

Beaver County Comprehensive Plan

Public Input Meetings

November 2008



Tonight's Meeting

- Purpose of the Plan
- Planning Process
- Progress to Date
 - Quality of Life On-line Survey
 - Land Use
 - Demographics Update
 - Economic Conditions
- Next Steps
 - ★ *Your Input*



Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

To establish a coordinated strategy
for meeting residents' economic and social needs
in a way that balances
new development,
redevelopment of existing places,
and preservation of natural, cultural and historic assets.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

Special focus:

Target five sites for economic development:

- “brownfield” redevelopment
- downtown revitalization
- reuse of a suburban strip mall
- new development in a high growth area



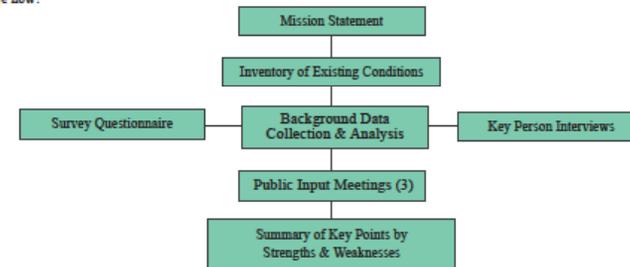
Planning Process

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FLOW CHART

"Our unique approach: a strategic planning process"

I. BACKGROUND ASSESSMENT

"Where are we now?"



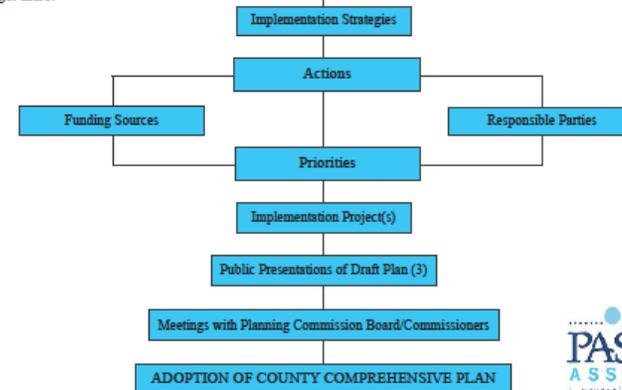
II. DEVELOPING THE FUTURE VISION

"Where do we want to be?"



III. THE ACTION PROGRAM

"How do we get there?"



Planning Process

Phase 1 – Background Assessment

**Population &
Socioeconomic Update**

Housing Data & Trends

**Transportation
Evaluation**

**Environmental
Features**

**Parks, Recreation and
Open Space**

Land Use Analysis

Economic Conditions

**Public Facilities
and Services**

**Historical Sites
and Preservation**

**Community Facilities
and Services**

Planning Process



Public Participation

- Regional Public Meetings
- On-Line Survey
- Interviews
- Steering Committee

Progress to Date: On-line Survey

2008 Beaver County Quality of Life Survey

6. To attract more businesses to locate in Beaver County, what steps do you believe the County needs to take (check all that apply):

- Provide tax incentives to prospective companies
- Support more worker training programs
- Market the County's low cost of living and other assets
- Invest in infrastructure improvements (roads, water, sewer)
- Revitalize downtowns
- Improve recreational amenities for young people and families
- Other (please specify)

7. Rank the types of new businesses that you believe Beaver County should attract to strengthen its economy (1 = most important; 7 = least important):

	1 - Most Important	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Least important
Light Manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>						
Heavy Manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>						
Health Care and Social Services	<input type="radio"/>						
Finance And Real Estate	<input type="radio"/>						
Retail	<input type="radio"/>						
Restaurant & Food Services	<input type="radio"/>						
Tourism & entertainment	<input type="radio"/>						
Information Services	<input type="radio"/>						

8. Where do you most believe the County should focus new economic development efforts? (Check one.)

- Abandoned industrial sites
- Existing "River Towns"
- Suburban communities
- Rural towns
- Other (please specify)

