BACKGROUND ANALYSIS
for the City of Erie Comprehensive Plan

March 2014

DESIGN based PLANNING
peter j. smith & company, inc.
www.pjscompany.com
United States Buffalo, New York • **Canada** Fort Erie, Ontario

Background Analysis for the City of Erie Comprehensive Plan

Acknowledgements

Steering Committee

John Horan, Executive Director, Erie Housing Authority

Kim Green, Executive Director, Erie Redevelopment Authority

Ray Massing, Executive Director, Erie Parking Authority

Paul Vojtek, Executive Director, Erie Water Authority

Mark Kwitowski, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Sewers

Jake Welsh, Director, Erie County Planning

Ray Schreckengost, Executive Director, Erie Port Authority

Casey Wells, Executive Director, Erie Convention Center Authority

Dennis Solensky, Executive Director, Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority

Armand Chimenti, Zoning Officer, City of Erie

Jon Tushak, City Engineer

Roland Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, Erie City School District

Department of Economic and Community Development

Brenda Sandberg, Director

Dave Deter, Assistant Director,

Cyndie Zahner, Assistant Grant Administrator

Consultant

peter j. smith & company, inc.

March 2014

This project was financed in part by a Federal Coastal Zone Management Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

City of Erie Background Analysis
City of Erie
March 2014

CZM PROJECT NUMBER: CZM 2012-PE.05

This project was financed, in part, through a Federal Coastal Zone Management Grant, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Department of Commerce, under Award Number: NA12NOS4190162.

The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, the PA DEP nor any of their sub-agencies.

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Coastal Resources MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

The City of Erie commissioned the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan to set the stage for a full comprehensive plan for the City. This comprehensive plan would be the city's first.

Completing a comprehensive plan will bring the City of Erie into compliance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The Code sets forth specific planning elements and policy statements.

This plan review will allow the City to have an understanding of available data which exists and what levels of additional data collection will be required in the Comprehensive Plan Phase. The comprehensive plan provides a vision for the future of the community, its goals and objectives and the policies that support the vision and goals. Through its policies, the plan provides a predictable basis for decision-making in the community, with tools to evaluate proposals that come before the city and to determine whether or not those proposals are consistent with the vision the city crafted for itself through the comprehensive plan.

Through the process of compiling the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan it emerged clearly that the largest gap in understanding is the very lack of a comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan serves as a single source that describes the city and its character, and provides a snapshot of its land uses, inhabitants, economy, transportation, infrastructure, open space network and natural resources among other community facets. It sets the context for understanding the City as an element of the region but with its own character, opportunities and challenges.

The comprehensive plan includes a detailed analysis of land use patterns and zoning. These are the basis of a future land use plan. It is critical that the community have its own future land use plan. The future land use plan does not have the force of law, but it forms the basis for the city's future zoning, which is a legal document. A current and robust zoning code provides for the orderly growth of the city and the revitalization and preservation of its neighborhoods.

Through a new or newly revised zoning code, the City can improve the quality and design of the community. It can reinforce and rejuvenate the community and provide standards and guidelines for restoration of the community's signature character.

The City of Erie is the centerpiece of its region. It is the business, employment, health care, higher education, government, tourism and recreation heart of Erie County and Northwest Pennsylvania. A welcoming community, it is a destination for immigrants and refugees from around the world.

Erie County and the region are in the midst of a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant-funded effort to, among other goals, revitalize the region, reduce poverty and inequity and improve transportation systems. The City of Erie will certainly benefit from the Destination Erie process and outcomes. But Erie needs its own plan, a plan that should be consistent with Destination Erie and that addresses Erie's specific issues and opportunities.

The comprehensive plan shows that the community seeks a preferred future and helps to market the city as a destination and community of choice for residents, businesses and investors and visitors. In addition to serving as the guiding policy document for the City of Erie, the comprehensive plan's inventory is a wealth of data and information that all grant-seeking

institutions, public and private, will find helpful as they seek funding to address the pressing needs of the city.

The Background Analysis comprises phase one of a process. During phase one, availability of base mapping and data were assessed and the gap in knowledge evaluated. The findings are:

Element	**Required by PA Municipalities Planning Code?**	**Mapping Available?**	**Data Available?**	**Gap**
Regional Context		Yes	Yes	None
Community Character and Design		Can be created	N/A	Created through observation, other resources
Land Use & Zoning	✓	Yes	Yes	Out of date, density analysis needed
Population & Housing	✓	Can be created	Yes	Inventory of housing and housing conditions is needed
Economic Vitality	✓	Can be created	Yes	City-wide plan needed
Transportation & Circulation	✓	Yes	Yes	Need information on city streets
Infrastructure & Utilities	✓	Some	Yes	Some elements need updating
Community Facilities & Services	✓	Some	Yes	Need for analysis of system effectiveness
Environmental & Natural Resources	✓	Yes	Yes	Need policy addressing shale
Food Access & Community Health		No	No	This is a new element, addressing food access and health risks
Open Space & Recreation		Some	Some	Inventory of resources needed, open space plan needed
Historic & Cultural Resources	✓	No	Some	Inventory needs to be assembled, mapping created
Sustainability & Climate Change		No	No	Need policies tied to county and state initiatives

Phase two will be the plan itself. This first phase effort is designed to:

- Help the city assess the myriad planning processes both underway and completed in Erie County and the City of Erie;
- Determine what can be gleaned from these other planning processes and incorporated into the comprehensive plan to increase efficiency, regional cooperation and understanding and consistency in policy and approach;
- Develop a thorough literature search to index current and completed planning processes and to ensure coordination with ongoing processes;
- Catalog available geographic information systems (GIS) and data sources;
- Develop an understanding of the gaps in understanding that should be closed during the inventory phase of a comprehensive plan;
- Develop an understanding of the trends impacting the City of Erie;
- Craft preliminary goals and objectives for the Background Analysis;
- Gather the input of civic and community leaders in Erie whose insights and opinions are considered important;
- Develop a full scope of services for the phase two effort;
- Prepare opportunities for regional cooperation and collaboration to benefit the city and its institutions; and
- Research funding sources for the phase two effort.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND ANALYSIS 1
1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT 2
1.3 FINDINGS 3

2.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SCOPE OF SERVICES 5

3.0 GOALS & OBJECTIVES 9

3.1 MISSION 9
3.2 GOALS & OBJECTIVES 9
3.3 PRINCIPLES 10

4.0 REGIONAL CONTEXT 13

4.1 PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL CONTEXT ELEMENT 13
4.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 13
4.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 13
4.4 REGIONAL CONTEXT TRENDS 14
4.5 REGIONAL CONTEXT GAPS 14
4.6 IMPACTS 14

5.0 COMMUNITY CHARACTER 15

5.1 PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY CHARACTER ELEMENT 15
5.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 15
5.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 16
5.4 COMMUNITY CHARACTER TRENDS 16
5.5 COMMUNITY CHARACTER GAPS 16
5.6 IMPACTS 16

6.0 LAND USE 17

6.1 PURPOSE OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT 17
6.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 17

6.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 17
6.4 LAND USE TRENDS 17
6.5 LAND USE PLAN GAPS 19
6.6 IMPACTS 19

7.0 POPULATION & HOUSING 23

7.1 PURPOSE OF THE POPULATION & HOUSING ELEMENT 23
7.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 23
7.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 24
7.4 HOUSING & POPULATION TRENDS 24
7.5 HOUSING & POPULATION GAPS 25
7.6 IMPACTS 25

8.0 ECONOMIC VITALITY 31

8.1 PURPOSE OF THE ECONOMIC VITALITY ELEMENT 31
8.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 31
8.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 33
8.4 ECONOMIC VITALITY TRENDS 34
8.5 ECONOMIC VITALITY GAPS 34
8.6 IMPACTS 34

9.0 TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION 35

9.1 PURPOSE OF THE TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION ELEMENT 35
9.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 35
9.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 35
9.4 TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION TRENDS 36
9.5 TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION GAPS 37
9.6 IMPACTS 37

10.0 INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES 43

10.1 PURPOSE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES ELEMENT 43
10.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 43
10.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 43

10.4 INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES TRENDS 44
10.5 INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES GAPS 44
10.6 IMPACTS 44

11.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES 45

11.1 PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES ELEMENT 45
11.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 45
11.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 45
11.4 COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES TRENDS 45
11.5 COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES GAPS 46
11.6 IMPACTS 46

12.0 ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES 49

12.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT 49
12.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 49
12.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 49
12.4 ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRENDS 50
12.5 ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES GAPS 50
12.6 IMPACTS 50

13.0 FOOD ACCESS & COMMUNITY HEALTH 53

13.1 PURPOSE OF THE FOOD ACCESS & COMMUNITY HEALTH ELEMENT 53
13.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 53
13.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 53
13.4 TRENDS IN FOOD ACCESS & COMMUNITY HEALTH 54
13.5 FOOD ACCESS & COMMUNITY HEALTH GAPS 54
13.6 IMPACTS 54

14.0 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION 55

14.1 PURPOSE OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT 55
14.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 55
14.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 55
14.4 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION TRENDS 55

14.5 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION GAPS 56
14.6 IMPACTS 56

15.0 HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES 59

15.1 PURPOSE OF THE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT 59
15.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 59
15.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 60
15.4 HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES TRENDS 60
15.5 HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES GAPS 60
15.6 IMPACTS 60

16.0 LOCAL RESPONSES TO SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE 63

16.1 PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL RESPONSES TO SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE ELEMENT ... 63
16.2 AVAILABILITY OF DATA 63
16.3 AVAILABILITY OF MAPPING 63
16.4 SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE TRENDS 63
16.5 SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE GAPS 64
16.6 IMPACTS 64

17.0 LITERATURE REVIEW 65

17.1 OVERVIEW 65

18.0 INVENTORY OF DATA SOURCES AND MAPPING 79

19.0 SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS 87

20.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION 93

21.0 FUNDING SOURCES 97

TABLES

Table 6-1 – Current Land Use 18
Table 6-2 – Current Zoning 19
Table 17-1– Document Review Library 65
Table 17-2 – Summary of Literature Search 67
Table 18-1 – Data Source Summary 79
Table 18-2 – GIS Resources 85
Table 19-1 – Summary of Interviews 88
Table 20-1 – Opportunities for Cooperation 95
Table 21-1 – Funding Sources for the Comprehensive Plan 97
Table 21-2 – General Funding Sources 99

FIGURES

Figure 6-1 – City of Erie Land Uses 21
Figure 6-2 – City of Erie Zoning 22
Figure 7-1 – City of Erie Housing Type 27
Figure 7-2 – City of Erie Housing Value 28
Figure 7-3 – City of Erie Population Density 29
1Figure 9-1 – City of Erie Transportation System 39
Figure 9-2 – City of Erie Multimodal System 40
Figure 9-3 – City of Erie Traffic Patterns 41
Figure 11-1 – City of Erie Community Resources 47
Figure 12-1 – City of Erie Environmental Considerations 51
Figure 14-1 – City of Erie Parks and Recreation Resources 57
Figure 15-1 – City of Erie Historic Resources 61

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Background Analysis

The City of Erie has never had a comprehensive plan. Recognizing the benefits that could flow to the city through planning, the City of Erie for the first time has contemplated embarking on a comprehensive planning process. The Background Analysis for the City of Erie Plan is a first phase effort, intended to set the stage for a full comprehensive plan.

Erie in its regional context. The hub of northwest Pennsylvania, Erie is also convenient to Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Because there are and have been myriad planning efforts in and around the City of Erie, city leaders determined first to step back and assess those efforts in the context of comprehensive planning. This step in the process is designed to help determine what can be gleaned from these planning efforts to for a comprehensive plan, what gaps in knowledge exist that should be addressed by the plan. The summary of a thorough literature search is included in this document.

At the same time, the City wants to see what data is available at what levels to for a data collection and analysis phase of a comprehensive plan and achieve economies in data collection. Availability of mapping and data, sources and their availability by date is also included in this document.

Other important steps in preparation for the comprehensive plan include an assessment of the opinions of civic, social and business leaders who have insights valuable to setting a course for determining a future direction of the city, development of goals and objectives to guide the planning process and an assessment of the opportunities for governments to cooperate locally and regionally.

The scope of the Background Analysis then, is:

- Background Inventory, Data Collection and Analysis
- Regional Context
- Background and Literature Search
- Stakeholder Interviews

- Identify Gaps in Knowledge and Understanding to be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan
- Craft Vision, Goals and Objectives and Principles for the Comprehensive Plan Process
- Prepare this Background Analysis Report

1.2 Organization of the Report

Each of the required elements of a comprehensive plan under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code is included in the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan. Additional elements that will eventually be included in the inventory and analysis of a comprehensive plan are also included. The elements of a comprehensive plan for the City of Erie should include: Mission or Vision, Goals, Objectives & Policies

- Regional Context
- Community Character and Design
- Land Use & Zoning
- Future Land Use, Zoning Recommendations & Futures Plan
- Population & Housing
- Economic Vitality
- Transportation & Circulation
- Infrastructure & Utilities
- Community Facilities & Services
- Environmental & Natural Resources
- Food Access & Community Health
- Open Space & Recreation
- Historic & Cultural Resources
- Local Responses to Sustainability & Climate Change
- Implementation Strategies & Funding
- Summary of Public Input

Each of these is included in the background analysis with the exception of the public input summary.

For each of these elements, or chapters of the Background Analysis, a purpose is outlined as an introduction. The availability of data and mapping to support the analysis of the element in the comprehensive plan is explored. Contextual mapping is included in each element as it is available. Trends impacting the City of Erie in each element are briefly explored and the impact of each element assessed. In this way the Background Analysis supports the development of the comprehensive plan.

1.3 Findings

From a technical perspective, the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan finds that a wealth of data is gathered in and around Erie County. Many recent and on-going processes have important and valuable information that will inform the comprehensive plan and provide a basis for comparison at several levels. A shortcoming of the availability of data is that much of it has generally been collected at the county level. Specific data at the city level for many elements will need to be collected during the comprehensive plan process.

There are myriad partners to assist in the definition and collection of the needed data for the comprehensive plan's community inventory. These include the following at a minimum:

- Center for Community Progress
- City School District
- Council of Governments
- Destination Erie
- Economic Development Corporation of Erie
- Economic Research Institute of Erie
- Erie Community Foundation
- Erie County
- Erie Redevelopment Authority
- Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership
- Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority
- Gannon, Mercyhurst and Edinboro universities
- Housing and Neighborhood Development Services
- International Institute
- Multicultural Community Resource Center
- PA Department of Economic and Community Development
- St. Martin Center
- United Way of Erie/Erie Together

The inventory elements for a comprehensive plan are addressed individually with identification of the data and mapping available, current trends and gaps in knowledge.

An important element of the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan is an assessment of the city and regional studies, plans, regulations and other relevant plan. For this Literature Search, each of 45 reports and sets of reports was summarized, and its applicability to the comprehensive plan was assessed, including the relevance of data included in the study, plan or report to the comprehensive planning effort. Each plan's effectiveness was evaluated and its consistency with other planning efforts gauged.

The purpose of the Literature Search was to identify policies, strategies and data sources that could be incorporated into the Erie City Comprehensive Plan. The study is intended to increase efficiency and conserve resources for the plan. The Literature Search also identified gaps as well as needs for updated and new policies.

At the time of the drafting of this report, there were regional approaches to planning in Erie and Erie County ongoing. These include larger picture processes such as the County's Comprehensive Plan, the MPO's efforts and, of course, Destination Erie. A number of other efforts lay the groundwork for better understanding of the forces that shape the region. These include the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing , Strategic Assessment of Blight in Erie County and various tourism, environmental and transportation plans. These plans all address Erie County and the City of Erie as a subset of the county.

The City of Erie, for its part, has also engaged in detailed planning. The City and various affiliated organizations have completed or commissioned studies of the downtown housing market, downtown streetscape, neighborhood housing markets and the waterfront.

The comprehensive plan serves as a single source that describes the city and its character, and provides a snapshot of its land uses, inhabitants, economy, transportation, infrastructure, open space network and natural resources among other community facets. The comprehensive plan keeps the city in compliance with the commonwealth's Municipalities Planning Code.

The comprehensive plan provides a vision for the future of the community, its goals and objectives and the policies that support the vision and goals. Through its policies, the plan provides a predictable basis for decision-making in the community, with tools to evaluate proposals that come before the city and to determine whether or not those proposals are consistent with the vision the city crafted for itself through the comprehensive plan.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the comprehensive plan is its analysis of land use patterns and zoning and the development of the future land use plan. The future land use plan does not have the force of law, but it forms the basis for the city's future zoning, which is a legal document. A current and robust zoning code provides for the orderly growth of the city and the revitalization and preservation of its neighborhoods.

The Background Analysis sets the stage for the development of Erie's first comprehensive plan. Throughout, it provides a blueprint for the development of the inventory and sets the context for the development of goals and objectives. In addition, it also provides:

- A detailed scope for the comprehensive plan outlining the plan on a chapter-by chapter basis along with a synopsis of an appropriate work program;
- A library of geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and data resources available to the comprehensive plan;
- A summary of public input provided by community leaders regarding the comprehensive plan as well as the challenges and opportunities facing Erie;
- A summary of immediate opportunities for regional cooperation; and
- A summary of potential funding sources for the comprehensive plan.

2.0 Comprehensive Plan Scope of Services

This is a background analysis prepared to set the stage for a complete comprehensive plan, which, when it is completed, will be the City of Erie's first such plan. A comprehensive plan guides the future shape of the community. It presents a vision for the community's future and a context for attaining its goals. Therefore the plan should assess the community comprehensively, analyzing its current condition and future potentials. The following is a list of Comprehensive Plan elements that will form the foundation of the Plan. Consultants may suggest additional elements as part of their responses.

Pursuant to Article III of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the required components of the comprehensive plan are:

- Statement of objectives regarding future development
- Future land use plan
- Strategy to meet the housing needs of present residents and future growth
- Transportation plan
- Community facilities and utilities plans including a water resources and supply plan
- A statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components, which may include an estimate of the plan's consequences, including environmental, energy conservation, fiscal, economic development and social
- An implementation strategy
- An analysis of the compatibility of current land uses, zoning and future land use plans of neighboring municipalities including a description of methods used to mitigate incompatible neighboring uses
- Protection of natural and historic resources. The Code stipulates that the plan must be consistent with and not exceed requirements under a variety of Pennsylvania and federal acts and mandates; proponents should familiarize themselves with these provisions as well as with the planning act as it relates to comprehensive planning.

As the community's most significant guiding document it is important that the comprehensive plan is integrated into the city's planning structure and that it build upon other community efforts. The comprehensive plan should include a review of all city and regional initiatives including the comprehensive plans of nearby communities, county-wide-planning initiatives and others to result in a plan that is comprehensive and appropriate for the city.

The comprehensive plan for the City of Erie will be based on thorough analysis of existing conditions and potentials; it will address trends and current issues including top priorities such as poverty, joblessness, disinvestment and taxes. It should contribute to a high quality of life for all residents, and enhance the City of Erie as a signature city in Pennsylvania. This is done through the analysis of strategies such as the potential for brownfield redevelopment, adaptive reuse of vacant and underutilized lands, community design and the community's ongoing commitments to the broader issues of economic development, housing affordability, coastal and waterfront development, traffic management, natural resource and open space protection. The comprehensive plan should set the stage for the interpretation and celebration of the community's heritage and cultural identity. The plan should present an analysis of how each community element can contribute to a cohesive community planning strategy and implement a long range vision for the community's future.

Elements of the future comprehensive plan will include an analysis of current conditions including illustrative material such as graphs, tables, mapping and graphics along with recommendations for future strategies and developments to address issues and opportunities that arise during the planning process including those that arise from a public input program. The elements of a comprehensive plan are:

- Mission or Vision, Goals, Objectives & Policies
- Regional Context
- Community Character and Design
- Land Use & Zoning
- Future Land Use, Zoning Recommendations & Futures Plan
- Population & Housing
- Economic Vitality
- Transportation & Circulation
- Infrastructure & Utilities
- Community Facilities & Services
- Environmental & Natural Resources
- Food Access & Community Health
- Open Space & Recreation
- Historic & Cultural Resources
- Local Responses to Sustainability & Climate Change
- Implementation Strategies & Funding
- Summary of Public Input

The following are tasks that comprise the comprehensive plan work program:

- Initial meeting with Economic and Community Development staff to review the project scope and schedule and to review the proposed public outreach plan.
- Assist the city in identifying appropriate participants in a steering committee if needed.
- Obtain and review existing plans, maps and other documents relevant to the project.
- Meet regularly with the Comprehensive Plan steering committee.
- Obtain the input of the public through a variety of techniques to include but not necessarily be limited to public workshops and surveys that will result in a wide cross section of people having been consulted.
- Conduct periodic project review meetings with the city staff.
- Complete draft elements as discussed above and submit to the steering committee and staff for review and comment.
- Prepare and present draft and final plans.
- Present the final plan to the public and City Council and participate in a public hearing to formally present the plan for approval and adoption if necessary.

3.0 Goals & Objectives

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(1) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must include a "statement of objectives of the municipality concerning its future development, including, but not limited to, the location, character and timing of future development …" The comprehensive plan should also have a vision or mission statement and objectives to fulfill the goals and policies. These are the basis for the comprehensive plan as a foundation of a sustainable future.

The goals and objectives for the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan are a little different. There are goals and objectives but no policies. The goals and objectives address the Background Analysis. The policies appropriately will grow from the comprehensive plan itself during the second phase of the project.

The mission, goals and objectives of the Background Analysis for the City of Erie Comprehensive Plan follow.

3.1 Mission

Mission – The mission of the Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Erie is to set the stage to present a bold and attainable future for Erie as the heart of the region, a residential community of choice and the center for commerce and industry, health care, tourism and entertainment for northwestern Pennsylvania.

3.2 Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: To set the stage for Erie's first comprehensive plan by developing a first phase with an efficient and economical planning process .

Objectives:

- Apply the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to comprehensive plan process
- Take full advantage of the existing knowledge base

Goal 2: To understand the forces that will shape the city's future by understanding its current conditions.

Objectives:

- Inventory planning reports to gain an understanding of the local and regional planning context
- Prepare a background report summarizing planning reports, strategies, mapping and etc.

- Determine the elements of the comprehensive plan and how the existing knowledge base applies to information needed for each

Goal 3: To understand the opportunities for cooperation and coordination between public, quasi-public and private partners in the development of a comprehensive plan.

Objectives:

- Engage participation in the first phase of the process by relevant and interested potential partners and government leaders
- Interview relevant stakeholders for additional input into opportunities for cooperation and collaboration

Goal 4: To initiate phase two of the comprehensive plan process.

