

CHAPTER 4

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The 2007 community survey conducted by Penn State University revealed that Plum Borough residents consider quality community facilities and services to be major contributing factors to achieving a high quality of life. This plan element identifies actions needed to insure the provision of adequate facilities and the effective delivery of services to current and future residents and businesses in Plum Borough.

Community facilities and services integrate a broad range of issues and involve a great number of stakeholders and decision-makers in both the private and public sector. The need for community facilities and services depends on numerous factors regarding a municipality's residents and businesses, including population and population density, expected growth patterns, income and education levels, physical abilities and existing community services.

The locations of the community facilities described below are indicated on the Community Facilities Map on the following page.

POLICE/FIRE/EMS

The protection of health, safety, welfare and property is an essential municipal function. Maintaining high quality police, fire, and emergency medical services preserves and enhances the quality of life in Plum. According to the Penn State University community survey, borough residents appear to be satisfied with police, fire and emergency medical services at their present level.

Police

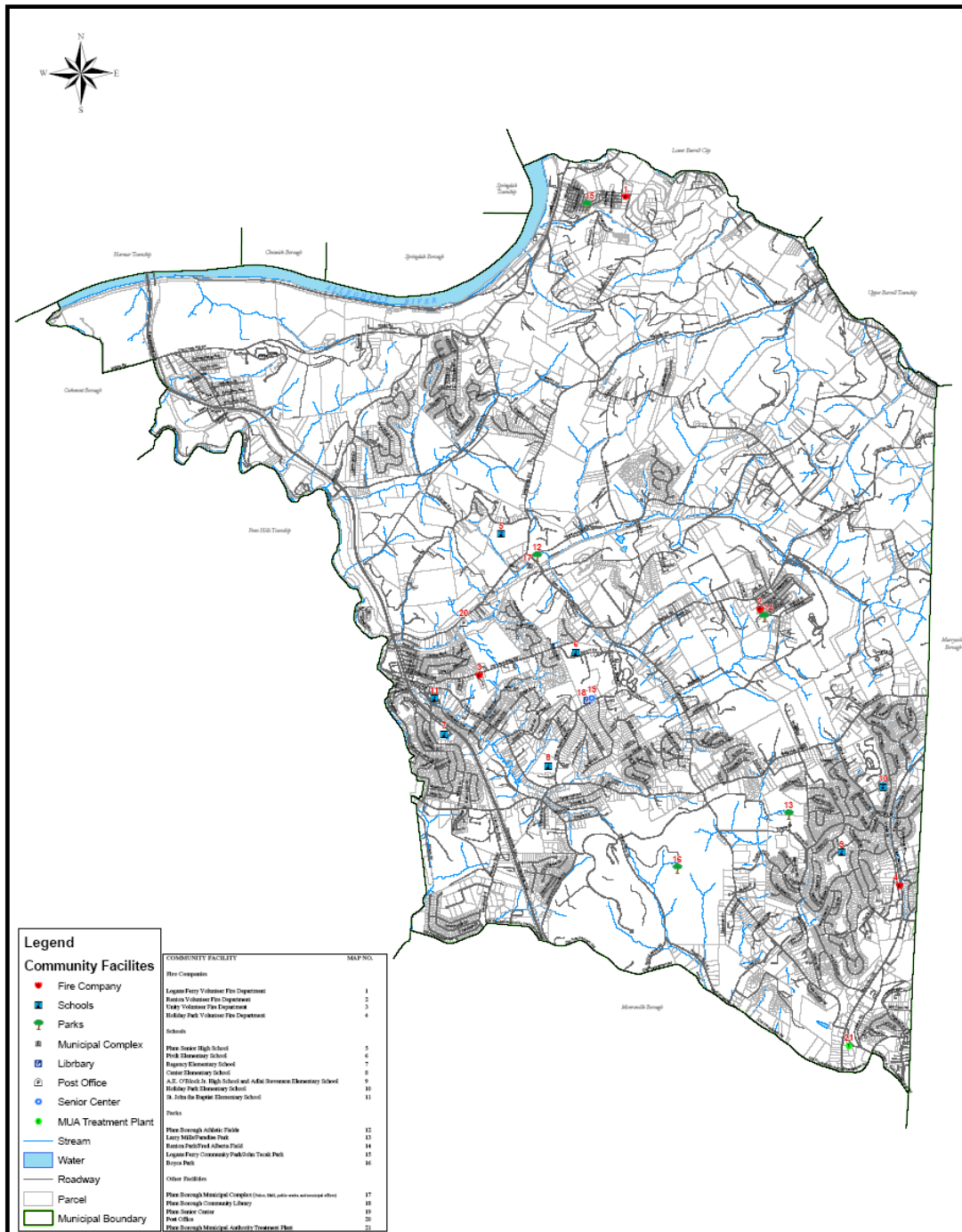
Police department headquarters are located at the municipal complex at 4575 New Texas Road. The police department receives 13,000-14,000 services calls annually. Department programs include the following:

- K-9 Handler
- School Resource Officer
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education.
- East Hills DUI Task Force
- Child safety seat check program
- District Attorney Narcotics Enforcement



Source: Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers

In 2009, Plum's police department had a total of 28 staff members, including 23 sworn officers and five communications officers. However, the five communication officer



COMMUNITY FACILITIES MAP

BOROUGH OF PLUM
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 12,000 Feet
1 inch = 1,800 feet



December 10, 2009 P:\GIS\MapInfo\Highway\MapInfo\Borough\Plum\BoroughMap.mxd

The digital, municipal boundary, stream, and water body datasets obtained from the Allegheny County Division of Computer Services, Geographic Information Systems Group.

