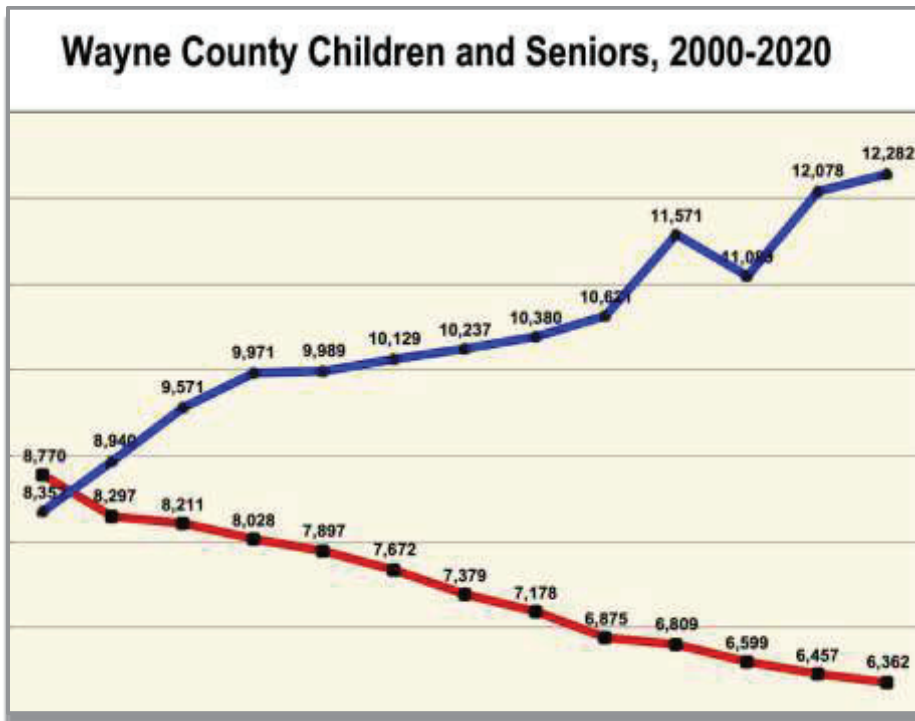


COUNTY TOPICS

Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update

In 2022, the process of updating the existing Wayne County Comprehensive Plan continued. In November of 2021, the County contracted with the firms of Woodland Design Associates and Shepstone Management Company to update the Comprehensive Plan, and work on the project commenced soon after.

The project kicked off in earnest in the first few months of this past year as stated Goals and Objectives were drafted and later finalized. Additionally, draft surveys were created for both residents and non-residents for release in late Spring. The surveys were available in both printed and online versions and were available for completion from May through the summer. Mikki Uzupes, Wayne Tomorrow! Community Network Specialist, also assisted greatly in the effort with distribution and advertisement of the surveys. The results were compiled by the consultants and shared with the Wayne County Planning Commission. In addition to the surveys, the consultant team has been regularly providing information to the Wayne County Planning Commission Board at its monthly meetings on topics such as, but not limited to, land use, population changes, demographics, and various GIS based mapping. The chart below is an example from demographics information presented, which illustrates observed diverging trends of two specific age cohorts over the past two decades. In the graphic, the senior population (65+) is represented by the blue line and the red line represents school aged children (Ages 5 – 17).



Additionally, the Wayne County Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Plan was completed in 2022. This plan will be an incorporated component of the eventual Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update. The Comprehensive Plan update process is anticipated to continue through the remainder of 2023 until the new document is finalized and eventually adopted by the Wayne County Commissioners.

Wayne County GIS

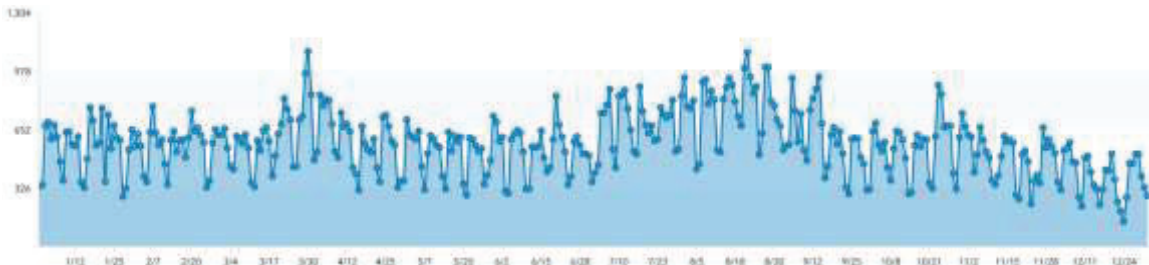
The Wayne County Planning/GIS Department works on many GIS (Geographic Information Systems) projects each year. Included are daily maintenance tasks such as setting physical 911 addresses, amending building footprints, maintaining road centerlines, revising tax parcel boundaries and updating the County 911 dispatch system.