Objectives:

- Identify gaps in knowledge from phase one of the study to be addressed in phase two
- Develop a scope of work for completion of the comprehensive plan including a broad and inclusive public input process
- Identify immediate opportunities for coordination and cooperation among agencies
- Identify potential funding sources for the phase two study

3.3 Principles

The background analysis for the comprehensive plan sets the context within which Eirie can access resources and set goals for revitalizing and reinvigorating the City of Erie. The background analysis promotes good community design to connect people and places in a pleasing, easy to use and vital urban landscape. The community design principles of the background analysis guide the development of the comprehensive plan's design element, offering guidance for efficient redevelopment and infill in a mix of uses. The principles establish priorities and provide the foundation for developing the specific design decisions and guidelines. They will be used as a decision making tool for developing criteria in the comprehensive plan for evaluating potential alternatives or resolving conflicting objectives.

The principles for the comprehensive plan should reflect the following essential assumptions about the future of Erie:

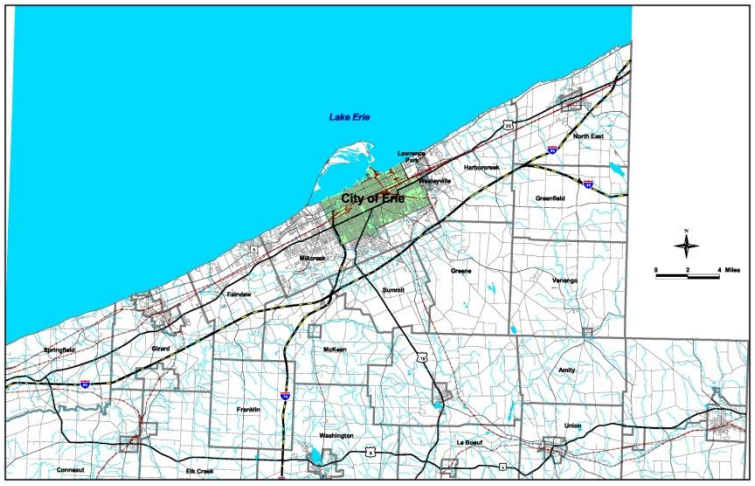
- Promote the waterfront and other significant urban and natural places that are enjoyed by all residents and promote a quality urban living experience by building significant and unique urban places that are identifiers of their community and enjoyed by all residents.
- Express the inherent and unique community character, culture and heritage of the City of Erie.
- Promote a quality public realm for the people of Erie offering a comfortable and inviting environment and is a source of community pride.
- Result in a linked community that incorporates all modes of transportation in complete streets that are comfortable for all users: pedestrians, cyclist, wheeled assistance and vehicles.

- Promote a sustainable urban living environment that growing communities need to increase the density of living and working in the urban area and minimizing the consumption of productive greenfield lands and extension of infrastructure.
- Maintain and express the inherent and unique community character, culture and heritage that has formed the City of Erie and expressed in new built form and the organization of the city.
- Encourage economic development, entrepreneurialism and opportunity by maintaining strong business districts, each having unique character and definition, but while also revitalizing and maintaining a strong central business district in this historic downtown.

4.0 Regional Context

4.1 Purpose of the Regional Context Element

Pursuant to Article III Section 301 Subparagraph (a)(5) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must include a "statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is compatible with the existing and proposed development and plans in contiguous portions of neighboring municipalities, or a statement indicating measures which have been taken to provide buffers or other transitional devices between disparate uses, and a statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is generally consistent with the objectives and plans of the county comprehensive plan."



The City of Erie in the context of Erie County, PA.

The purpose of the regional context element is to review all local, regional, county, state and federal plans that could impact the City of Erie as well as plans, land uses, zoning and development activities of communities proximate to Erie.

4.2 Availability of Data

Data regarding the surrounding communities as well as the county as a whole is contained in the Erie County Comprehensive Plan. Topics include historical settlement, general land use, natural resources, transportation systems, and development trends. The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan provides detailed data pertaining to the region. The county has made regional planning and intergovernmental cooperation policy for municipalities' comprehensive plans. The policies and land use plans of adjacent communities are available in their respective Comprehensive Plans.

4.3 Availability of Mapping

County GIS data is available that presents the location of surrounding communities, adjacent land uses, and the connecting road patterns.

4.4 Regional Context Trends

The general regional trend is that people are moving from the City of Erie to surrounding communities. The development trend is taking away green space disproportionately with overall population growth. Sprawling development has also caused an increase in storm water runoff, which is affecting stream quality in several streams, many of which empty into Presque Isle Bay.

The population shift has resulted in inequities in tax collection and distribution consistent with sprawl. Ever-increasing taxes in the outlying areas support road, infrastructure and public safety network for a dispersed population. Meanwhile, the city, which serves the region as the employment, social, educational, cultural, social services and health care core of the region, is forced to rely on a diminishing tax base to support its population. Poverty and economic distress are concentrated in the city as a result.

4.5 Regional Context Gaps

There are no gaps in information regarding regional context. The County's comprehensive plan provides detailed information on all elements for the county as a whole, which is effectively the region. Comprehensive Plans of adjacent communities were available, although only a summary of Millcreek's Comprehensive Plan was available on-line.

4.6 Impacts

The Regional Context element is key to the success of the comprehensive plan because it ensures that the plan is viewed in context with the vision and goals identified for adjacent and nearby communities and the county as a whole. Where visions and goals of one community may closely match that of another, it is important to view each collectively within the regional context. Where they diverge, it is important to seek common ground and understanding. Further, the Regional Context element helps to identify opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with neighboring communities on shared priorities and goals.

5.0 Community Character

5.1 Purpose of the Community Character Element

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code is generally silent on the need for an analysis of the community's character but recognizes the need to understand the inter-relatedness of the elements of the community. It also recognizes the need for consistent development. The purpose in defining the character of the community is to better understand the evolution of the community and preserve what makes it unique. Defining the character areas in the community guides future land use, zoning and development of design standards.

The analysis of character areas views the city as a collection of distinct areas or districts. These districts have homogeneous characteristics and are defined by native and manmade landscapes and development patterns. In general, an assessment of the character of a community includes its topography, views, geography, vegetation, land use, buildings and roads. These character areas may be historic neighborhoods with unique cultural or ethnic identities, areas with emerging character and areas with character that has yet to be fully defined.

The community character element reflects the community's physical geography in the context of its history, culture and social structure. Erie is defined by its history, from the pre-history that formed its unique and dramatic landform to its pre-contact settlement by the Eriez nation, through its role in three wars fought on American soil. The city rose and fell with the tide of manufacturing, Great Lakes and rail shipping and commercial fishing. How it is remaking and redefining itself is a function of its character, and its success will be measured by its ability to shape a future that reflects the best of its past and realizing the potential of its future.

5.2 Availability of Data

The Community Character element is created as the result of intensive personal observation as well as a basic understanding of the community's growth and development from generally available sources. These sources include a network of neighborhood organizations and community centers that define and serve Erie's traditional and emerging neighborhoods.

5.3 Availability of Mapping

The general characteristics of areas and the views into and out of them define character areas. The Character Areas Map outlines areas with common qualities however there are numerous generalizations made to facilitate the mapping of community character.

Character areas are defined by reviewing the existing zoning map, land use plan and aerial photography as well as through field observations. Homogeneous areas are defined and mapped. Characteristics observed include: date of construction, land use, lot size, set back, building style, landscape, streetscape, age of development, signage, fencing, architectural appurtenances and views.

5.4 Community Character Trends

The Community Character Element reflects the trends that are incorporated into each of the elements of the plan as appropriate. As Erie's fortunes have risen and fallen its traditional residential and commercial neighborhoods have also changed. The most striking example of this is the transformation of Erie's shoreline from an industrial and commercial working waterfront to a culture, tourism, entertainment and recreation destination. Erie's residential neighborhoods have adapted as well. The city's policies regarding commercial and retail development and the impact of these decisions on neighborhoods will be examined in this element.

5.5 Community Character Gaps

This section does not apply to the analysis.

5.6 Impacts

Throughout a comprehensive planning process all aspects of Erie should be analyzed and recommendations offered for their enhancement and revitalization to benefit all stakeholders and residents. The analysis of the character areas is but one element of the comprehensive plan inventory. It is unique because the only element that breaks the city into its component parts to view it as a whole. The focus of this element of the plan is been to understand the character of the City of Erie and its evolution in order to better define its future. The character areas analysis informs these other elements of the comprehensive plan inventory: land use, transportation, economic and so on.

6.0 Land Use

6.1 Purpose of the Land Use Element

Pursuant to Article III Section 301 Subparagraph (a)(2) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must include a "plan for land use, which may include provisions for the amount, intensity, character and timing of land use proposed for residence, industry, business, agriculture, major traffic and transit facilities, utilities, community facilities, public grounds, parks and recreation, preservation of prime agricultural lands, flood plains and other areas of special hazards and other similar uses." The Land Use element of the plan fulfills this requirement by examining current land uses, zoning and future land uses.

6.2 Availability of Data

The most relevant document to land use in Erie is the 2000 Land Use Plan. It presents a detailed history of settlement patterns as well as the history of land use planning efforts that have shaped the existing land use within the city. The plan attempts to learn from past mistakes in creating a future land use plan. In the end, the future land use plan reflects the existing land use. Recommendations are given to change the zoning text and map with few specifics. The City's 2006 Zoning Ordinance, which dictates land use regulations, is available on-line.

The 2000 Land Use Plan provides good documentation on settlement history and past land use planning initiatives. Brief descriptions regarding constraints are given.

6.3 Availability of Mapping

Updated parcel data is available to present land use distribution and patterns. Recent zoning districts are also available for mapping.

6.4 Land Use Trends

The City has essentially been built out. The land use pattern has not changed much over the years. Industrial development traverses the City along the railroad corridor. The downtown commercial district is centered on State Street. There are several commercial corridors along major roads, particularly Peach Street. Residential areas of varying quality are located east and west of the downtown and along the southern end of the City. The City completed a Land Use Plan in 2000. The plan describes the historical factors that have shaped the City's land use over the years. The Land Use Plan does not significantly alter the City's land use moving forward. The City's Zoning Code, updated in 2005 response to the City's Land Use Plan, does not contain any design guidelines. However, it advances infill development and includes requirements for waterfront districts. The County's Land Use Plan does not prescribe specific uses, but designates growth areas. The City of Erie is designated as a growth area. The County Land Use Plan does emphasize the idea of promoting design over use and "Smart Growth" initiatives.

There are some recent changes to land use patterns within the City. The waterfront has been transforming from a port centered industrial area to more recreational uses. New residential uses are now taking advantage of waterfront locations. The downtown is starting to see new investment and is also seeing residential development mixing with the commercial core. The City has a summary of the past five years of variances which will be studied as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The land use designations are:

- **Residential land** – include single family residential and high-density residential such as apartment and condominium developments.
- Two types of uses that are classified as **commercial**: retail sales and offices.
- **Industrial** uses include manufacturing operations.
- **Community Services** include government agencies, police and emergency services, schools, places of worship, and cemeteries.
- Land designated as **public service** is used for utility infrastructure such as sub-stations, water towers and communication towers. Railroad corridors are also classified as public service.
- **Recreation** uses are the city's parks and open spaces.
- **Vacant** land differs from open space in that it is not dedicated to recreation or preservation. These parcels have either not been developed yet, have been abandoned or are undevelopable.
- Land for which no land use information is available is classified as **no data**. These land uses should be defined in the comprehensive plan.

Table 6-1 – Current Land Use

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Residential	4,241	42.3%
High Density Residential	461	4.6%
Commercial	1,367	13.6%
Industrial	713	7.1%
Community Services	958	9.6%
Public	546	5.5%
Recreation	231	2.3%
Vacant	1,455	14.5%
No Data	47	0.5%

Source: Erie County and peter j. smith & company, inc.

6.4.1 *Overview of current zoning*

Table 6-2 – Current Zoning

District	Description	Acres	Percent
R-1	Low Density Residential	4,044	32.4%
R-1A	Low Density Residential	1,100	8.8%
R-2	Medium Density Residential	2,026	16.2%
R-3	High Density Residential	459	3.7%
RLB	Residential, Limited Business	771	6.2%
C-1	Local Commercial	222	1.8%
C-2	General Commercial	408	3.3%
C-3	Central Commercial	251	2.0%
C-4	Traditional Neighborhood	192	1.5%
IP	Industrial Park	209	1.7%
M-1	Light Manufacturing	715	5.7%
M-2	Heavy Manufacturing	1,129	9.0%
WR	Waterfront Residential	149	1.2%
WC	Waterfront Commercial	309	2.5%
WC-2	Waterfront Commercial	89	0.7%
WC-3	Waterfront Commercial	13	0.1%
WM	Waterfront Manufacturing	398	3.2%

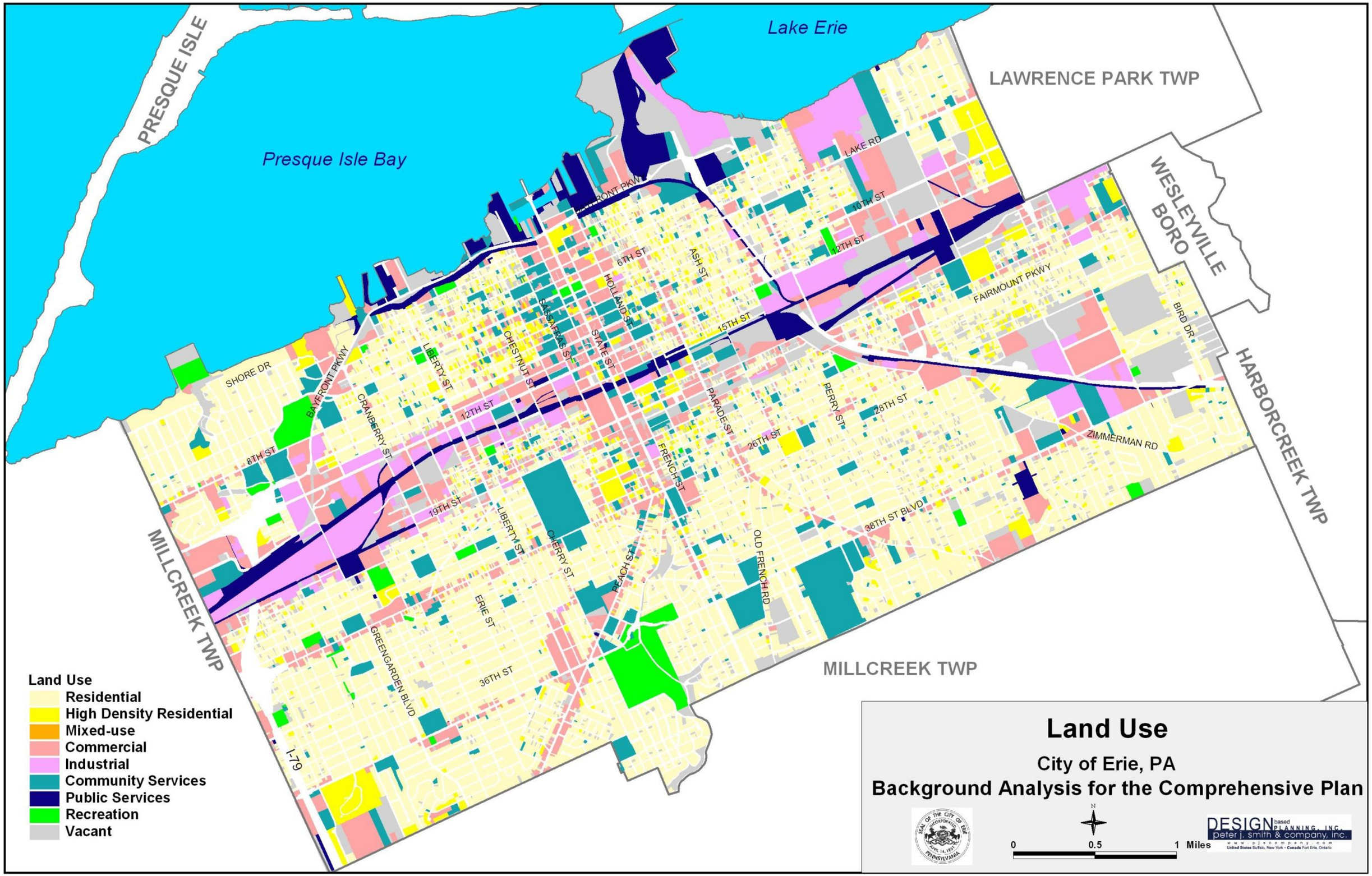
Source: Erie County and peter j. smith & company, inc.

6.5 Land Use Plan Gaps

While a land use plan is presented, it is currently out of date and created based on past patterns. Settlement history and past land use planning initiatives can be added to a history section or planning summary. Conversations have revealed that there have been numerous variances granted since the City's Zoning Ordinance was revised in 2005. A complete record of these variances will help to reveal inefficiencies in the current Land Use Plan and Zoning ordinance so that they can be addressed by a new Comprehensive Plan. A new Comprehensive Plan could present a build out and density analysis. This tool can be helpful in demonstrating the potential impacts of the existing and proposed future land use plan. The potential impacts are relevant for planning for transportation and community facilities as well as other needs.

6.6 Impacts

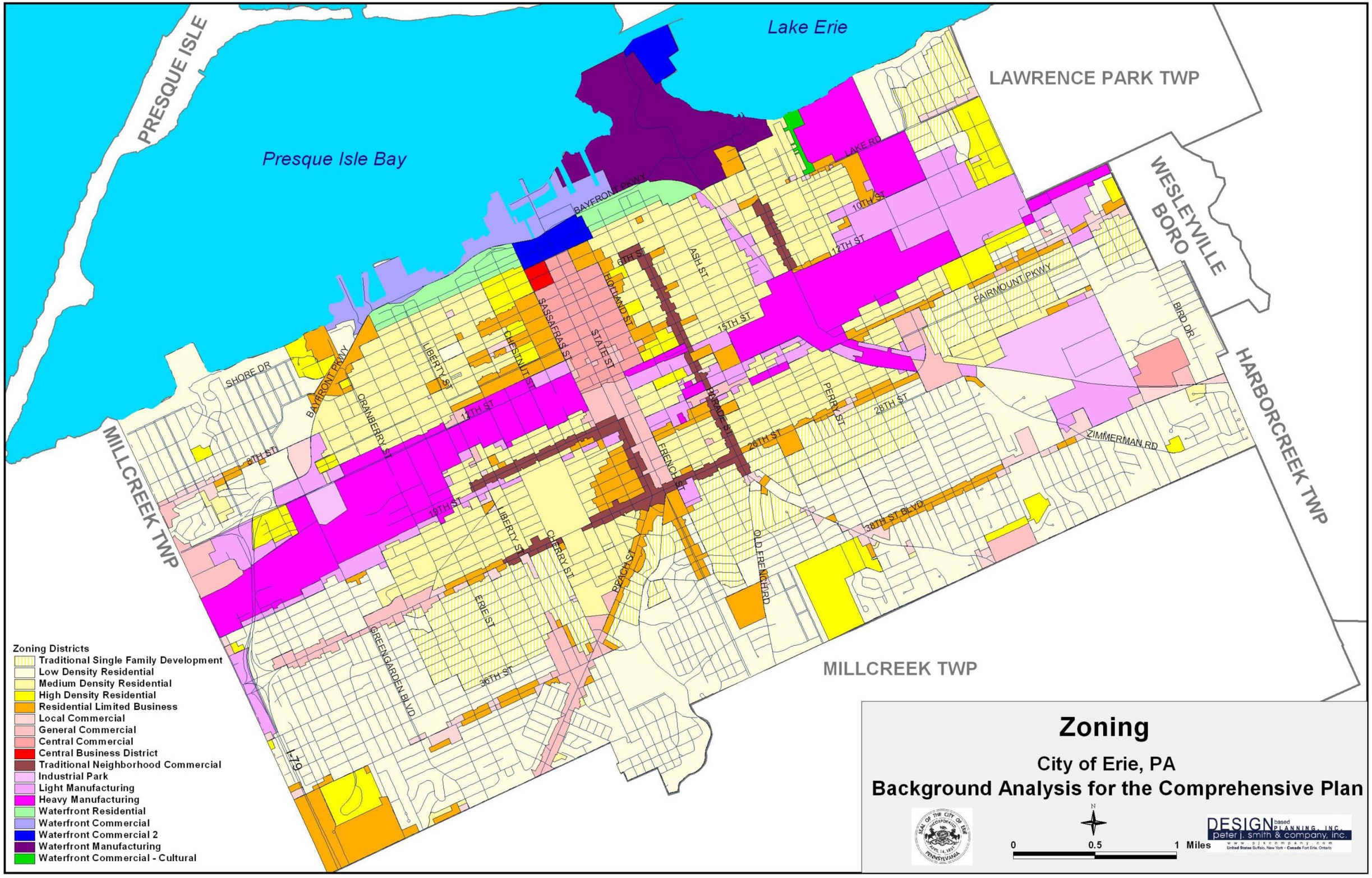
The Future Land Use Plan is one of the most important products of the comprehensive plan because it is the basis of the City's future zoning. While the comprehensive plan will not have the force of law, the zoning does and it is therefore critical that it be based upon solid rational analysis. In Erie, which is largely built-out, the future land use plan can identify areas for redevelopment and reuse for future economic expansion. The Future Land Use Plan can also identify areas for infill development.



Land Use

City of Erie, PA

Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan



Zoning

City of Erie, PA

Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

7.0 Population & Housing

7.1 Purpose of the Population & Housing Element

Pursuant to Article III Section 301 Subparagraph (a)(3) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must include a "plan to meet the housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality, which may include conservation of presently sound housing, rehabilitation of housing in declining neighborhoods and the accommodation of expected new housing in different dwelling types and at appropriate densities for households of all income levels."

The purpose of the Population and Housing element of the comprehensive plan is to determine existing population characteristics and trends, evaluate income and employment characteristics of the population to identify socio-economic trends and identify existing and future housing needs and requirements for all income levels

7.2 Availability of Data

7.2.1 *Impediments to Fair Housing Plan*

Key Findings of the 2011 Impediments to Fair Housing Plan:

- The City lacks an over-arching housing policy that establishes the foundation for comprehensive integration.
- The City's migrant and refugee populations may require language accommodation.
- There is a continuing need for fair housing education, outreach, and training.
- Unfavorable credit history is an obstacle for certain segments of the population to receive public housing approval.
- The supply of affordable and accessible housing is inadequate.
- The City's largest landlords do not participate in the Section 8 Voucher program.
- Mortgage loan denials, high-cost lending practices, and foreclosures disproportion affect minority populations

Many of the elements of the study will need to be addressed and included in the housing section of the Comprehensive Plan. The research data will be incorporated by reference. Recommendations from the study should be incorporated into policy, particularly concerning affordable housing. Considerations in developing a future land use plan will include the City's supply and distribution of affordable housing choices.

The following goals should be considered for inclusion into the Comprehensive Plan Policies:

- Establish fair housing as a priority in the City's long range plans.
- Increase meaningful access to people with limited English proficiency.
- Increase fair housing awareness among housing providers and residents.

- Increase home ownership rates for minority households.
- Increase supply of housing affordable to low and moderate income households.
- Provide an adequate supply of housing for persons with disabilities.
- Eliminate mortgage discrimination.
- Mitigate impacts of foreclosures on the protected classes.

