

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Introduction

This chapter inventories Hereford and Washington Townships' community facilities and services and discusses the issues associated with their operation and provision. This is useful in identifying community services strengths and weaknesses, as well as needs. The operation of Hereford and Washington Townships' various facilities and services are the duties of both private and public organizations, as noted throughout this chapter.



Public Safety

Public safety services include police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services. The dispatch of these services in Hereford and Washington Townships is handled through the Berks County Communications Center in Bern Township. The 9-1-1 communications center is able to receive calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and dispatch service to any non-profit public safety agency servicing the County. Founded in 1989, its primary duties are to dispatch municipal and state police services, fire departments, EMS departments, and the County Search and Rescue Team. The Bally, Washington, and Bechtelsville (BWB) Emergency Management Council oversees dispatch services at the local level. The Council was created by an Ordinance in late 1995. Two members from each municipality serve on the Council.

Police Protection Services

Police protection is an essential service required for the protection of local residents and the business community. The traditional role of the police involves three functions—(1) law enforcement, (2) order maintenance, and (3) community service. Law enforcement involves the application of legal sanctions, usually arrest, to persons who injure or deprive innocent victims of life or property. Order maintenance involves the handling of disputes. The third aspect of the police function, community service, varies according to community tradition and local ordinances. It often includes tasks such as traffic control, education, and other public services.

Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Area 1, Troop L provides police protection services in Hereford and Washington Townships. The PSP Kenhorst barracks response team is assigned to the planning area (see table on the following page). Due to the distance of nearby PSP facilities, response time is strained in this portion of the County.

The Berks County Fire Police Association is a non-profit organization that organizes the operations and communications of Fire Police throughout the County, including Hereford and Washington Townships. Known as the 'Safety Unit of Volunteer Fire Departments', they serve similar functions as police officers at emergency sites. These functions include emergency site management, crowd control, scene security, fire investigation, etc. The association provides training that would not typically be available or affordable at the municipal level.

As noted above, 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services are provided by the Berks County Communications Center. The Center began in 1989. It now provides a centralized emergency system that provides for centralized receipt of emergency calls, identifies the location of the caller, provides vital emergency information, and employs a form of computer-assisted-dispatch to send the appropriate response units. This is the crucial link that ensures responsive municipal services for emergencies. The Center moved to its new location in Bern Township in 2008. The Center's radio system was upgraded in 2014. The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) department had a minor upgrade in January of 2017. There is a new version scheduled to go on line in approximately a year.

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Public Safety (Emergency Services) Facilities

Name	Location	Service Areas
Police		
PSP Reading Troop HQ	600 Kenhorst Blvd., Reading, PA 19611	Both Townships
Fire Companies		
Hereford Fire Company	P.O. Box 7, 1153 Gravel Pike, Hereford, PA 18506	Hereford (Hereford Estates)
Seisholtzville Fire Company Station #39	24 St. Peters Road, Hereford, PA 18056	Hereford (Seisholtzville)
Eastern Berks Fire Department Station #1	2243 Old Route 100, Barto, PA 19504	Washington (Barto)
Eastern Berks Fire Department Station #2	537 Chestnut St., Bally, PA 19503	Bally, Washington Township
Eastern Berks Fire Department Station #3	1817 Main St., Bechtelsville, PA 19505	Bechtelsville, Washington Township
Emergency Medical Services		
Bally Community Ambulance	537 Chestnut St., Bally, PA 19503	Both Townships

Source: Berks County DES

Fire Protection Services

Three volunteer companies provide primary fire protection services in Hereford and Washington Townships: the Hereford Fire Company and Seisholtzville Fire Company in Hereford Township and the Barto Fire Company in Washington Township. All companies are dispatched through the County 9-1-1 system. Standard fire equipment consists of a pump to hold water, a brush, and an engine to control and drive the equipment. Currently, staff, facilities, and equipment are in adequate condition. The pump is restored at designated wells and water sources. Two percent loans, community fundraising, and small limited federal grants are utilized for funding.

The table above lists fire companies that provide fire protection services to Hereford and Washington Townships.

Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical services can be divided into two general types. The first, emergency ambulance service, involves the transportation of patients from the scene of a medical emergency to a local medical care facility for treatment. The second, routine transports, provides transportation to patients from one medical care facility to another. As noted in the table above the Bally Community Ambulance Association, located in the downtown area of the Borough of Bally, provides emergency medical services to Hereford and Washington Townships.

Hazardous Materials Team

Each of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania is required under Act 165 (Act 1990-165 Hazardous Materials Response Fund) to have contracted a state certified hazardous materials response team. The program, which is managed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), establishes operational, staffing, training, medical monitoring, supply, and equipment guidelines. In 1989, Berks County implemented a HAZMAT program through its Office of Emergency Management. This program is currently part of the Special Operations Group of the Berks County Department of Emergency Services. Mainly funded by the County, the HAZMAT program is qualified to handle emergencies involving large quantities of hazardous materials.

Utility Services

The residential and commercial development in Hereford and Washington Townships has placed increased demands on natural gas, electricity, and telecommunication services. While most utility service providers have the ability to meet these increased demands, it is essential for this Comprehensive Plan to provide a brief inventory and review of the Hereford and Washington Townships' utility service providers.

Natural Gas

There are four main gas lines that transverse the Townships. These are owned by three different corporations. The Reading Gas Division of the UGI Corporation supplies the Townships with natural gas, which is used for heating, cooking, and other uses. UGI provides most of Berks County's residential and industrial customers with low, medium, and high-pressure gas. The UGI gas pipeline, which is six inch in diameter, runs through Hereford Township and terminates at a substation off Church Hill Road. Spectra Energy, a.k.a. Texas Eastern Corporation, also has a pipeline that connects to the same substation, crossing both Hereford and Washington Township. Additionally, Buckeye Partners also has a transmission pipeline that crosses Washington Township from west to east and Hereford Township from north to south. Lastly, Sunoco pipeline crosses the eastern tip of Hereford Township. As the Townships are rural in nature, propane gas is used by many of the residents.