All Graphics Based on the Following:
- North American Datum 1983 (NAD83) Horizontal Datum
- Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System
- Digital Foot Units



Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers
600 Grant Street
Suite 1251
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.263.2200; Fax: 412.263.2210
Web Site Address: www.rvb.com

positions will be eliminated in 2010. According to U.S. Bureau of Justice data, nationally, municipalities average 1.8 patrolmen per 1,000 residents. To meet the national average, a municipality of Plum Borough's size (c. 30,000 residents) would have 54 police officers. Therefore, the borough's police force of 23 officers is well below the national average in size.

Fire

Plum Borough's four volunteer fire departments protect the community by providing fire and emergency medical services. These fire departments are strategically located in the borough, and they collectively possess a wide array of fire fighting equipment to protect and serve Plum residents and businesses.

Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department



Source: Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers

Located at 415 Abers Creek Road, the Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department has 41 active members and 19 associate members. The department has two engines, a ladder truck, a service truck, and a squad vehicle.

The department's service calls have increased from 454 in 2000 to 834 in 2008. This increase may be attributable to growth in the borough and assistance calls from EMS and other local fire departments.

Unity Volunteer Fire Department

The Unity Volunteer Fire Department is located at 340 Old Leechburg Road. It has 35 members, two fire engines, a ladder truck, a rescue vehicle, a squad vehicle, and a Quick Response Service (QRS) that is certified through the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A QRS provider is state certified to respond to medical calls dispatched by a 911 center.

The Unity Volunteer Fire Department responded to 1,243 calls in 2008, which was double the number of calls it responded to in 2000 (624). This dramatic increase may be due to population growth, the central location of the department and assistance provided to other departments.

Logans Ferry Volunteer Fire Department

The 24-member Logans Ferry Volunteer Fire Department is located at 1001 Summit Street. It has one fire engine, a rescue pumper and a squad vehicle. The department responded to 71 calls in 2002 and 108 calls in 2008---a 52% increase in six years.

Renton Volunteer Fire Department

Located at 222 Renton Avenue, the Renton Fire Department has two pumpers, a pickup truck, an automobile, and 45 firefighters. It responded to 180 calls in 2002 and 348 calls in 2008---a 93% increase in six years.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Plum Borough Public Works Department is located in the municipal complex at 4575 New Texas Road. The department is staffed with 21 full-time personnel, including a director, assistant director and a secretary. It provides the following services:

- Snow removal
- Park maintenance
- Street and sewer repair
- Crack sealing of streets
- Leaf pickup
- Street sweeping
- General maintenance of all public buildings and grounds including the senior center
- Annual paving program management
- Set up and clean up of community events
- Yard waste collection
- Guide rail installation

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Plum Borough's EMS facilities are also located in the municipal complex. EMS resources consist of 25 employees and three ambulances, one wheelchair van, and one squad vehicle. EMS responded to 2,359 calls in 2009. The EMS staff is on duty 24 hours a day seven (7) days a week, and Plum has mutual aid agreements with surrounding municipalities to insure that borough residents have emergency medical services available to them at all times.

The EMS's biggest need is space. Currently (2010), they have a mobile office that is rented and two pieces of equipment that are housed outdoors.

HOSPITALS /HEALTH CARE

There are no hospitals in Plum Borough. Forbes Regional Hospital, located in adjacent Monroeville, is the closest medical facility for Plum residents in the southern portion of the borough. It is a 317-bed facility that provides comprehensive health care. Plum residents in the northeastern section of the borough are closer to Alle-Kiski Medical Center, a 250-bed full service hospital in Natrona Heights (Harrison Township) about eight miles north of Plum. The Alle-Kiski Medical Center includes the Citizens Ambulatory Care Center in the City of New Kensington---about one mile north of the borough. This care center provides various outpatient services, lab testing, and an urgent care facility. The urgent care facility is open daily from 10 am to 10 pm. Borough residents in the northwestern part of Plum can go to St. Margaret's Hospital in Aspinwall Borough. This 249-bed acute care facility is located about seven miles southwest of Plum.

People who participated in the Penn State community survey indicated that one of Plum's negative features was healthcare. Specifically, the survey indicated that improving the availability and quality of healthcare services for borough residents should be one of the focuses of the comprehensive plan.