7.2.2 *Housing Market Analyses*

The housing market analyses for the City of Erie focused on several inner-city neighborhoods. The City formerly imposed deed restrictions on properties that received homebuyer assistance through US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs so that they would remain affordable to subsequent income-eligible buyers. The studies were undertaken to show that the housing market did not warrant deed restrictions, which affected lending practices in these neighborhoods. The study determined that the housing market conditions in these neighborhoods met the affordability requirements of HUD homebuyer assistance programs, namely that the majority of homes within the subject neighborhoods are affordable to households with incomes below 80% of area median income.

7.3 Availability of Mapping

Several maps can be presented regarding population and housing with the available data. Parcel data can distinguish between single, two, and multi-family housing units. Block group data can be used to present density, value, and median age of housing in given areas.

7.4 Housing & Population Trends

7.4.1 *Population*

Based on the 2011 American Community Survey, the City's population was 101,658. Whites made up nearly three quarters of the population. African Americans made up almost 15% with people of Hispanic origin representing 6% of the population.

The population of the City continues to decrease, losing roughly 2% since 2000. The population decrease is slowing from past trends. In the 1900s, the City saw a population loss between 4.6% and 8.7% in each of the decades since its peak population in 1960 of 138,440. The majority of the population loss can be attributed to migration to the surrounding suburban communities. The 2000 Land Use Plan projects the population to continue to decline through 2015, although the same projection estimated the 2010 population to be 2,000 less than the now actual population. The Erie County Demographic Analysis, using a cohort progression model, anticipates the population of the City to remain stable through 2020 based on the current strong percentage of young cohorts.

For nearly a century Erie and northwest Pennsylvania have been major resettlement destinations for refugees and immigrants through the International Institute of Erie (IIE), a local field office of The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). In the past decade, more than 5,000 refugees have been resettled here, arriving from Bhutan, Bosnia, Burma, Eritrea, Ghana, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Vietnam, and the former USSR, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Meskhetian Turks, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

7.4.2 *Housing characteristics*

The Housing supply in the City is aging. As the City continues to lose population, the housing stock has also been decreasing. There are also areas showing signs of blight. Despite these downward trends the housing market in the City and County is affordable and has remained fairly stable even during the housing crisis that has affected the nation.

The city has had a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program since 2002. LERTA provides tax exemptions for new housing and housing improvements. Between 2002 and 2007, there were 2,554 permits issues for housing related developments. Recently there has been development of market rate units, particularly along the waterfront and in the downtown area.

The City continues efforts to provide affordable housing to low income families and seniors through HUD funded programs. There are also several non-profit organizations working towards providing affordable housing. The City also uses CDBG funds for neighborhood stabilization and revitalization efforts.

The 2012 Downtown Market analysis identified a demand for sale units based results of a community survey. The study predicted that the downtown area could absorb 50 units annually. As new units are absorbed, a critical mass could produce a neighborhood atmosphere capable attracting a greater market.

7.5 Housing & Population Gaps

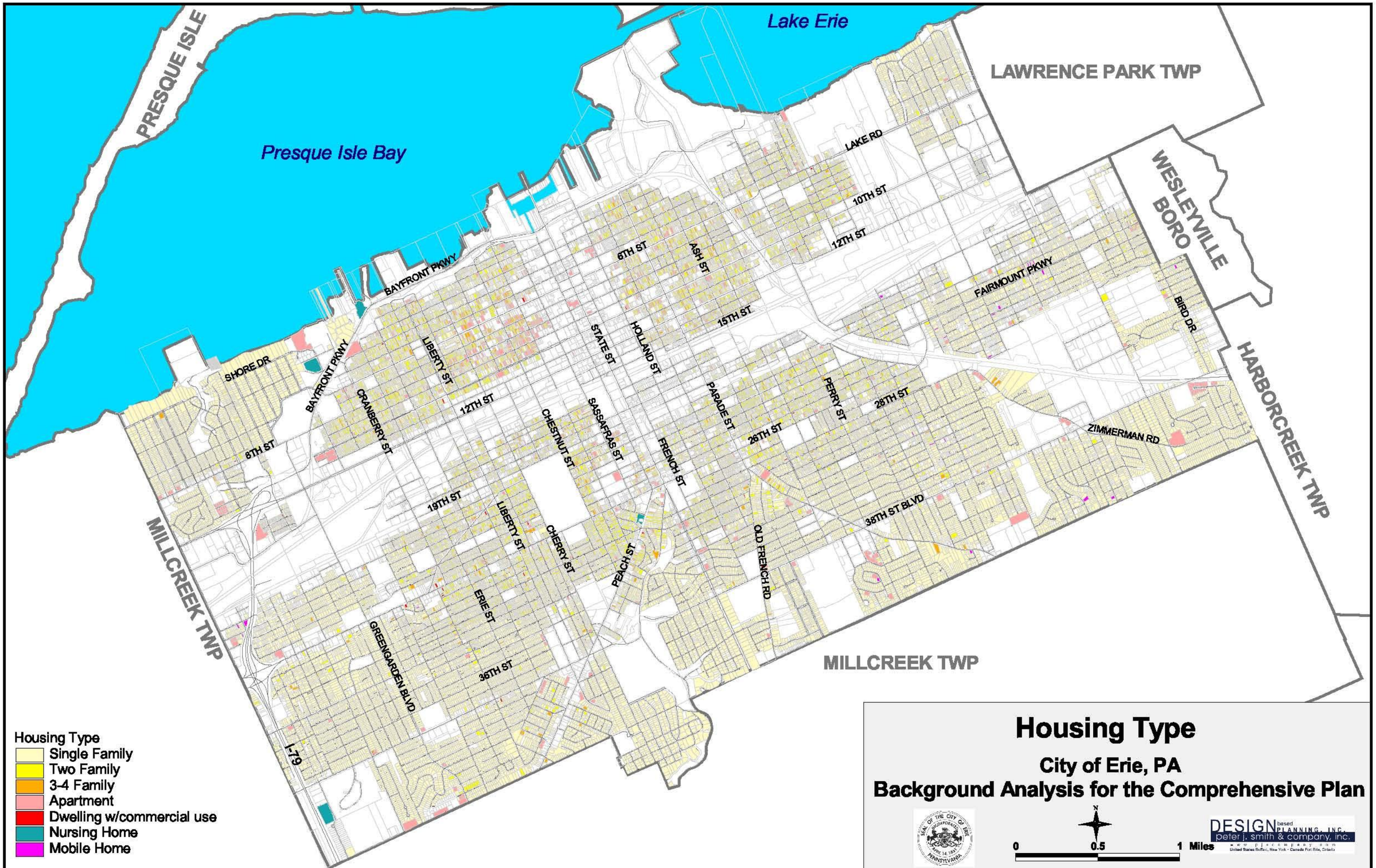
There needs to be an inventory of the existing housing to identify deteriorating structures. Data on the location of foreclosures and demolitions also need to be presented. These are factors that affect the quality of the neighborhoods. Some of this data may have been mapped by the Erie Redevelopment Authority. Neighborhoods with high percentages of foreclosures and deteriorating housing stock should be prioritized for redevelopment efforts.

The housing and population analysis needs to assess the patterns of the value of housing in neighborhoods over time to develop strategies and policies to preserve its stable and market rate neighborhoods and revitalize those neighborhoods in which housing stock and values have significantly deteriorated.

7.6 Impacts

The Population and Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides an inventory and analysis of the current and projected population and the resulting housing needs within the city. Demographic data obtained from the US Census and other sources are used to illustrate how the city compares to the county and state and evaluates whether or not City of Erie trends are similar to those experienced within the county and the state as a whole. Geographic information system (GIS) data is used to assess availability of land for housing that accommodates all segments of the local population.

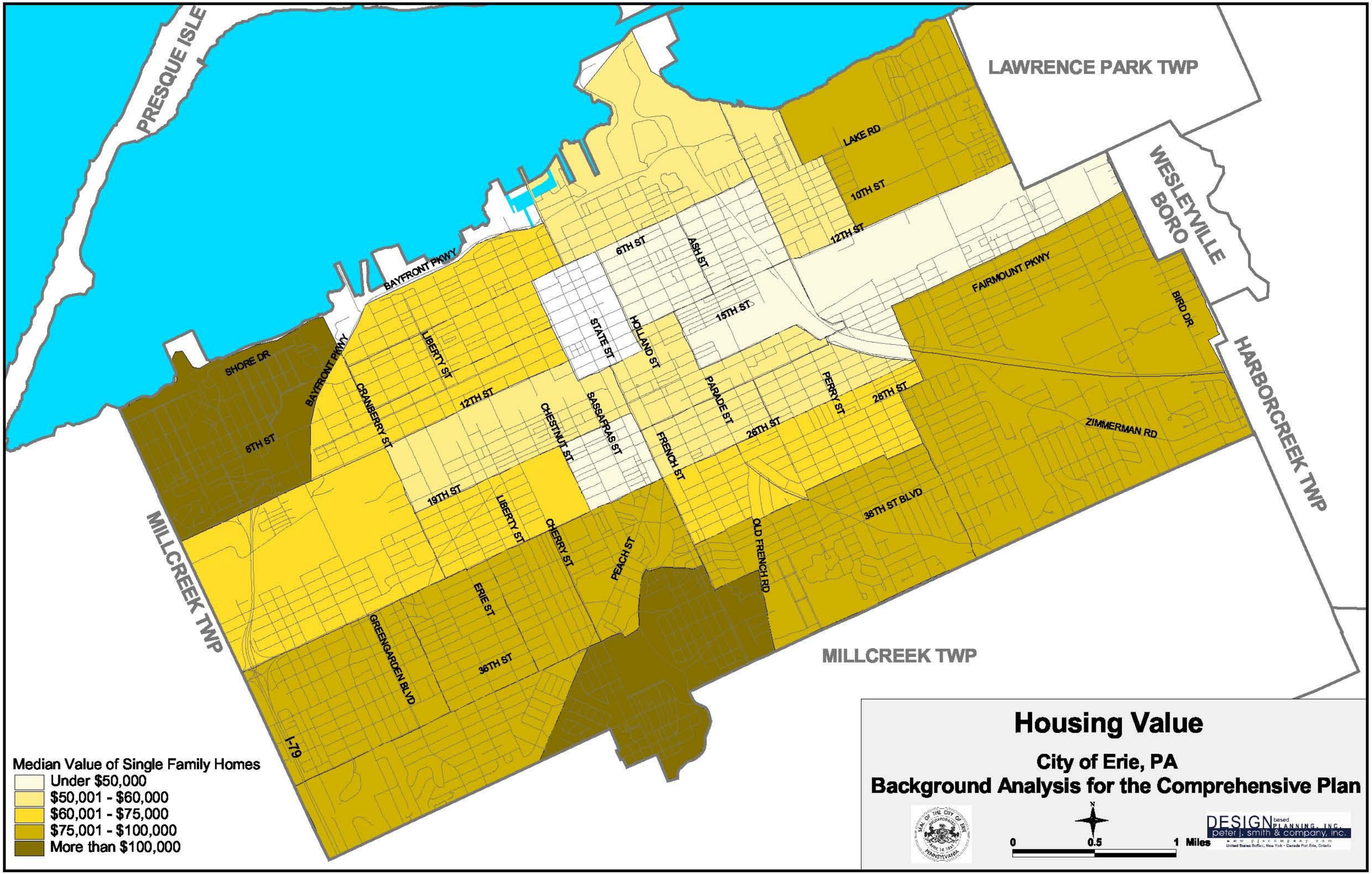
An accurate understanding of the socio-economic composition of the residents of Erie provides an indication of the overall strengths of Erie as a place to live. The analysis focuses on housing because access to diverse and affordable housing options is an important factor in creating a livable community.



Housing Type

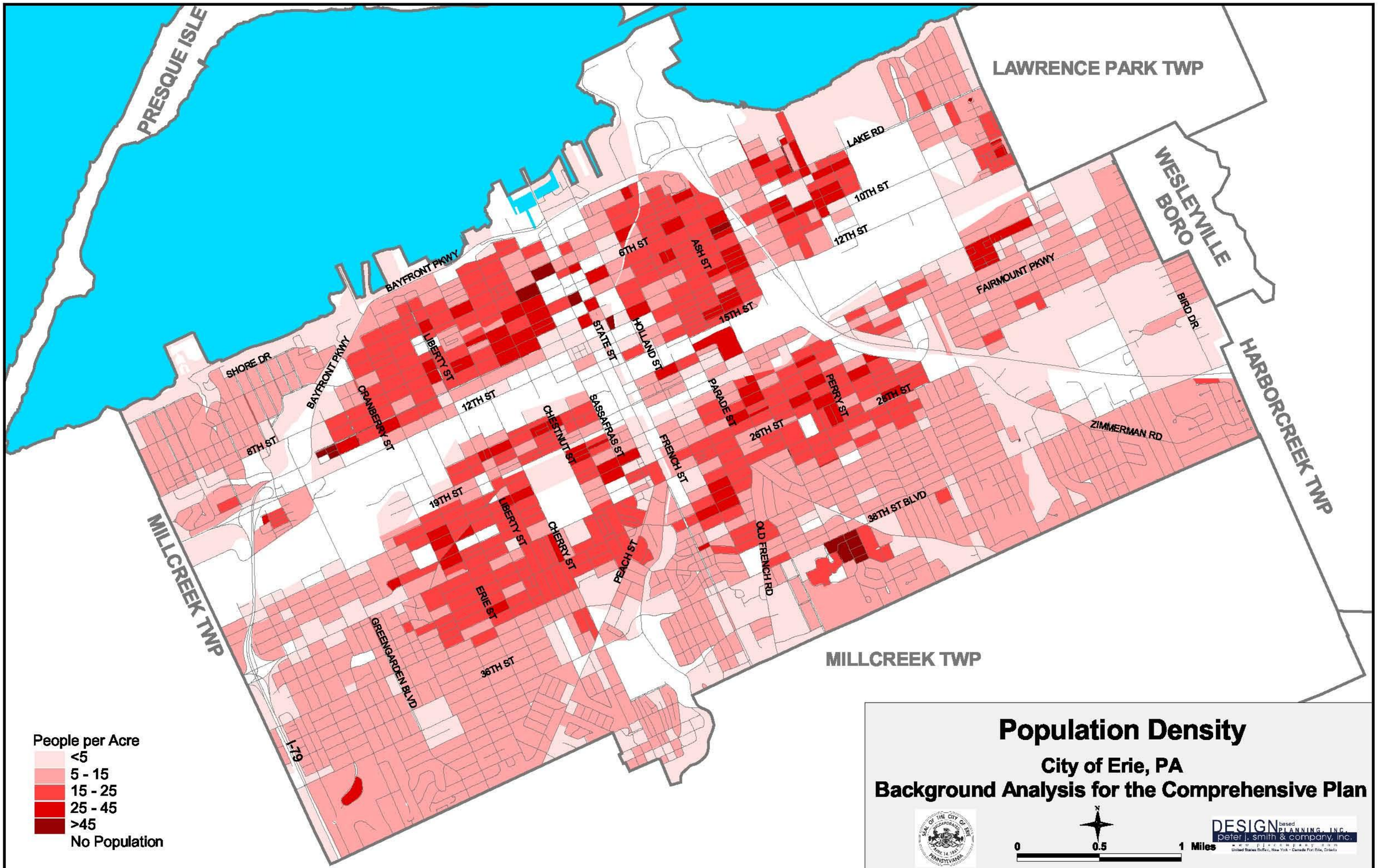
City of Erie, PA

Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan



Housing Value

City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan



Population Density

City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

DESIGN based PLANNING, INC.
peter j. smith & company, inc.

8.0 Economic Vitality

8.1 Purpose of the Economic Vitality Element

The purpose of the Economic Vitality Element of the Comprehensive Plan is to assure that the City of Erie can accommodate a diversity of economic activities while reaffirming the values and goals of the City and its citizens. This element of the Plan relates to many of the subparagraphs of Article III of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, particularly subparagraphs (a)(1) addressing goals and objective, (2) addressing land use and (4.1), (4.2) and (5), all discussing growth and development, implementation and regional context.

The purpose of the economic vitality element of the comprehensive plan is to evaluate the current economic conditions of the city and analyze issues and impediments to economic development to prepare recommendations for new developments and redevelopment, revitalization, job creation and economic expansion.

8.2 Availability of Data

8.2.1 ***Downtown Market Analysis***

Housing Sales Market

- Potential for 50-60 new units of sales houses over the next five years targeted to younger relocating owners or first time buyers.
- Potential for another 50-60 units targeted at older relocating owners and home owners that make over $100,000 in the form of luxury condominium developments with condos and midrise apartments.

Rental Market

- There is still demand for subsidized rental housing as there is still a waiting list.
- The Potential growth in the university market will be limited due to anticipated enrollment stabilization.
- The Downtown Housing Market Analysis survey shows signs of increasing interest in market rate rentals in the form of townhouses and historic loft conversion

Retail Market

- Opportunity to add a supermarket up to 55,000SF
- Potential to continue growth of the dining and entertainment market by adding up to 54,000SF of full service restaurants.
- Potential to add up to 25,0000SF of specialty apparel stores
- Opportunity to meet several critical community needs by adding up to 28,000SF of new stores in categories of severe supply shortage

- Furthering Downtown's capture of the regional market for specialty goods by adding up to 21,000SF of specialty stores
- Capturing unmet needs of downtown students and employment for leisure oriented specialty products by adding up to 15,000SF of such stores.

Office Market

Priorities for maintaining the market strength of Downtown Erie includes:

- Assuring that these businesses have adequate potential to expand
- Developing the capacity to Market Downtown to external users by identifying specific sites for development of new Class A space
- Upgrading and/or converting some of the surplus Class B space to other uses to tighten up the market and encourage improved maintenance.

Hotel Market

- Potential to add 90-100 rooms annually to capture ongoing growth of room-night demand.
- Opportunity to support growth of convention business with addition of a second, more price sensitive hotel of approximately 100 rooms within walking distance of the Convention Center.
- Where market conditions dictate, encourage reinvestment and/or repurposing of older, less competitive existing hotels.

8.2.2 *Downtown Master Plan*

The City of Erie Downtown Master Plan was drafted in 2006 for a February 2007 adoption by the Erie Redevelopment Authority and the Downtown Improvement District. Participants in the planning process included the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the City of Erie, in addition to hundreds of individuals who participated in interviews, surveys, public meetings and other elements of the process.

Recommendations of the master plan look to build upon downtown's existing strengths and capitalize upon new opportunities. Recommendations address several distinct "opportunity zones:" the Bayfront, Perry Square, 12th Street Zone, and the "Industrial Chic Zone" encompassing Union Square and Griswold Plaza. Substantial accomplishments were made in implementing the plan. These include:

- Bayfront Zone
  - Address intersection of Bayfront and State Street scale and pedestrian crossings
  - Trail improvements
- Perry Square Zone
  - Perry Square Master Plan
  - Improvements to the portions of the Square facing State Street
  - Landscaping, lighting and sprinkler system

- 12th Street Zone
    - Streetscape Improvements
- Industrial Chic Zone
    - Adaptive Reuse of the Mercantile Building into 14 market rate condos and retail space; condo project is over 60 percent occupied
    - Union Square townhouses phase I

Also within the context of the plan, parking and traffic studies were completed.

In 2011 the Erie Downtown Partnership began the process of updating its plan by commissioning a new market analysis. The market analysis was completed in 2012. In 2014, the Partnership wants to complete a gap analysis and literature review before moving into a full update of the master plan. In February 2014 the state Department of Community and Economic Development announced grant awards totaling $425,000 through the Keystone Communities program for façades and planning as well as operations and residential reinvestments.

8.2.3 *Erie Waterfront Master Plan*

This 2009 plan highlights the positive developments that have already occurred on the Bayfront and presents the existing conditions. Opportunities and constraints were presented. A concept plan was developed which lead to land use recommendations. The concept plan builds off the successful and necessary uses and fills in uses for vacant and underutilized properties that will complement them while providing ample public access. The majority of the plan centers on obtaining access of the old GAF Plant and creating a mixed-use development surrounding the Central Pier. The plan also contains access improvements, parkland improvements, and creating a better connection between the downtown and the waterfront. The plan also contains an implementation plan which prioritizes the projects based on cost and/or necessity. Cost estimates are broken down for each project.

8.2.4 *Destination Erie*

In 2013-2014, a major regional planning effort encompassing five counties in northwestern Pennsylvania and extending into New York and Ohio is underway. Destination Erie, funded by a $1.8 million US Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities grant, to address economic development and competitiveness, poverty and job creation and transportation and infrastructure systems. Through its three phases and engagement of the public and a wide range of leaders, community groups and consortia, Destination Erie will set the stage for major economic restructuring for Erie and its region.

8.3 Availability of Mapping

Mapping can be created to reflect business and employment patterns, locations of major employers, development and redevelopment projects, etc. Data can also be obtained to show employment density, as well as transportation and circulation patterns related to employment such as commuting patterns. Sources for these data sets can be identified; this mapping is not available at this time.

8.4 Economic Vitality Trends

The City has lost some of manufacturing enterprises. However, there is still a large industrial base within the City compared to nationwide trends. Erie Insurance has maintained its headquarters within the City. There has been growth in call centers and the medical services. Many of the jobs pay lower wages and the City's median household income is below that of the State and the Nation. The City is working to transform the central waterfront and the downtown area into a tourist destination. The City location near Presque Isle State park is an asset as the park draws more than three million visitors per year. The City has seen an increase in retail sales and services jobs. These jobs are also lower paying jobs.

8.5 Economic Vitality Gaps

While individual plans concentrate on economic development of vital areas of the City, there is no city wide policy document regarding economic development. The economic vitality of individual neighborhoods needs to be considered. There needs to be a greater discussion on programs designed to increase economic vitality. Existence of these programs could require interviews with economic development agencies.

The comprehensive plan should include discussions about programs designed to increase economic vitality, to close the skills/jobs gaps and encourage entrepreneurs. Existing programs need better cataloging so information is more widely available and from fewer sources. In its scope, Destination Erie is addressing the regional jobs/skills gaps, economic restructuring, transportation and infrastructure and other key elements of economic revitalization and vitality for the region. Many of the Destination Erie outcomes will be incorporated into the comprehensive plan.

8.6 Impacts

This Economic Vitality element includes an overview of the local economy, including the size of the labor force, employment base, resident income, business activity and identifies the role of the City and its various partners in impacting the economic health and vitality of the city and surrounding economic region.

This snapshot of the local and regional economy also looks at the changes that have had significant impact upon the fiscal health of the city and its residents. Moving into the future, the city must be able to stimulate new economic growth while responsibly managing development and ensuring that its residents have access to employment opportunities. The information gathered is used to identify appropriate policies, programs and initiatives to foster economic development and growth consistent with and integrated with the plans and strategies of the city's economic development partners and implemented in collaboration with them.

9.0 Transportation & Circulation

9.1 Purpose of the Transportation & Circulation Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(3) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must have a "plan for movement of people and goods, which may include expressways, highways, local street systems, parking facilities, pedestrian and bikeway systems, public transit routes, terminals, airfields, port facilities, railroad facilities and other similar facilities or uses."