Electricity

Pennsylvania is one of several states that offer residents a choice in their electric service generation supplier. Under the Electric Choice program established in 1999, customers can select their electric service based on cost, services and incentives, or personal preference. Metropolitan Edison Company (Met Ed) is a subsidiary of First Energy Corporation and is the main supplier of electricity to Hereford and Washington Townships. Met Ed is based in Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, and the Calpine Plant in Ontelaunee Township. There are a number of electric power lines that traverse the planning area, particularly Hereford Township. Two sets of power lines parallel the eastern boundary of Washington Township.

Telecommunications

D&E Communications and Verizon provide telephone service. Comcast and Service Electric provide cable service to the study area. There are multiple discretionary Internet providers for residents to select. Telecommunications infrastructure within the Townships is limited. There is an inactive co-axle buried telephone line (formerly ATT) in Hereford Township. There are four cell towers in the joint planning area, three in Washington Township and one in Hereford Township, which subsequently creates "gaps" in the wireless service of Hereford Township. There is one microwave tower, used to send and receive radio waves, located approximately in the center of the joint planning area, near the shared border.

Educational Facilities and Services

Students in Hereford and Washington Townships attend two separate school districts. Washington Township is part of the Boyertown Area School District of Berks County. Hereford Township schools belong to the Upper Perkiomen School District of Montgomery County. Figures 27 and 28 show the location of the educational facilities and their service areas. The Townships' public and private educational facilities are listed in the following table.



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Educational Facilities

Name	Location	Municipality	# of Students
Public Schools by District			
<u>Boyertown Area School District</u>			
Boyertown Elementary	641 E Second St, Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	596
Colebrookdale Elementary	1001 Montgomery Ave., Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	319
Earl Elementary	22 Schoolhouse Rd, Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	320
Gilbertsville Elementary	36 Congo Rd, Gilbertsville, PA 19525	Douglass Twp., Montgomery Co.	821
New Hanover/Upper Frederick Elementary	2547 Big Rd, Frederick, PA 19435	Upper Frederick Twp.	787
Pine Forge Elementary	8 Glendale Rd, Pine Forge, PA 19548	Douglas Twp., Berks Co.	295
Washington Elementary	1406 Route 100, Barto, PA 19504	Washington Twp.	510
Boyertown Jr. High - West	380 S. Madison St., Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	781
Boyertown Jr. High – East	2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525	Boyertown	858
Boyertown Sr. High	120 N. Monroe St., Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	1,609
<u>Upper Perkiomen School District</u>			
Hereford Elementary	1043 Gravel Pike, Hereford, PA 18056	Hereford Twp.	879
Marlborough Elementary	1450 Gravel Pike, Green Lane, PA 18054	Green Lane	729
Upper Perkiomen Middle School	510 Jefferson St., East Greenville, PA	n/a	799
Upper Perkiomen High	2 Walt Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073	n/a	929
Private Schools			
St. Francis Academy	7th & Pine Streets, Bally, PA 19503	Washington Twp.	n/a
Chapel Mennonite School	42 School House Rd., Hereford, PA 18056	Hereford Twp.	n/a
Brookside Montessori School	1075 Route 100, Bechtelsville, PA 19505	Washington Twp.	n/a
Alpha Omega Christian Academy	83 Cleaver School Road Boyertown, PA 19512	Boyertown	n/a
Pine Forge Academy	PO Box 338, Pine Forge, PA 19548	Douglas Twp., Berks Co.	
Other Regional Educational Facilities			
Western Center for Technical Studies	∞∞ Gratersford Road, Limerick, PA 19468	n/a	n/a
Berks Vocational Tech Center East	3307 Friedensburg Road, Oley, PA 19547	n/a	n/a

Source: PA Department of Education, <http://www.pde.state.pa.us>; Boyertown Area School District, <http://basd.netjunction.com>

The districts obtain leadership and education services through the Berks County Intermediate Unit (Boyertown School District) and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (Upper Perkiomen School District). Services provided include curriculum planning, instructional materials, continuing professional education, and special education. Intermediate Units receive funding through both the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PADE) and the local school districts.

Public Facilities

Children in Washington Township attend the Boyertown School District. The Boyertown School District maintains seven elementary schools, two junior high schools, and one senior high school. There is one school located in Washington Township, Washington Elementary School, which contains grades K-6 and serves 510 students. The school offers art, music, and physical education classes, as well as a library and computer lab. Washington Elementary School promotes its students to the Boyertown Junior High School–West, Boyertown Junior High School–East, and the Boyertown Senior High School. Junior and senior high enrollments are 781, 858, and 1,609 students, respectively. Students residing east of Route 100 and the Borough of Bally attend Boyertown Junior High–West, while students west of Route 100 attend Boyertown Junior High School–East.

Children of Hereford Township attend the Upper Perkiomen School District. The Upper Perkiomen School District consists of two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Hereford Elementary is

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located near the intersection of SR 29 and SR 100 in Hereford Township. The school offers language and special education classes, as well as a library and computer lab. The school serves grades K-5 with an enrollment of 879 students. Students are promoted to the Upper Perkiomen Middle School and Upper Perkiomen High School, both located outside of the planning area. Enrollments total 799 and 929 students, respectively.

It should be noted that there is a small, but rising, number of students that are home-schooled, as well as attend school outside of the immediate joint planning study area. Vocational-Technical education prepares students for employment directly upon graduation. There are two area vocational schools that are affiliated with the Townships' respective school districts. The Upper Perkiomen School District is affiliated with the Western Center for Technical Studies, located in Limerick Township in Montgomery County. The purpose of the school is to provide programs that one school district alone could not afford to provide. The technical school is teamed with two other school districts to offer vocational courses in 18 career programs. The Center offers high school students a vocational concentration, as well as academic courses. Students can complete a two-year technical institution program or prepare to transfer to a four-year college.

Boyertown Area Schools are affiliated with the Berks Vocational Tech Center East, in Oley Township. This is one of three Vo-Tech schools in the County. Teamed with eight other school districts, the Center offers 37 programs offering high school and adult enrollment.

