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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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SCOTT FRANCE, AICP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Draft Chapter 8: Infrastructure & Municipal Services, Part 2 of 4

TO: Comp Plan Development Team

**FROM: Mike Narcowich, AICP, Assistant Section Chief: Community Planning,
and Abington Township Planning Consultant**

8.2.4 Public Works

The Public Works Department consists of the Highway Department, Vehicle Maintenance Department and the Refuse Department. The Highway Department is responsible for maintenance of roads. This includes street maintenance, street paving, traffic control, leaf collection, mulch processing, Christmas tree collection, storm sewer maintenance, stream maintenance, snow and ice control, traffic signals, and streetlights. The Vehicle Maintenance Department maintains all township vehicles, including specialty equipment such as lawn mowers, chain saws, and line painting equipment. The Refuse Department is responsible for



The Public Works Department's Highway Division is responsible for street paving and patching potholes.

picking up trash, recyclables, yard waste, large items, and the operation of the Trash Transfer Station.

Highway Division

The Highway Division repairs and maintains more than 200 miles of township roadways, including temporary and permanent street patching, streets overlay, street sweeping, traffic legends and line painting, as well as regulatory sign repair and replacement.

Potholes

The Highway Division is responsible for repairing potholes. This service is not done during the winter season as hot asphalt used for permanent patching is unavailable and cold patch must be used. Initial repairs are temporary. Permanent repairs are made when weather permits it-- usually starting at the end of March.

Recycling Initiatives

The Highway Division and Refuse Division work together to provide yard waste collection, including leaf and holiday tree collections, bagged leaves, and composting.

Patching Streets

Minor patching and repair of township streets include permanent asphalt patching on deteriorated surfaces, patching of utility cuts and trenches in emergency situations only, crack sealing, and repair of miscellaneous concrete facilities such as retaining walls.



Leaf collection is carried out by the Highway Division and Refuse Division of the Public Works Department. The leaves are mulched and then made available to township residents (leaf mulch pickup is free).

Guiderails

Most of the guiderails throughout the township are maintained, installed, or replaced by the Public Works Department. The remainder are maintained by the state.

Trees & Branches

The township's weed control ordinance requires that owners, lessees, agents, occupants, or managers must restrict the height of weeds. Exceptions to this ordinance are areas that are maintained by the Highway Division and township-owned open space.

Signs

The traffic crew is responsible for maintaining, servicing, repairing, installing, and removing street signs, traffic control signs, crosswalk markings, and lane line markings within the Township of Abington.

Weeds

Clearing debris from public roadways is the responsibility of the Highway Division. This includes major obstructions, such as fallen tree limbs and accident debris. The township street sweeping program runs through the entire year, weather permitting.

Stormwater and Stream Maintenance

The Highway Division maintains approximately 1,700 storm grates and 41 trash traps, keeping them clean of debris and making repairs to deteriorated or damaged systems. Streams are made clear of branches that could cause flooding problems.

Overlay Streets

This program provides for resurfacing of streets to improve riding comfort, reduce the need for maintenance, and increase the life of the street. The streets resurfacing schedule is based on the

condition of the roadway and the volume of traffic. The street resurfacing schedule is coordinated with all other township departments and all private utility companies' planning projects in affected rights-of-way.

Snow & Ice Control

The Highway Division is responsible for snow and ice control for more than 200 miles of roadway. It provides this service under contract to 30 miles of state roads and 3.35 miles of county roads. The department clears sidewalks, steps to all township-owned facilities, and bridge steps and sidewalks.

The township has established a road priority system for snow and ice removal operations. The priority streets are the heavily traveled roads that lead into and out of Abington (i.e., “snow emergency routes”).

Snow Emergency Routes:

- Old York Road - Moreland Road to Township Line Road
- Huntingdon Pike - Moreland Road to Philadelphia Line
- Fitzwatertown Road - Susquehanna Road to Moreland Road
- North Hills Avenue - Fitzwatertown Road to Moreland Road
- Highland Avenue - Old York Road to Mt. Carmel Avenue
- Easton Road - Mt. Carmel Avenue to Moreland Road
- Old Welsh Road - North Hills Avenue to Valley Road
- Susquehanna Road - Fitzwatertown Road to Huntingdon Pike
- Moreland Road - Kimball Avenue to Edge Hill Road
- Jenkintown Road - North Hills Avenue to Highland Avenue
- Mt. Carmel Avenue - North Hills Avenue to Highland Avenue
- Township Line Road - Old York Road to Fillmore Avenue
- Valley Road - Susquehanna Road to Lower Moreland
- Edge Hill Road - Moreland Road to Old Welsh Road

