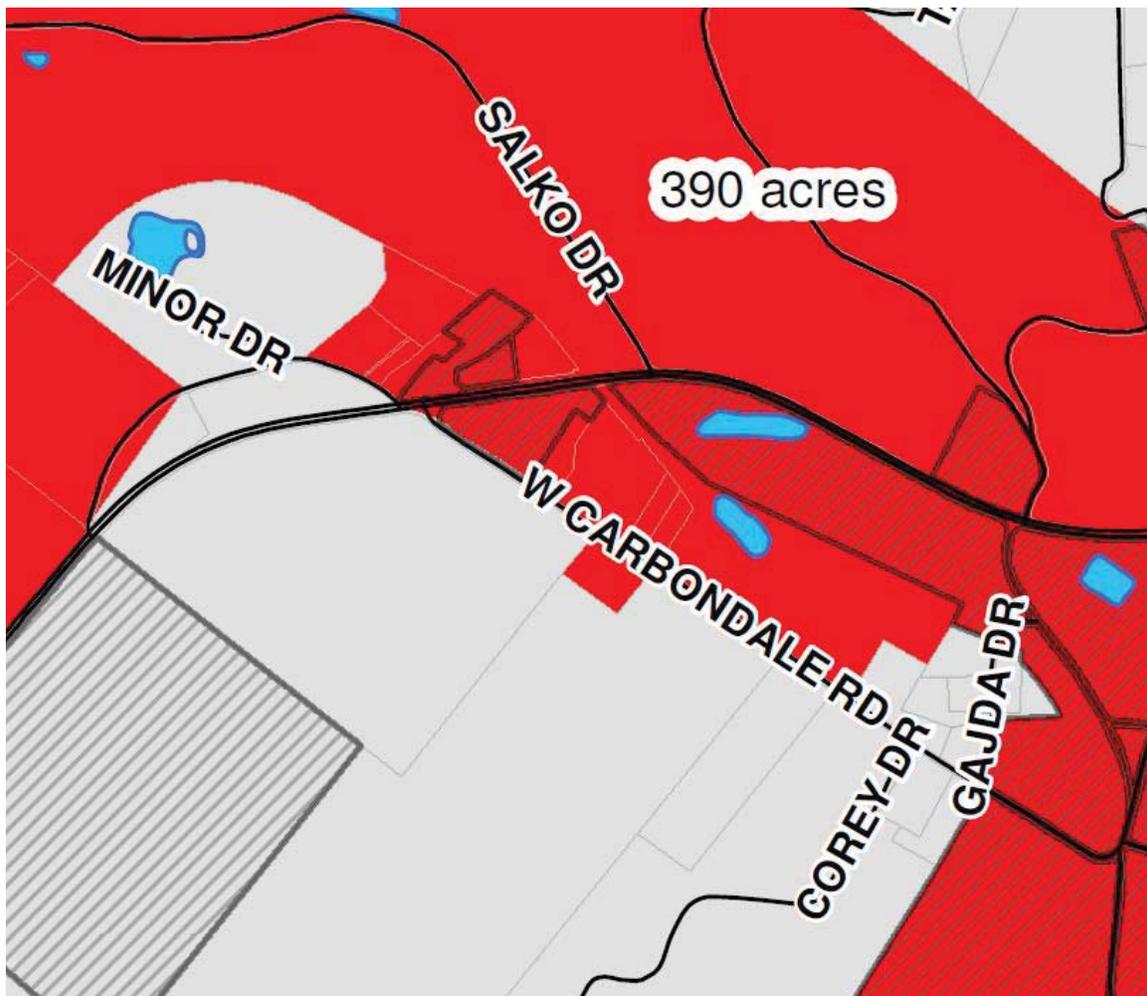
A grant to produce a Wayne County Agricultural Study was awarded in 2017 to the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO). The Planning/GIS Department provided mapping support for this study. This work helped the consultants (ACDS) and the Agriculture Committee of Wayne Tomorrow! inventory farms and farm resources in Wayne County. A final draft of this study was produced in late 2018 and will be used to steer agricultural and economic discussions in the future.