Both school districts offer adult continuing education classes through their respective County Intermediate Units. Berks County offers Continuing Professional Education Workshops, as well as the Cisco Networking Academy that focuses on computer technology education. Courses are open and specifically geared for educators, parents, and community members at the Boyertown Area School District Education Center. Montgomery County Intermediate Unit houses the Continuing Professional Education Council, which approves CPE credit courses, and the Technology Professional Development Consortium. Both school district programs serve multiple roles: offering regional leadership and professional development programs, consulting with districts/schools regarding Induction, Act 48, strategic planning, supervision and evaluation, and staff development standards; supporting districts/schools in designing professional development to support standards-based education; serving as liaison to professional organizations, higher education institutions, and cultural institutions; and facilitating district strategic planning and team building exercises.

Private Facilities

There are three private schools in the planning area and adjacent Bechtelsville: St. Francis Academy, Chapel Mennonite School, and Brookside Montessori School. St. Francis Academy is a Roman Catholic parochial school affiliated with the Allentown Diocese. It is located at the edge of Bally Borough, in Washington Township. The Academy offers classes for grades preschool-8, with an average enrollment of 200 students per year. Chapel Mennonite School is a non-public, non-licensed school affiliated with the Mennonite church in Hereford Township. Brookside Montessori School is located in Bechtelsville. This school teaches elementary age children using the Montessori education system.

Facilities for Higher Education

There are no colleges or universities located in the planning area. However there are several higher education institutions located in Reading, Allentown, Bethlehem, Lehigh, and Kutztown. Schools include the Reading Area Community College, Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown, Lehigh County Community College, Penn State Lehigh Valley in Reading and Fogelsville, Albright College, Alvernia College, Cedar Crest College, as well as Kutztown, Lehigh, and Muhlenberg Universities.

Health Care Facilities and Services

As shown in the table below, there are four hospitals in the region that provide medical care. The Lehigh Valley

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Hospital (LVH) is located just southwest of Allentown. LVH offers primary care, specialty care such as kidney transplant, cardiac care, cancer treatment, burn center, and is the only trauma unit in the larger Allentown region. The Pottstown Memorial Medical Center (PMMC) is located just to the south of Washington Township along SR 100. PMMC provides cancer treatment and off-site family care centers. The Reading Hospital is located in West Reading. Reading Hospital consists of a complex of medical buildings, including close to 600 beds for patient care. Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center is an acute care hospital in Bern Township. Each of these hospitals offers both in- and out-patient care, as well as surgical facilities.

Health Care Facilities

Name	Type of Facility	Address
Lehigh Valley Hospital	Hospital	1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103
Pottstown Memorial Medical Center	Hospital	1600 E. High St., Pottstown, PA 19464
Reading Hospital/Tower Health	Hospital	Sixth & Spruce Sts., West Reading, PA 19611
Penn State Health St. Joseph Med Cntr.	Hospital	2400 Bernville Rd. Reading, PA 19605

Source: PA Department of Health

A number of facilities serve senior residents of the planning area. The Bally Senior Citizens Center in Bally serves elderly residents of Washington Township over the age of 55. The Center is located within the Borough. Seniors independently organize programs using separate fundraising and donations. Outside of the study area are the Walnut Woods and Chestnut Knoll in Boyertown, which commonly serve Township residents. BCIU provides specialized education for students up to 18 years of age at New Hanover Elementary School. It should be noted that there are a number of visiting nurse services that provide care for Township residents.

Library Facilities and Services

The Berks County Library System provides public library services to the planning area through the J.K. Boyer Boyertown Community Library. The Boyertown Community Library is located at 29 E. Philadelphia Avenue in downtown Boyertown, PA. The library owns over 39,000 books, magazines, videos, audiocassettes, compact discs, and large print items in their collection. There are also Ebooks available. In addition, the library system offers a variety of services including, but not limited to, Ebooks interlibrary loan, audio/video lending service, Internet and fax service, computer services, summer reading, and adult programs. Red Hill Library in Montgomery County and the Hereford Elementary Library (summertime only) provide library services to Hereford Township residents, as well. These library systems are funded through county tax dollars and state aid.

Solid Waste Management Services

Due to the rural character of the planning area, residents are required to provide their own trash disposal.

The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act 101 of 1988, requires counties to develop formal plans for managing municipal wastes. Plans are subject to municipal ratification and approval from the PADEP. In accordance with the Act, each County must ensure 10 years of available disposal capacity and establish a postclosure care trust fund for landfills. In 1991, Berks County completed and the municipalities ratified the Act 101 *Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan*. This plan was revised in 2005.

The main goal of Act 101 is to reduce Pennsylvania's municipal waste generation. The benefits of recycling and waste reduction include reduced pollution risks, conservation of natural resources, energy and landfill space, and reduced disposal costs. Municipalities with populations of at least 5,000 are required to implement curbside programs, funded by PADEP grants. All other communities must provide recycling drop-off centers. Municipalities must collect at least 3 of the following materials: clear glass, colored glass, plastics, aluminum, steel and bimetallic cans, high-grade office paper, corrugated paper, and newsprint. Monies generated by the Recycling Fee are deposited in the Act 101 Recycling Fund and are funneled back into public programs, studies, and processing, and administration costs of the statewide program.

Washington Township operates a drop off site at the Red Barn on the first Saturday morning of every month and the third Wednesday of the month from March through October. Volunteers and the Environmental Advisory Council of Washington Township maintain the site.

Public Water Facilities and Services

Public water systems were designed to serve developed areas where individual on-lot systems would be impractical. They generally consist of supply sources, storage facilities, a distribution and pumping system, and a filter to chlorinate the water. Sources of supply for a public water system are three basic types: wells, springs or streams, and reservoirs. Most systems usually draw from multiple sources. The quality and quantity of the water are indicative of the effectiveness of the public water system.

Four public water systems provide water to some residents of the planning area. The table below lists each public water system along with their respective service area(s), customer connections, and water sources. The following section provides a descriptive overview of these four systems and any known planned improvements.