The primary purpose of the transportation and circulation element is to provide an inventory and analysis of the transportation patterns along local, county and local roads within the city to identify and target specific trouble areas; and to develop a comprehensive inter-modal transportation system.

9.2 Availability of Data

9.2.1 ***2040 Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan***

The Long Range Transportation Plan provides sound transportation policy which should be adopted as the City's transportation policy. These policies include:

- Promote safe multimodal transportation systems.
- Improve access and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improve access to employments and recreation. Improve access to major attractions.
- Prioritize projects that promote economic development.

The Long Range Transportation Plan presents data on existing conditions in a county wide fashion. Some of the data is relevant to the City of Erie. In some case, the data needs to be isolated to reflect the City alone. Sources are provided to produce this data. Data relevant to the city include transit ridership, freight information, Amtrak usage, and airport info. Data that needs to be sorted include major destination, recreational attractions, crash history, functional class, and level of service. Travel time to work is a countywide statistic that cannot be separated.

9.3 Availability of Mapping

Mapping data is available to present a variety of transportation data. The following layers can be displayed for analysis:

- Functional Class

- Traffic Counts
- Bus Routes
- Pedestrian and Multi-use Trails
- Pennsylvania Bike Routes
- Railways
- Port of Erie
- Major destinations

Erie County has a very accurate signal layer and a signal inventory. Transportation demand analysis can be used to model transit movement and signal upgrades.

9.4 Transportation & Circulation Trends

The City of Erie has been the center of a regional multimodal hub throughout its history. The Erie MPO is working towards improving efficient multimodal transportation alternatives within the City and throughout the County. The Bayfront Connector, opened in 2005, provides access from the City to I-90 heading eastbound. Access to I-90 westbound has already been established via I-79, which connects the City to Pittsburgh and points south.

A multi use path runs parallel to the Bayfront connector. Trails have also been established along the waterfront and along the edge of the bluff. The Seaway Trail is a national scenic byway that traverses the City along 6th Street. The Bayfront Parkway is also an extension of the Seaway Trail. The seaway trail is also included in the state bicycle route as BicyclePA Route Z.

The City has a public transit system comprised of bus routes and paratransit service. Ridership on the system has been increasing over the last five years with over 2.9 million annual passengers. The transit system represents 1.4% of travel in the county with 14% of ridership attributed to students.

The Erie International Airport is a commercial airport that operates non-stop flights to Cleveland, Detroit, and Philadelphia. Between 2009 and 2010, enplanements at the airport have increased by 16%. The airport's runway was one of the shortest in the nation. The runway has been extended so that larger planes with heavier loads can use the facility. The extension is also required to meet FAA standards. When completed, the airport will have the potential to attract more passenger and freight carriers.

The City of Erie is a stop on the Amtrak Lakeshore Limited route that runs between Chicago and Albany with extensions to Boston and New York City. Ridership out of Erie has also been increasing over the last several years.

Roughly one million tons of freight is moved through the Port of Erie annually, accounting for 16% of the freight moving through Lake Erie. The port has a connection to the CSX rail line. More than 70 trains per day pass through the main east-west rail corridor operated by CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern. The Erie Corridor amounts to only 2% of Pennsylvania's freight network in terms of track miles, but carries 20% of its carloads. However, 85% of that traffic is through-traffic; both lines (CSX and NS) have very little local industry service and primarily serve as through-lines.

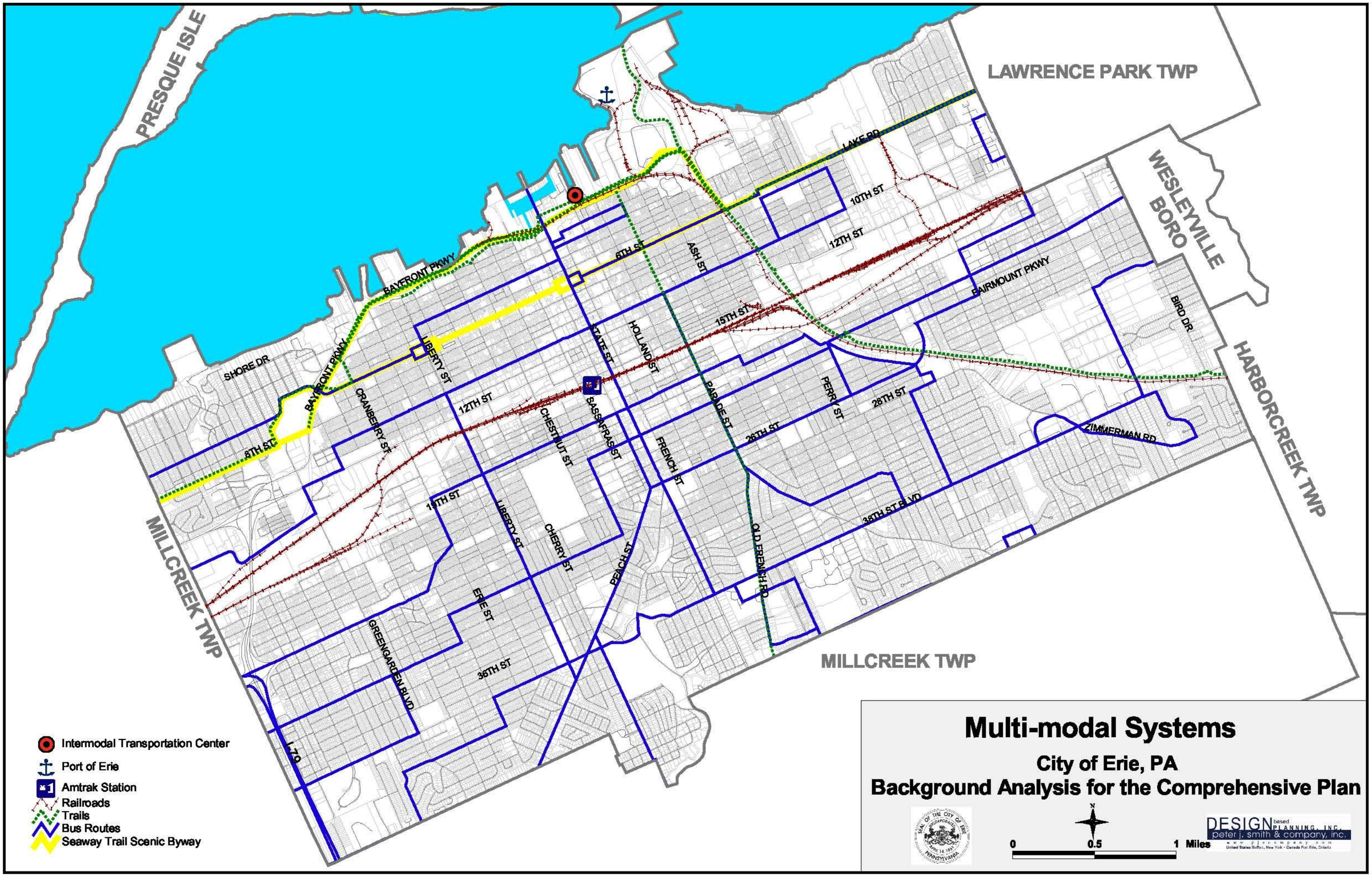
9.5 Transportation & Circulation Gaps

The County's Long Range Plan does not provide for maintenance of local city streets. Upgrades to city streets should be coordinated with economic development efforts as well as projects proposed in the County's Transportation Plan.

A gap identified by the County Planning Office is that it has annual ridership totals for the EMTA system, but not route specific data. This would be very helpful in laying out a city mobility access plan. The demographic analysis of the Comprehensive Plan, along with the ridership data and employer location data, would also help to optimize the EMTA system.

9.6 Impacts

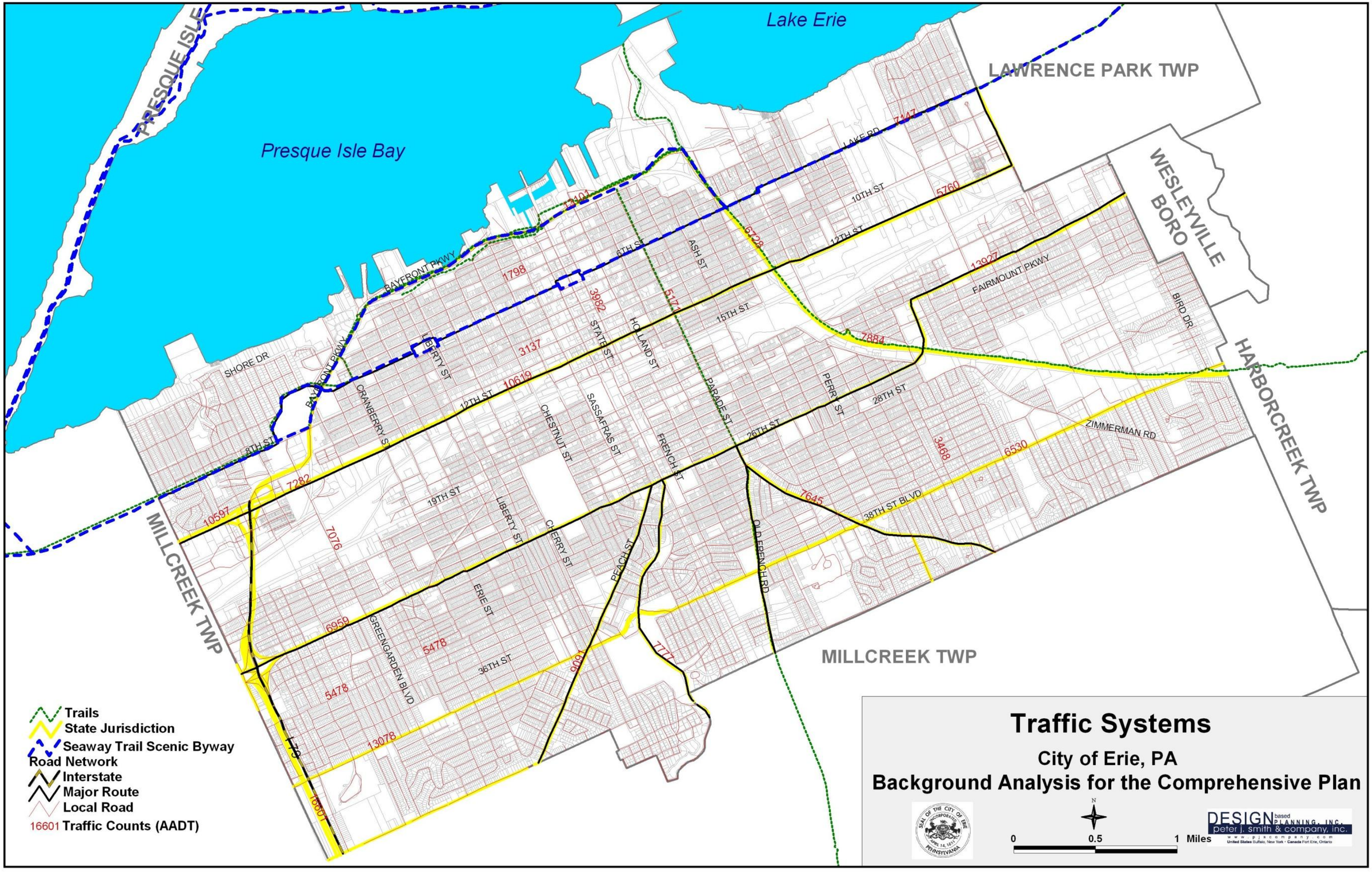
The inventory of the City of Erie transportation system covers a variety of elements including streets, sidewalks, trails, transit lines, air transport and rail transport. This review enables a plan for the growth of the system and its organization to better serve residents and stake holders in the city. A well-organized trail system can serve several ends for the community including providing an active transportation system to help replace the use of automobiles and provide opportunities for community members to exercise and enjoy healthier lifestyles. This review also ensures consistency with state, regional and county plans, and compliance with the objectives of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) which authorized funding for transportation programs, such as highways, transit, freight, safety and research and its successor, MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.



Multi-modal Systems

City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

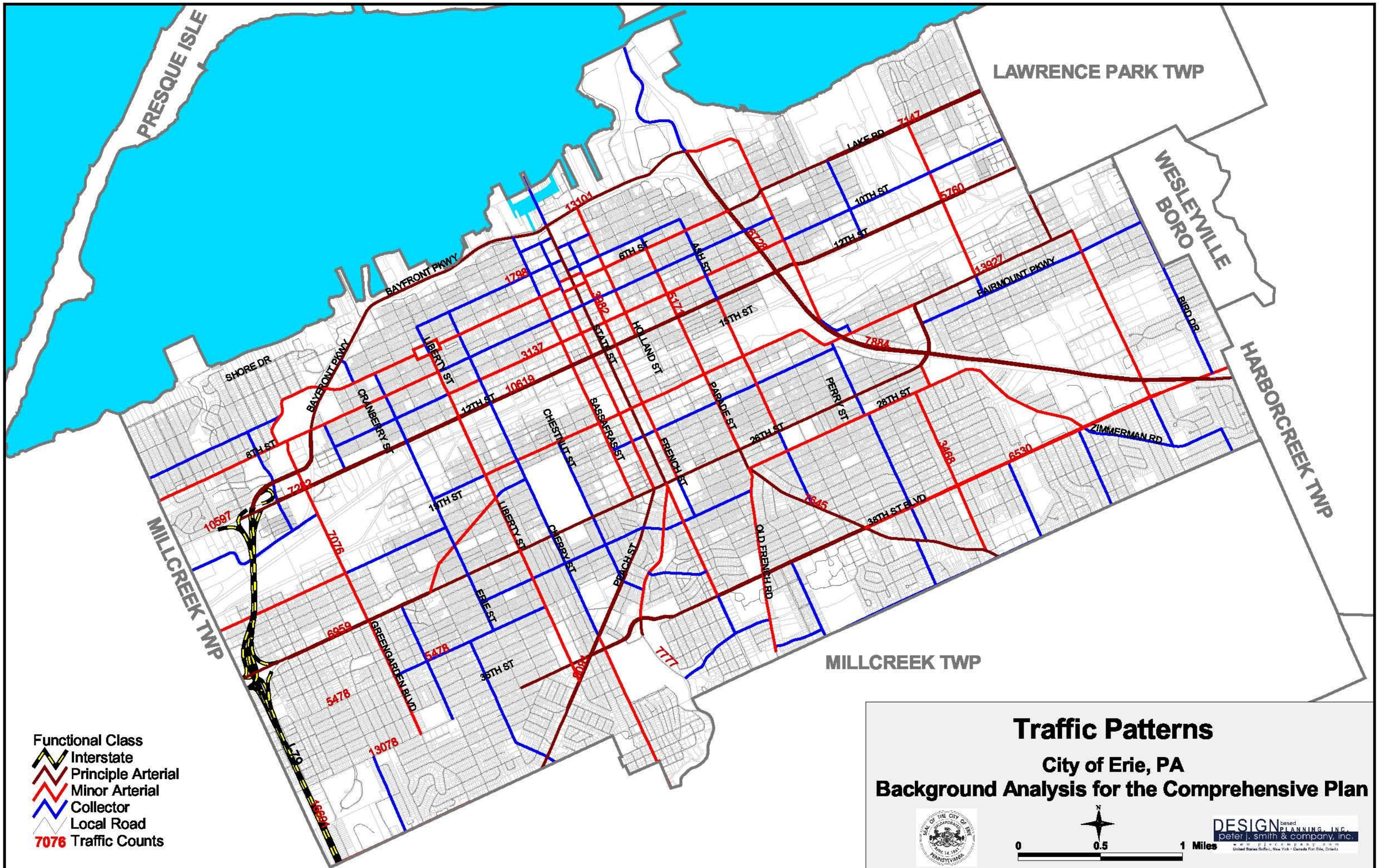
DESIGN based PLANNING, INC.
peter j. smith & company, inc.



Traffic Systems

City of Erie, PA

Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan



Traffic Patterns

City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

10.0 Infrastructure & Utilities

10.1 Purpose of the Infrastructure & Utilities Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(4) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must have a "plan for community facilities and utilities, which may include … water supply and distribution, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste management, storm drainage, and flood plain management, utility corridors and associated facilities, and other similar facilities or uses."

Subparagraph (b) of Article III of the code further requires "a plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses and limitations, including provisions adequate to protect water supply sources. Any such plan shall be generally consistent with the State Water Plan and any applicable water resources plan adopted by a river basin commission. It shall also contain a statement recognizing that:

(1) Lawful activities such as extraction of minerals impact water supply sources and such activities are governed by statutes regulating mineral extraction that specify replacement and restoration of water supplies affected by such activities.

(2) Commercial agriculture production impact water supply sources"

The purpose of the Infrastructure and Utilities element is to determine the capacities of water, sewer, gas, fiber optics and other utilities; to prioritize the phasing and size of future infrastructure improvements that may be needed to support future land use decisions; and to determine the role of infrastructure capacity and development on the Future Land Use Plan. It is also to fulfill the requirements of Article III (b) of the code.

10.2 Availability of Data

The Community Facilities element of the County's comprehensive plan provides data on usage and capacity of the City's Sewer and Water system. There is also a discussion of the issues that have and continue to affect these systems.

10.3 Availability of Mapping

Sewer and water service areas are available from county-wide GIS data. These layers show that the City's sewer and water systems extend well beyond the boundaries of the City. The City itself is fully serviced making mapping irrelevant.

10.4 Infrastructure & Utilities Trends

The Erie City Water Authority has the capacity to intake and process 88mgd, but is only permitted to withdraw 62 mgd from Lake Erie. The system currently provides 37.7 mgd of water to customers within the city and surrounding municipalities. There is ample room for expansion of the system.

The city's wastewater treatment facility treats waste from domestic and industrial users. Until 2000, 28% of the plant's capacity was used by International Paper. The plant has since closed. There is excess capacity currently at the plant for average daily use. More than $100 million has been invested in the sewer system and treatment plant over the past several years resulting in a fully compliant state-of-the-art facility with available capacity.

10.5 Infrastructure & Utilities Gaps

Information regarding sewer and water facilities is presented in the 2003 County Community Services Plan. The Plan presented issues that needed to be addressed at the time. There needs to be an investigation on what improvements have been made since 2003 and what additional issues may have developed. Interviews with the respective authorities will be necessary for the Comprehensive Plan. There is no information regarding privately supplied utilities. There also needs to be an investigation of existing broadband infrastructure and needs.

An assessment of lingering storm water issues, flooding and floodplains and status of any outstanding consent decrees with PA DEP regarding air and water quality should be included in the comprehensive plan. An assessment of solid waste trends and future needs should also be included.

10.6 Impacts

The summary of the status of the City of Erie's infrastructure for the drinking water system, sanitary sewer system, storm water system, natural gas and electric and solid waste disposal identifies present and future needs of these systems. The analysis of this summary is used to identify future public improvement projects to ensure the health, safety and quality of life for city residents, and will be used to. Broadband capacity has become a vital element in economic development.

11.0 Community Facilities & Services

11.1 Purpose of the Community Facilities & Services Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(4) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must have a "plan for … public and private education, recreation, municipal buildings, fire and police stations, libraries, hospitals and associated facilities, and other similar facilities or uses."

The purpose of the Community Facilities and Services Element is to inventory existing municipal and community facilities within the city including schools, fire and rescue, law enforcement, health care and waste management. This inventory includes the types, numbers and condition of facilities and is used to identify the need for additional facilities. The inventory of this element also includes an assessment of the community's fiscal health through an analysis of city budgets.

11.2 Availability of Data

The County's Community Facilities Plan focuses only briefly on the existence of community facilities, leaving the planning to each municipality. Several facilities were identified as well as planned improvements. The county also recognizes the role of the private sector and non-profit agencies in providing community services.

More information on Community Services is contained in the Existing Conditions and trends Report of Destination Erie at http://www.planerieregion.com/.

11.3 Availability of Mapping

GIS information is available regarding the location of police stations, fire stations, schools, and cemeteries. Parcel data can also be used to show the location of hospitals and churches.

11.4 Community Facilities & Services Trends

One major trend revealed in the County Community Facilities Plan is that the 911 emergency system is not operated by a single provider, but handled by 12 different communication centers.

The City is the major center for healthcare for Northwest Pennsylvania. Six of the county's eight hospitals are located within the City.

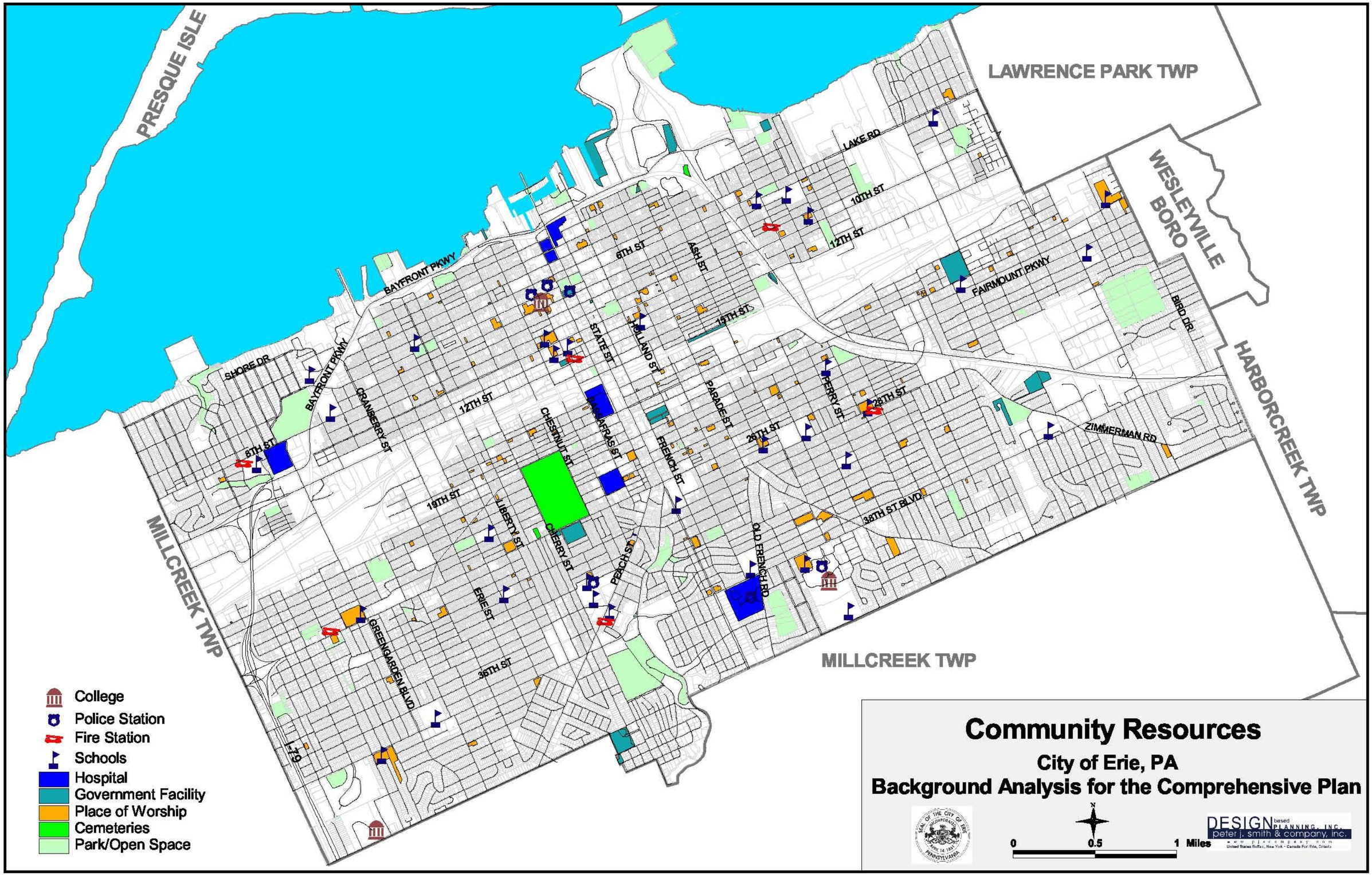
The City's School district lags behind the rest of the county with 27% of students testing below basic reading levels and 21% testing below basic math levels. Limited funding has resulted in delayed improvements to existing facilities. An examination of facility options for the City School District was completed in 2013 and should be incorporated in the comprehensive plan.