SENIOR CENTER



Source: Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers

Plum Borough has a community senior center for persons age 55 and older. The center is located at 499 Center-New Texas Road. It has a staff of six and a self-appointed board of directors of 11-13 members who serve three year terms. The center's hours of operation are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. It offers the following programs:

- Congregate Lunch Program (Daily)
- Continental Breakfast Program
- Various Trips
- Health And Fitness Classes
- Basic Computer Classes
- Tours
- Book Club
- Twilight Wish Foundation For Seniors
- Interact Program
- Free Home Safety Check
- Belly Dancing Class
- CPR Classes
- Primetime Fitness
- Silver Sneakers
- "The Neighborhood" Plum Senior Community Center Newsletter
- Day Time Book Club (Joint venture with the Plum Borough Community Library)

The senior center was founded in 1980 and was instrumental in bringing Plum Creek Acres, a 36-unit federally subsidized senior citizen housing facility, into the borough. Plum Creek Acres is adjacent to the Plum Senior Center.

The senior center recently expanded its facility by 3,500 square feet and added a fitness room, a group exercise room and a state-of-the-art kitchen which meets all Allegheny County Health Department standards for food handling and preparation.

Plum Library

The Plum Borough Community Library is located at 445 Center-New Texas Road. It is open 10:00 am – 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Friday and Saturday. The library has a director and a staff of 12. In 2010, the library completed a 3,200 square foot addition. The library offers the following programs:

- Children's programs
- Allegheny Foothills Historical Society
- Outreach literacy program
- Adult programs
- Books
- Story times
- Recreation clubs
- Hobbies
- Summer reading program
- Nine computers with internet
- Historical room
- Accelerated reading lists
- Newspapers
- Books on tape
- MPs
- CD Music
- DVD's
- Reference books



Plum Borough Community Library

Source: Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers

MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS

Centrally located at 4575 New Texas Road, the Plum Borough municipal building houses the following borough departments:

Administration and Management

Plum Borough has a council and mayor/manager form of government, with the mayor being in charge of the police department. The borough manager is the chief executive officer of the borough and is responsible for the overall management of the borough's operations and staff. The manager also makes recommendations to borough council (e.g., the borough budget) and implements borough council's policy decisions and legislative actions.

The borough administrative staff consists of an assistant borough secretary, finance director, administrative assistant, and receptionist.

Taxes

Aside from property tax, Plum Borough collects a 1% earned income tax that is split equally between the borough and Plum School District. The tax rate is 1% of gross

earnings/net profits. The borough also levies an annual \$52 local services tax for anyone employed in Plum. Additionally, the borough collects a deed transfer tax.

Planning, Zoning and Building Inspection Department

The Plum Borough Planning and Zoning Department promotes the development of livable communities and an enhanced quality of life through a framework of managing growth and development in an environmentally sensitive, economically responsible, and professional manner. The department combines the traditional elements of a planning department with activities related to zoning and construction (e.g., subdivision and site plan review, conditional use requests, sign and grading permits, etc.) to provide optimum coordination of the borough's land development related services.

The planning and zoning department is the public's conduit to the Plum Borough Planning Commission and Plum Borough Zoning Hearing Board. All applications to these boards are processed through this department. The planning and zoning department is also responsible for the maintenance of a geographic information system for the borough.

The building inspection and code enforcement department resides within the planning department and is responsible for all aspects of residential, commercial and industrial building permitting, review and inspection. In addition to building permits, the office also issues road occupancy permits to utilities and developers who must cut into the existing roadways for installation or renovation of underground utilities.

The department is also responsible for code enforcement, which includes the enforcement of all non-traffic related ordinances in the borough.

The planning and zoning department's duties are performed in a manner that is consistent with the borough's comprehensive plan and unified development ordinance, the priorities and policies established by the borough council, the planning commission, and the community at-large. Staffing consists of a director, assistant director, two building inspectors, and two clerical personnel.

SCHOOLS

Plum School District operates five elementary schools, a junior high school, and a senior high school. The school district strives to provide students with an excellent education in high quality facilities.

Rankings

Based on Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams, Plum School District currently ranks 35th among 105 school districts in seven counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Table 4.1 indicates the school district's rankings in 2006-2009 compared to those of neighboring school districts.

Table 4.1
School District Rankings 2006-2009

		Ranking (among 105 school districts)			
School District	Neighboring Municipality	2006	2007	2008	2009
Franklin Regional	Murrysville	8	7	8	8
Plum	Plum	34	33	31	35
Riverview	Oakmont	26	41	37	40
Burrell	Lower Burrell and Upper Burrell	40	36	44	44
Gateway	Monroeville	50	46	50	54
Penn Hills	Penn Hills	95	96	97	98

Source: Pittsburgh Business Times Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools, May 11, 2007; May 9, 2008; and May 15, 2009

Rankings based on test results from Pennsylvania System of School Assessment exams and Pittsburgh Business Times research.

Note: The formula for computing school ranking takes into account three years of PSSA test scores, with greater weight given to more recent years. The ranking indicates the school districts with the highest –scoring students on these standardized tests, not necessarily the “best” districts. School districts in the following counties are included: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland.