Public Water Systems

System Name	Service Area	Customer Connection	Primary Source
Bally Borough Municipal Authority	Bally Borough, portion of Washington Township	106	One well
Upper Hanover Water Authority	Portion of Hereford Township, along SR 29	56	Two wells (in Hereford Twp)
Red Hill Water Authority	Northeast portion of Hereford Township	45	Two wells, spring-fed reservoir
Hereford Twp. CWS	Manufactured Home parks in central part of Township	450	various

Bally Borough Municipal Authority

This public water system is owned by Bally Municipal Authority and leased to the Borough for maintenance and operation. Water is drawn from a well. The water is treated and stored in a concrete reservoir. The Borough of Bally and at least 100 residences in Washington Township rely on this system. Washington Township purchases the water from the Borough to distribute to Township households.

Upper Hanover Water Authority

Upper Hanover Water Authority is located in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. The Authority draws water from three wells, two of which are located in Hereford Township, and serves a limited number of residents along SR 29 in the village of Chapel. A small amount of the service area of the Upper Hanover Water Authority is in Hereford Township. The system has plenty of capacity. There are concerns about the effects of these wells on the local water table.

Red Hill Water Authority

The Red Hill Water Authority serves the northeastern corner of Hereford Township, overlapping with the Upper Hanover Water Authority service area. There are approximately 1200 connections through this system. About 45 of these are located in Hereford Township. Green Lane Reservoir (which is spring-fed) supplies this system.

Community Water Systems in Hereford Township

There are four modular home communities in the central portion of Hereford Township served primarily by community water systems. Almost all of the units have water and sewer service provided through private community water systems.

A vast majority of the Townships’ residents have on-lot water wells, which draw water directly from groundwater resources into local homes.

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The *Upper Perkiomen Creek Watershed Conservation Plan* has identified groundwater quality as a serious issue in the watershed:

“The Borough of Bally has...lost one of its public water supply wells due to contamination. The Berks Sand Pit Superfund Site is a well-documented example of groundwater contamination that affected over 30 residences in Longswamp Township, Berks County near Huffs Church at the headwaters of the main stem Perkiomen Creek. This ongoing Superfund site cleanup of a former residential and industrial dump site is being conducted by the U.S. EPA and has cleaned over 330 million gallons of groundwater cost federal taxpayers over \$10 million. The project involves pumping and filtering volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as the solvent trichloroethylene (TCE), and discharging treated wastewater to a headwaters tributary of the main stem Perkiomen Creek. These groundwater quality concerns serve to compound the natural limitations on groundwater quantity – with limited aquifers, increasing numbers of wells, and changing land use with greater potential for contamination.” (p.50)

The Plan goes on to identify a source of groundwater impact in Washington Township.

“The vulnerability of groundwater quantity has been highlighted in the ongoing conflicts associated with the Gabel Quarry in Washington Township, owned and operated by Martin Limestone. This Quarry encompasses over 100 acres in area...and has been excavated to a depth of over 400 feet. The quarry has impacted groundwater aquifer and the neighboring wells dependent on that aquifer within 1,000 feet of the site. Depletion of wells in the area is a major concern. This type of extractive use, or similar uses such as water bottling plants, poses obvious concerns to groundwater supplies in the watershed.

Public Sewer Facilities and Services

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act of 1966, as amended, commonly referred to as “Act 537,” is the primary law-controlling individual and community sewage disposal systems. Act 537 requires that every municipality prepare and maintain a sewage facilities plan. Act 537 requires municipalities to review their official plans at five-year intervals and perform updates, as necessary. Municipalities can apply to the PADEP for up to 50 percent reimbursement of the cost of preparing an Act 537 plan. High growth municipalities are frequently performing updates to their Act 537 Plan. For stable or slow growth municipalities, 20 years or more may elapse between editions. Regardless of timing, such plans and their approval by PADEP are needed before any major sanitary sewer projects are eligible for funding by the state. An Act 537 Plan was written for Washington Township in 2009.

In Hereford and Washington Township, public sewer service is generally provided where there are public water systems. Sewage disposal systems are in place for the modular home parks in Hereford Township, where there are community water systems. The Bally Borough Municipal Authority provides public sewage disposal to eight properties in Washington Township, located directly outside the Borough. The Authority’s wastewater treatment plant, located in Washington Township, is capable of processing over 200,000 gallons per day. Treated water is discharged into the West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek. The maintenance and operation of the public sewage system and treatment plant were implemented with the construction of the new Washington Township Municipal Authority. The existing sanitary sewerage areas can be seen on Figures 29 and 30.

Municipal Facilities

While a town or village square once served as a community’s center, today many rural communities no longer have a geographic center. However, the need for meeting spaces and a place of local identity is still apparent. In Hereford and Washington Township, this need is fulfilled in the respective municipal complexes. Figures 27 and 28 illustrate the locations of the municipal offices found in Hereford and Washington Townships.

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The Washington Township Municipal Complex was completed in 1999 near the intersection of Old Route 100 and Barto Road in the Village of Barto. The Complex provides municipal offices for the Municipal Supervisors, the Municipal Manager, the Planning and Zoning Department, the Washington Township Municipal Authority, and the Public Works Department, as well as public meeting space. The Washington Township Public Works also maintains a garage on site for maintaining the 40+ miles of Township roads during all seasons to assure Township residents safe automotive travel. Hereford Township Municipal Building is located on Seisholtzville Road, just west of the village of Harlem. Township office space, meeting facilities, and two garages are encompassed in the small complex.

Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services

Residents within the Hereford and Washington Township study area have a variety of recreation options, from publicly owned lands (i.e., state, county, and municipal) to private facilities. An inventory of park and recreation facilities in the Townships is provided in the table on the next page. These facilities constitute just over 700 acres of recreational land and provide the citizens with an abundance of both active and passive recreational opportunities.