Meetinghouse Road - Township Line Road to Huntingdon Pike

Fox Chase Road - Meetinghouse Road to Huntingdon Pike

Vehicle Maintenance Division

The purpose of the Vehicle Maintenance Division is to provide maintenance to the township fleet (all departments) in an efficient and timely manner. This division is responsible for the scheduling and performance of routine maintenance, and for major and minor repairs to the municipal fleet, heavy-duty equipment, small equipment, and power tools. It also provides maintenance and record-keeping on fuel control systems and assures compliance with all federally mandated fuel and tank law regulations.

Additionally, the division has the responsibility of writing the specifications and receiving bids on pieces of equipment, trucks, and vehicles needed by the various departments and decides when equipment needs replacing or refurbishing for further use. The division also installs and maintains parking meters throughout the township.

Traffic Signal and Maintenance Division

This division provides for operation, maintenance, repair, and construction of new and existing traffic signals and streetlights. In addition, this division maintains school speed limit flashing beacons, fire station beacons, and other types of flashing signals.

Refuse Division

The Refuse Division of Abington Township is working to create a safe, sustainable environment for all its residents. This division collaborates with its residents to lead the way in environmentally responsible waste removal and disposal. Abington Township works side-by-side with its residents to lower the cost of waste disposal. The Refuse Division is discussed in detail in the Public Utilities section, below.

8.2.5 Parks and Recreation Services

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining 34 parks and over 440 acres of open space throughout Abington Township. Additionally, the Department provides various community recreational opportunities including campgrounds, picnic shelters, swimming pools, ball fields, playgrounds, summer camps and special events. Montgomery County's Lorimer Park is located in Abington and provides an additional 230 acres of open space.

Recreational Facilities

Swimming Facilities

The Parks Department is responsible for two swimming pool facilities. Each facility has a wading pool for preschool children and younger ages, an intermediate pool, and a large pool with a diving well and water slide. Each facility offers group swim lessons and a swim team.

Outdoor Rental Facilities

The Parks Department provides and maintains numerous outdoor rental facilities. Alverthorpe Park has four pavilions, over 40 picnic tables, charcoal grills, and a campground. These areas tend to be the most popular during the warmer months. The largest pavilion can accommodate up to 200 people.



Crestmont Pool

Indoor Rental Facilities

Ardsley Community Center and the Crestmont Clubhouse are available for indoor rentals. The Clubhouse was constructed in 2018 and provides an open floor plan, kitchenette, tables and chairs. The building can accommodate 87 persons during an event. The Ardsley Education Community Center is home to many basketball organizations, Boys and Girls Scouts, and winter



Pavilion; Alverthorpe Park

special programs. The building offers a cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, and classrooms for rent.

Programming and Special Events

The Parks Department provides recreational programs year-round to Abington Township residents. Our goal is to provide essential parks and recreation services that will enhance the quality of life of those who live in Abington Township.

Spring & Summer Programs

The Parks Department offers a majority of its recreation programs in the spring and summer. Sports such as soccer, football, Frisbee, cheerleading, and basketball are offered throughout the township. In addition, two outdoor summer playground programs are offered at Crestmont and Penbryn parks. Science, art, sports, and theater are among the various camps that are offered.

Fall & Winter Programs

During the fall and winters months, the department continues to offer many programs. Most winter activities take place at Ardsley Community Center. Programs are also being scheduled at the Crestmont Clubhouse. Basketball, sports equipment swap, and theater are just some of the fall/winter programs and events.



Soccer game, Crestmont Park

Briar Bush Nature Center

Briar Bush Nature Center (BBNC) is an Abington Township Parks and Recreation facility. The center provides environmental education programs and nature information to the Abington community and beyond. Abington Township residents and outside sources cite the center as a wonderful amenity and gem. Few communities have such a wonderful resource and refuge for nature and people.