Follow the link at
<http://www.beavercountypa.gov>

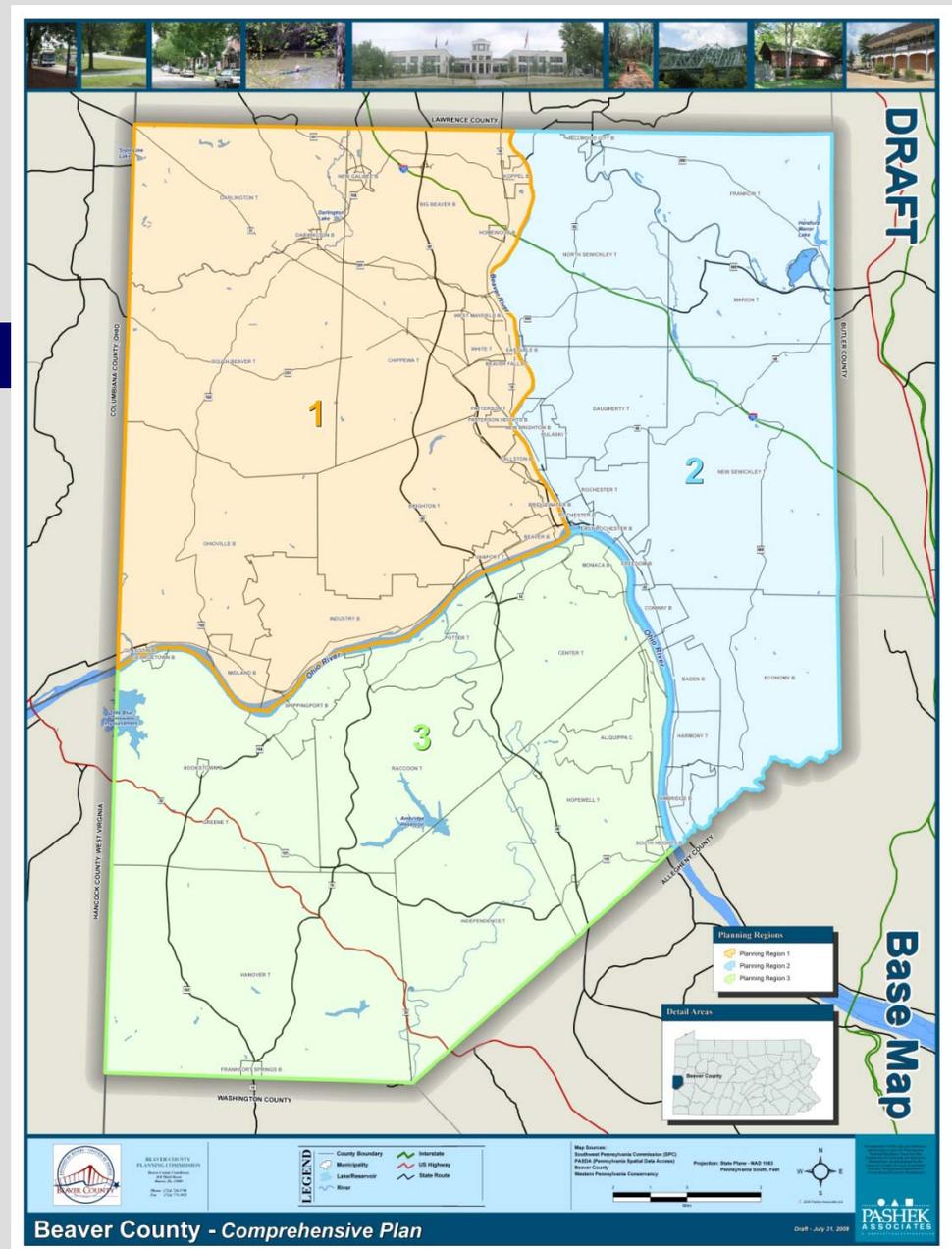
OR

<http://www.bcchamber.com>

click on "Member Services"

Progress to Date: Land Use

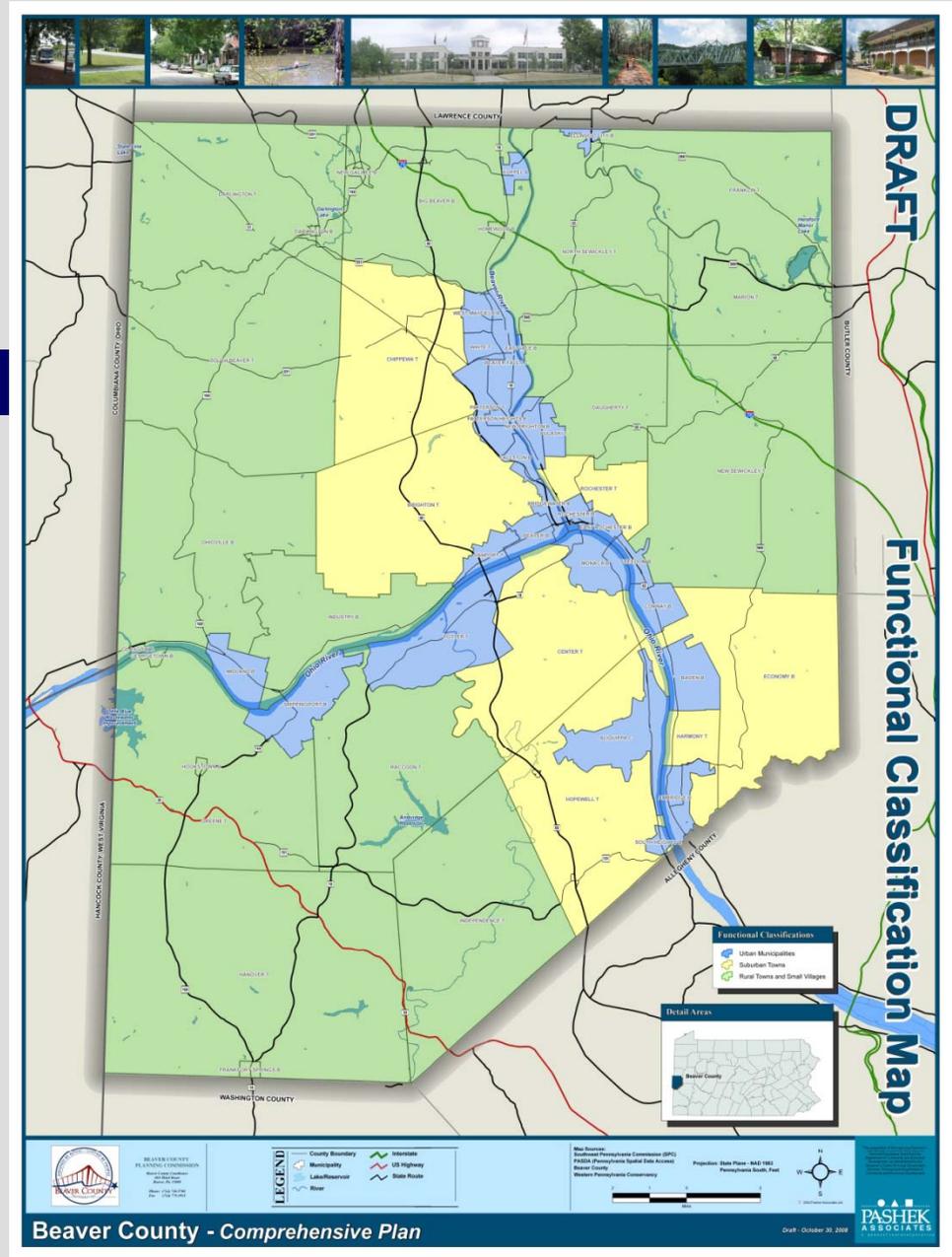
Base Map: County
divided into
three regions