In addition, the Department regularly supports other County offices with their GIS needs. The public is also served through data requests, custom cartography, aerial mapping products and an interactive public accessible online mapping application. The following are examples of County GIS work during 2022.

Wayne County Interactive Map

The Planning/GIS Department’s interactive web map provides tax parcels/ownership information, public/private roads, and verified 9-1-1 addresses within Wayne County. The total yearly view count for 2022 was 213,099 with an average of 585 views per day. This represents the second highest total and daily views recorded in a calendar year since the interactive map’s launch in 2016. Since its launch, this mapping application has been viewed over one million times.

With continual interest and such regular usage, our office places a priority on updating this interactive map (found on the Wayne County website (<http://waynecountypa.gov/>) on a regular basis.



Interactive map viewership numbers for 2022.

Lackawaxen River Trails

Our office provided mapping and planning support for the ongoing work of the Lackawaxen River Trails group as development of a trail network along the Lackawaxen River corridor between Hawley and Honesdale Boroughs (with connections along PA Route 6, PA Bicycle Route Y, the old D&H Canal Towpath, the Stourbridge Line Railroad, and the Lackawaxen River itself) is pursued. This work is supported by the 2020 Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study, which identified community interest and feasibility for the trail network, and the more recently completed (2022) Wayne County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan. For more information on this planning effort, those interested can visit <https://lackawaxenrivertrails.org/>.

Property Mailing Lists

The Planning/GIS Department provides regular assistance to municipalities and organizations looking to identify various tax parcels. For instance, if a township needs a mailing address list for property owners neighboring a parcel where a conditional use is proposed, our office can generate that list. Likewise, if a watershed management group needs a similar list for parcels within a given watershed, we can provide the same.

In County Mapping Assistance

As part of our County-wide work assisting other offices with mapping resources and project development, this past year, we provided historical aerial photo maps to the Wayne Conservation District showing the boundary of two minor watershed areas in Honesdale Borough and Texas Township, mapped parcels of interest and potential project locations for the Wayne County Commissioners Office, and visualized potential housing placement within an existing parking lot when discussing infill development with Wayne Tomorrow's Housing Task Force, among other engagements.



Scale visualization of an apartment building within a Honesdale parking lot.

Wayne County Assessment and GIS

The Wayne County Department of Planning/GIS works closely with the County Tax Assessment Office to help maintain tax parcel data, rights-of-way, building footprints, the County's Act 319 clean and green program (preferential tax abatement) and more.

Wayne County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan

On behalf of Wayne County, Woodland Design and Associates completed this planning effort in 2022, with mapping and planning support from our office. A very detailed municipal inventory of recreational assets was included in this plan, which stands alone and will also be incorporated into Wayne County’s Comprehensive Plan update (in progress) as a section thereof.



Proposed multi-use road concept in Scott Township. Rendering by Woodland Design.

Wayne County 911 and GIS

The Planning/GIS Department updates address points, roads, and driveways in the emergency service areas of the 911’s Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Additional maintenance involves processing daily telephone record changes and revisions to emergency response area boundaries.

Maintaining telephone records and response boundaries is a vital part to the County’s 911 system. In 2022, a total of 6,553 telephone number records were reviewed and processed through this required maintenance, up from telephone maintenance of 2,808 records in 2021. Additionally, the County continued working with consultant Geo-Comm last year to coordinate data updates to meet next generation 911 standards. Shown is a snapshot of fire response area boundaries in southern Wayne County.



Community Organizational Assistance

Each year, we contribute mapping support to various organizations in Wayne County. Two such organizations this past year were the Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Damascus Historical Society. The former was holding a fundraising garden tour and needed a map for participants. The latter was hosting a historic photo exhibit and wanted a neighborhood map to cross reference with photo locations. In both cases, members of these organizations spelled out their needs and provided whatever data they had before our office created maps to support their community building efforts.

Municipal Assistance

As requested, our office assists Wayne County municipalities with assorted mapping needs. One such request for Honesdale Borough was a visual representation of snow plow routes for the Borough's Department of Public Works. Previously, such mapping was hand drawn and not accessible to plow truck drivers. By digitizing this mapping, maps scaled for mobile use were produced.

Other examples of municipal mapping assistance included providing geospatial data exports to municipalities who were looking to manage certain projects with their own internal mapping applications.



Portion of a map noted above.

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