The Berks County Planning Commission produced a County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan in 2007. Washington Township produced a Township Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1992. Hereford Township addresses recreation and open space in their 1991 Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan. Although these recreation plans have not been recently updated, the County and Townships have been actively involved in park planning, acquisition, and development activities. Many of the Townships' parks offer unique outdoor recreational opportunities taking advantage of the rural nature of the local environment. Activity Center parks include such special single-use areas as the Grandview Speedway, Bally Sportsmen Park, Hereford Rod & Gun Club, and Tollgate Fishing Park. Other parks in the planning area include two camps, two elementary schools, and one state game land that span the municipal boundary. The World War II memorial in Washington Township could also be considered an open space area, but is small in size.

Hereford Township has 12 parks, totaling approximately 454 acres of parkland. Of this acreage, approximately 309 acres (5 parks of the 11) are privately owned. Washington Township has 13 parks totaling 261 acres of recreation and/or open space. One of the parks in Washington Township is privately owned (43 acres), while six are publicly owned (approximately 250 acres). In sum, Hereford and Washington Townships have 25 parks, open space and recreation parcels on approximately 715 acres of parkland.



Hereford Township Park

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NAME	Size (acres)	Park/Recreation Type	Orientation* (Passive/Active)	All-purpose/ Football Fields	Baseball Fields	Basketball Courts	Camping	Fishing	Golf Courses	Hunting	Pavilions	Picnic Tables	Playground	Soccer Fields	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Other	Walking/Biking Trails	Restrooms	Water and Electric
Hereford Township																				
Bally Sportsmen	50	Private	A					X	X		X									
Camp Mensch Mills	69.5	Private	A	X			X	X	X		X				X			X		
Camp Serranova	80.27	Private	A	X			X				X				X					
Hereford Elementary School	22	Public	A	X									X						X	
Hereford Estates Recreation Park	1.6	Public	A			X							X			X				
Hereford Recreation Center	15.3	Public	A								X	X				X		X	X	X
Hereford Rod & Gun Club	10.28	Private	A						X		X									
Huff Church Memorial Park	34.17	Private	A								X									
Philadelphia Magyar Hungarian Sports Club	122	Private	A				X								X		X	X	X	X
Seisholtzville Fire Company	3.43	Private	A	X																
State Game Lands 315	29.55	Public	P						X											
Tollgate Fishing Park	15.94	Public	A					X												
TOTAL	454.04																			
Washington Township																				
Barto Community Park Athletic Field	6.08	Public	A	X																
Barto Community Park	9.86	Public	A	X	X	X					X		X					X		
Cubbler Court Open Space	1.5	Public	P																	
Forgedale Park	0.5	Public	A					X				X								
Grandview Speedway	40	Private	A														X	X	X	X
Hoffman Estates Open Space	1.8	Public	P																	
Reserve at Bally Springs Open Space	10.15	Public	P																	
State Game Lands 315	152	Public	P						X											
Washington Elementary School / Annex	13.6	Public	A	X	X	X						X	X						X	
Washington Township Park	9.26	Public	A								X	X	X							
Washington Township Treatment Plant	15.76	Public	P										X							
Westfield Drive Open Space	.66	Public	P																	
WW II War Memorial	0.2	Public	P														X			
TOTAL	261.37																			

Source: Hereford and Washington Townships

Trends and Issues

Police Services

- **The Pennsylvania State Police based in Kenhorst serve the majority of the Townships' residents.** The Borough of Bally's police department covers areas of Washington Township adjacent to the Borough.
- **Response times of the Pennsylvania State Police could be improved,** due to geographic distance of the PSP barracks from the Townships that are located in the corner of Berks County.
- **The Berks County Fire Police Association** provides emergency site control, crowd control, scene security, and fire investigation for the Townships.

Fire and EMS Services

- **Three volunteer fire companies provide primary response to protect Hereford and Washington Township residents from fire hazards.** Two fire departments in the Boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville provide secondary response assistance, as needed.

- **Townships' residents receive emergency medical services (EMS) from Bally Community Ambulance Association.**
- **Berks County's Hazardous Material Response Team** handles emergencies involving large quantities of hazardous materials in the County, including the planning area.

Utility Networks

- **The Reading Gas Division of the UGI CORPORATION supplies the Townships with natural gas.** However, due to the rural nature of the Townships, many residents use propane gas.
- **Metropolitan Edison Company (Met Ed) is the main supplier of electricity to Hereford and Washington Townships.**
- **There are a number of telecommunications services in the Townships,** including D&E Communications and Verizon phone service, Comcast and Service Electric cable television, and a variety of discretionary Internet providers.

Educational Facilities

- **Two school districts serve the planning area:** Boyertown Area School District and the Upper Perkiomen School District. One elementary school from each district is located in the planning area. Local students attend secondary schools outside the planning area.
- **Although rural, the Townships' residents have access to educational options** similar to those found in more populated areas, such as private schools, vocational-technical programs, continuing education classes, and many regional colleges and four-year universities.

Health Care Facilities

- **Four hospitals provide medical care to residents of the region;** Lehigh Valley Hospital, the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, and the Reading Hospital.

Library Facilities

- **There are no public library facilities located within the study area.** The J.K. Boyer Boyertown Community Library branch of the Berks County Library system, the Red Hill Library of the Montgomery County Library system, and the Hereford Elementary School provide residents with library services.

Solid Waste Management

- **Berks County adopted an Act 101 *Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan* in 1991.** It was updated in 2005.
- **The Township governments do not provide trash collection and disposal services.**

Public Water Facilities

- **There are currently two municipal water authorities and one community water system** operating in the planning area; the Bally Borough Municipal Authority, the Upper Hanover Water Authority, and the community water system located in the modular home area in central Hereford Township. Wells, springs, and reservoirs supply these Authorities with water.
- **Bally Borough Municipal Authority provides water to over 100 households in Washington**

Chapter 9 - Community Facilities Analysis

Township.

- **The Upper Hanover Water Authority's water mains connect wells in Hereford Township** with the Authority's service area in Montgomery County. The Authority serves a limited number of residents along SR 29 in the village of Chapel. There is concern for the effects withdrawal has on the local water table and private well supply.
- **A vast majority of the Townships' residents have on-lot water wells.**
- **Recommendations have been made to share services among the water supply providers**, as found in the Berks County Water and Sewer Management Plan.