Enrollment

The 2008 enrollments for Plum School District are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| • Plum Senior High School | Grades 9-12 | Enrollment 1,417 |
| • A.E. O’Block Junior High School | Grades 7-8 | Enrollment 682 |
| • Adlai Stevenson Elementary School | Grades 1-6 | Enrollment 410 |
| • Center Elementary School | Grades 1-6 | Enrollment 460 |
| • Holiday Park Elementary School | Grades 1-6 | Enrollment 453 |
| • Pivik Elementary School | Grades 1-6 | Enrollment 504 |
| • Regency Park Elementary School | Grades 1-6 | Enrollment 268 |

As Table 4.2 indicates, school district enrollment declined from 4,486 in 2000 to 4,188 in 2008 (a 6.6% decrease) and the rate of decline has increased recently. Between 2000 and 2005, enrollment decreased 1.8%, but between 2005 and 2008, the drop was 4.9%. The PA Department of Education projects continued enrollment losses for Plum School District through (at least) 2018.

Table 4.2

Plum School District Enrollment

Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total
2000-01	2,248	2,238	4,486
2001-02	2,164	2,167	4,331
2002-03	2,176	2,213	4,389
2003-04	2,176	2,245	4,421
2004-05	2,186	2,192	4,378
2005-06	2,176	2,224	4,400
2006-07	2,144	2,158	4,302
2007-08	2,108	2,113	4,221
2008-09	2,097	2,091	4,188
2009-10 (Projected)	2,034	2,039	4,073

Source: Plum School District Officials

Despite declining enrollment, the school district seeks to maintain high quality facilities. Center Elementary School, A. E. O'Block Junior High School, and Plum Senior High School were all recently renovated, and the high school was expanded. Construction of a new Pivik Elementary School is anticipated to begin in March 2011. Adlai Stevenson Elementary School and Holiday Park Elementary School are scheduled to be renovated in 2013 and 2014, respectively. After completion of the new Pivik Elementary School, the current Pivik Elementary School will be used to house students from Adlai Stevenson Elementary School and Holiday Park Elementary School during the renovations of those schools. The school district has not decided the ultimate fate of the existing Pivik Elementary School building, i.e., demolition or adaptive reuse.

There is one private school located within the borough. In 2009, St. John the Baptist School had 253 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade. The school has no plans for expansion.

RECREATION

Parks and open space bring beauty to an area while giving people satisfaction and improving their quality of life. Parks give people a place to play, relax and recreate while also providing neighborhoods with spaces that foster a sense of community. Open space provides wildlife habitat, protects riparian areas and view corridors, provides buffers between communities and connects trail systems.

The 2007 Penn State community survey revealed that recreation is critical to the overall quality of life for Plum residents. Currently, the borough has four public recreation facilities:

- Larry Mills/Paradise Park

- Renton Park/Fred Alberta Field
- Logan's Ferry Community Park/John Tecak Park
- Plum Borough Athletic Fields complex

In addition to these borough-owned properties, there are many other public and private recreation facilities in Plum. Chief among these are Boyce Park (a multifaceted county-owned park) and Oakmont Country Club (a private facility with a world famous golf course).

Boyce Park is one of Allegheny County's regional parks. It is named after William D. Boyce, the founder of the Boy Scouts in America, who was born in the area. The park's numerous four-season recreational facilities and features include areas for downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing, tennis courts, ball fields, wave pool, soccer fields, archery range, hiking and biking trails, basketball courts, and picnic groves and shelters. The historic Carpenter Log House (see Chapter 2) is located in Boyce Park.

The Plum Athletic Association maintains the athletic fields adjacent to the municipal complex on New Texas Road.

In 2011 or 2012, the borough planning department will complete a parks, recreation, and open space plan for the municipality. The borough should implement the recommendations of this plan as promptly as possible to meet the recreation needs of present and future residents.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Public infrastructure (roads, sewerage, and waterlines) determines the location and density of land development and is essential to protecting public health and the environment. Storm sewers and sanitary sewerage systems protect both land and ground water and surface water resources and help prevent other environmental problems, e.g., flooding.

Water Service

Plum Borough residents and businesses need a reliable supply of water to meet both current and future demand. Water supply sources must be protected to insure public health and prevent environmental degradation, and the borough recognizes 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 may impact water supply sources.

The following agencies provide Plum Borough residents and businesses with a safe and reliable supply of water.

Plum Borough Municipal Authority

The Plum Borough Municipal Authority's (PBMA) offices are located at 4555 New Texas Road in the municipal complex. The authority provides both water and sanitary sewer service to the borough. Its staff consists of a manager, assistant manager, field superintendent, three licensed plant operators, and 12 laborers. PBMA serves 9,100 customers in Plum. It purchases water through an agreement with the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (W-PJWA). This agreement allows PBMA to purchase up to three million gallons of potable water per day. In 2009, the authority purchased an average of 2,130,000 gallons of water daily. PBMA's water purchase agreement with W-PJWA runs through 2016.