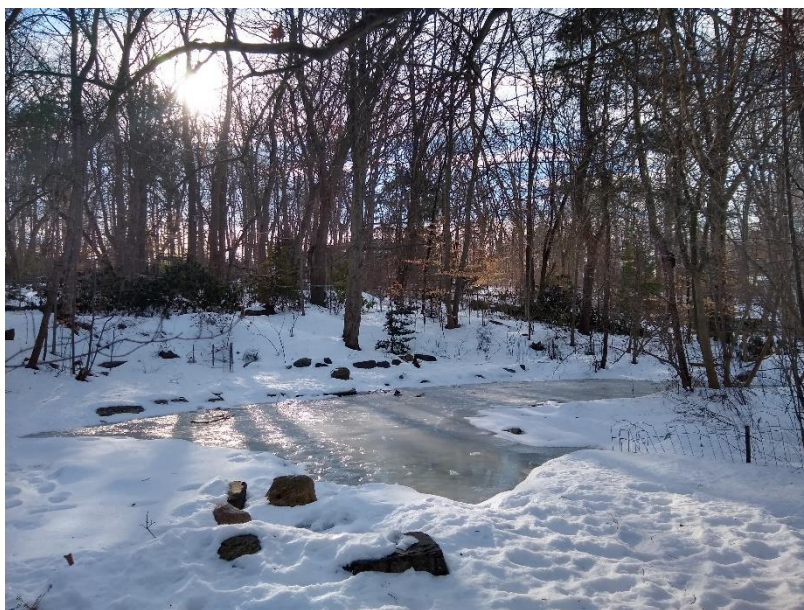
Abington residents have grown up with BBNC. Visitors return repeatedly to see their favorite Briar Bush animals, walk to the pond, watch wildlife, or play at the Nature Playscape. Environmental educators



Summer programs at Briar Bush Nature Center.

and volunteers lead onsite programs and visit schools, daycares, senior living centers, and other locales. Many school-age children attend summer camp, campfires, festivals, and birthday party programs. Scouts hold sleepovers and achievement programs with BBNC. Scouts, schools, and corporations regularly choose BBNC as a place to perform service projects. The cycle continues: children that grew up at Briar Bush bring their children and their grandchildren back because it has such long-term relevance and meaning to them.

Volunteer service is integral at BBNC; volunteers include youth, adults, special needs groups, community service workers, and corporations. Senior staff mentor college interns for in-depth learning. In a typical year, BBNC volunteers donate over 8,000 hours of volunteer work, expanding the reach of every funding dollar.



The Friends of BBNC (FOBB), a non-profit charitable organization, was established in 1973 by citizens who believed in the value of BBNC. Through special events, fund drives, and securing grants, FOBB stretches the value of taxpayer dollars. Significant contributions include:

- Funding roughly 50% of staff salaries and wages through fundraising and program revenue.
- Purchase and maintenance of an extra building and property for township staff and program use.
- Securing grants to fund capital improvements, program enhancements, and scholarships.

This longstanding public-private partnership is a win-win for Abington: it increases the township's capacity to provide an excellent quality of life at a much-reduced cost.

8.2.6 Engineering

The Engineering Department provides general engineering services and oversight for capital and non-capital projects and township infrastructure, review and oversight of subdivisions and land developments, and direction and control of engineering matters throughout the township. Tasks and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Design, management, and assessment of the township's infrastructure, such as storm sewers and sanitary sewer systems.
- Preparation of capital project plans, estimates for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repairs of all streets, storm sewers, culverts, sanitary sewers, bridges, intersections, sidewalks, curbs, watercourses, and erosion/sedimentation control.
- Bidding and construction administration of capital projects, including construction oversight and inspection, payment certification, and completion certification.
- Maintenance of Township Registry System, including preparation of books, plans, maps, house numbers, ownership of properties, subdivision plans, and registration of deeds.
- Preparation of grant applications and proposals for capital projects.
- Response to the One-Call System, with respect to storm sewer facilities.



Stormwater improvements such as the reestablishment of a basin grade are performed by the Engineering Department's Construction Services Team

- Working with consultants to achieve MS4 Permit compliance and annual reporting, preparation of budgeting and plans for compliance with state requirements, bidding, inspection and preparation of final documentation of projects for compliance with state requirements.



Hamel Avenue storm sewer project.

- Liaise with utility companies (PECO, AQUA, Verizon, Comcast, etc.) and residents on utility and township engineering matters.
- Review, process, and inspect highway permits and stormwater permits with respect to the township’s requirements. Verify stormwater system compliance to the plan once a year for the first 3 years, and then every 3 years.



Old Huntingdon Pike Streambank Stabilization Project.

- Meet with residents to review and discuss stormwater-related issues.
- Coordinate with state and federal agencies (PennDOT, DEP, DCED, EPA, USACE, FEMA/PEMA, etc.), establish PennDOT reimbursements, prepare right-of-way agreements.

8.2.7 Community Development

The Community Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Program funds, the Summer Youth Meal Program, and Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement administers the building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, accessibility, and energy codes and permits, property maintenance code, and the zoning ordinance.