11.5 Community Facilities & Services Gaps

While data is available to determine the location of community facilities, there needs to be an analysis of the effectiveness of these services. A community survey will help identify the satisfaction with the current community service providers. Other data that could be collected include response times, number of calls, personnel per call or population and comparison to other communities. Information needs to be gathered about other service providers.

11.6 Impacts

Capital facilities and services are provided by the city and other institutions for public use. These community amenities are essential to ensure a high quality of life and that the safety of the public is ensured and its health and well-being protected. An evaluation of the existing community facilities and services in the City of Erie defines the present conditions of public services and amenities available to residents and serves as the guide for planning and improving this infrastructure in the future.



Community Resources

City of Erie, PA

Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

12.0 Environmental & Natural Resources

12.1 Purpose of the Environment & Natural Resources Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(6) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must have a "plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by federal or state law. This clause includes, but is not limited to, wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, flood plains, unique natural areas and historic sites." The Environment and Natural Resources Element addresses the natural resources with which Erie is rich. They include the resources cited in the law (with the exception of prime agricultural lands), but also the habitat and resources of the Lake Erie shoreline including a unique urban bluff.

The purpose of the Environment and Natural Resources Element is to identify environmentally significant areas (ESAs) and ensure their protection as development and redevelopment occur; to evaluate ways to incorporate the ESAs into the urban environment and encourage residents to learn about their importance; and to evaluate techniques for the preservation of these resources and suggest appropriate revisions to existing ordinances to this end.

The Community Facilities element of the County's Comprehensive Plan provides data on usage and capacity of the City's sewer and water system. There is also a discussion of the issues that have and continue to affect these systems.

12.2 Availability of Data

The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan offers the most comprehensive data regarding natural resources. The document provides an explanation of each resource as well as reasons for preservation. Policies established by state and watershed authorities should be adopted by municipalities as a minimum. The Presque Isle Bay Watershed Restoration, Protection and Monitoring Plan also has great information, most policies are focused preservation and restoration initiatives. Public outreach and education is also central recommendation.

12.3 Availability of Mapping

A wide variety of mapping data is available from the County and/or PAMAP. Layers that can be displayed and analyzed include the following:

- Coastal Zone Management Area
- Watersheds
- Streams/Condition
- Flood Hazards
- Contours

- Active Gas Wells

Coastal Erosion Hazard area was digitized from an existing map in the County Hazard Management Plan. Other environmental layers are available, but not present in the City of Erie.

12.4 Environment & Natural Resources Trends

The topography of the City is generally flat, sloping slightly from southwest to the northeast end of the City. There are a few steep slopes located along the bluff and stream corridors. The streams that run through the City have been classified as not attaining. Urban runoff has caused excess siltation. There are also signs of heavy metal contamination, likely from industrial uses. What makes the condition of these streams extremely important is that they flow into Presque Isle Bay. The bay is nearly enclosed and is adjacent to critical environments areas and habitats at Presque Isle.

The entire area of the City north of Route 5 (generally 6th Street) is located within the Coastal Zone Management Boundary.

The City is one of the few areas in Erie County that is not subject to coastal erosion and bluff recession due to Presque Isle acting as a barrier. Only the east portion of the City is subject to wave action. While the City has a built up urban environment, there natural coastline areas present on the west and east side of the City's shoreline. The zoning code incorporates regulations to protect these areas prone to bluff recession and to mitigate impacts of the built environment on the bluff. While minimal, even bluff areas within the bay are subject to erosion based on wind action and groundwater seepage.

There are few places in the City located within flood hazard areas.

The City has active gas wells operating within its boundary. The wells are not commercial in nature and are sources of fuel for the property on which they are located.

The County does sit over Marcellus shale. However, the shale is much thinner than other areas of the state where hydraulic fracturing has become prevalent. There are currently no leases in the county for gas extraction from the Marcellus Shale. Utica shale, which sits below the Marcellus shale, is also present in Erie County. Initial exploratory wells have been drilled in Erie County to determine the potential for gas extraction from the Utica shale. Erie County does not have a policy in hydro-fracturing.

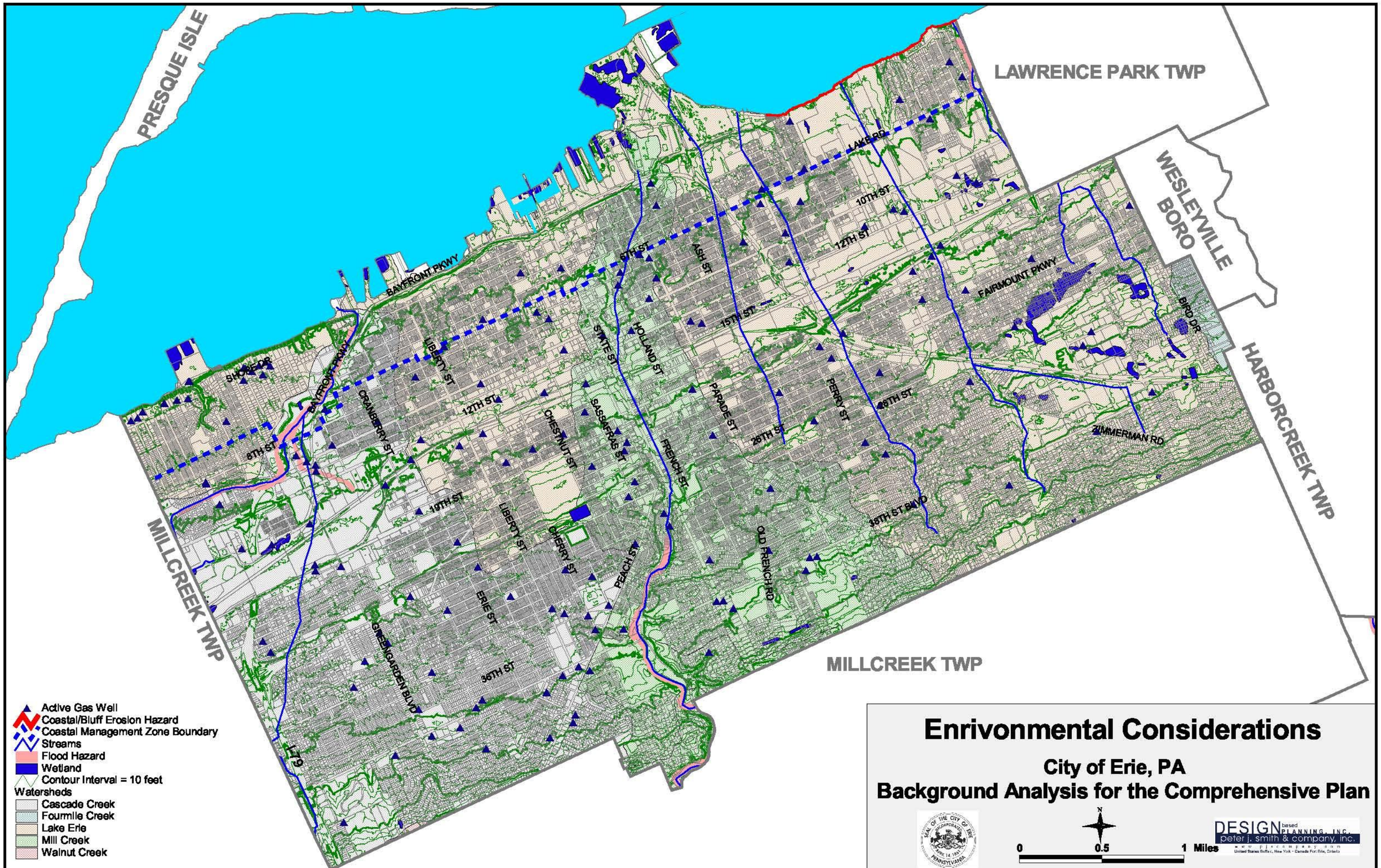
12.5 Environment & Natural Resources Gaps

Currently, there are no leases for hydraulic fracturing for gas deposits in the Marcellus Shale. The comprehensive Plan should address the impacts of such practice before it becomes an issue.

The City needs to establish policy that is consistent with state and county policy and which outlines the City's role in preservation efforts.

12.6 Impacts

The community's natural resources have economic value inherent in the protection of water resources, natural habitats and recreational uses as well as the benefits from extraction.



Enrivonmental Considerations

City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan

13.0 Food Access & Community Health

13.1 Purpose of the Food Access & Community Health Element

Community health belongs at the center of planning initiatives. Environments that promote healthy living and healthy choices can have a substantial impact on quality of life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 7 of 10 leading causes of death in the United States are chronic diseases. Preventable health risks including insufficient physical activity and poor nutrition contribute to the development and severity of many chronic diseases.

While improving health involves a variety of aspects, it is critical to understand and implement the community planning and design changes that can have a role in addressing some of the major health issues residents face.

The purpose of the Food & Community Health Element is to ensure that fresh and healthy food sources are available and accessible for all Erie residents; to make recommendations for revisions to local codes and ordinances to promote neighborhood food access and growth in the local food industry; and to contribute to local economic expansion by recommending strategies for entrepreneurial activities related to the food industry.

13.2 Availability of Data

Existing data sources need to be identified and cultivated. These include the locations of supermarkets and food stores, farm markets, farmers markets and other sources of fresh food. These should be mapped along with the public and active transportation networks to develop a pattern of accessibility or lack thereof for populations whose access is potentially limited for transportation or economic reasons.

13.3 Availability of Mapping

Data sets for GIS mapping need to be developed. Maps of food deserts – where the population has limited or no access to food – as well as food swamps – where there are a proliferation of fast food outlets – can be developed. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development maintains a web portal for mapping food deserts and access to food sources. However, it relies on 2010 data. In the case of Erie, this means that the mapping does not include a WalMart opened three years ago on Elm Street. The store has groceries, a bakery and a Subway restaurant inside.

13.4 Trends in Food Access & Community Health

There is a link between the built environment and community health just as there is a link between community health and food access or the lack thereof. The built form lacking active transportation networks contributes to the prevalence of obesity, heart disease and other chronic conditions. Concentrations of poverty, crime and pollution also discourage use of the active transportation network and provide a strong disincentive for people to go outdoors and move. At the same time, the lack of access to nutritious food sources by some segments of the population also threatens the health of members of the community. Lack of convenient grocery stores and/or lack of transportation to and particularly from the store contribute to unhealthy food choices, as do poverty and a proliferation of fast food outlets and restaurants serving mega-portions of highly processed foods.

13.5 Food Access & Community Health Gaps

As an element of the Comprehensive Plan, food access and community health are relevant topics. While the Municipalities Planning Act is silent on this issue, Pennsylvania has long been an innovator in this field (see below). As a Comprehensive Plan element, food access and community health would have to be created.

13.6 Impacts

Pennsylvania has been a pioneer in developing strategies to connect citizens with healthy food options as one way of battling chronic disease and increasing quality of life and overall community health. The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), an organization that invests in neighborhood revitalization projects in Pennsylvania, manages a healthy food revolving loan fund that is a successor to the Fresh Food Financing Incentive program operated by the state in partnership with TRF and others that invested $85 million in food stores and food access between 2004 and 2010. These programs have served as models for the nation and other states for retaining or returning fresh foods to neighborhoods hit hard by economic and social disinvestment.

14.0 Open Space & Recreation

14.1 Purpose of the Open Space & Recreation Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (c) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the "municipal, multi-municipal or county comprehensive plan may identify those areas where growth and development will occur so that a full range of public infrastructure services, including sewer, water, highways, police and fire protection, public schools, parks, open space and other services can be adequately planned and provided as needed to accommodate growth. The Open Space and Recreation Element of the comprehensive plan recognizes the importance of planning the community's open space and recreation system. The open space and recreation element relates to the community's health and its economic vitality.

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Element is to: plan to protect significant open spaces in the city; address the need for additional open space and recreation facilities to accommodate community needs and demands; and to explore the potential for an inter-connected system of open spaces serving the community's recreation and active transportation needs.

14.2 Availability of Data

Parks are handled as a small subset of community facilities in the Erie County Comprehensive Plan.

14.3 Availability of Mapping

The County has data which displays parks and open space within the City. Some separation of usable parkland and vacant open paces needs to be delineated.

14.4 Open Space & Recreation Trends

The City of Erie currently has 496 acres of land designated for recreation and open space. This area includes a 38 acres golf course, 56 acres marina and campground, and 64 acres of undeveloped land. The City has recently begun to transform its waterfront from an industrial port to more recreational uses. The Bayfront Bikeway parallels the parkway and the Bayfront Promenade traverses the bluff. While not part of the City, Presque Isle is a state park which draws over three million visitors per year. The park is situated directly across the bay from the City and provides miles of beaches and natural habitat areas.

The City currently does not have a parks and open space plan. Amendments to the zoning adopted in 1988 and 1989 require walkways in developments adjacent to the shoreline.

As a waterfront recreation destination and tourism hub, Erie also has numerous privately operated recreation resources. Unlike the public parks and open space network, these resources charge a fee.

14.5 Open Space & Recreation Gaps

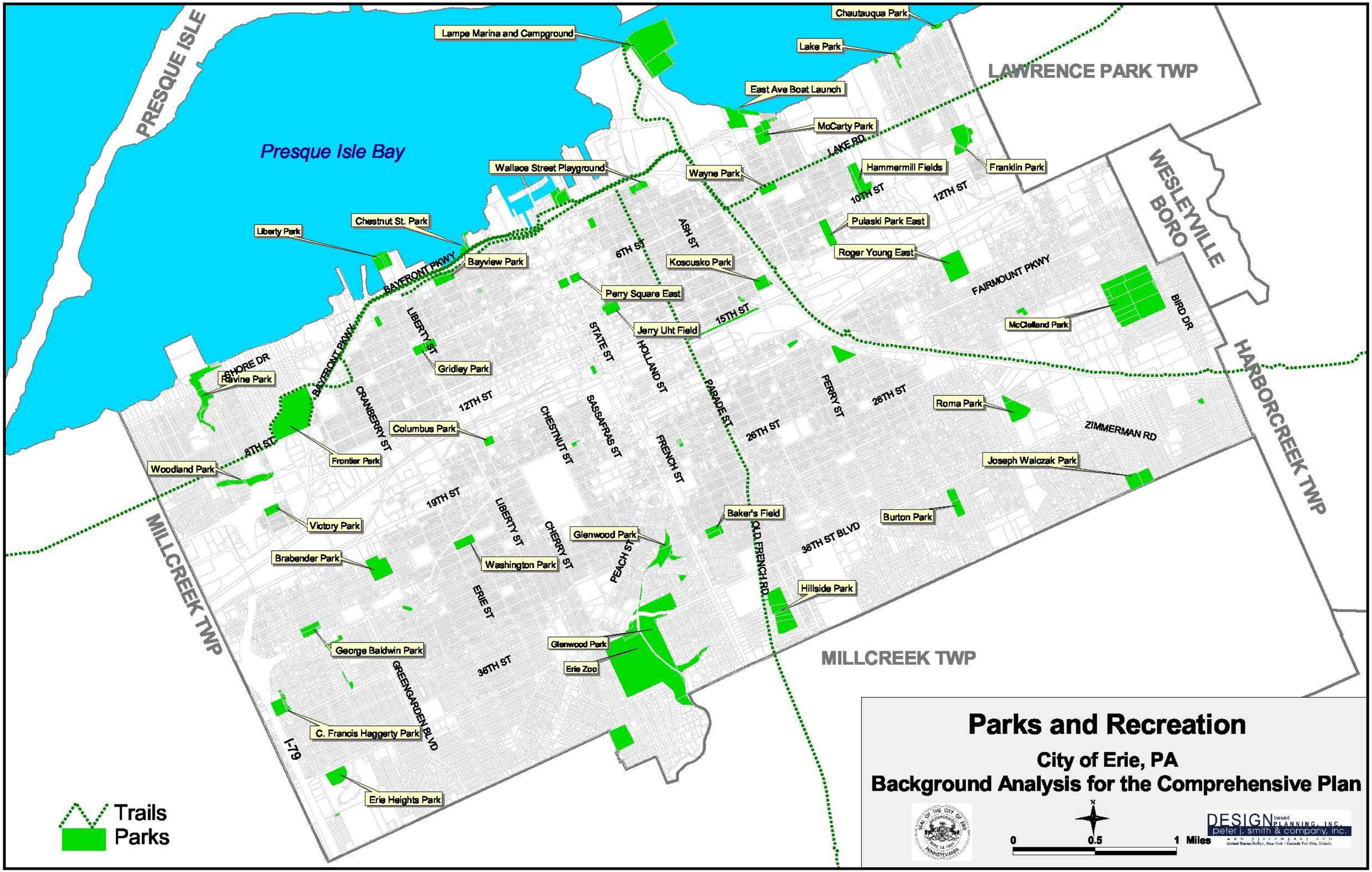
There is currently no Parks and Recreation Plan within the City of Erie. The county offers little guidance on recreational planning. There needs to be an in-depth inventory of the City's recreational facilities and programs which assess both quantity and quality. A detailed inventory will assist the City in directing limited funds to those facilities and programs which are most in need and eliminate those that no longer serve their intended purpose. An integrated open space system will enhance the livability of the Community.

14.6 Impacts

Providing adequate open space and recreational facilities is fundamental to developing and maintaining a vibrant and attractive community. Open space and recreational programs are an important component in the quality of life and health of a community: they contribute to a high quality of life for residents and are essential to the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of residents.

These programs and facilities are important components of a community's self-image and the image it wants to project to current and future residents and visitors. They also help the community attract and retain population and a workforce. Availability of open space and recreation facilities can play a role in families' residential choices. Open space and recreation increase community pride, empowerment and responsibility for the community and one another.

Open spaces are also important to the community's economic vitality, attracting visitors and influencing them to stay longer and return more often to experience more activities. Additionally, a community's parks are always a selling point when companies and local institutions bring prospects to tour the community as part of recruitment.


Parks and Recreation
City of Erie, PA
Background Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan
Trails
Parks
0
0.5
1 Miles
N
DESIGN based PLANNING, INC.
peter j. smith & company, inc.
PRESQUE ISLE
Presque Isle Bay
LAWRENCE PARK TWP
WESLEYVILLE BORO
HARBORCREEK TWP
MILLCREEK TWP
MILLCREEK TWP
Chautauqua Park
Lampe Marina and Campground
Lake Park
East Ave Boat Launch
McCarty Park
Franklin Park
Hammermill Fields
Wallace Street Playground
Wayne Park
Pulaski Park East
Roger Young East
Chestnut St. Park
Liberty Park
Bayview Park
Koscusko Park
Perry Square East
Jerry Uht Field
McClelland Park
Gridley Park
Ravine Park
Roma Park
Columbus Park
Frontier Park
Woodland Park
Joseph Walczak Park
Victory Park
Baker's Field
Burton Park
Glenwood Park
Brabender Park
Washington Park
Hillside Park
Glenwood Park
Erie Zoo
George Baldwin Park
C. Francis Haggerty Park
Erie Heights Park
LAKE RD
10TH ST
12TH ST
FAIRMOUNT PKWY
BIRD DR
ZIMMERMAN RD
BAYFRONT PKWY
SHORE DR
LIBERTY ST
6TH ST
ASH ST
15TH ST
STATE ST
HOLLAND ST
PARADE ST
PERRY ST
28TH ST
26TH ST
CRANBERRY ST
12TH ST
CHESTNUT ST
SASSAFRAS ST
FRENCH ST
8TH ST
19TH ST
LIBERTY ST
CHERRY ST
PEACH ST
OLD FRENCH RD
38TH ST BLVD
ERIE ST
38TH ST
GREENGARDEN BLVD
I-79

15.0 Historic & Cultural Resources

15.1 Purpose of the Historical & Cultural Resources Element

Pursuant to Article III subparagraph (a)(6) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, communities' comprehensive plans must have a "plan for the protection of natural and historic resources to the extent not preempted by federal or state law. This clause includes, but is not limited to, wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, flood plains, unique natural areas and historic sites." The natural resources are considered n the Environment and Natural Resources Element of the comprehensive plan.

The purpose of the Historic and Cultural Resources Element of the comprehensive plan is to identify significant historic resources and ensure a plan is in place for their protection and interpretation; to plan for the interpretation and celebration of Erie as a place with a unique culture; and to ensure the resources relating to the history and culture of Erie are understood as important and worth preserving, revitalizing and interpreting.

15.2 Availability of Data

Natural and Historic Resources Protection Plan

The 2003 Natural and Historic Resources Protection Plan is outdated and generally more applicable to the rural and farming areas of the county. This is an important element of the Comprehensive Plan: The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires an historic preservation plan be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Natural and Historic Resources Protection Plan provides a general list of the types of natural and historic resources that should be preserved and presents a list of tools that could be used by municipalities. Much of the document deals with farmland protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive land. There is a section on what constitutes a historic resource, current mechanisms in place, and further steps that can be taken by municipalities to preserve these resources. The county's position is to leave further preservation measures up to the municipalities. The county will provide assistance and technical expertise to any agency pursuing these efforts.

CultureSpark

CultureSpark serves as the Cultural Master Plan for the County. Most cultural facilities are concentrated within the City of Erie and the City has the most to gain from its implementation. The Document provides policy, goals, and objectives as well as an implementation plan. The City should adopt the cultural plan in its entirety as a regional partner in cultural development.

Other resources include a historical resources survey completed by the Gaming Revenue Authority with funding from the Preservation Erie, formerly the Erie Center for Design and Preservation.

15.3 Availability of Mapping

There is data for Historic Districts in the City of Erie

15.4 Historical & Cultural Resources Trends

The County encourages municipalities to protect historic buildings and districts. The City has an Historic Overlay Zone within its Zoning Code. Developments or alterations within the overlay zone are subject to review by the Design Review Committee. However, the zone, created in 2000, has never been used. It should be revisited within the context of the Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Erie is home to a variety of cultural resources including theaters, museums, and heritage sites. Their impact is estimated to be almost $18 million. Erie's arts establishment cluster represents a 12% higher concentration than the national average.

