

Introduction

The data for the Background Profiles are information collected from primary and secondary data sources, including key person interviews, existing reports and current studies, statistics and data from government agencies, and geographical information systems (GIS) mapping and data from the York County Planning Commission and the region's municipalities. The data collection activities and drafting of the profiles occurred in the spring and summer of 2001. It is understood that additional information may become available during the course of the planning process; where possible, this information will be added as an appendix to the profile. The profiles represent important background about the region and will be referred to often during the planning process.

The purpose of the Background Profiles is not to reiterate information from previous studies and reports, but to give context and focus to the regional effort. The report provides an update to dated information, a status report on recommendations, and a comparison of municipal planning and service activities. The focus is functional planning areas, i.e., demographics and socioeconomics, land use / housing, the environment and natural resources, transportation, community services and facilities, and public utilities.

These Profiles, plus the reports mentioned herein, provide the technical foundation for planning the future of the Northern York County Region. The objective is to develop an understanding of the link between current trends and policies and the future; however, the report is only one piece in creating a true picture of the existing community. Extensive community involvement is needed to better clarify the experience of those individuals who live, work and recreate in the region. Opportunities for public involvement are integrated throughout the planning process. The ultimate path of the Northern York County Region will crystallize as the materials found in this report and the messages heard from the community merge into one future direction.