Community Development Programs

Community Development currently operates three state and federal grant programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Home Investment Partnership (HOME), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

Since 1976 the Township of Abington has been an entitlement community under HUD’s CDBG program, using the exception criteria. An entitlement community is defined as a municipality (city or metropolitan area) with a population of 50,000 persons or more, which receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds directly from HUD under the CDBG Entitlement Program. The CDBG program is a federally funded program, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP
SUMMER YOUTH MEAL PROGRAM
JUNE 27 - AUGUST 12, 2022

Free nutritious lunches for all children ages 18 & under.
No enrollment or ID necessary to participate.
Free family programming and Township resources available for all.

DATE S	LOCATION
DATE: Monday - Friday, June 27 - August 12 (No service on Monday, July 4) TIME: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Crestmont Park Clubhouse 2595 Rubicam Ave. Willow Grove, PA 19090

2022 Summer Youth Meal Program Advertisement

CDBG funds are intended to provide low- and moderate-income households with viable



The Crestmont Clubhouse was built through the Community Development Block Grant program

communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. The CDBG program year for the Township of Abington runs from October 1-September 30.

The CDBG program requires that each

activity funded meet one of the three national objectives, which are:

1. Benefit to low- to moderate- income households or persons;
2. Aid in the prevention of, or the elimination of, slum or blight;
3. Having to meet a particular urgent need.

Code Enforcement

Code Administration

This administration portion of the department is made up of the Director of Community Development, who oversees all activities, and two (2) Customer Service Specialists. Staff is responsible for the daily interaction with residents, property owners, contractors, and design professionals who contact the Code Enforcement Office. The Customer Service Specialist's duties include attending the department's service window, answering calls received by the department, processing permit applications, registration of contractors and master plumbers to confirm proper insurance and licensing, processing insurance certificates, scheduling of inspections,

monthly reports, and code related deposits. The Administrative Manager answers calls, provides administrative assistance to the Department Director, coordinates, organizes, and attends meetings as a liaison to the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, Human Relations Commission, and Vacant Property Review Board, and serves as the Right-to-Know Coordinator.



Property Maintenance

The Property Maintenance Inspectors comprise the property maintenance portion of the department. They are tasked with the inspection and follow-up of the over 1,000 property maintenance complaints filed yearly. In addition to time spent on the road, the Inspectors answer phone calls and interact daily with the residents, business owners and contractors. They attend all local, county, state, and federal court proceedings resulting

Social media reminder from the Community Development Department

from action taken related to property maintenance infractions or matters. They are well-versed in the Zoning Ordinance, BOCA Property Maintenance Ordinance, PODS/Dumpster Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, Generator Ordinance, and the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. These staff members complete all of the inspections, registrations, monitoring, and court proceedings related to vacant commercial properties. The Property Maintenance Inspectors also provide emergency response to building and property emergencies.

Building Code

The Construction Code Official handles the building code function of the department. He completes the review of all residential building permits submitted for additions and alterations, as well as the review of all plumbing permits, HVAC, insulation, energy conservation, generator

installation, mechanical systems, fireplace and fireplace inserts, tank, and solar installations. The Building Inspector completes the rough and final inspection for all building permits issued, with the exception of electrical and accessibility. The Building Inspector maintains his professional certifications as required through continuing education. He does not review commercial alteration or addition permits, however; he is assigned the inspections of those structures. Commercial permits and accessibility are handled by Code Inspections, Inc. as a contracted service to the township. The Building Inspector provides emergency response to building and property emergencies. He also attends all local, county, state, and federal court proceedings resulting from action taken related to building infractions or matters.

Plumbing and Sewage

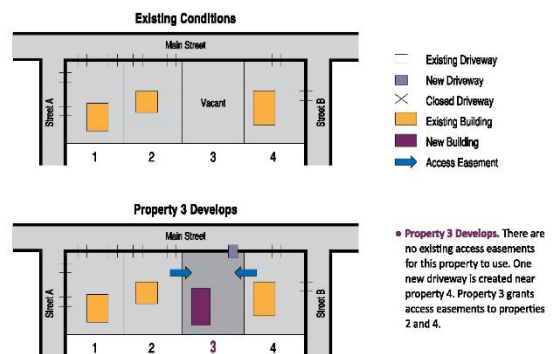
The Construction Code Official handles the plumbing function of the department. Code Inspections, Inc. serves as the Township Building Code Official and supplements this function when the Building Inspector is unavailable.