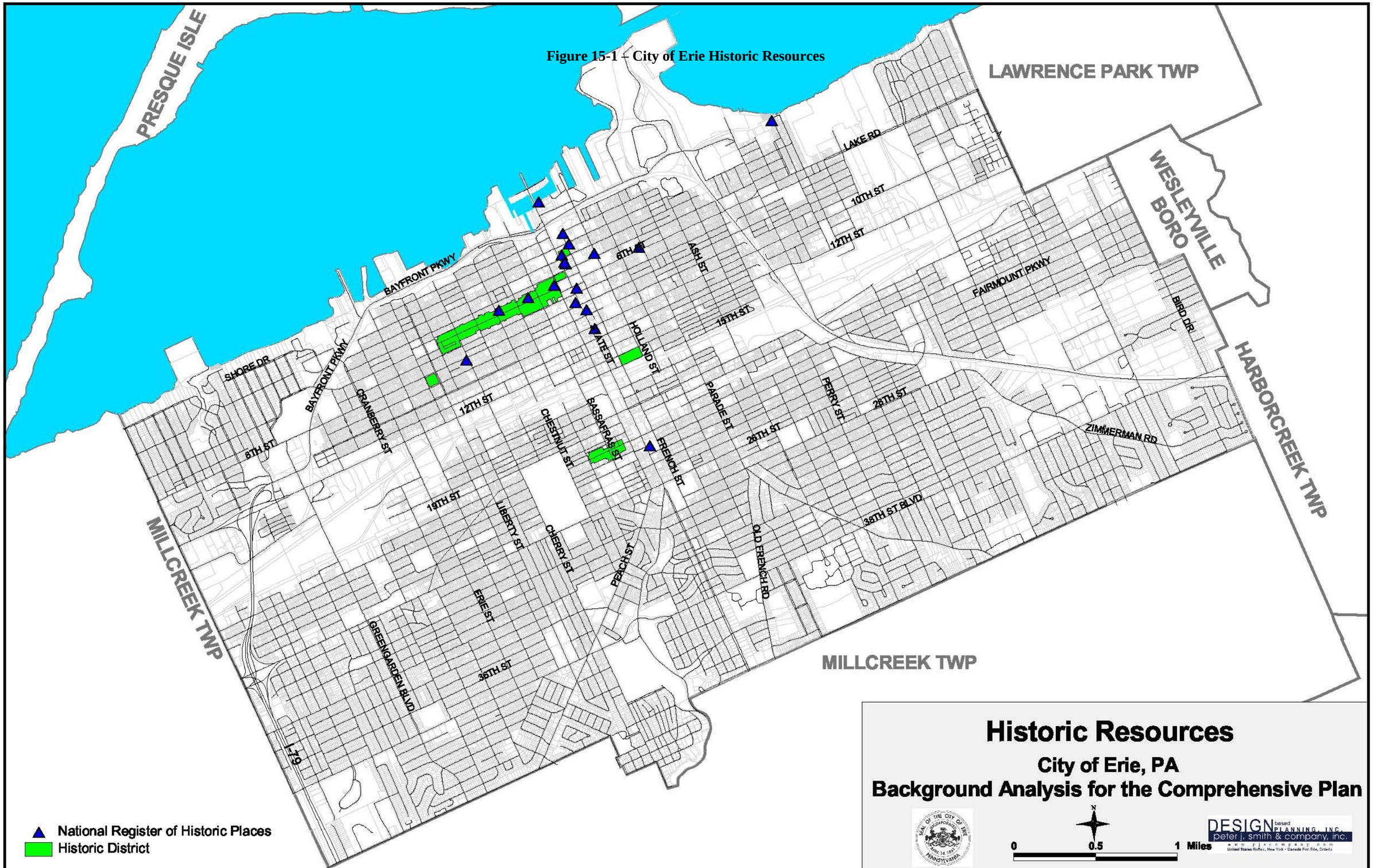
15.5 Historical & Cultural Resources Gaps

Historic places, other than districts need to be mapped. Cultural resources also need to be mapped. Once these resources are mapped, they can be used in marketing tools and themed "trail" development. Historic preservation and the interpretation of the community's historic and cultural resources can be a powerful tool for economic development and tourism. For example, Buffalo, NY, has used its historic architecture, Olmsted Parks System and Erie Canal history as a lynchpin of its efforts to develop heritage tourism and enhance redevelopment of its historic downtown. Other regional "best practices" in historic preservation as part of tourism and economic development can be included in the comprehensive plan.

15.6 Impacts

Erie has a unique and important historic and cultural identity because of its location and the settlement patterns that resulted in a rich and diverse mix of immigrants. Recognizing and understanding this identity will help build support for the implementation of strategies for preserving and revitalizing the city's historic and cultural assets. More than any other single element the strategies of the Historic and Cultural Resources celebrate and strengthen the resolve to protect and enhance the character of the community.

Figure 15-1 – City of Erie Historic Resources



16.0 Local Responses to Sustainability & Climate Change

16.1 Purpose of the Local Responses to Sustainability & Climate Change Element

In the years preceding the turn of the 21st century and certainly since then, there has been a growing acknowledgment and acceptance that human settlement on earth has had a significant impact on the planet's climate and weather systems.

16.2 Availability of Data

The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan contains a comprehensive discussion on Climate Change. The document highlights possible environmental effects of climate change and the consequences of sprawling development patterns. Environment is a major initiative of the Destination Erie process which includes Environment as one of its six work groups. The Environment Work Group is considering water resources, environmentally valuable land, parks, recreation and open space, agricultural resources, climate and air quality and historic and cultural resources. Destination Erie's, Existing Conditions and Trend report includes discussion on climate change and sustainable development that should be incorporated into the comprehensive plan.

16.3 Availability of Mapping

Sustainability and climate change cannot be mapped.

16.4 Sustainability & Climate Change Trends

The State of Pennsylvania has the second highest ratio of land consumption to population growth. This unsustainable form of land use leads to loss of rural food sources, degradation of water resources and decay of urban centers. The state has set forth policy on land use decisions that starts with redevelopment first. The city can only benefit from concentrating redevelopment and investment back into the city.

There is no climate change policy at the county level.

The State of Pennsylvania has benchmarked a 30% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 2020.

The City of Erie is a signatory to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Signatories to the agreement strive to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities; urge state and federal governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat these targets and urge Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation.

16.5 Sustainability & Climate Change Gaps

While there are promises and benchmarks of GHG reduction from the City and State, there need to be policies in place at the City level to implement its share of GHG reduction. Options that can be explored are:

- Establishment of Alternative Energy Sources
- Increase Public Transportation
- Create a Walkable Environment
- Conservation of Resources

16.6 Impacts

There is general consensus that climate change is impacting regions and locations and that those impacts will continue to increase. Potential local climate change impacts include warmer temperatures, reduced lake ice cover, heavy precipitation, lower water levels, changes to water chemistry, and drier soils, which are expected to affect Erie County's agriculture, economy, tourism, recreation, natural environment, and the health and safety of residents. While climate change is a global issue, the City can only do its part to reduce factors that could exacerbate the trend of Climate Change.

17.0 Literature Review

17.1 Overview

The city and regional studies, plans, regulations and other relevant plans were gathered for review. Each document was summarized. Its applicability to the comprehensive plan was assessed, including the relevance of data included in the study, plan or report to the comprehensive planning effort. Each plan's effectiveness was evaluated and its consistency with other planning efforts gauged.

This effort is an important first step in the background analysis. The table below lists the plans gathered for the review. The matrix that follows is a summary of the findings of the review. The individual summary sheets that follow the matrix will form part of the final document's appendix.

Table 17-1– Document Review Library

#	Document Name	Source	Date
1	City of Erie Land Use Plan	City of Erie Website	2000
2	Erie Metropatterns: A Regional Agenda for Community & Stability	planerieregion.com	2001
3	Toward an Economic Development Strategy for Erie	planerieregion.com	2001
4	Erie County Citizens Survey	Erie County Website	2002
5	Millcreek Comprehensive Plan (Summary)	Millcreek Website	2002
6	Erie County Community Facilities and Utilities Plan	Erie County Website	2003
7	Erie County Demographic Study	Erie County Website	2003
8	Erie County Land Use Plan	Erie County Website	2003
9	Erie County Natural and Historic Resource Plan	Erie County Website	2003
10	Lawrence Park and Wesleyville Comprehensive Plan	pa elibrary	2005
11	Downtown Master Plan	City of Erie Website	2007
12	Erie International Airport Runway Extension Economic Analysis	planerieregion.com	2007
13	Seaway Trail Master Plan	pjs co	2007
14	Union Square Master Plan	City of Erie Website	2007
15	Erie County Housing Plan	Erie County Website	2008
16	Erie County Transportation Plan	Erie County Website	2008
17	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	planerieregion.com	2008
18	Perry Square Master Plan	City of Erie Website	2008
19	Storm water Management Plan for Erie County	Erie County Website	2008
20	Walnut Creek Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan	planerieregion.com	2008

21	Erie County Waterfront Master Plan	yournextdevelopment.com	2009
22	Erie Waterfront Master Plan	Port Authority Website	2009
23	Pennsylvania Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan	noaa.gov	2009
24	Culture Spark Master Plan	planerieregion.com	2010
25	Downtown Streetscape Master Plan	City of Erie Website	2010
26	Erie County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance	Erie County Website	2010
27	Five Year Consolidated Action Plan	City of Erie Website	2010
28	Harborcreek Comprehensive Plan	Harborcreek Website	2010
29	Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan	Erie County Website	2010
30	Presque Isle Bay Watershed Restoration, Protection and Monitoring Plan	psu.edu	2010
31	Building Erie by Buying Erie	planerieregion.com	2011
32	Erie Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	City of Erie Website	2011
33	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Streams Watershed Habitat Assessment	planerieregion.com	2011
34	2012 Market Analysis for Erie Downtown	City of Erie Website	2012
35	2040 Long Range Transportation Plan	Erie County Website	2012
36	Communities that Care Community Action Plan	planerieregion.com	2012
37	Community Action Plan	City of Erie Website	2012
38	Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan	County Website	2012
39	McBride Viaduct Feasibility Study	McBrideViaduct.com	2012
40	Neighborhood Housing Market Analysis	City of Erie Website	2012
41	Erie County Natural Heritage Inventory	DCNR Website	2013
42	2013 Annual Plan of the Five Year Consolidated Plan	City of Erie Website	2013
43	Destination Erie Regional Vision Trend Report	Erie County Website	2013
44	Erie Vital Signs	erievitalsigns.org	2013
45	Erie Fair Housing Guide	City of Erie Website	N/A

Table 17-2 – Summary of Literature Search

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
City of Erie Land Use Plan	City of Erie	2000	Land Use Plan	City Wide	Presents history of land use patterns and planning initiatives. Provides some opportunities and constraints. Makes recommendations for zoning updates.	Land Use Plan is outdated	Land Use Plan without policies. Recommendations for Zoning text and map changes.	Zoning Ordinance has since been updated since plan
Erie Metropatterns	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2001	Research Paper	Erie County	Education research paper which presents conditions that have been created due long time patterns of urban sprawl. Social inequities among jurisdictions and school districts are highlighted. The paper presents a regional approach to land use and economic planning.	The paper makes recommendations for regional planning initiatives. Many of the ideas would be embraced by the City if a regional control could be established.	Promotes regional solutions to social inequities.	Information Disseminated
Toward an Economic Development Strategy for Erie	Economic Development Corporation of Erie County	2001	Economic Development Strategy	Erie County	Summarizes industry data from 1990-2000 and presents a detailed breakdown of key industrial establishments. There are result given from a survey of business leaders and citizens. The consulting team presented overall finding both positive and negative and presents a series of strategies to improve the economic development climate within Erie County.	The document presents a series of recommendations that could be incorporated as policies or implementation strategies	Key policies include: Establish a civic coordinating council; work toward regionalizing efforts; Improve communication infrastructure; Create an educational institution focused on work skill development; build on existing clusters; establish business start-up program; and Accelerating development of commercial and entertainment district in downtown Erie.	Some revitalization projects are being undertaken in downtown Erie.
Erie County Citizens Survey	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2002	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Results of a county wide survey as part of the county's comprehensive plan process.	While the city was included in the survey, it faces significant different issues than the rest of the county. A separate city wide survey is necessary.	No policies given	Results presented

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Millcreek Comprehensive Plan (Summary)	Millcreek Township	2002	Comprehensive Plan	Millcreek Township	The available Millcreek Comprehensive Plan is a summary of the larger document which contains a detailed inventory. The document focuses heavily on Parks and Recreation. Key goals of the plan include preserving land for recreational uses and allowing access to conservation areas. The land use plan sets aside land for office park development. Many of the recommendations suggest needed changes to the zoning and subdivision ordinance to accomplish these goals.	Not Applicable, but bordering land uses should be compatible.	While individual policies are not applicable to the City of Erie, all policies should be considered as a model for inclusion in the City's Comp Plan	Unknown
Erie County Community Facilities and Utilities Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2003	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Detailed description of water and wastewater facilities throughout the county. The extent and capacity of these systems were used to guide the county's future land use plan which guides where development should take place. The plan promotes the concepts of smart growth, intergovernmental cooperation and regional solutions. The plan also includes an inventory and recommendations for the county's recreational facilities and cultural facilities, but does not impose on municipalities' authority to plan for these facilities.	There are detail of the city's water and wastewater facilities as well as the issues that they face. These systems also serve surrounding townships. The associated future land use plan limits the extension of development that would further stress the City systems.	Promote smart growth. Promote Intergovernmental cooperation and regional solutions.	The county oversees municipal plans to make sure there is consistency with the county plan.
Erie County Demographic Study	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2003	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Detailed demographic analysis of demographics for the county and each municipality using 1990 and 2000 census.	Demographics are presented for the City of Erie, but more recent data is available	No Policies	Data Presented

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Erie County Housing Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2003	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Element of the County Comprehensive Plan. Statistics are given that represent existing conditions and trends. The stats are presented by municipality and include number of units, change over time, ownership rates, value, rents, and age of structures. There is a discussion on the housing market and affordability compared to the state and nation. Housing assistance programs and services are presented. Housing policy is established	Statistics are presented by municipality. Issues that are relevant to the city more than the rest of the county are identified	The plan presents six general policies which include: Promoting maintenance and rehabilitation; Promote a wide range of housing options for different needs and incomes; Support affordable housing activities; Provide assistance for those with special needs; Promote assistance for seniors; improve communication between agencies.	
Erie County Land Use Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2003	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	The County Land Use Plan provides a broad direction targeting densities more than specific uses. The document promotes Smart Grow Principles. The City of Erie is designated as a growth area. Preservation of existing neighborhoods is a priority. Revitalization of existing urban places is a policy mainstay. The document also provides standard definitions to be used in zoning documents.	The 2000 MPC update mandates municipalities Comprehensive Plan be consistent with the County's Comp Plan.	The following policies are presented for urban places: Encourage multi-use developments. Introduce design criteria. Re-examine signage. Provide flexibility for shared parking arrangements. Allow greater variety of uses in declining strip malls.	Land Use Plan has not been updated since the County's Comp Plan was completed.
Erie County Natural and Historic Resource Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2003	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide				

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Lawrence Park and Wesleyville Comprehensive Plan	Boroughs of Lawrence Park and Wesleyville	2004	Comprehensive Plan	Lawrence Park & Wesleyville	A comprehensive plan for the two communities which are closely tied together. There is a summary of public survey results. Policy is laid out as a series of objectives. For each element, there is a general discussion of existing conditions, Discussion of issues, and tools that could be used to address the issues. There are no hard set prioritized Implementation steps.	Not Applicable, but bordering land uses should be compatible.	Policies are laid out as a list of objectives. While individual policies are not applicable to the City of Erie, all policies should be considered as a model for inclusion in the City's Comp Plan	Unknown
Erie County Solid Waste Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2005	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Projects the amount of waste that will be created in the county over the next ten years,	The City is a major contributor of the County's solid waste	Work to reduce the amount of solid waste generated. Continue to expand on recycling efforts.	Implemented
Downtown Master Plan	City of Erie/Downtown Improvement District/Erie Redevelopment Authority	2007	Area Master Plan	Downtown Erie	Outlines a detailed plan for the redevelopment of Erie's Downtown based on a series of strategies. The Plan focuses on 4 major areas. Plans for each area are presented along with photo simulations. An Implementation plan is included.	Plan should be incorporated into the Comp Plan under downtown redevelopment	Strategies that could be incorporated into policies include: Maintain economic engines; grow arts & culture; target urban market niches, forge public/private partnerships, improve the public environment; and connect destinations.	Reuse of Mercantile Building; Waterfront improvements; Streetscape improvements
Erie Midtown Master Plan Charrette Summary	City of Erie/Downtown Improvement District/Erie Redevelopment Authority	2007	Area Master Plan	State; 12th; Myrtle; and 6th	Provides pictures & diagrams for façade improvements for use by developers	Lower Level	No Policies	Redevelopment of the area is ongoing. Document serves as a design review manual for development approval.

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Seaway Trail Master Plan	Rt 5 through Erie County. Includes the Bayfront Parkway in the City of Erie.	2007	Byway management plan	Municipalities along Lake Erie	Comprehensive resource management plan for the Great Lakes Seaway in Pennsylvania, extending the trail from New York through Pennsylvania.	The trail runs though Erie on 6th Street and the Bayfront Parkway and includes the Presque Isle Park loop. This is the focus of cultural, heritage and natural resources tourism and recreation for Erie.	The plan is a strategy for access to Lake Erie; preservation, protection and revitalization of the historic, cultural and natural resources along the trail; and application of sound community and economic development principles to increase access, recreation and economic opportunity.	Seaway Trail is a national scenic byway
Erie County Transportation Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2008	Element of County Comp Plan	County Wide	Element of the County Comprehensive Plan. While the plan presents sound transportation policy, it references the 2030 long range transportation of the MPO as the actual transportation plan for the County. (See the 2030 plan for more detail)	City should cooperate with the County and the MPO regarding transportation planning.	All policies presented are sound transportation policies that should be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan for transportation	Ongoing
Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	Lake Erie Region Conservancy	2008	Natural resource preservation plan	Lake Erie Watershed	Detailed study of historic, natural, water and recreational resources within the Lake Erie Watershed. There is a breakdown of the individual watersheds. The plan presents a series of objectives and action plans. Many of the objectives deal with public outreach and education on the need to protect and improve restore. Actions include creating buffers along stream corridors in both urban and agricultural environments.	The Plan suggest the City of Erie and neighboring communities are a high priority area for action due to the non attainment status of streams in this area.	Restore riparian buffers. Conduct public education and outreach regarding stream restoration.	Plan lead to the Presque Isle Bay Watershed Restoration, Protection and Monitoring Plan
Perry Square Master Plan	City of Erie/Downtown Improvement District/Erie Redevelopment Authority	2008	Park Plan	Perry Square	Outlines improvements for Erie's Central square park. Plan include movement of monuments, upgrade to fountain, removal of gazebo for two side stage, circulation plan, & streetscape improvements.	Lower Level	No Policies	Lighting and tree removal completed

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Saving Land Saves Money	Lake Erie Region Conservancy	2008	Natural resource preservation plan	Lake Erie Watershed	Research paper that demonstrated that sprawling development patterns is not cost efficient. Demonstration focuses mainly on the cost for schools vs. the tax benefit of development. The report later identifies 20 properties that should be acquired or purchase easement for the purpose of preserving habitats and natural resources.	There is little applicability except for a recommendation for shoreline restoration in urban areas.	Recommendation for agency support for community led restoration projects. Support infill development and brown field redevelopment	Several of the properties have been acquired.
Walnut Creek Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan	PADEP	2008	Watershed Plan	Walnut Creek Watershed	Presents a plan for the DEP	Policies are for DEP, but the city should be cooperative with State initiatives	Policies for DEP include Education and outreach programs; Provide funding programs; Use of permitting activities; monitoring conditions; and use of enforcement mechanisms	State Policies Established
Erie Waterfront Master Plan	Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority	2009	Waterfront Plan	City of Erie Waterfront	Plan highlights existing conditions along the Waterfront. A Plan is presented that will keep space available for the functioning port; create area for a mixed use development in conjunction with the Convention Center, reuse of vacant & underutilized parcels, and provide for public access and marina facilities.	Waterfront Plant should be incorporated into Comprehensive Plan	No direct policies. Implementation plan does require public improvements.	GAF Plant has been acquired by the Convention Authority. Clean up Plan for the site has been approved by DEP.
Pennsylvania Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan	Pennsylvania DEP	2009	Natural resource preservation plan	State of Pennsylvania				

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Pennsylvania Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan	Pennsylvania DEP	2009	Natural resource preservation plan	State of Pennsylvania	The plan is a general plan written to satisfy requirements in order to receive federal funding for land conservation. The plan list priorities for the acquisition of land for conservation. The Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan is included by reference.	Not Applicable	None applicable to the City	Pennsylvania is eligible for CELCP funding
Culture Spark Master Plan	ArtsErie & The Nonprofit Partnership	2010	Cultural Master Plan	Erie County	Provides a county wide plan to enhance and showcase the art, culture and heritage assets of the area. The Plan lays out a series of recommendations and lists the responsible parties, timeframe, funding sources, first steps, indicators, and a rationale.	While the Plan is County wide, there is a strong emphasis on the City of Erie. The plan with all the recommendations and implementation measures should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as a stand alone element or within the Economic Development and Community Resources elements.	Recommendations included in the Plan include: Increase marketing activities; Countywide cooperation; Expand educational opportunities; Create networking opportunities; Incorporate arts in community development efforts; and provide adequate resources to support the full diversity of arts & culture.	ArtsErie is contributing its part as the major responsible party including establishing a CultureSparkErie website.
Downtown Streetscape Master Plan	City of Erie/Downtown Improvement District/Erie Redevelopment Authority	2010	Streetscape Plan	Downtown Erie	Detailed plan for streetscape improvements based on four street typologies. An implementation plan presents priorities and timelines	Plan should be incorporated into the Comp Plan under downtown redevelopment	No Policies	Some early implementation projects have been completed or are underway. Programs added to TIP.
Erie County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2010	Subdivision Ordinance	County Wide	Ordinance regulates the subdivision of land. The ordinance outlines the process including required information. The ordinance also prescribes for the installment of streets and infrastructure.	City has its own SALDO	Not a policy document	Ordinance established

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Erie County Natural Heritage Inventory	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2013	Inventory	Erie County	Complete listing and description of natural resources within Erie County	Erie shoreline identified as natural resource in the City	No policies presented	1993 inventory was updated in 2013 and resides on DCNR Natural Heritage Website
Five Year Consolidated Action Plan	DECD	2010	Grant Budget	City Wide	Presents a system of priorities to determine which programs should be funded with CBDG, HOME, and ESG funds.	Relevant to Housing and Redevelopment Planning	Establishes Policy for prioritizing programs for Housing & Redevelopment Plans	Plan has been used to allocate funds for last four years. New 5-year plan is required in two years.
Harborcreek Comprehensive Plan	Harborcreek Township	2010	Comprehensive Plan	Harborcreek Township	The Comprehensive Plan for Harborcreek does not present a series of statistics that are widely available, but instead just references them. The plan lays out clear goals and objectives. For each element there is a discussion of existing conditions and current trends. In some cases a risk assessment is presented. Each element provides clear policies and actions.	Not Applicable, but bordering land uses should be compatible.	A list of policies and actions are presented for each element. While individual policies are not applicable to the City of Erie, all policies should be considered as a model for inclusion in the City's Com Plan	
Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan for Erie County	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2010	Greenways plan	County Wide	Plan is part of a larger plan for Northwest Pennsylvania designed to protect natural corridors, preserve farmland and connect recreational facilities. The report begins with an extensive inventory of existing resources. The Plan identifies and prioritizes resources to be protected and trail systems to be constructed. Plan provides Implementation tools and resources.	Many historic resources were identified within the City. The proposed French Portage trail runs thought the City.	Work to establish the French Portage trail as part of a larger interconnected trail system.	Some of the trail systems have been built. County has adopted green development policies.