Progress to Date: Land Use

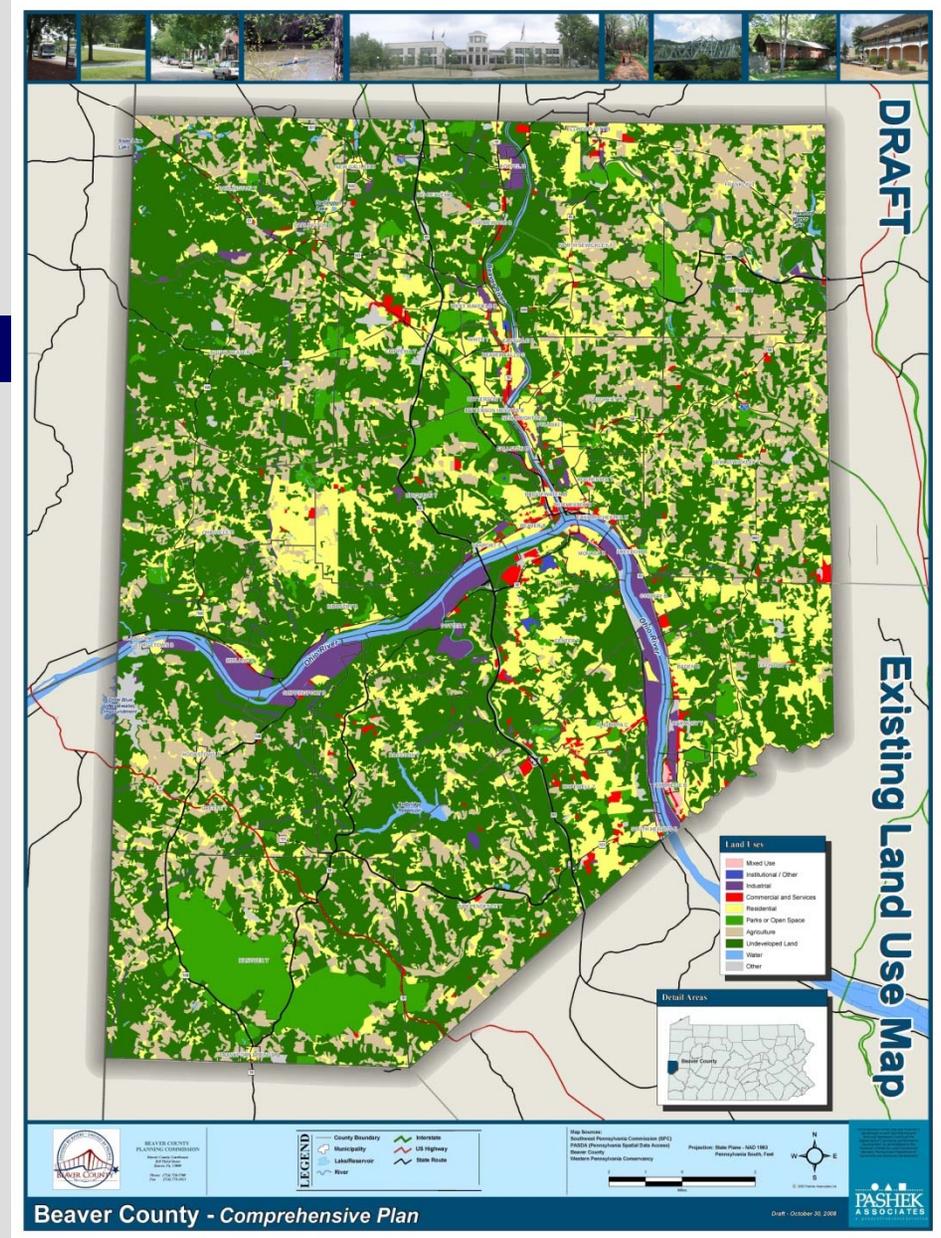
Municipalities
mapped by category:

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural Towns & Small Villages



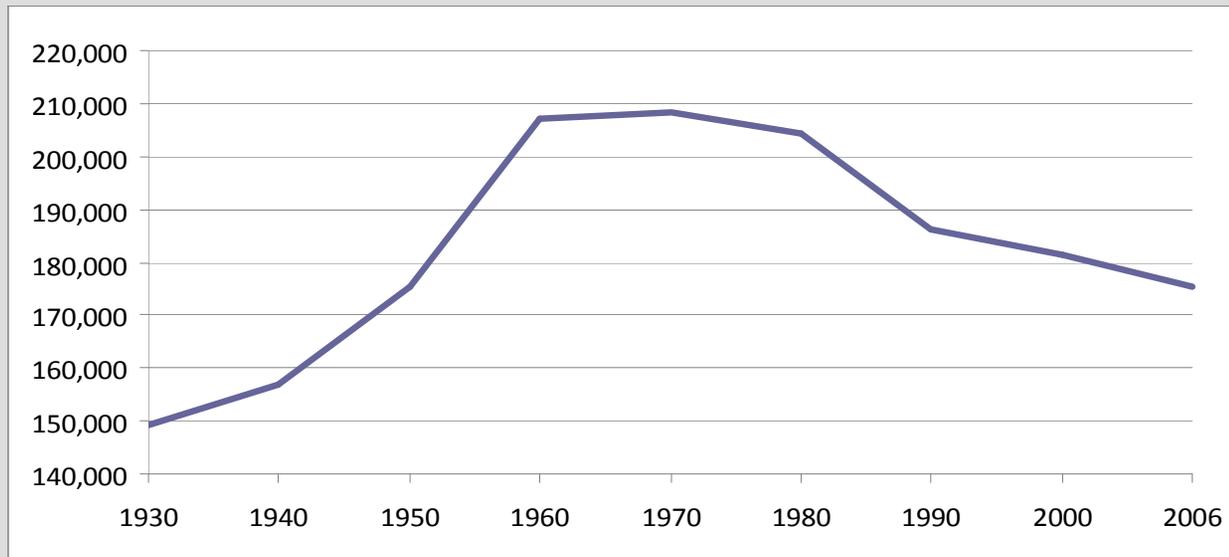
Progress to Date: Land Use

Existing Land Use:
How is land being used
now in the County?