PBMA's facilities include one elevated tank, five standpipes, and four pump stations. The authority has no plans to expand its water service facilities in Plum. However, private developers may extend existing lines, and PBMA has sufficient capacity to accommodate all anticipated future demand.

The map on the following page illustrates the authority's water lines in the borough.

Oakmont Water Authority

The Oakmont Water Authority's offices are located at 721 Allegheny Avenue in the Borough of Oakmont. The authority supplies water to about 40,000 customers, including approximately 725 customers in the northwest section of Plum i.e., in the Oakmont East and the Garlow and Unity sections of the borough.

The Oakmont Water Authority's water source is the Allegheny River. Its system is comprised of one treatment plant (which pumps approximately 5.4 million gallons daily), 12 standpipes, one elevated tank, two covered reservoirs, and 11 pump stations. The authority's service area in Plum is indicated on the Water Lines Map on p. 4-12.

The Oakmont Water Authority has no future expansion plans, but private developers may extend existing lines. The authority has the capacity to handle all anticipated future demand.

Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington

The Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington is a regional water supplier with its business office located at 920 Barnes Street in the City of New Kensington. Presently, the authority provides water to about 48,000 consumers through 15,750 metered service connections, including approximately 100 connections in the Borough of Plum.

The authority's H. Burns Smith Filtration Plant obtains raw water from the Allegheny River and is permitted to treat 8.5 million gallons per day. The authority's distribution system includes ten storage facilities and eight pumping stations.

The Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington has no future expansion plans, but developers may pay the full cost of extending water mains in accordance with the authority's rules and regulations.

Sanitary Sewer

The Plum Borough Municipal Authority (PBMA) is located in the municipal complex at 4555 New Texas Road. In 2009, the authority had about 8,900 commercial and residential customers. As previously noted, the authority's staff includes a manager, assistant manager, field superintendent, three licensed plant operators, and 12 laborers. The authority's equipment includes a jet (vacuum) truck, camera truck and two backhoes.

PBMA owns and operates a sewage treatment plant in the Holiday Park neighborhood in the far southeastern corner of the borough. This plant has a capacity of 2.58 million gallons per day (MGD), but currently (2010) treats 1.1 MGD---less than one half of its capacity. This plant treats about 38% of the borough's sewage, with 53% being conveyed to the Penn Hills Township Water Pollution Control Board treatment plant and 9% being treated by Alcosan. The Logans Ferry section of the borough sends its sewage to New Kensington via an interceptor line.

The authority also operates a small "package" treatment plant (15,000 GPD) at the Laurel Gardens Subdivision in the northwest section of the borough (off Sardis Road). This package treatment plant is deteriorating and will be eliminated after the PBMA installs sanitary sewer lines to tie the Laurel Gardens subdivision sewage flow into the sewerage infrastructure in the Rustic Ridge area in late 2010 or early 2011.

The authority owns and operates a small pump station (the East Oakmont Pump Station) in the northwestern corner of the borough near the Longwood at Oakmont development. This pump station sends its flow to the Penn Hills Township Authority sewage treatment facilities.

Areas serviced by sanitary sewerage

The areas in Plum Borough with sanitary sewerage are established developed areas where growth can continue as long as sufficient sewer capacity exists. See sanitary sewer service areas map in this section. (Note: The borough's sewer lines map has not been updated to indicate sewer lines in Laurel Gardens, Rustic Ridge, The Highlands, and other areas.) Some of these areas are:

- Holiday Park
- Regency Park
- Unity
- Renton
- Logans Ferry
- Laurel Gardens

- Longwood at Oakmont
- Northwest section of the borough along Coxcomb Hill and Kerr Roads

With the exception of the sanitary sewer line it is installing in the Laurel Gardens subdivision in 2010 or 2011, the PBMA has no plans to expand its facilities and lines over the next five years. However, as noted above, the authority has excess capacity to accommodate increased demand in the future.