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Presque Isle Bay Watershed Restoration, Protection and Monitoring Plan	Presque Isle Bay Public Advisory Committee	2010	Watershed Management	Presque Isle Bay watershed	The plan summarized environmental quality studies that have undertaken within the watershed. These studies have produced poor ratings showing heavy metal contaminants, and heavy siltation due to urban runoff. There is an inventory of point source pollution facilities. Goals and recommendations of the plan focus on improving the quality of water and aquatic life through protection and restoration efforts along the streams within the watershed	The City of Erie makes up a majority of the Presque Isle Bay watershed. The environment quality of the bay is important to city's future as the city transforms its waterfront from industrial uses to recreation and tourism.	Protect streams through buffering and re-vegetation. Reduce impervious surfaces.	Ongoing
Storm water Management Plan for Erie County	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2010	Storm Water Management Plan	County Wide	Provides technical data on existing conditions throughout the county including land use, topography, soils and bedrock. The plan sets a criteria for determining water quality. Problem areas are identified. There is a description of the functions of storm water management which include peak rate control, volume reduction, recharge, and water quality. A wide range of best management practices are presented. Best practices include establishing riparian buffers, wetland preservation and restoration, and limiting impervious cover. A model storm water management ordinance is presented.	The City of Erie must do its part to control storm water. However, the city is primarily built out.	Establish a storm water management ordinance.	The City has a storm water management ordinance in place.
Building Erie by Buying Erie	Economic Development Corporation of Erie	2011	Research Paper	Erie County	Educational research paper that demonstrates the benefits of local businesses and citizens buying from local business.	Study focuses on actions of private individuals and businesses and cannot be appropriate for comprehensive planning	There is a recommendation to create a database so that business could be more connected and knowledgeable of what is available from other businesses.	Information Disseminated

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Pennsylvania Lake Erie Streams Watershed Habitat Assessment	Pennsylvania DEP	2011	Detailed Study	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed	Scientific study of habitat indicators at various sites along all the streams within the Lake Erie Watershed. Results were presented as a sum of tested sites.	There are very few specific relevant to the City of Erie	Study does not present any policies	Study Completed
2012 Market Analysis for Erie Downtown	Erie Downtown Partnership	2012	Detailed Study	Downtown Erie	Analysis of market conditions including rental and ownership housing, retail, and office space specifically in the downtown area of the City. There is also a hotel analysis that is more regionally focused.	Incorporate data into Comp Plan	No Policies	Data Available
2013 Annual Plan of the Five Year Consolidated Plan	DECD	2012	Grant Budget	City Wide	Presents Budget for 2013 use of HUD funding Sources	Relevant to Housing and Redevelopment Planning	No Policies	Programs funded accordingly
2040 Long Range Transportation Plan	Erie Metropolitan Planning Organization	2012	Transportation Plan	County Wide	The Erie MPO is the official agency in charge of prioritizing projects using state and federal funds. A large list of potential projects were prioritized based criteria which coincide with the goals of the plan which include. Economic Vitality; Multimodal transportation safety; Multimodal transportation security; Multimodal choices & connections; System sustainability & livability; and System efficiency & preservation. "Decision Lens" software was used to rank each of the projects. Once the projects were prioritized, they were placed into a timetable based on expecting funding sources. While the plan has a 30 year horizon, LRTPs are updated every 4 years	Many of the projects included are within the City of Erie. Expected upgrades to the transportation systems need to be reflected in other planning initiatives like economic development as well as transportation planning. The City still has to plan for maintenance of local streets, but there could be correlation with respect to timing of such projects.	Promote safe multimodal transportation systems. Improve access and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Improve access to employments and recreation. Improve access to major attractions. Prioritize projects that promote economic development.	Capital improvements based on the long term transportation plan are ongoing.

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Community Action Plan	Erie County Policy & Planning Council	2012	Broad Goals	Erie County	Summary of a series of meetings held by the Resource & Planning Subcommittee in which general goals were discussed regarding youth development	Some goals can be incorporated into Community Service Programs	Goals for community Programs could be incorporated.	Recently Completed
Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Erie County Dept. of Planning	2012	Hazard Mitigation Plan	County Wide	Plan is a mandatory report in order to receive funding in the event of a disaster. The report presents an explanation of a variety of possible hazards, as well past occurrences of such events within Erie County and the state. The plan then prioritizes the hazards based on likelihood, duration, cost, and potential loss of life. There is an assessment of the county's ability to respond to events. The Plan then presents goals and action steps.	All goals and objectives are relevant to the city and should be included under public safety.	Policies include protecting life & property, increase public awareness, and promote sensible regulatory guidelines. The Plan identified a need for Intermunicipal cooperation to be included in comprehensive plans. There are general action steps to update storm water management plan and NFIP participation. One specific action is that the City of Erie install generators at critical facilities.	Most hazard mitigation strategies are already in place.
Neighborhood Housing Market Analysis	City of Erie	2012	Housing Market Study	BEST, SNOOPS, Little Italy, and Central City Neighborhoods	The report was a study of market conditions within NSP neighborhoods. The study determined a less than optimal housing market and that units would remain affordable over the next five years	Provides a good summary of the housing market in Erie in general with specific relevance to the given neighborhoods	The City can remove deed restrictions on housing units that used HOME and NSP funds	Data Available
Purpose and Needs Analysis for the McBride Viaduct Feasibility Study	City of Erie, PennDOT	2012	Study to perform a study	East Avenue from Commercial Street to 12th Street	Investigates need to perform a more detailed feasibility study to repair or replace the McBride Viaduct	Identified a need to study alternatives	Develop an alternative to the closure of the McBride Viaduct	Pending
Strategic Assessment of Blight in Erie County	Center for Community Progress	2012	Detailed Study	Erie County	Study of housing and blighting conditions based on block group data and various sources for the county as a whole	Presents some strategies to improve blighted conditions where it exists	Recommendations include creating a database of housing conditions at the parcels level in order to establish priorities and to seek funding sources	

Name of Document	Author/Owner	Date	Type	Area	Summary	Applicability	Relevant Policies	Status
Erie Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing 7-18-11	DECD	City of Erie	Detailed Study		The document is an extensive review of trends, policies, and conditions that affect fair housing choices within the City of Erie. The document asses each situation and provides recommendations in many cases.	Data and Policies to be incorporated into Comp Plan	Several Housing Policies are presented	Policies are being implemented through priority distribution of CDBG funds.
Erie Fair Housing Guide	DECD	N/A	Informational	N/A	Presentation of Fair Housing Rights for Citizen Information	Not Applicable	No Policies	Information Available
Destination Erie Regional Vision (Current Conditions & Trends)	Erie County Planning Department	Unknown	Inventory	County Wide	Serves as an inventory for a county wide comprehensive plan. Provides detailed inventory of trends, development patterns, opportunities, constraints, demographics, traffic issues, housing and environmental issues	Little data is specific to the City of Erie and is not applicable	Inventory without policies or goals	County Data Available, Comprehensive Plan for County since completed.

18.0 Inventory of Data Sources and Mapping

The table below summarizes information that should be included in the comprehensive plan, the source for the data and notes additional or updated data required.

Table 18-1 – Data Source Summary

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
		Land Use		
Land use map	GIS parcels layer with land use	2013		
Land use plan summary	Land Use Plan	2003		Updated analysis
Zoning map	Zoning layer (GIS)	2005		
Zoning code	Erie Zoning Code	2005	Five year history of variance applications	Variance history will demonstrate codes effectiveness
Neighboring communities' zoning	Neighboring Zoning Codes	Varies	Lawrence Park, Wesleyville not available on-line	No issues with adjacent land uses
Design stds/guidelines	Erie Zoning Code	2005		No design standards
Special districts	Erie Zoning Code	2006		Planned Residential Development
Subdivision regs	Subdivision ordinance	1989		
		Population & Housing		
Population & housing characteristics	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs	Foreclosures, Abandoned properties data. Deteriorating housing units inventory	May require field inventory
Population change map & data	Census block group data and GIS	2010, 2011acs		
Population projections	Contained in several studies			
Housing tenure	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs		
Age of housing map & data	Census block group data and GIS	2010, 2011acs		

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
Real estate values/activity (NOT from Census)	Neighborhood Market Analysis	2012		Up to date data available at Trulia.com
Economic Vitality				
Labor force characteristics	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs		
Median HH income map & data	Census block group data and GIS	2010, 2011acs		
Poverty indicators & map	Census block group data and GIS	2010, 2011acs		
Income characteristics	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs		
Industries of employment	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs		
Occupations	Multiple sources, also available from Census.gov	2010, 2011acs		
Industries, # of establishments, etc. County Business Patterns	Destination Erie	2013		
Major employers	Destination Erie	2013	List exclusive to City	May require interviews
City budget analysis			Latest City Budget(s)	
Transportation & Circulation				
Road network map	GIS Streets Layer, bike routes layer, trails	2013	Bus Routes,	
Road classifications		N/A		
Traffic volume & safety	PennDOT traffic Counts	2011	City Counts, Police Records	
Road Improvements/TIP	Erie Long Range Transportation Plan	2012	Past & Current CIP's for local roads	May require interviews
Public Transit -- bus, rail, air	Erie Long Range Transportation Plan	2012		
Bike & Pedestrian Circulation	Erie Long Range Transportation Plan	2012		
Infrastructure & Utilities				
Municipally owned facilities	Erie County Community Facilities and Utilities Plan	2003	Newer facility data	
Other publicly owned facilities (county)	Erie County Community Facilities and Utilities Plan	2003	Newer facility data	

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
Public Authorities	Erie County Community Facilities and Utilities Plan	2003	Newer facility data	
Investor owned facilities	No data available		Location, facility data	
Communications & Telecommunications facilities	No data available		Location, Coverage data	Online Coverage maps Verizon etc.
Community Facilities & Services				
Community Facilities Map	Parcel GIS data	2013		
Municipal health & stability	Not available in studies			
Public Safety including neighborhood watch	Not available in studies		Police Dept. Info	May require interviews
Fire protection	Not available in studies		Fire Department Info	May require interviews
Ambulance service	Not available in studies		Fire Department Info	May require interviews
Health care facilities	Not available in studies		Health Care Facilities Info	May require interviews
Educational resources	Not available in studies		Educational Facilities Info	May require interviews
Community & civic organizations	Not available in studies		Organization Info	May require interviews
Environmental & Natural Resources				
Geography & topography	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Watersheds	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Climate	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Air quality	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Soils	USDA - NCRS			
Hydrology & water resources	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Surface waters	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
Ground water resources, aquifers & aquifer recharge areas	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Watershed management & Planning	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Water quality, storm water management	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Flooding & flood control	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Wetlands	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Habitat	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Environmentally sensitive areas	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan, PAMAP	2008		
Brownfields & environmental remediation map & data	Not available in studies		Brownfield Data	
EPA Monitored Facilities, Superfund sites	Erie County HMP			Additional data available at EPA.gov
Food Access & Public Health				
Trends in local public health	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Location & description of year round retail food suppliers	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Location & description of seasonal retail food suppliers	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Free & reduced school breakfast lunch programs	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Location & description of food banks & pantries	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
Location & description of soup kitchens	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Relationship between public transport & lower income neighborhoods	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Relationship between food retailers, food banks, pantries & public transport	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Relationship between food retailers, food banks, pantries & lower income neighborhoods	Not available in studies		Information needs to be gathered	May require interviews
Open Space & Recreation				
Type, number & location of city parks and green spaces	Trails GIS layer, Erie County Greenway Plan	2010	Facilities quantity & quality inventory	No Parks & Recreation Plan
Type, number & location of county parks in the city	Trails GIS layer, Erie County Greenway Plan	2010	Facilities quantity & quality inventory	
Type, number & location of state parks in the city	Trails GIS layer, Erie County Greenway Plan	2010	Facilities quantity & quality inventory	
Type, number & location of national recreation resources in the city	Trails GIS layer, Erie County Greenway Plan	2010	Facilities quantity & quality inventory	
Location of trail, greenway & blueway systems for transportation & recreation	Trails GIS layer, Erie County Greenway Plan	2010		
Condition of parks, recreation & open space systems	Not available in studies		Facilities quantity & quality inventory	
Recreation programming & needs	Not available in studies		Recreation programming info	May require interviews

Element	Source	Last Updated	Additional Data Needed	Notes
Need for additional parks, recreation & open space				Comparison analysis needed
Historic & Cultural Resources				
Overview/history of the community	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	2008		
National, state and local register historic resources	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	2008		
Local cultural institutions	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	2008		
Heritage resources	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	2008		
Natural, cultural & heritage tourism destinations	Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Plan	2008		
Historic preservation priorities & planning	Erie County Natural and Historic Resource Plan	2003		
Sustainability & climate change				
Local, regional & state climate change response	Erie County HMP	2008		
Local impacts of climate change	Erie County HMP	2008		
Local energy conservation programs	Briefly addressed in several studies			
Local efforts to address climate change/reduce carbon footprints	Briefly addressed in several studies			

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

The following table summarizes the GIS data available from Erie County. Additional mapping is and will be obtained from other sources including Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access GIS clearinghouse.

Table 18-2 – GIS Resources

Section	Name	Description	Source	Date
Assessment	Easements			
	PageIndex			
	Parcels			
Census	Block_2010	2010 Census TIGER	US Census	2010
	BlockGroup_2010	2010 Census TIGER	US Census	2011
	Tract_2010	2010 Census TIGER	US Census	2012
Community Facilities	Sewer2003	Sewer Service Area	2002 Erie County Comp Plan	2003
	Water2003	Water Service Area	2003 Erie County Comp Plan	2003
Contours	Contours07	2ft contours	PAMAP	2007
CZM	CNPP_Bound_Erie	Coastal NonPoint Pollution boundary polygon	CZM	2009
	CNPP_Bound_line	Coastal NonPoint Pollution boundary polyline	CZM	2009
	CZM_border_noshore	Coastal Zone Management bounds no shoreline	CZM	2009
	CZM_Final_Polygon09	CZM bounds polygon	CZM	2009
	CZM_Final_polyline09	CZM bounds polyline	CZM	2009
Hydro	hydcl (streams)	streams	PAMAP (BAE)	
	hyddld (wide streams)	wide streams	PAMAP (BAE)	
	hydwb (lakes, ponds)	lakes, ponds	PAMAP (BAE)	
	preliminaryfloodzone	Preliminary Flood zone	FEMA	2009
	q3floodzone	Current floodzone	FEMA	1993
	subsheds	Sub basin watersheds		
Planimetric	bldg	Building footprints	Pictometry	2009
	landuse		PAMAP (BAE)	2005
	pbp	Political Boundary Polygons	Current parcels	2013
	rdcl_0113	Road centerlines	Current parcels	2013
	rrcl	Railroad centerlines	PAMAP (BAE)	2005
PublicSafety	e911_addresses	Address points	Erie County Department of Public Safety	2013
	FireDistricts		Erie County Department of Public Safety	

Section	Name	Description	Source	Date
	Fire Stations		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
	Cemeteries		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
	Police Stations		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
	Police Zones		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
	Hydrants		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
	Wireless Towers		Erie County Department of Public Safety	
recreation	park_final_lyr	Recreational areas	Current parcels	2013
	trails_lyr	existing and potential trails	Erie County Department of Planning	2013
School_info	SchoolDistricts08	School Districts	pbp, PA Dept of Education	2008
	schools0608	School locations	Current parcels	
Erie Water Works	Service Area		EWW	2012
	Customers Service Area		EWW	2009
	Hydrants		EWW	2013
Other	soils_extended	Soils	USDA Soil Survey	2003
	zipcodes			
	bus routes	EMTA bus routes	EMTA	
	zoning	Zoning and future land use	municipalities	
Erie City Specific	NWP	Neighborhood Watch Program		
	Wards	City Ward bounds		
	HistDist	Historic Districts	PHMC	
	erie_annexations	Historic Annexations	ECHS	

19.0 Summary of Interviews

Approximately 50 people who have insight and experience that could be valuable to the comprehensive plan were consulted for the Background Analysis. These included representatives of social and neighborhood service providers; charities; authorities, public agencies and public service organizations; economic development; education and neighboring communities.

Interviews were conducted in groups, one on one and on the telephone during October and November of 2013. Approximately half those identified had been reached and interviewed by November 18. Interviewees were asked to describe the character of Erie by completing the sentence, "Erie is …."; to identify major issues and opportunities facing Erie; to name projects or initiatives that have had a positive impact on the city and to identify a project or initiative that could have a transformative impact ("What will turn this place around?"). Last, they were asked what needs to be in a comprehensive plan in order for it to be useful to them and to benefit the city. A summary of the interviews appears below.

Table 19-1 – Summary of Interviews

	Social and neighborhood service providers	Charities	Authorities, Agencies and Public Service	Economic Developers	Education	Neighbors
Character of Erie	Innovative, reactive not proactive, stagnant: not significantly worse or better, important role in great lakes: shipping, manufacturing, Battle of Lake Erie, has declined; City on the verge of tremendous success or failure	It's the perfect size, identity crisis, inferiority complex; precipice between great small town and lousy big town, one step away from disaster	Tourism and cultural district for the region; we don't know our identity/need to redefine; some progressive, some stuck in the 40s and 50s; a gem in the rough; former industrial city trying to reinvent itself into tourism and service oriented economy; on the right track; vast potential	Own worst enemy; tired; Welcoming to refugees, college town, diverse economy	Lower than average incomes, higher than average poverty	Hub for the county for jobs, arts, entertainment, culture
Issues	Poverty, Crime, over-reliance on hopes to revitalize manufacturing economy, unemployment	Poverty; low educational attainment, jobs/skills disconnect, segregation	Homelessness, destitutes, loitering, nuisance crimes; aging population, properties off tax roll; employment; educational disparity; poverty	Crime, brain drain, jobs; jobs/skills disconnect, poverty, over reliance on property taxes	Education; job preparedness	Crime; unemployment; economy

	Social and neighborhood service providers	Charities	Authorities, Agencies and Public Service	Economic Developers	Education	Neighbors
Opportunities	Technology, Bayfront, Destination Erie, waterfront, climate (no tornados, hurricanes, swarming bees, etc.)	Erie Together (city should be more involved), waterfront, Destination Erie, GAF; Bayfront Connector, Library	Waterfront; GAF; geography; clean air and water; redevelopment opportunities; lake, bay and waterfront development; replacement of blighted properties; acceptance of tourism as economic driver; more efficient ways to render services; available infrastructure; capitalize on resources and all the reasons people from out of town like us	Tourism; become regional service hub, GAF, waterfront, income or sales tax; universities; 2nd floor rehabs over commercial properties	People working together on issues: GE with schools, Erie Together	Tourism; fresh water
What has had a positive impact	Convention Center, Celebrate Erie, We Love Erie Traditions, LERDA, Bayfront, Sheraton, GAF, Erie Insurance, program getting minorities into	Mayor brought city back from financial brink, neighborhoods, ethnic diversity	Bayfront; Erie Insurance Arena; improvements in downtown night life; airfield improvements; new players; downtown; Civic Center; Convention Center;	Erie Together, keeping Lord Corp here, convention center, Liberty Park	Erie Together; Destination Erie	Bayfront Highway; airport; GAF; Sheraton and convention center

	Social and neighborhood service providers	Charities	Authorities, Agencies and Public Service	Economic Developers	Education	Neighbors
	construction trades		Warner Theater; weed and seed, CDBG Block Grant funding; UPMC, Federal Court House			
Possible transformative project ("What's going to turn this place around?")	Fix the jobs/skills disconnect, teach people how to manage and grow their money, build capacity of first time homebuyer program participants to be homeowners, improved transportation, neighborhood stabilization, job training without barriers (former prisoners for ex)	Fight poverty, we have too many good ideas, need consensus	GAF; reinstill pride; Destination Erie; employment; leadership; acceptance of change; Erie Together; personal responsibility	Neighborhood revitalization in conjunction with mentoring program, become regional service provider, teach children to aspire to own something, Link Bayfront with downtown	Inland port, Bayfront and GAF	New major employer(s) in family sustaining jobs

	Social and neighborhood service providers	Charities	Authorities, Agencies and Public Service	Economic Developers	Education	Neighbors
What needs to be in the plan	Transportation element needs regional approach, strategy to economically diversify city, land banking, school district consolidation, community college	Use county-wide data, data	Link downtown with Bayfront; downtown residential; attract business and industry; true comprehensiveness, Erie in context of county, region; need to bridge the gap between areas of prosperity, poverty; implementation; clear idea of city assets; how to address poverty and improve education	Consolidate duplicative services, increase income diversity of city, address taxes; projects, phasing; what's the compelling reason why I should live in the city; not only what are we going to do but how are we going to pay for it	Think regionally	Expansion of water and sewer infrastructure

20.0 Opportunities for Cooperation

The comprehensive plan sets the stage for cooperation among agencies, entities, municipalities and governments the way no other document can. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code requires statements on regional cooperation in the plan and the context of regionalism and cooperation came through loudly in the interviews conducted for the Background Analysis.

Through many concurrent planning activities including Destination Erie, the groundwork has been laid for cooperation among entities and in fact, many partnerships already exist. The following table identifies opportunities for cooperation across the civic landscape.