Zoning

The Zoning portion of the department is made up of the Township's Zoning Officer. The Zoning Officer reviews, advertises, and posts all Zoning Hearing Board applications. The Zoning Officer inspects or directs the inspection of all new construction, additions, fences, accessory buildings, decks, sidewalks, curbing, and driveway aprons for zoning compliance. The Zoning Officer, with the

2. In order to reduce parking lot aisle widths and increase the pervious land area, one-way traffic loops for adjoining land uses are encouraged. In this design, traffic enters on one property side, flows in a single direction, and crosses the lot line to exit in a single directional lane on the adjoining lot.
3. Interconnecting driveways must be a minimum of 12' wide for one-way travel, and 20' for two-way travel.
4. In redesigning sites for the shared parking application, a property line buffer adjoining a residential land use may not be encroached upon. Required side yard buffer area may be encroached upon or eliminated to create shared parking between adjoining commercial uses.
5. Liability safeguards for all property owners and lessees served by the shared access shall be guaranteed to the satisfaction of the Board of Commissioners in consultation with the Township Solicitor.

Figure 23.3
Shared Access Process (3 Illustrations)



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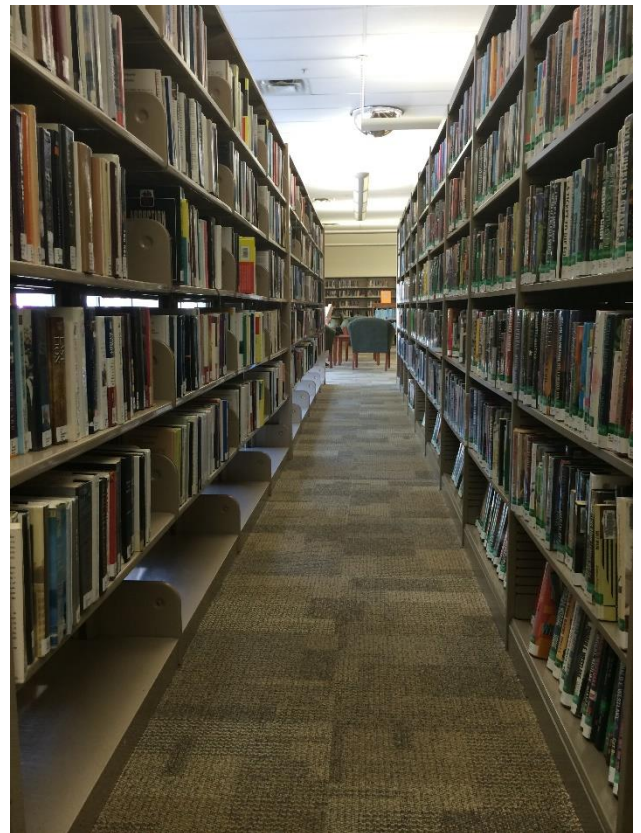
The Zoning Officer reviews all applications for zoning variances and special exceptions from the Zoning Hearing Board.

Administrative Manager, prepares the agendas for the Zoning Hearing Board and attends the meetings. The Officer administrates the floodplain and FEMA requirements with respect to construction and zoning limitations, signs all zoning permits and issuing all Use and Occupancy certificates. The Zoning Officer attends all local, county, state, and federal court proceedings resulting from action taken related to zoning infractions or matters.

8.2.8 Public Libraries

Abington Township Public Library (ATPL) has served the Abington and Rockledge communities for more than 50 years. Over the decades, ATPL has grown into a cultural and informational center serving the informational, professional, educational, and recreational needs of a diverse, multicultural community. There are two branches of the ATPL: Abington Free Library and the Roslyn Branch. Abington Free Library houses more than 131,000 items in its 23,000-square-foot building at 1030 Old York Road in Abington. The Roslyn Branch, at 2412 Avondale Avenue, houses over 20,000 items. Both sites are widely recognized as innovative, vibrant places that provide outstanding service by a talented, knowledgeable, and friendly staff. ATPL departments include reference, technology, circulation, young adult, children's, and technical services.