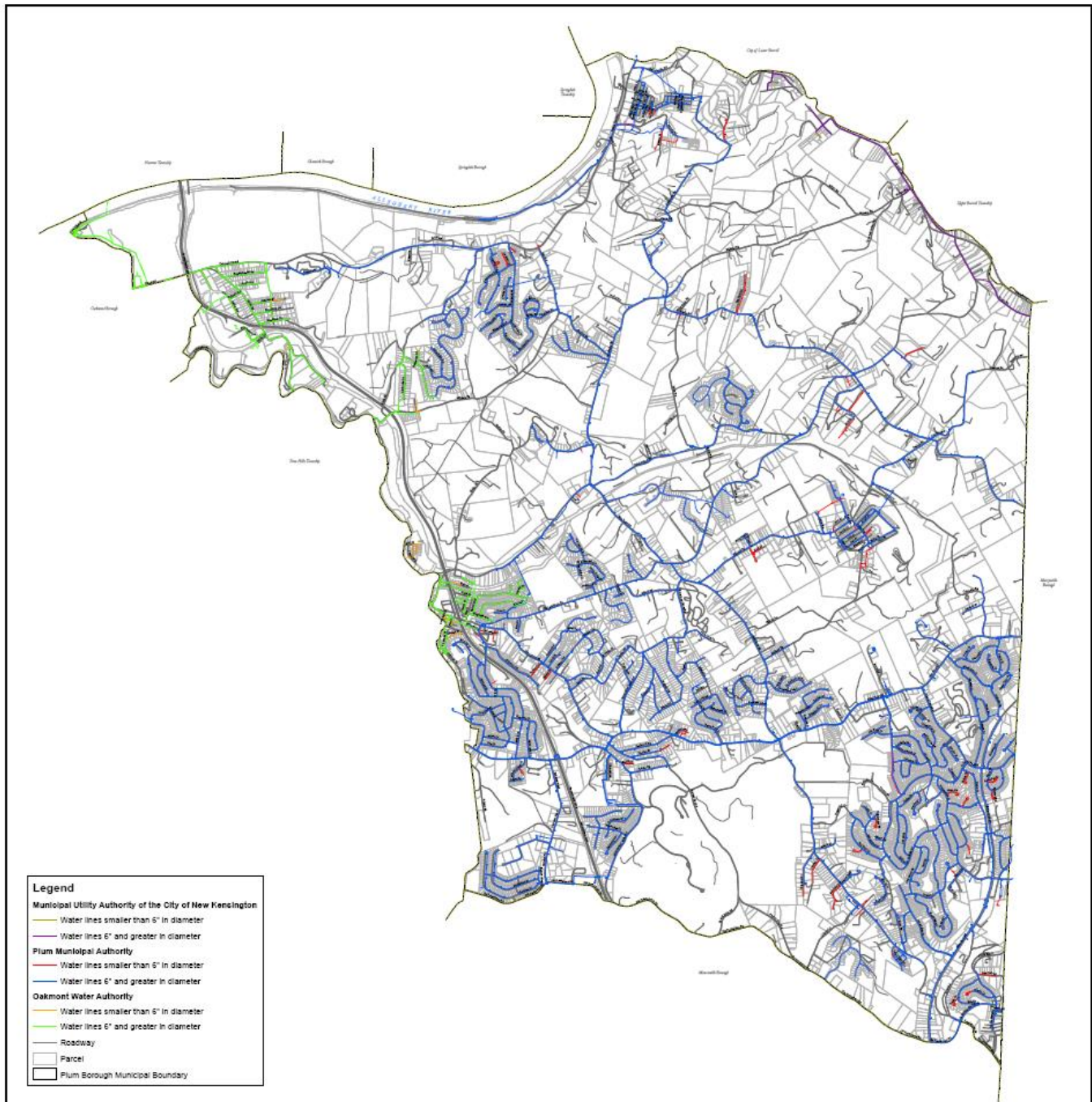
PA Act 537 requires all municipalities to prepare and adopt a plan to provide for present and future sewage disposal needs. In the past, Act 537 plans dictated where development occurred and where future, higher density development might occur. Plum Borough's Act 537 Plan was completed in 1996. The City of New Kensington, which receives sewage from the Logans Ferry section of Plum Borough, has an Act 537 Plan that was prepared in the early 1970s. The Act 537 plan for Abers Creek was also done in the early 1970s, while Plum Creek's Act 537 plan was done in 1997.

Penn Hills Township Water Pollution Control Board

Penn Hills Township Water Pollution Control (PHTWPC) Board serves about 4,900 Plum Borough residents and receives about 53 % of Plum Borough's sewage. This flow comes from the western side of Plum. PHTWPC's treatment plant has undergone major renovations in 2009 with the aid of a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On-Lot Disposal Systems

On-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS) are permitted in those areas of the borough where sanitary sewer service is not available. OLDS are regulated by the Allegheny County Health Department and must be approved, permitted and inspected by that department. The most commonly used OLDS is a septic tank, although other types, such as small-flow treatment facilities, are options as well. Some of the large lots located in the northeast section of Plum have OLDS.



WATER LINES MAP

BOROUGH OF PLUM
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 Feet
1 inch = 1,200 feet