Table 20-1 – Opportunities for Cooperation

Opportunities for Cooperation	Local Authorities	School Board	Neighboring Communities	Social, Human and Neighborhood Service Organizations	County Government	State Government	Federal Government
Land Use	Ensure compatibility of land uses across municipal boundaries		Ensure compatibility of land uses across municipal boundaries		Determine land use policies county Comprehensive Plan consistent with those of communities	Create policy for county consistency	
Population & Housing	Work towards fair distribution of affordable housing across municipal lines	Share data on student population trends and mobility, ESL, special student needs related to poverty, environmental issues, etc.	Provide affordable housing opportunities	Find affordable housing opportunities in surrounding communities as well as the City of Erie	Ensure affordable housing opportunities are provides in all communities through review of comprehensive plans	Sets affordable housing policy	Sets affordable housing policy
Economic Vitality	Work with other communities on regional marketing opportunities for tourism and cultural assets	Pool resources to provide job training opportunities	Work with other communities on regional marketing opportunities for tourism and cultural assets	Assist in job training	Sales Tax Revenue Sharing. Take lead on regional tourism marketing	Provide funding for regional marketing initiatives	Provide funding for regional marketing initiatives
Transportation & Circulation	Coordinate road work with MPO. Share equipment. Consolidate maintenance crews	Pool resources to educate on driving safety	Coordinate road work with MPO		Coordinate road work with municipalities	Provide transportation funding	Provide transportation funding
Infrastructure & Utilities	Coordinate with surrounding communities. Consolidate administration of authorities		Coordinate with surrounding communities		Set policy on expansion of service and infrastructure		
Community Facilities & Services	Work with other communities on eliminating inefficiencies. Pool resources. Purchase needed equipment in bulk with other communities. Consider consolidation of services	Provide space for community activities	Work with other communities on eliminating inefficiencies. Pool resources. Purchase needed equipment in bulk with other communities. Consider consolidation of services	Establish and support Neighborhood Watch programs	Take lead on coordination efforts		
Environmental & Natural Resources	Coordinate environmental preservation activities	Educate on environmental preservation	Coordinate environmental preservation activities	Coordinate environmental preservation activities	Take lead on coordination efforts	Set Environment Policy	Set environment policy
Food Access & Community Health		Educate on healthy communities. Establish local food to lunch programs		Provide food distribution mechanisms for people in need			Set food access policy
Open Space & Recreation	Coordinate trail development across municipal lines. Establish regional network of recreational facilities	Allow shared facilities	Coordinate trail development across municipal lines. Establish regional network of recreational facilities	Create trail maintenance organizations	Coordinate trail development across municipal lines. Establish regional network of recreational facilities		
Historic & Cultural Resources	Regional marketing of cultural resources	Educate on local history. Promote cultural activities	Regional marketing of cultural resources	Regional marketing of cultural resources	Regional marketing of cultural resources	Provide funding for cultural activities and promotion	Provide funding for cultural activities and promotion
Sustainability & Climate Change	Pool resources to promote sustainable practices	Educate on climate change and conservation practices	Pool resources to promote sustainable practices		Take lead on coordination efforts	Set sustainability policy	Set sustainability policy

21.0 Funding Sources

The completion of the Comprehensive Plan is a large undertaking and the City should engage a professional planning firm for the project. The project should last eight to 12 months and in addition to the inventory of community resources, will include a thorough community engagement and visioning process. The table below is a matrix of funding sources that could be used to assist the City in funding the project. That matrix is followed by a second matrix that includes more general funding sources that are or maybe available to the City to help fund special projects, particularly those that would implement the Comprehensive Plan.

Table 21-1 – Funding Sources for the Comprehensive Plan

	Name	Details	Contact	Address/Phone
Federal	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Grants and technical assistance for federal designated municipalities for any type of community development.	John Tolbert	HUD Pittsburgh (202) 708-1112
State	Municipal Assistance Program (MAP)	Provides funding to assist local governments to plan for and efficiently implement a variety of services and improvements, and soundly manage development with an emphasis on intergovernmental approaches. Funding is available for three groups of activities: shared services, community planning and floodplain management. Grants of up to 50% of eligible costs.	www.esa.dced.state.pa.us.	Allison Schmidt 100 State Street Erie, PA 16507 814-871-4241
Private Foundations	The Erie Community Foundation	The mission of the foundation is to improve the quality of life for all in the region by evaluating and addressing community issues, building permanent charitable endowments and promoting philanthropy and community	Tiffanie Page-Collazo	459 W. 6th St Erie, PA 16507-1215 814-454-0843
	The PNC Foundation	The foundation supports programs designed to enhance educational opportunities for children, with emphasis on underserved pre-K children; and to promote the growth of targeted communities through economic initiatives.	Eva Tansky Blum	1 PNC Plz. 249 5th Ave., 20th floor Pittsburg, PA 15222-1119 412-762-2748

Alcoa Foundation	The foundation supports programs designed to engage people to improve the environment, educate tomorrow's leaders, and enhance communities where Alcoa operates around the world. Special emphasis is directed toward programs designed to address the environment, empowerment, education, and sustainable design.	www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/foundation.asp	Alcoa Corporate Ctr. 201 Isabella St. Pittsburg, PA 15212-5858 412-553-2348
McCune Foundation	The mission of the foundation is to enable communities and nonprofit institutions to improve the quality and circumstances of life for present and future generations. In meeting these challenges, the foundation employs flexible approaches and innovative strategies that are responsive to changing needs and new opportunities. The goal is to stimulate long-lasting and sustainable progress, which contributes to community vitality and economic growth.	Henry S. Beukema, Exec. Dir.	750 6 PPG Pl. Pittsburg, PA 15222 412-644-8779
National Fuel Gas Company Foundation	The foundation matches contributions made by its employees to nonprofit organizations; also a small number of grants on a case by case basis. Special emphasis is directed toward programs that promote community development. Support is limited to areas of company operations in western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania.	Emily L. Ciraola	6363 Main St. Williamsville, NY 14221-5855 716-857-7861
Richard King Mellon Foundation	Local grant programs emphasize conservation, education, families and youth, regional economic development, system reform; support also for conservation of natural areas and wildlife preservation elsewhere in the United States.	Scott Izzo, Dir.	BNY Mellon Ctr. 500 Grant St.,41 floor Ste. 4106 Pittsburg, PA 15219-2502 412-392-2800

Table 21-2 – General Funding Sources

Name	Details	Funding	Eligibility	Terms
Act 47	Provides loan and grant funds to financially distressed local governments as well as technical assistance to formulate financial recovery plans.	Varies	Financially distressed local governments	Must meet certain fiscal indicators referenced in program guidelines
Alternative and Clean Energy Program (ACE)	The Alternative and Clean Energy Program (ACE) provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan funds that will be used by eligible applicants for the utilization, development and construction of alternative and clean energy projects in the state. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), under the direction of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).	Loans: Loans for manufacturers of alternative and/or clean energy generation equipment or components shall not exceed $40,000 for every new job created within three years after approval of the loan. Loans for any alternative energy production or clean energy project shall not exceed $5 million or 50 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Grants: Grants for manufacturers of alternative and/or clean energy generation equipment or components shall not exceed $10,000 for every job projected to be created by the business within three years after approval of the grant. Grants for any alternative energy production or clean energy project shall not exceed $2 million or 30 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Guarantees: Grants shall not exceed $5 million and have a term of not more than five years. In the event of a default, the grant will pay up to 75 percent of the deficiency.	A business, an economic development organization, or a political subdivision, includes municipalities, counties and school districts.	There is a matching investment requirement of at least $1 for every $1 of program funds awarded. There is a $100 non-refundable application fee due at the time of submission made payable to the CFA. There is a 1 percent commitment fee on all approved loans
Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) –University Research Commercialization Grant Funding	Grants designed to promote stronger synergy between university-based research and development and the transfer of technology as it relates to economic and work force development	Variable	Colleges or universities; Non-profit organizations partnering with colleges/universities	Conforms with university criteria; Supporting large-scale projects identified within research agenda
Community Based Services Tax Credit (CBSTC)	The Community Based Services Tax Credit (CBSTC) establishes a tax credit program for businesses that make contributions (cash, personal property or services) to non-profit entities that provide community-based services to individuals with Intellectual Disabilities	Tax credits equal to 50% of the contribution made to a provider agency or $100,000.00 annually per business firm. If a business firm donates to the same provider for two or more years they will qualify for a 75% credit in the second year and every consecutive year that they make a contribution to the same provider.	Any business firm that is authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is subject to taxes imposed under Article III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX or XV of the Tax Reform Code of 1971.	Business firms must provide proof to DCED within 90 days of the notification letter that the contribution was made within 60 days of receiving the notification letter. A tax credit not used in the taxable year the contribution was made may not be carried forward or carried back and is not refundable or transferable.
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Grants and technical assistance for federal designated municipalities for any type of community development.	Entitlement funding is set by formula. Competitive Program is $500,000 maximum.	Entitlement program which provides annual funding to designated municipalities. Competitive program is available to all non-federal entitlement municipalities	Seventy percent of each grant must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Refer to program guidelines.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Discretionary Funds	The CSBG program is a federally-funded block grant that provides funds to eligible nonprofit community-based organizations or governmental entities that work to lessen poverty in disadvantaged and low-income communities across Pennsylvania. Federal and state laws stipulate that approximately 5 percent of the federal CSBG funds allocated may be used by states for discretionary projects.	Competitive program based on meeting criteria provided in guidelines.	Eligible nonprofit community-based organizations or governmental entities with demonstrated expertise in serving the low-income community.	One-year grant awards. Applicants must provide demonstrated ability to sustain projects, assure community linkages and effectively manage project budgets.
Discovered and Developed in PA Program (D2PA)	The Discovered in Pennsylvania, Developed in Pennsylvania program is devoted to increasing economic opportunity in the commonwealth by seeding innovative ideas that promote entrepreneurship, technology transfer, business outreach, and increased capacity.	Grants	Eligible applicants shall include private and public sector entities whose mission includes economic development. Competitive projects will include ongoing or innovative new activities, programs or events to promote entrepreneurship, encourage technology transfer, improve capacity building for regional economic development or provide outreach to businesses.	See the Program Guidelines.
Early Intervention Program (EIP)	Provides matching grant funds to assist municipalities experiencing fiscal difficulties to develop comprehensive multi-year financial plans and establish short- and long-term financial objectives.	Grants up to $100,000 for 50 percent of total project cost.	Pennsylvania Local Government	Applicant must provide 50 percent match.
Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)	Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects using the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP).	Grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants for projects that do not exceed $250,000. Most projects require a 50% local match of the total project cost.	Municipalities, Watershed Organizations	
Growing Greener II	Main Street and Downtown Redevelopment Grants to municipalities and nonprofits to help a community's downtown redevelopment effort, focusing on the improvement of downtown sites and buildings. The eligible projects may include approaches that assist in business development and/or public improvements in core communities.	No minimum or Maximum; Typical grants average between $250,000 and $500,000	Grants to municipalities and nonprofits to help a community's downtown through community development and housing activities, downtown reinvestment, facade and anchor building activities, residential reinvestment, and business assistance.	No required match level, but matching should be demonstrated.
H2O PA - Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects	The H2O PA Act was established by the General Assembly in July 2008. The Act provides for single-year or multi-year grants to municipalities or municipal authorities to assist with the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects.	A minimum for $500,000 or more and a maximum of $20,000,000 for any project. Multi-year grants may not be given for a period of more than six (6) years and shall not exceed a total of $20 million for any project.	Municipalities; Municipal Authorities	
HOME	Federally funded program that provides municipalities with grant and loan assistance as well as technical assistance to expand the supply of decent and affordable housing for low- and very low-income Pennsylvanians.	Maximum grant is $500,000	Local governments that are not HUD participating jurisdictions; Local government on behalf of private, non-profit and for-profit housing development corporations	A 25% local match on project costs from non-federal resources for rental housing is required

Infrastructure and Facilities Improvement Program (IFIP)	A multi-year grant program that will provide grants to certain issuers of debt in order to assist with the payment of debt service.	Grants up to $1 million for eligible cases.	Authorities that issue debt for Tax Increment Financing; Redevelopment Authorities; Convention center authorities, including municipal authorities formed for the purpose of convention center activities; The Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority	Grant cannot exceed the amount of the eligible tax increment generated by the project.
Infrastructure Development Program (IDP)	Grant and low-interest loan financing for public and private infrastructure improvements	Loans and grants up to $1.25 million. No more than 20 percent of the annual appropriation for a single municipality; No more than 10 percent of the annual appropriation will be loans or granted to applicant for speculative Greenfield projects not involving private companies.	Municipalities, industrial development authorities and corporations, municipal authorities, redevelopment authorities and local development districts may apply for IDP assistance for themselves or on behalf of eligible private companies engaged in: agriculture, industrial, manufacturing, research and development and export services; Real estate developers who are developing sites for eligible private companies.	Varies
Keystone Communities Program (KCP)	Assists Pennsylvania's communities in achieving revitalization. The program designates and funds communities that are implementing Main Street, Elm Street, Enterprise Zone efforts or other community development efforts by supporting physical improvements to designated and/or other communities that are undertaking revitalization activities within the community. Also, provides accessible modifications for the homes of persons with physical disabilities.	Grant	Units of local government such as counties, cities, boroughs, townships, towns and home rule municipalities; redevelopment authorities; housing authorities, non-profit main street organizations; economic development organizations; neighborhood improvement districts, downtown improvement districts, business improvement districts, and other nonprofit corporations (with operational capacity).	Refer to program guidelines
Keystone Innovation Network (KIN)	The Keystone Innovation Network (KIN) Program provides matching funds to create an integrated approach to local and regional innovation based economic development strategies. The KIN leverages prior state investments in established local and regional innovation assets – the Keystone Innovation Zones and Innovation Grant programs. Through the integration of these two programs, participating companies, universities, researchers, students and entrepreneurs will realize an improved level of access to technology and resources to grow firms.		Keystone Innovation Zones and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for this grant. Institutions of higher education must apply through one of the twenty-nine certified Keystone Innovation Zones.	Partnership must meet definition and required members; Zone must define industry sector focus; Zone must be geographically identified and should include an institution of higher education with research capabilities. Institution does not have to be located in zone boundaries, but must be formally linked to zone activities; 1-to-1 cash match required; Refer to Program Guidelines.
Marketing to Attract Business	The Marketing to Attract Business program is intended to support the promotion of business retention, expansion and attraction. More specifically, the program provides funding for projects that demonstrate the importance of marketing the state as a destination of choice for investment and promoting the attributes and assets of individual regions. Grants are awarded to those projects which, in the judgment of the Economic Development Marketing Office, comply with the provisions of these program guidelines	Funding Marketing to Attract Business	To qualify, an applicant must be a Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization whose core mission is business attraction, retention and expansion. Funds may be used to support in whole or in part, proactive, targeted business attraction, retention and marketing initiatives. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with proposed and ongoing DCED-supported activities and to outline specifically the nature and scope of that coordination with DCED activities.	An applicant may not make or authorize any substantial change to an approved project without first obtaining DCED's consent in writing. If the full amount of the grant is not required for the project, the unused portion shall be returned to DCED. Failure to comply with these Guidelines may result in penalties, including repayment of funds with interest. When a project is funded, the recipient must place the grant funds in an interest bearing account. Any interest earned on invested grant funds must be returned to the Commonwealth.

Marketing to Attract Tourists	The Five-Year Strategic Tourism Plan 2010 highlighted Pennsylvania's Ability to attract a consistent flow of visitors year round, but also recognized a need to develop assets to help increase visitor length of stays. This is Pennsylvania's most pressing tourism opportunity and challenge. The Marketing to Attract Tourists Program provides funding to support and development heritage assets, enhance outdoor recreation and support the growth or development of various events.	Funding Marketing to Attract Tourists	Non-profit organizations with a significant interest in the development of tourism product that provides a visitor experience to a tourist region, destination and/or attractions are eligible to apply.	An applicant may not make or authorize any substantial change to an approved project without first obtaining DCED's consent in writing. If the full amount of the grant is not required for the project, the unused portion shall be returned to DCED.
Municipal Assistance Program (MAP)	Provides funding to assist local governments to plan for and efficiently implement a variety of services and improvements, and soundly manage development with an emphasis on intergovernmental approaches. Funding is available for three groups of activities: shared services, community planning and floodplain management.	Grants of up to 50 percent of eligible costs.	Counties and municipalities may apply. Shared service activities require two or more participating municipalities. Some projects are open to COGs and other intergovernmental organizations where duly authorized by participating municipalities.	Refer to program guidelines
Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)	Tax credit program to encourage businesses to invest in projects which improved distressed areas.	Tax credit percentage varies	Neighborhood Organization and Businesses are only eligible for EZP	Refer to the guidelines
Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP)	The Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) is designed to encourage regional coordination in economic development efforts, yielding superior customer service to the business community and a comprehensive, efficient statewide economic delivery strategy.		The PREP program is designed to integrate the delivery system historically served by the following core service providers: Industrial Resource Centers (IRCs), Industrial Development Organizations, Local Development Districts (LDDs), Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)	Refer to Program Guidelines
Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority (PEDFA) Taxable Bond Program	Tax-exempt and taxable bonds, both in pooled transactions and stand-alone transactions, to be used to finance land, building, equipment, working capital and refinancing.	Loans no less than $400,000, Up to 100 percent of project costs	All types of businesses needing access to low-cost capital	The bond term is based upon a negotiated letter of credit- the borrower generally must secure a letter of credit from the bank. A $500 fee due at time of application to be credited against the issuance fee when the project closes.
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB)	Low-interest loans for the design, engineering, right-of-way and repair, reconstruction and construction of public highways, bridges, public and private airports and railroads and public transportation systems.	Construction receives the highest priority. Up to 100% of eligible costs.	All public highways and bridges as well as airports, rail freight and public transportation facilities are eligible to apply.	The interest rate is a fixed rate at one half prime and is set upon receipt of the loan application. The maximum loan term is 10 years.
Rail Freight Assistance (RFA)	Grants to build or repair rail lines or spurs	Up to $750,000 or no greater than 75% of total cost, whichever is less, for maintenance projects; Up to $100,000 or no greater than 50%, whichever is less, for construction projects	Railroads; Rail freight users	Local match: 25% for maintenance, 50% for construction; Agreement to maintain active rail operations for 5 years

Regional Investment Marketing	The RIM grant program is designed to support the marketing initiatives of regional alliances that adopt DCED's industry-focused economic development model as part of a comprehensive business expansion and investment attraction initiative.	Funding requests may not exceed $5,000 (a minimum of 1:1 matching funding is required).	To qualify an applicant must be a Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization that represents a regional alliance of economic development, business, industry, labor, academic and/or community entities whose service areas and impact is spread across a minimum of three counties for purposes of the grant proposal.	
Regional Police Assistance Grant Program	Grants for two or more municipalities that regionalize police operations. Pays for Regional Police Chief salary and other related expenses	Grants up to $99,000 for a period of up to 3 years	Grants for two or more municipalities that regionalize police operations	Regionalization must have taken place
Renewable Energy Program (REP) - Geothermal and Wind Projects	The Renewable Energy Program (REP) provides financial assistance in the forms of grant and loan funds to promote the use of alternative energy in Pennsylvania. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the direction of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).	Loans for component manufacturers of renewable energy generation equipment up to $35,000 for every new job created. Loans for geothermal systems or wind energy generation or distribution projects shall not exceed $5 million or 30 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Grants for component manufacturers of renewable energy generation equipment up to $5,000 for every new job created. Grants for wind energy generation or distribution projects up to $1 million, or 50 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Grants for planning and feasibility studies up to 50 percent of the total cost of the planning project or $175,000, whichever is less.	A business; an economic development organization; an individual (geothermal only); or a political subdivision, includes municipalities, counties and school districts.	There is a matching investment requirement of at least $1 for every $1 of program funds awarded. There is a $100 non-refundable application fee due at the time of submission made payable to the CFA. There is a 1% commitment fee on all approved loans.
Solar Energy Program (SEP)	The Solar Energy Program (SEP) provides financial assistance in the forms of grants and loan funds to promote the use of alternative solar energy in Pennsylvania. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the direction of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).	Loans for component manufacturers of solar energy generation equipment up to $35,000 for every new job created within three years after approval of the loan. Loans for solar energy generation or distribution projects shall not exceed $5 million or $2.25 per watt, whichever is less. Grants for component manufacturers of solar energy generation equipment up to $5,000 for every new job created by the business within three years after approval of the grant. Grants for solar energy generation or distribution projects, solar research and development facilities, and solar thermal projects shall not exceed $1 million or $2.25 per watt, whichever is less. Grants for planning and feasibility studies shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the planning project or $175,000, whichever is less.	Political subdivisions, including municipalities, counties and school districts, businesses, economic development agencies	There is a matching investment requirement of at least $1 for every $1 of program funds awarded. There is a $100 non-refundable application fee due at the time of submission made payable to the CFA. There is a 1% commitment fee on all approved loans.
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Guarantee Program	Promotes and stimulates the general economic welfare of various regions and communities in the Commonwealth and assists in the development, redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfield and Greenfield sites in accordance with the TIF Act.	Maximum guarantee amount per project is $5 million	All municipalities and their authorities, including boroughs, townships, towns, counties and home rules that issue TIF bonds to fund local economic development projects	Project must be located in a blighted area (containing the characteristics of blight as described in the Urban Redevelopment Law); Project must be located within a TIF district; Project must be located on previously utilized property or on undeveloped property that is planned and zoned for development; Project must demonstrate its ability to comply with the TIF law prior to the issuance of bonds or other indebtedness; Applicants must show that the revenue to be realized as a result of the project will be sufficient to offset the amount of the debt service; Business or private developers must agree to create a certain number of permanent full-time jobs within the TIF district.

The City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ)	The City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Program was created by Act 52 of 2013. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (Revenue Department), the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Governor's Office of Budget are tasked with administration of the CRIZ Program.	Bonds will be issued by the contracting authority. Various State and Local Tax Revenues created in the zone will be then used to pay off the bonds	A home rule county where a city with a population of at least 30,000 based upon the most recent federal decennial census designated as distressed under the Act of July 10, 1987	
Tourism Accredited Zoos Program	The Tourism Accredited Zoos Program provides funding to Pennsylvania accredited zoos designated by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. The mission of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Accreditation Commission is to establish, uphold and raise the highest zoological and aquarium industry standards through self-evaluation, on-site inspection and peer review.	Funding to tourist accredited zoos	Pennsylvania zoos that are certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums are eligible to apply for funding.	An applicant may not make or authorize any substantial change to an approved project without first obtaining DCED's consent in writing. If the full amount of the grant is not required for the project, the unused portion shall be returned to the DCED.
Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Program (PennWorks)	PennWorks is a program to ensure safe water supply and proper wastewater infrastructure.	**Grants up to** $5 million maximum or 75% of the total eligible project costs. Loans up $5 million maximum per project. 2% interest rate; may have repayment term of up to 20 years.	Municipalities; Industrial Development Corporations; Municipal Authorities; Investor-owned water or wastewater enterprise	The project must serve a site or sites being prepared for economic development activities which involve the investment of capital in Pennsylvania enterprises and communities or which results in the creation of new or the preservation of existing jobs
Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP)	Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for watershed restoration and protection projects. The overall goal of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the Department of Environmental Protection's Impaired Waters list.	There is a maximum of $300,000 for any project. A 15% match of the total project cost is required.	Municipalities, Watershed Organizations	
Weatherization Assistance Program (WX)	Pennsylvania's Weatherization Assistance Program increases energy efficiency in homes by reducing energy costs and increasing comfort while safeguarding health and safety.	The average expenditure per household is $6,500 depending on the home audit results.	Eligible applicants include low-income individuals (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level), with priority given to higher risk residents such as the elderly, disabled individuals, families with children and high energy users.	N/A

DESIGN based PLANNING, INC.
peter j. smith & company, inc.
www.pjscompany.com
United States Buffalo, New York · **Canada** Fort Erie, Ontario