Progress to Date: Demographics Update

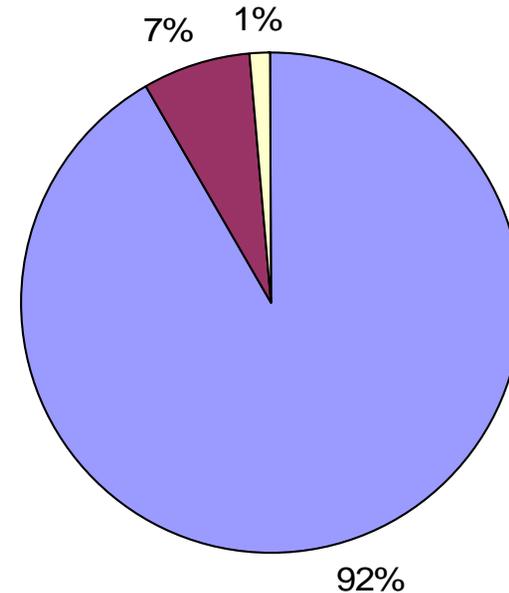
POPULATION: The County's overall population has continued to decline through 2006 and to migrate from urban to suburban or rural areas.



Progress to Date: Demographics Update

POPULATION:
Minorities make
up a small
segment of
Beaver County's
population.

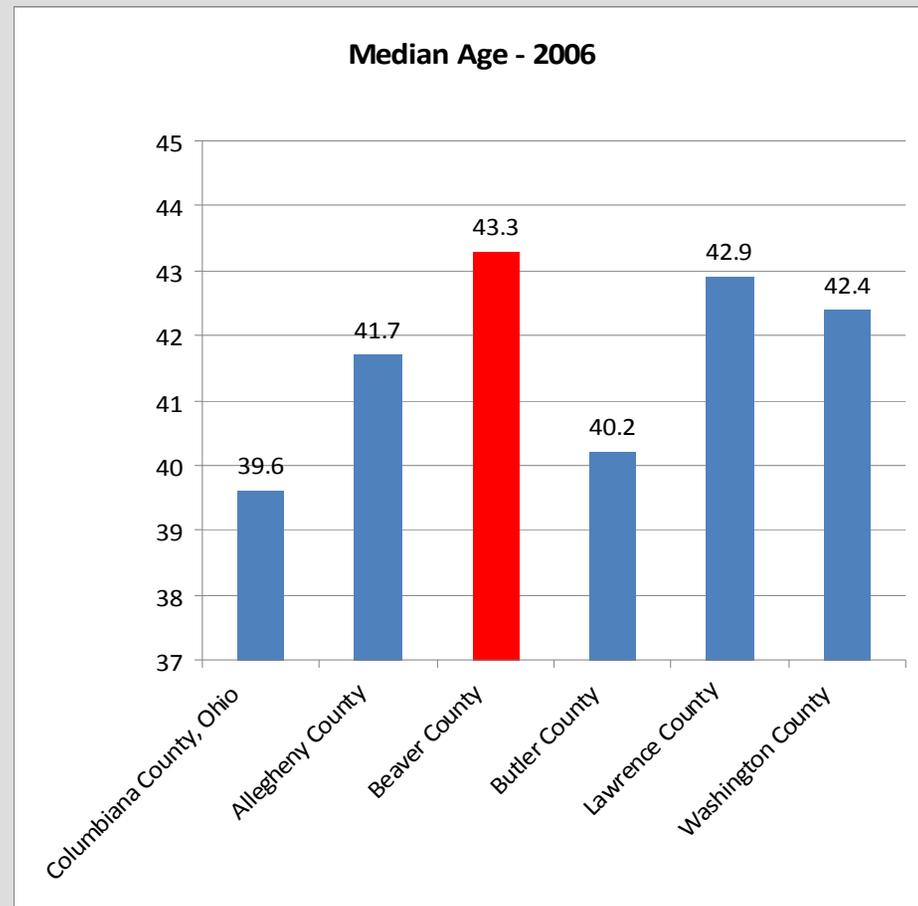
Beaver County - Racial Composition of the Population
(2006)



■ White ■ Black or African American ■ Asian, American Indian, Other

Progress to Date: Demographics Update

MEDIAN AGE:
Beaver County's
population is
comparatively old.