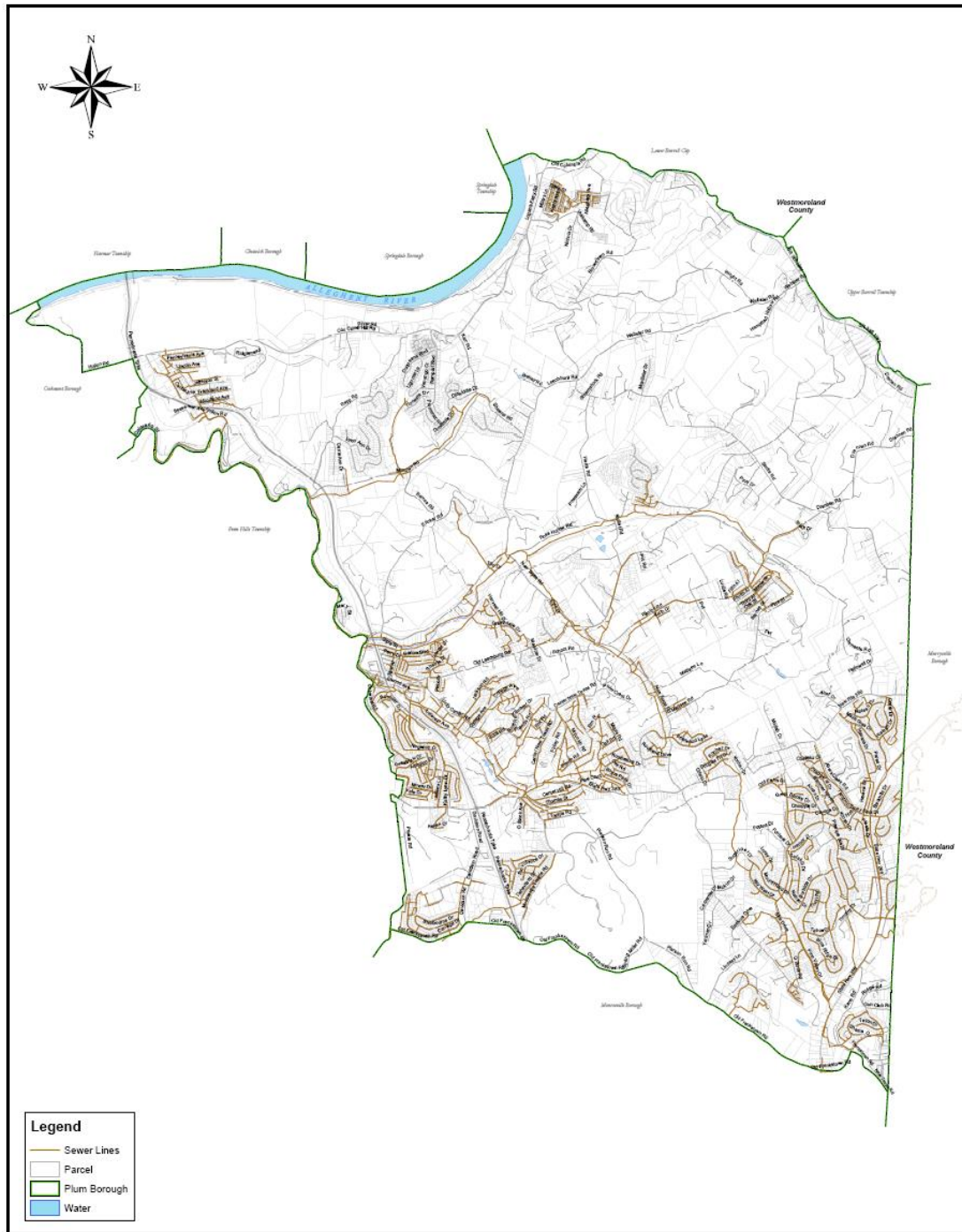
The general municipal boundary & its related details obtained from the Allegheny County Office of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The data was provided by Plum Borough (2007) and was not verified by the County.

All Positions Based on the Following:
North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)
Pennsylvania County State Plane Coordinate System
NAD 83 FIPS 5003



plum borough

Remington, Vernick & Broch Engineers
600 Grant Street
Suite 1251
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.263.2200; Fax: 412.263.2210
Web Site Address: www.rve.com



SANITARY SEWER LINES MAP

BOROUGH OF PLUM
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 12,000 Feet
1 inch = 1,800 feet



December 16, 2009 P:\1603 Projects\1603\Allegheny County\Plum Borough\GIS\Map_Plan0000000000.mxd

The parcel, municipal boundary, stream, and water body datasets contained herein are the Allegheny County Division of Computer Services, Geographic Information Systems Group. Sewer line information provided by Alex Consulting Engineers, Inc.

All Projections Based on the Following:
- North American Datum 1983 (Horizontal Datum)
- Pennsylvania County State Plane Coordinate System
- English Feet Units



Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers
600 Grant Street
Suite 1251
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.263.2200; Fax: 412.263.2210
Web Site Address: www.rvb.com

Storm Sewer

Storm water management is critical to the environmental protection of streams, homes, rivers, wildlife, and watersheds. Uncontrolled storm water runoff causes or aggravates flooding, landslides, erosion, sinkholes, and stream sedimentation.

Pennsylvania's Act 167 governs storm water management in municipalities. Generally speaking, when development occurs, Act 167 requires post-development runoff conditions to equal pre-development run-off conditions. In order to meet this requirement, Plum Borough must use best management practices (BMP) due to the borough's designation as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community. A BMP is a practice or combination of practices determined to be an effective and practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources, i.e., indirect and non-industrial sources of pollution. Some examples of BMPs are natural grass lined drainage swales, reuse of storm water in water gardens, and underground storage of storm water.