ATPL cultivates a community of patrons, friends, supporters, business and educational partners, staff, and volunteers who advance an appreciation for sustained, lifelong learning, personal achievement, study, and growth. The libraries serve as a gateway and guide to ideas, information, training, and entertainment and will

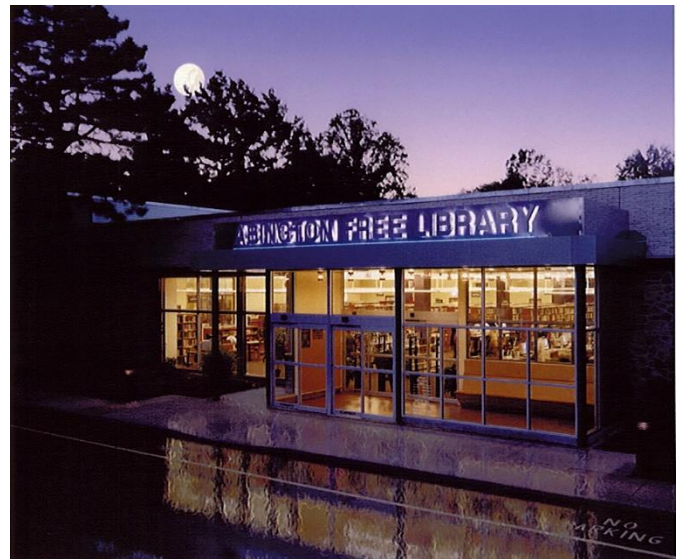


Abington Free Library


- Respond to the information needs of the Abington community using the latest technology to link local, national, and global resources
- Ensure access to extensive and relevant print, electronic, and audio-visual resources
- Anticipate and satisfy the educational, cultural, business and recreational interests of the community, including those of individuals with special needs
- Develop and provide inviting facilities and welcoming environments along

Beyond books, music and movies, ATPL’s collection includes a variety of loanable materials referred to as a “Library of Things,” ranging from HotSpots and Launchpads, to science kits and museum/cultural passes. The digital collection continues to grow with services such as Kanopy, hoopla, LinkedIn Learning, RB Digital and OverDrive. Additional digital collections and resources are available through Pennsylvania’s Power Library. Patrons can enjoy these resources in the Library during regular hours or remotely, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

As a member of the Montgomery County Library and Information Consortium, ATPL shares resources with 28 other public libraries in the county. It provides wired and wireless networks for public use. It offers programming, both in-person and virtual, year round for all ages at both Abington and Roslyn libraries. A literacy program at ATPL offers tutoring and classes for people with either English as a Second Language or GED (high school equivalency degree) needs.



The façade and main floor of the Abington Free Library. *Photo Credit: Abington Free Library*



Technology offered to the public by Abington Township Public Library:

Abington Free Library offers:

- 18 desktop computers and five laptops providing internet access with desktop software (e.g., Microsoft Office)
- Five iPads for general use, and two iPads programmed for pre-school use.
- Two color and black & white copiers/printers and scanning services, including wireless printing
- Five Chrome kiosks for searching the online catalog
- Fax service

Roslyn Branch offers:

- Two computers providing Internet access with desktop programs (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- 

The Gerstley Meeting Room at Abington Free Library can seat 100 people, and is equipped with a sound and video projection system with internet access. The room can convert to three smaller rooms as needed and can be reserved by community groups. The Shorday Room, on the first floor, is used for quiet study. There are two study rooms for small group work.

8.3 Ambulance

Second Alarmers Association & Rescue Squad of Montgomery County, PA provides ambulance service to Abington Township and surrounding municipalities. It is one of the largest nonprofit emergency medical service (EMS) providers in the region, and serves 125,000 people. Second Alarmers maintains five stations in the larger region, two of which are located in Abington, with

20 vehicles, including eleven Advanced Life Support ambulances. It uses a combination of paid and volunteer employees. Two of the locations are located in Abington: Station 382 (876 Jenkintown Road) and Station 383 (2843 Limekiln Pike). Station 381 is located just outside the township, in the Upper Moreland section of Willow Grove (307 Davisville Road).

8.4 Public Utilities

8.4.1 Public Water

Water supplied by Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. is drawn from a number of sources, including the Neshaminy, Crum, Perkiomen and Pickering Creeks; the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers; 34 in-ground wells; and a former limestone quarry. At least one of the wells is located in the township in the water-producing limestone soil of the southwest-to-central portion of



Aqua Pennsylvania storage tanks, Edge Hill Road

Abington. The company also maintains a number of impounding basins (reservoirs) along each of the creeks. Abington is principally supplied from a blend of water from the two wells and the Neshaminy Creek (Neshaminy Treatment Plant). There are at least 199 private wells supplying customers in Abington Township, predominantly in Wards 8, 5, and 4. It should be noted that the township has virtually no control over public water supply; it is regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) services a small number of properties on Fillmore Avenue, along the Philadelphia boundary.