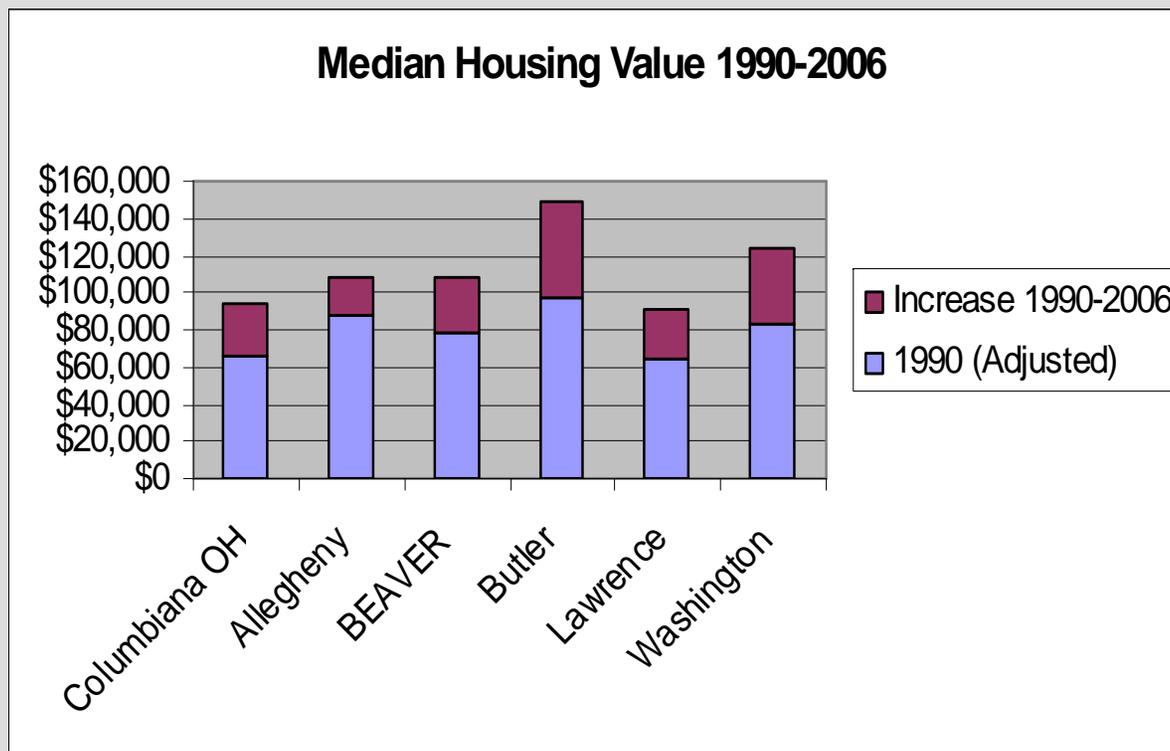
Progress to Date: Demographics Update

HOUSING UNITS: Beaver County has continued to add housing despite population losses.



Progress to Date: Demographics Update

HOUSING VALUE:



Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

Largest Employers (3rd quarter 2007):

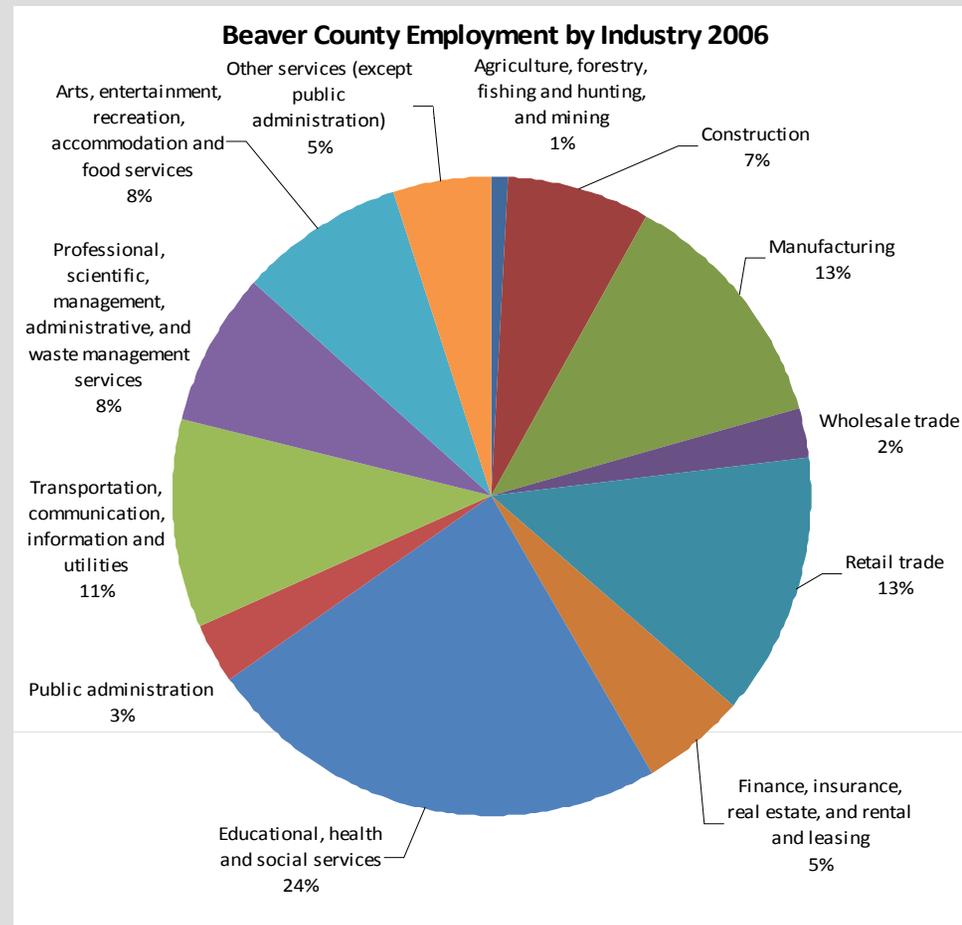
- Health care and social services
 - Heritage Valley Health System (#1)
 - Passavant Memorial Homes (#6)
 - 7 others in top 50
- Education (16 of the top 50)
- Government employers remain among the 50 largest
 - County (#2)
 - State (#13)
 - Federal (#25)

Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

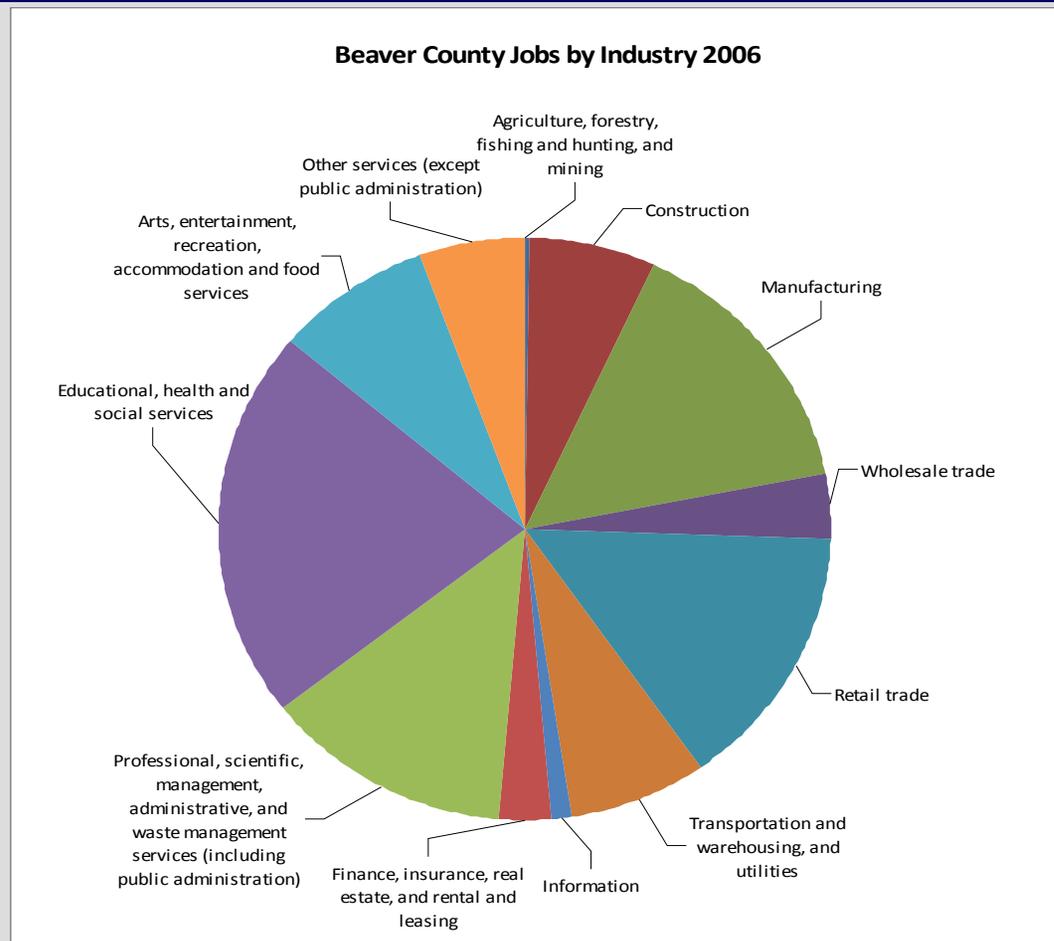


- Top County Employers:
- Manufacturing companies remain some of the largest employers, but they are decreasing.

Progress to Date: Economic Conditions



Progress to Date: Economic Conditions



Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

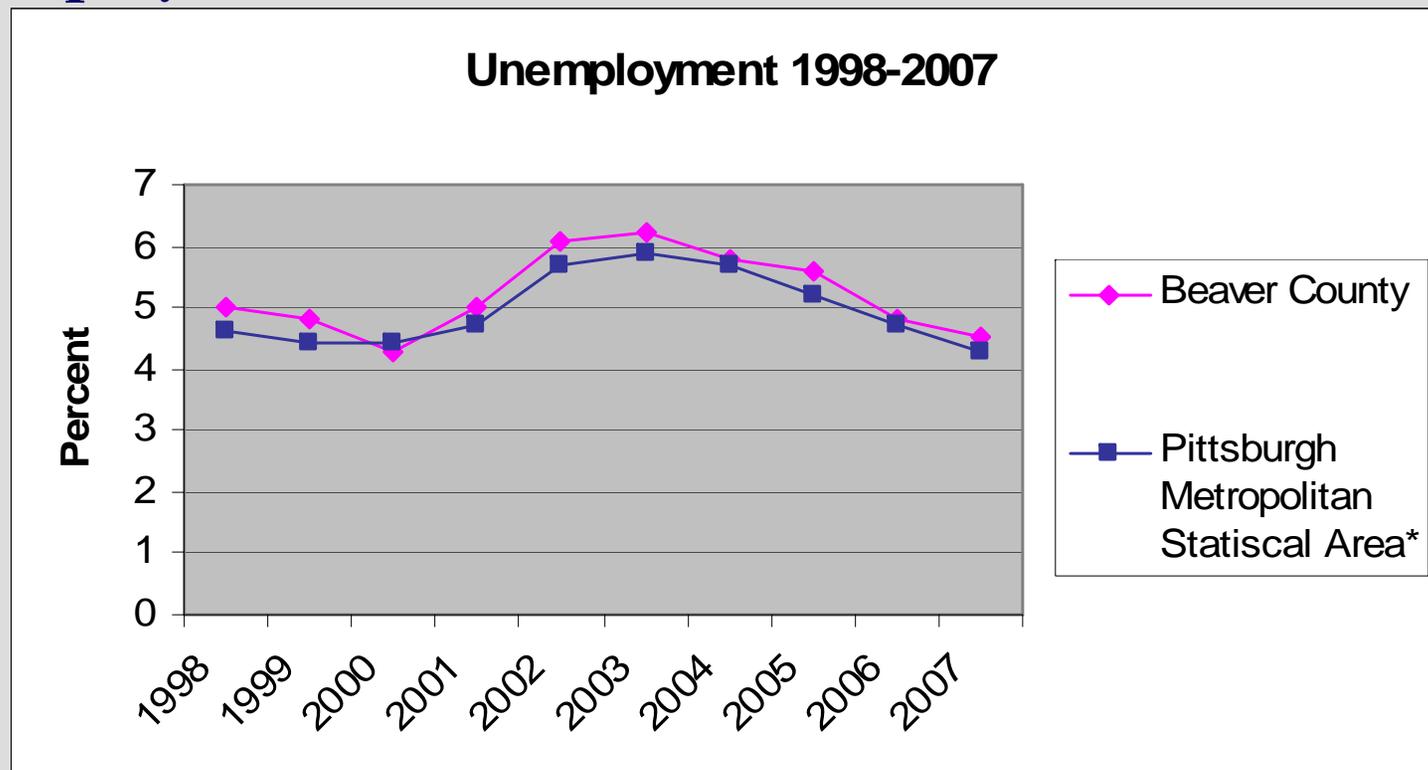
Commute Patterns:

Beaver County “exports” about 3 times as many workers as it “imports.”



Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

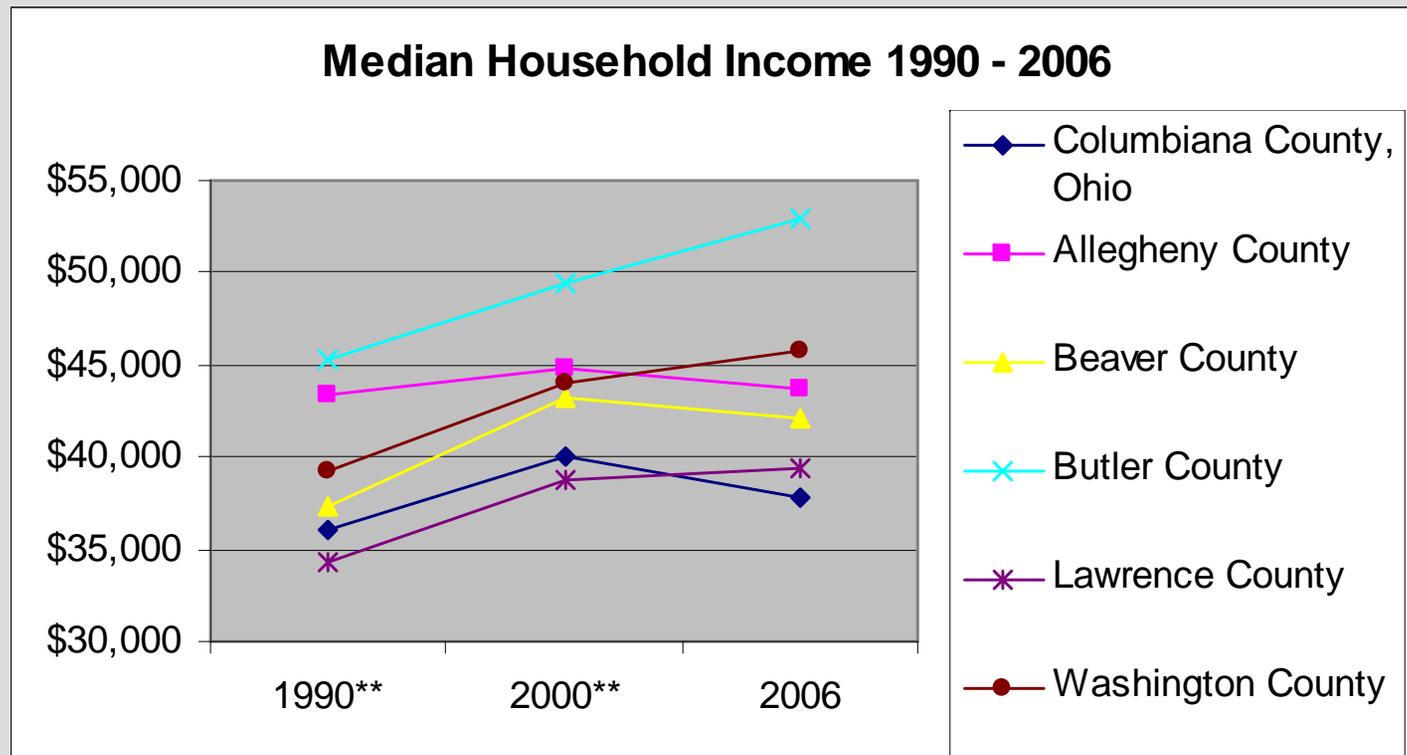
Unemployment:



* Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

Median Household Income:



** Adjusted for inflation.

Progress to Date: Economic Conditions

Challenges:

- Declining and aging population
- 42% of workers seek employment outside the County
- Unemployment is higher than the regional average
- Median household incomes are not keeping pace with inflation
- Workers need to develop skills to meet changing employment needs

Next Steps: Background Assessment

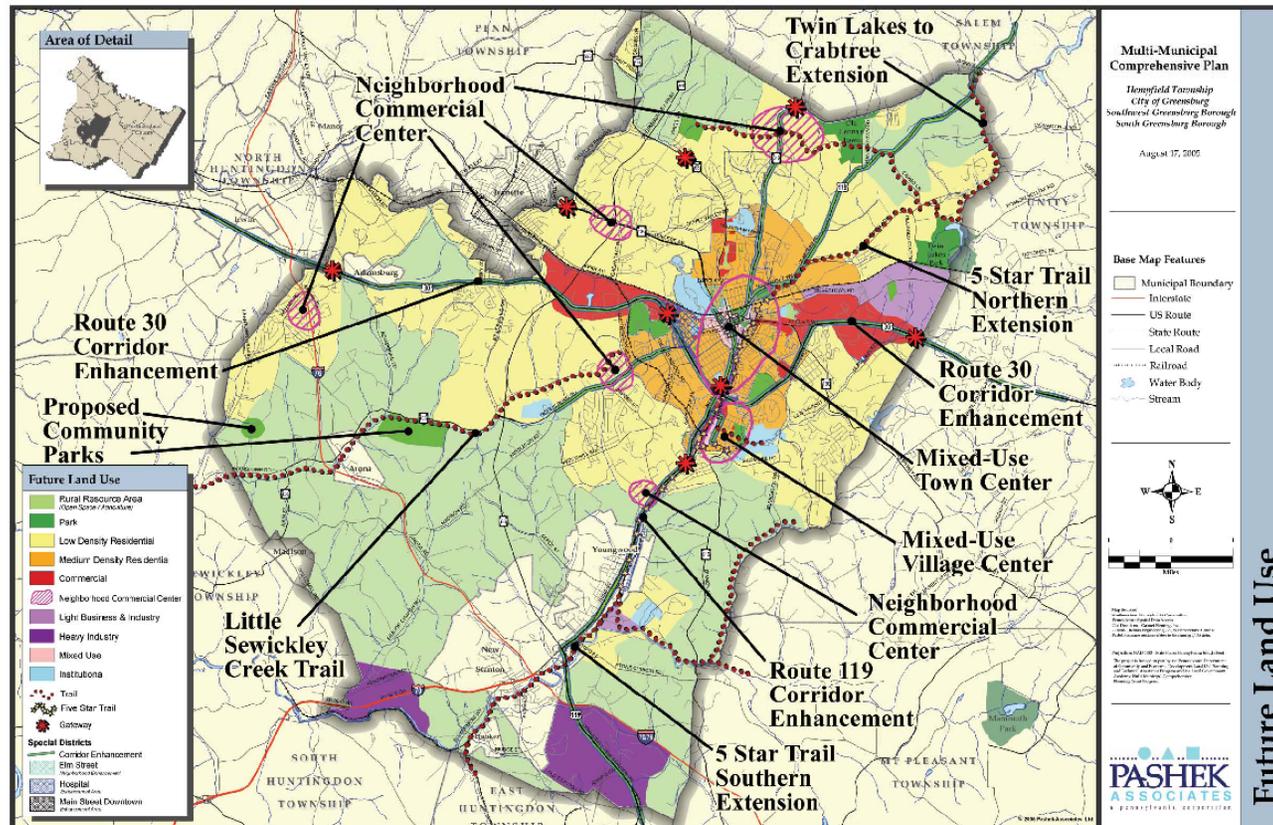
- Evaluate Public Meeting Comments
- Analyze the Survey Results
- Complete Data Collection & Analysis
- Draw Conclusions about County's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