Public Sewer Facilities

- **An Act 537 Plan** was written for Washington Township in 2009.
- **In the planning area, public sewer service is generally provided where there are public water systems.**
- **The southeastern area of Washington Township was chosen as the primary sewer services area** to resolve existing contamination problem areas and provide capacity for the designated State Route 100 growth corridor. The Act 537 Plan for Washington Township was used as a basis for creating the Washington Township Municipal Authority's present system.

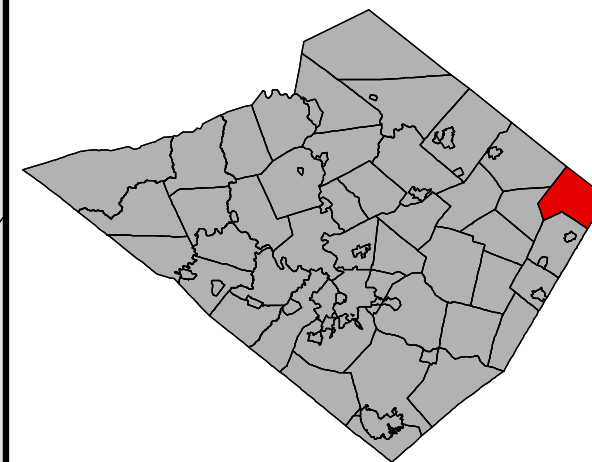
Municipal Facilities and Services

- **Both Hereford and Washington Township have municipal buildings**, which generally serve as the community center. These complexes are multi-purpose, in that they provide Township office space, meeting facilities, and public works garages.












Parks and Recreation Facilities and Services

- **The County and Townships have been actively involved in park planning, acquisition, and development activities** through formal recreation plans and informal initiatives. Berks County Planning Commission produced a County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan in 2007. Washington Township produced a Township Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan in 1992. Hereford Township addresses recreation and open space in their 1991 Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- **Hereford and Washington Townships have 25 parks and/or open space areas totaling over 715 acres** in the planning area. Hereford Township has 12 parks and/or recreation facilities on roughly 454 acres for its 2,923 (2014) residents. Seven parks and the majority of this acreage are privately owned. Washington Township has 13 parks and/or recreation facilities on 261 acres. One of which is a privately owned facility.







Community Facilities Hereford Township

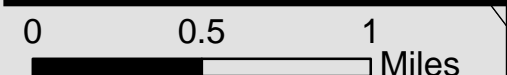


Legend

-  Municipal Buildings
-  Fire Stations
-  Public School
-  Private School
-  Recreation
-  Villages
-  Roads
-  Railroads- Active
-  Streams and Water Bodies
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

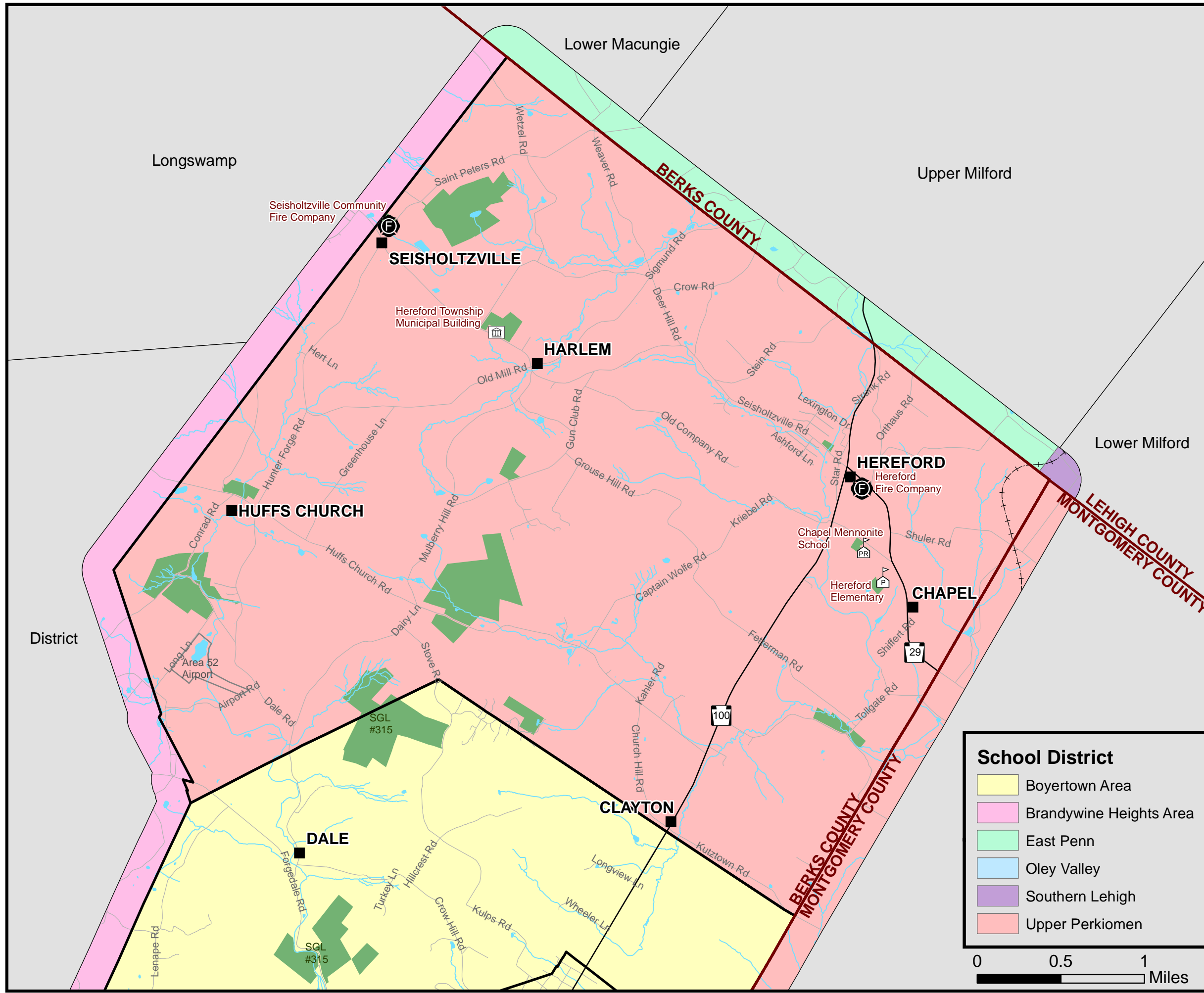
School District

-  Boyertown Area
-  Brandywine Heights Area
-  East Penn
-  Oley Valley
-  Southern Lehigh
-  Upper Perkiomen