*8.4.2 Sewer and Wastewater Treatment*¹

Nearly the entire township is served by public sewer; only about one percent of the township is not.² Following are areas (all residential) not served by public sewer:

- Easton Road: 1008 to 1028,
- Edge Hill Road: 1015 to 1033 and 1077 to 1087
- Hampton Road: Meadowbrook Road to Lynam Road,
- Herkness Road and Stocton Road (Pennock Woods): various locations,
- Huntingdon Road: London Road to Old Welsh Road (various homes),
- Lynam Road: Huntingdon Road to the dead end,
- Meetinghouse Road: Delene to Mill Road Circle
- Moredon Road, unit block.
- Old Welsh Road: 1600 and 1700 blocks, odd side),
- Washington Lane: 600 and 700 blocks, various homes.

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) requires residents to obtain a permit for construction or modification of on-lot sewage systems from the Montgomery County Health Department. Routine inspection programs that monitor the functioning of on-lot sewage systems can be undertaken by municipalities, helping ensure that systems are being operated and maintained properly do not discharge untreated sewage into groundwater or surface waters. The Wastewater Department is responsible for the continuous safe, environmentally protective and financially stable operation of the sanitary sewer collection system in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permits and regulations. Sanitary sewers in the township are divided into three areas. Abington owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant located on Fitzwatertown Road, which receives flows from the western third of the township. The areas east of Edge Hill Road are conveyed directly to the Philadelphia Water Department's (PWD)

¹ <https://www.abingtonpa.gov/departments/wastewater-treatment>, accessed March 22, 2021.

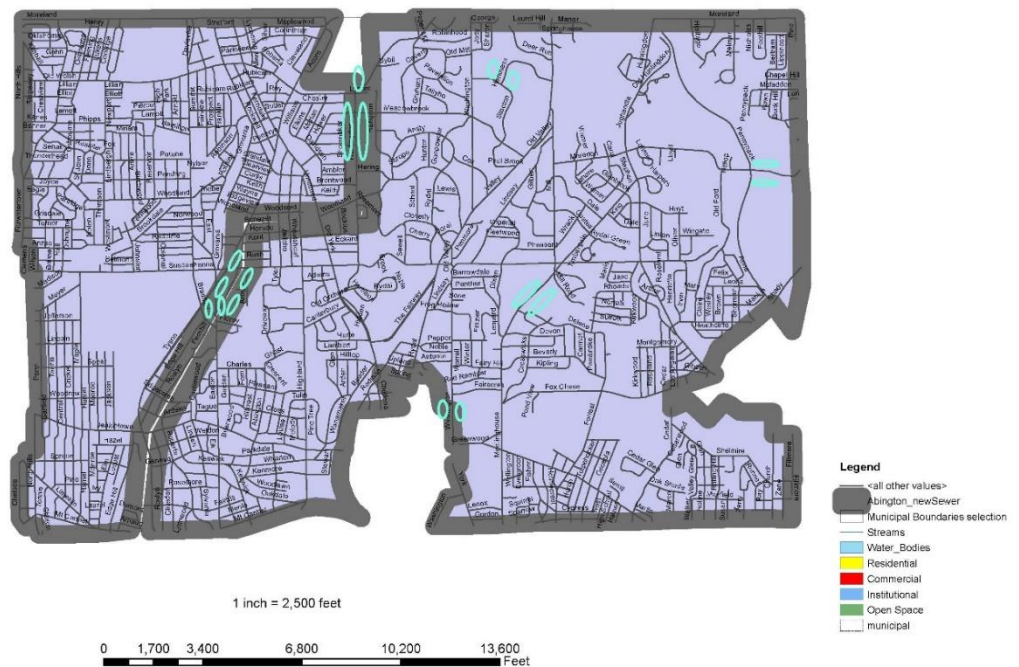
² Interview with George Wrigley, Director, Abington Township Department of Wastewater Treatment, March 25, 2021.

Pennypack interceptor sanitary sewer system and the southern areas of the township flow into the Cheltenham Township interceptor system, which is then conveyed to PWD for treatment.

The sewer collection system consists of approximately 250 miles of various sized pipe, 17 pump stations and the Fitzwatertown Road treatment plant. The treatment plant average annual flow is about 2.735 million gallons per day (mgd), which is 70% of the plant’s 3.910 mgd permit capacity. The annual average flow discharging to Cheltenham Township is 1.188 mgd, which is 17% of the average daily permitted capacity of 7.176 mgd. The third drainage area flows directly to the Philadelphia Water Department’s Pennypack Interceptor. The annual average flow for the Pennypack Area is 1.610 mgd or 54% of the 2.97 mgd limit.