The Plum Borough Unified Development Ordinance contains standards for the management of storm water runoff. These standards include construction management and infrastructure requirements such as pipes, catch basins, endwalls, detention ponds, retention ponds, underground storage facilities, etc.

In Allegheny County, the Allegheny County Conservation District reviews and approves all land developments that exceed 5,000 square feet. The agency works with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to assure all plans and permits for grading and earthwork meet national minimum criteria. The Soil Conservation Service can levy fines against violators and file stop-work orders if needed.

In March 2010, Plum Borough adopted a storm water evaluation plan. The purpose of this plan is to identify and prioritize necessary storm water improvements throughout Plum Borough and to identify funding sources for these improvements.

Utilities

Plum Borough residents and businesses are also served by the following utility companies:

Gas - Equitable Gas and Dominion Peoples
Electric- Duquesne Light and Allegheny Power
Cable Television- Comcast
FIOS TV- Verizon
Telephone and Internet – Verizon, Comcast, and Windstream

Refuse and Recycling

Plum has a mandatory recycling program to address solid waste and recyclables, including paper products. Recyclables are collected weekly. It also has a leaf and yard waste collection program. Information on these programs can be found on the Plum Borough Website (www.plumboro.com).

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN

Goal 1: Provide high quality public safety services

Objective A: Maintain an efficient and effective police department, fire departments and emergency management services department to meet the municipality's needs.

Strategy

- Keep current on staffing needs
- Continue to participate in county 911 program
- Continue community service programs such as DARE, etc.
- Update fleet and equipment on a regular basis
- Continue to participate in regional DUI Task force
- Share specialized equipment such as ladder trucks, and Quick Response Service (QRS) unit with neighboring fire companies and police departments
- Provide continuing education and training for police, fire and EMS personnel
- Participate in Turtle Creek COG joint purchasing programs
- Comply with National Fire Insurance Standards
- Create a recruiting program to increase memberships in volunteer fire companies
- Acquire additional space for EMS
- Replace equipment on an as needed basis
- Apply for public sector and private sector grants and/or loans for public safety facilities, equipment, and programs

Objective B: Maintain an updated Emergency Management Plan.

Strategy

- Periodically review and update the emergency management plan

Goal 2: Expand the recreational facilities and programs available to borough residents

Objective A: Maintain existing and develop new recreation facilities and programs to meet the diverse needs of borough residents per the borough's parks, recreation and open space plan.

Strategy

- Implement the recommendations of the borough's parks, recreation and open space plan
- Develop recreation facilities at the proposed town center on the borough-owned Renton site

Objective B: Establish a Borough Parks and Recreation Commission.

Strategy

- Prepare a written description of the purpose and duties of the parks and recreation commission.
- Adopt a resolution establishing the parks and recreation commission
- Find volunteers to serve on the parks and recreation commission

Objective C: Establish a Borough Parks and Recreation Department.

Strategy

- Prepare a written description of the purpose, responsibilities and functions of the parks and recreation department.
- Adopt a resolution establishing the parks and recreation department
- Hire a full-time, part-time or shared recreation director who is a certified parks and recreation professional

Objective D: Ensure that borough parks and open spaces are accessible to persons with handicaps.

Strategy

- Install and maintain all recreational facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards

Goal 3: Protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare

Objective A: Ensure that basic utilities are available, maintained and upgraded (where desired or feasible) throughout the borough.

Strategy

- Maintain existing facilities to the highest levels of service
- Require all developers to demonstrate concurrency of development with sanitary sewer, storm water management, public water, and high speed/broadband internet availability
- Maintain existing sanitary sewers to prevent pollution from infiltration and inflow and sewer overflows/bypasses

Objective B: Require all residential subdivisions with lot sizes averaging less than one acre to provide public water and sanitary sewer service.

Strategy

- Revise borough ordinances to require all developments with lot sizes averaging less than one acre to provide public water and sanitary sewer service
- Continue to enforce Ordinance 507-93 whereby every lot in a subdivision (regardless of size) shall be capable of being served by utilities

Objective C: Ensure new on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS) are approved by Allegheny County Health Department Sewage Officials.

Strategy

- Require proof of approval before building permit is issued

Objective D: Where feasible, encourage water and sewer system interconnections when system expansions or extensions occur.

Strategy

- Identify gaps in service lines and, where feasible, make line connections to close the gaps.

Objective E: Improve the availability and quality of healthcare services in the borough.

Strategy

- Contact healthcare providers to investigate the feasibility of locating any type of healthcare facility in Plum.
- Work with non-profits such as the YMCA to provide limited health care options in Plum.

Goal 4: Promote educational opportunities for all borough residents

Objective A: Encourage the efforts of the school district, library, private schools, day care centers, and other educational facilities to maintain high quality facilities, programs, and curriculum.

Strategy

- Meet and exceed state-mandated standards for facilities, programs and curriculum

Objective B: Promote Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) adult educational programs and other adult educational opportunities.

Strategy

- Provide link to CCAC on Borough website