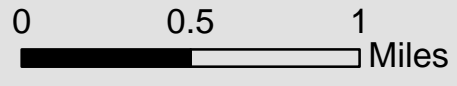
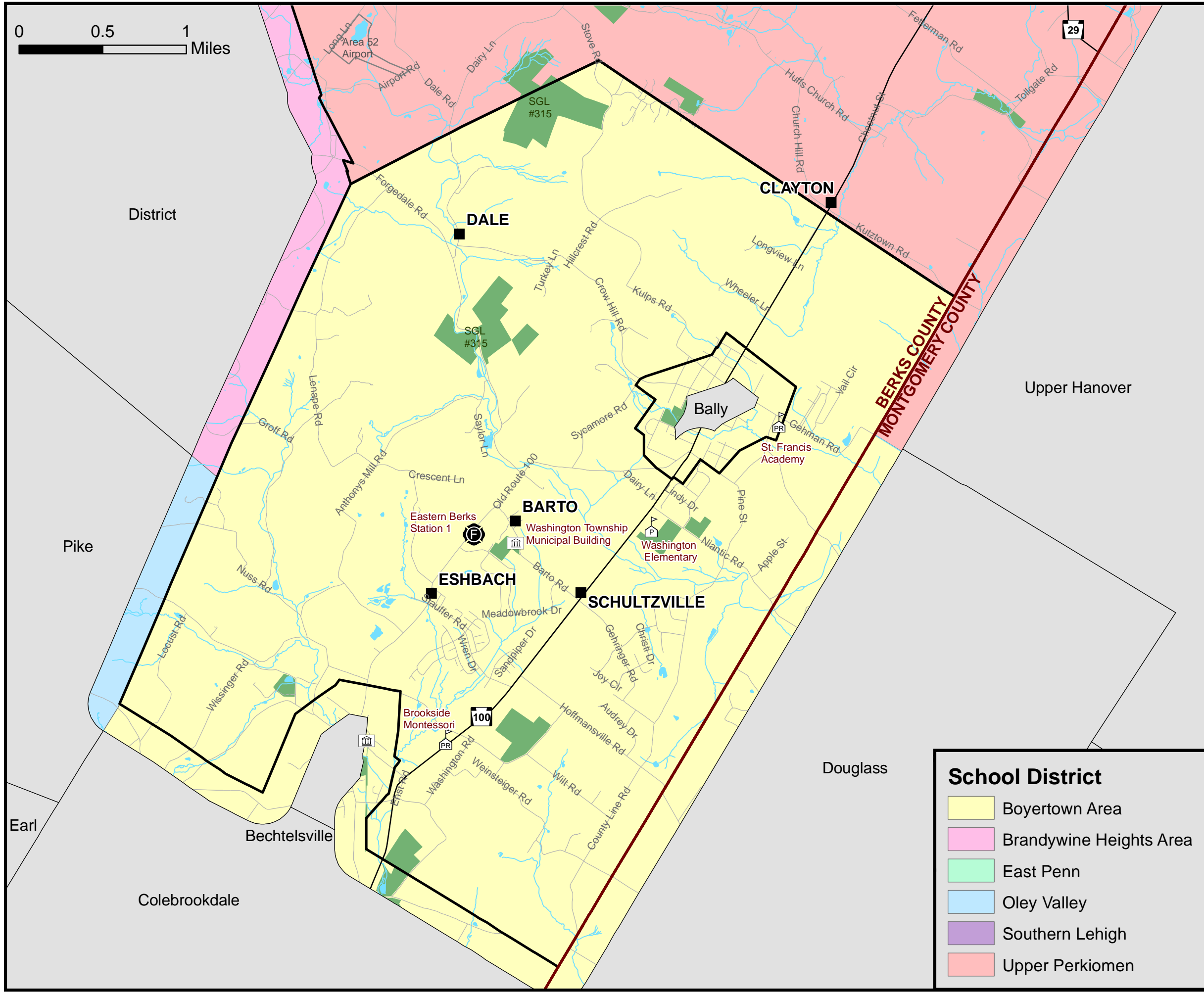
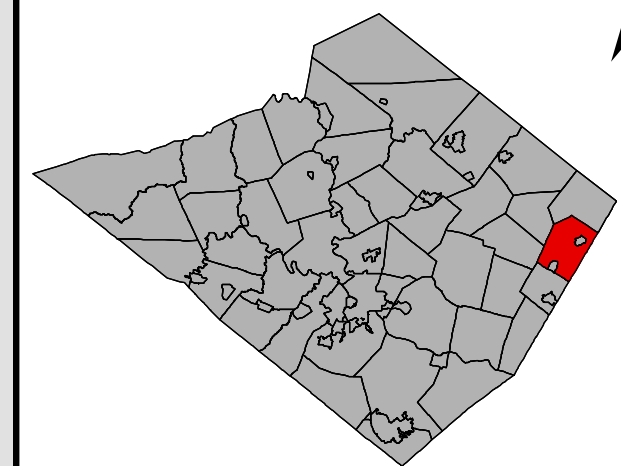


Source data: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County GIS/IS, Berks County Mapping, Berks DES, PennDOT
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Community Facilities Washington Township



Legend

- Municipal Buildings
- Fire Stations
- Public School
- Private School
- Recreation
- Villages
- Roads
- Railroads- Active
- Streams and Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