Sewage Treatment Plant Coverage

Note: for lots served by public sewer, the map shows the approximate coverage area of two sewage treatment plants.

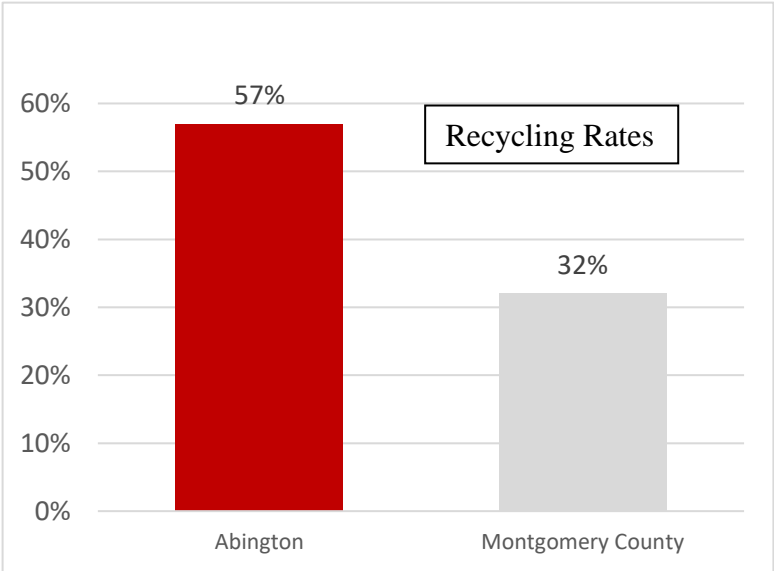


Teal Circles = Approximate Location of Lots with On-Lot Sewer
 Purple Area: For western half: flows to Sandy Run Wastewater Treatment Plant; for eastern half: flows to Philadelphia Water Department

Cheltenham Township and part of Abington Township is under a management program with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). As work progresses on the system to reduce inflow and infiltration and free up capacity for sewage flows, Cheltenham Township reports what's been done to DEP. DEP reviews the work and determines how many Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) it equates to; those are released to the township to accommodate developer requests. Sometimes a developer is willing to do some of the work (such as rehabilitating manholes to reduce leaks). Requests for EDUs for small-to-medium sized land developments usually aren't delayed for a long period. A large proposal (50+ EDUs) may be delayed longer.

8.4.3 Waste and Recycling³

The township's Public Works Department, Refuse Division, is responsible for collection of household waste, recyclables, and yard waste. It uses an automated system to collect waste on a weekly basis. The automated system allows for cost savings, greater efficiency, and a reduction in carbon emissions.



It uses an “enterprise” incentivization program that rewards recycling efforts through reduced waste collection costs to households. The township now diverts 57% of its waste, which equates to a 32% cost reduction for waste collection. The township’s 57% recycling rate (which includes composting) is much higher than the county average (32%).

³ This section is based on information from the Department of Public Works, Refuse Division. Website: <https://www.abingtonpa.gov/departments/recycling>, accessed 2-4-2022.

The townships' yard waste collection includes year-round pick up of yard waste, leaf curb pick up in the fall and early winter, and Christmas tree collection after the holidays. The township operates a composting facility at the Public Works Highway Yard. Yard waste had previously been deposited in landfills, but now it is reused—



Solid waste disposal is managed by the township's Public Works Department; one of eight major departments within the township organization (see Figure ___: 2022 Abington Township Organizational Chart)

available for free use by township residents in the form of wood mulch and leaf mulch. The township partners with eForce Compliance to hold “anything with a plug” electronics recycling events, offers free shredding events to residents, and a large item pick up for a fee where items are recycled when possible. The township also promotes use of year-round electronics and clothing recycling using “Retrievr”⁴.

8.4.4 Gas, Electric and Telecommunications

Gas, electric, and telecommunications are managed by PECO, Verizon, and Comcast. The township enjoys relatively good access to these services. PECO notes that approximately 20%-30% of all electrical service disruptions are due to trees and vegetation⁵. There are opportunities for the township to work further with PECO to ensure the reliability of electrical service (see Recommendations section).

⁴ <https://retrievr.com/greater-philly/>

⁵ PECO's crews are trained in proper arboricultural pruning techniques, and consider the health and growth rates of trees, local site conditions, and local regulations before trimming.