Next Steps: Developing the Future Vision



- Develop County Goals
- Translate into County Development Objectives
- Hold 3 Public Visioning Workshops

Next Steps: Future Land Use Map

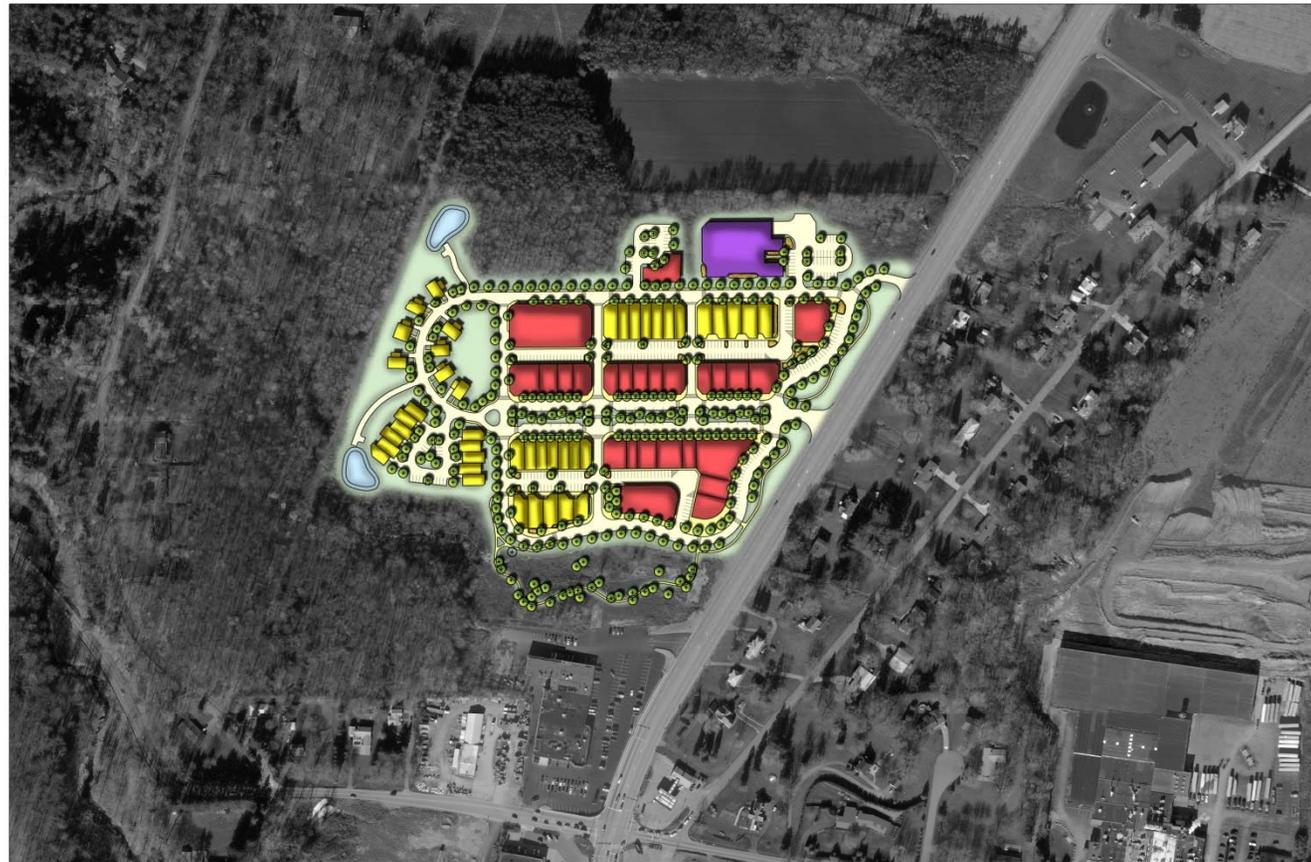


Next Steps: The Action Program

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

STRATEGY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RECORD OF ACTION
Improve communications between the elected officials, township boards, and local organizations.	H	Municipal Governing Bodies Local Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider joint purchasing of municipal and school materials.	H	Regional Planning Commission School Districts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopt / strengthen litter control laws and enforce them strictly to eliminate illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles.	M	Municipal Officials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Next Steps: The Action Program



Next Steps: The Action Program



Your Input

Questions?



Your Input

- What is it about Beaver County that you most value?
- What problems need to be improved?