## WEDCO

Each year, we contribute to the Wayne Economic Development Corporation's (WEDCO) work by providing mapping and resource gathering support. WEDCO's projects range from the site or area specific to wider ranging plans that are more akin to fact-finding missions.

The Planning/GIS Department mapped the location of top employers and other commercial property in Wayne County in 2018. The commercial property analysis yielded an estimated inventory totaling approximately 8,000,000 square feet of commercial building space and approximately 1,700 commercially assessed tax parcels.

A similar analysis was completed with a focus on Waymart Borough and Canaan Township to help visualize the growth potential if natural gas service were expanded into the west central portion of the County.



*Commercial Zoning (red), Business/Institutional parcels (hashed) in Canaan Township.*

## Wayne County 911 and GIS

On a daily basis, the Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS continues the process of maintaining and updating road, addresses, and telephone data to support the County 911 system. These updates play an important role in providing correct road names and address numbers for 911 dispatching, along with defining emergency response boundaries.

A major example of this can be found within The Hideout, a residential development located in Lake and Salem Townships. In 2018, the Wayne County Planning/GIS Department assisted The Hideout with establishing emergency numbers for all structures in their development. The County's 911 system utilizes these same numbers for emergency dispatch.

Previous numbering made use of development lot numbers. While lot numbers are still used within the development, they do not conform to emergency numbering standards. These standards include odd and even numbers alternating on opposite sides of a road and numbers that increase sequentially, from low to high.



*Portion of a map showing lot numbers vs. new emergency numbering within The Hideout.*

GIS and 911 staff work together on a daily basis to maintain and support the CAD and overall 911 system to the best of their combined abilities. As new standards evolve and apply to 911 systems, this working partnership will continue to be an important one.

## National Park Service

Data sharing between the National Park Service (NPS) and Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS takes place on a regular basis. The NPS has been using GIS to support their work and that of their organizational and municipal partners in maintaining the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The majority of the corridor encompassing this element of the National Park System is privately owned. The Park Service utilizes geographic data to better understand the river landscape and varied stakeholders.

## Wayne Tomorrow!



*Portion of a neighborhood asset map, where lightning bolt = cell tower, light blue square = churches, dark blue square = bank, pink square = school, and red triangle = gov.*

The Wayne Tomorrow! initiative continues to meet monthly, with separate committee meetings also taking place throughout the year. Our office participates in various committees to aid in planning processes. One such committee is the technology committee, which has been focused on securing more broadband internet options for Wayne County. To aid in this mission, the Planning/GIS Department has been helping tell some of Wayne County's story through mapping. One ongoing mapping project is a neighborhood asset map (portion shown here) that shows the County's community centers and other elements, in relation to existing communications infrastructure.

## Leadership Northern Poconos

The Leadership Northern Poconos Program promotes an understanding of the many facets of Wayne and Pike Counties for tomorrow’s potential future leaders. The program, sponsored by the Chamber of the Northern Poconos, follows a 10-month schedule. Monthly topics include: leadership, local & county government, law enforcement, health care, community & human services, education, arts & culture, economic development, and environment – recreation – tourism.

County Planning Director, Craig Rickard, and Senior Planner/GIS Technical Analyst Derek Williams facilitated the November 2018 class of Local and County Government. The morning session provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the different components in county and local government with the goal of giving the participants a basic understanding of how they function. Topics covered the roles and descriptions of municipal and county government, geographic areas of school districts and Wayne and Pike County census data. The class then went on a mobile tour of the County 911 Emergency Operations Center, which also provided for discussion with the County Commissioners.

A field trip was made to Damascus Township in the afternoon for a visit with local Supervisor Steve Adams, who facilitated a discussion and tour of their new Township Road to be named “Kay Road” located to the north of Conklin Hill Road near the Delaware River. This first hand exposure to local municipal government added greatly to the program’s content.



*Leadership Northern Poconos – Local and County Government – Morning Session*

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