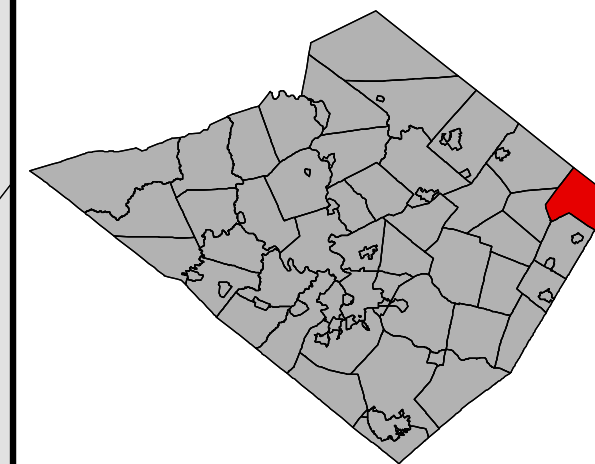
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



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Public Utility Service Areas Hereford Township



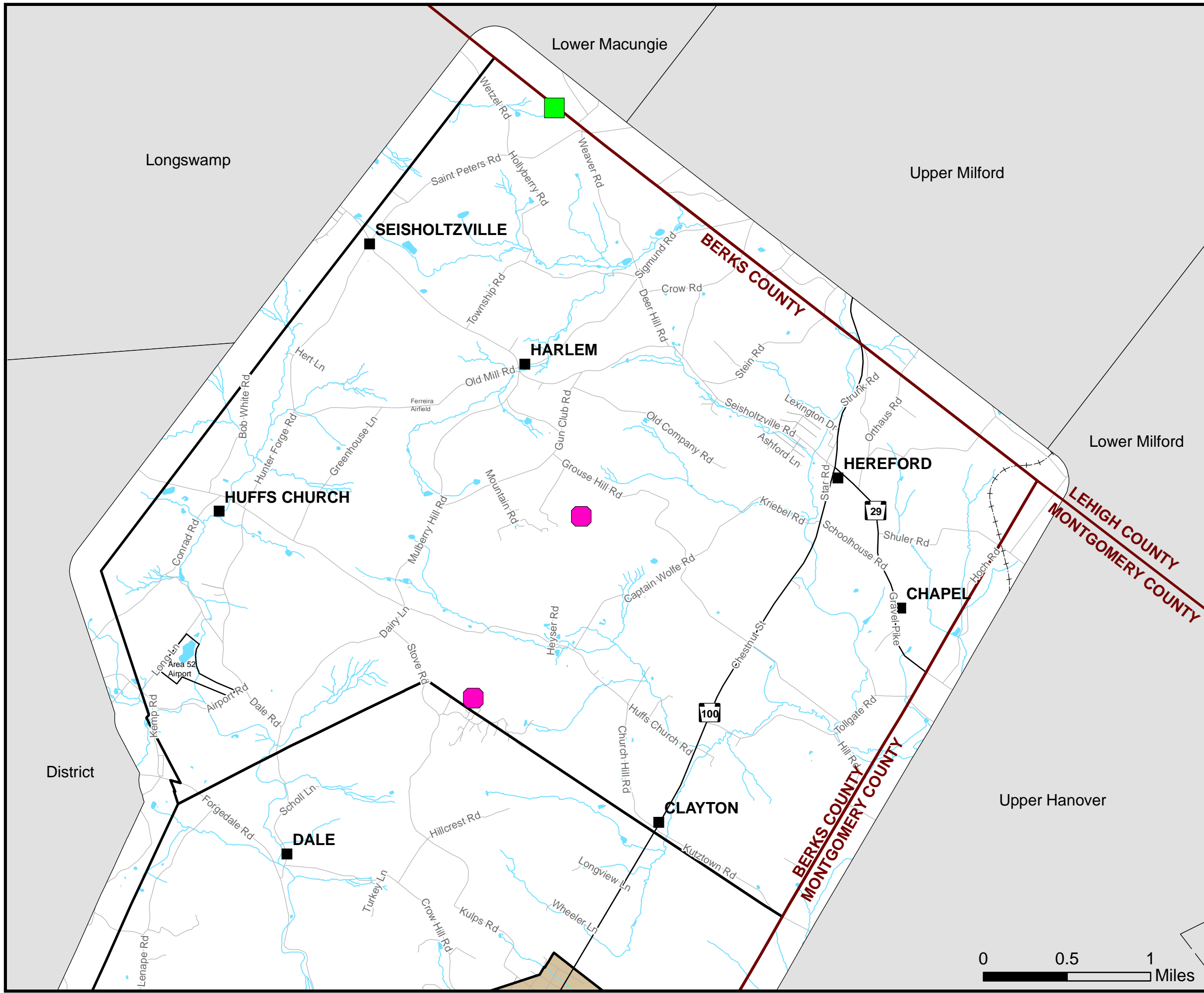
Legend

-  Sanitary Sewer Plants
-  Sanitary Sewer Pumping Stations
-  Met-Ed Substations
-  Cell Phone Service Towers
-  Existing Sanitary Sewer Service
-  Villages
-  Roads
-  Railroads- Active
-  Streams and Water Bodies
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

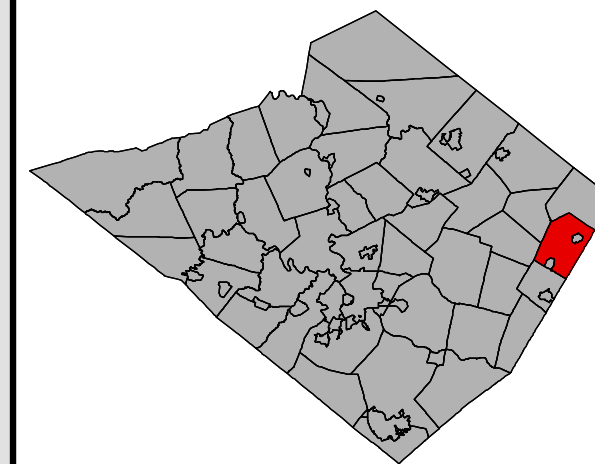
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



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Public Utility Service Areas Washington Township



Legend

-  Sanitary Sewer Plants
-  Sanitary Sewer Pumping Stations
-  Met-Ed Substations
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