

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Providing suitable, accessible community facilities and services is a principal function of local government, and one that affects the quality of life of every citizen. Therefore, the effectiveness of local government is measured to a great extent by its ability to plan for and finance these facilities and services adequately. Map 3-1 – Community Facilities shows the location of community facilities throughout the Boroughs.

GOAL: *To ensure that the Boroughs and other community service providers actively respond to the needs and demands of residents and that the delivery of those services happen in the most cost-effective manner.*

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

Objective 3-1: To provide administrative services and facilities that meet the needs and desires of current and future residents and businesses.

The Pennsylvania Constitution gives local units of government the right to operate under the laws of the Commonwealth. Local municipalities are empowered by the state to make policy decisions, levy taxes, borrow money, authorize expenditures, and direct administration of their governments by their appointees. Local municipal functions include police and fire protection, maintenance of local roads and streets, water supply, sewage collection and treatment, parking and traffic control, local planning and zoning, parks and recreation, garbage collection, health services, libraries, licensing of businesses, and code enforcement.

Borough Administration

The present type of borough government in Pennsylvania is the weak mayor form, which governed all incorporated municipalities during the 19th Century. Boroughs have a strong and dominant council, a weak executive and other elected officers with powers independent of the Council. The governing body of the borough is an elected Council. The tax collector, tax assessor and the auditors are also elected. Many other officials are appointed by Borough Council.

In more than two hundred boroughs, Lansdowne and East Lansdowne included, the chief administrative officer is a manager (or secretary) appointed by Council. The manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and enforcing the ordinances of council, relieving council from routine day-to-day administration.

Each Borough Council is supported by a manager and/or secretary, a solicitor, an engineer, a code enforcement officer, and a building inspector. In addition, the Councils' efforts are supported by a Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

Lansdowne Borough was incorporated in 1893 and East Lansdowne was incorporated in 1911. Both Boroughs have a mayor-council form of government. Borough Council appoints a solicitor and engineer as well as members of the Board of Health, Zoning Hearing Board, and Planning Commission in addition to a Tree Advisory Board, Library Board, Recreation and Park Board in Lansdowne. The chief administrative officers are the Borough Managers.

In recent years Lansdowne Borough has been transitioning from an older style town bureaucracy with one manager, one secretary and perhaps a part-time code enforcement officer, to a more modern organization capable of dealing with the many challenges facing the community. Lansdowne now employs three code enforcement officers and a secretary for the code enforcement department; a manager and full-time assistant; and a finance clerk. A part-time treasurer is currently in charge of Borough finances, however the Borough indicated the need for a full-time finance director.

Municipal Properties

Lansdowne Borough Hall sits on the southeast corner of Baltimore and Lansdowne Avenues (see picture right). Built in 1903, the two-story, 4,000 square feet structure was originally used as the Borough firehouse, a use that remained until 1984. The Baltimore Avenue facade shows the framing of two large firehouse doors. The first floor conference room houses the bicentennial quilt and a model of Lansdowne Borough circa 1910.

In addition to Borough Hall, Lansdowne also owns and operates the Twentieth Century Club on South Lansdowne Avenue, a National Register listed building, that houses the recreation department and hosts various community events. The Borough garage provides approximately 7,000 square feet of space for maintenance and storage and is located on South Union Avenue. The Borough also maintains several municipal parking lots. Currently, the Borough is looking for an appropriate site for its joint code enforcement program with Yeadon.

The East Lansdowne municipal building is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Emerson and Lexington Avenues in East Lansdowne. Built in 1920, the building was expanded to accommodate the firehouse in 1931. In 2003, the firehouse was relocated and the municipal building was partially renovated to create a meeting room and more space for Borough use.



Lansdowne Borough Hall and Borough Greene



East Lansdowne Municipal Building

Borough Services

Communication and Information Dissemination

Communication is a vital component of Borough government. Effective communication between Boroughs and local residents and business owners is integral to building and maintaining a successful community. Information relating to meeting schedules, local ordinance information, permits and fees, special events, and so on, needs to be available to community members to keep them informed of what is going on in their community. There are several ways in which a Borough can communicate with its residents including newsletters, bulletin boards, cable television, and websites. Currently, Lansdowne and East Lansdowne are doing a great job of communicating with their constituents. Both Boroughs maintain a website in addition to using newsletters, flyers, and bulletin boards to disseminate information.

A website is probably the most effective tool for communicating with residents. Although not all residents will have Internet access at their homes, access to the Web is available at the library. Having a Borough website makes things much more convenient for many residents who can visit the virtual Borough office 24 hours a day, seven days a week to find out information about community events, ordinances, community news, meeting schedules, etc. Placing this type of information on a website saves time for the public and cuts down on phone calls to the Borough office. In addition, detailed information and lengthy documents like Borough ordinances, cannot be put in a newsletter or flyer but can be easily displayed on a website where residents can easily access them.

East Lansdowne is currently developing a new website to better meet the needs of its residents and Lansdowne indicated that they would like to expand the services they offer through their website to allow residents to conduct certain borough business via the Internet like registering for community events/programs, downloading Borough forms, applying for permits, reporting complaints, and paying fees for selected Borough services. The Boroughs should evaluate which services would streamline Borough operations and be most useful for residents and update their websites accordingly.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

GISs are powerful computer-based tools that use specialized software to integrate various kinds of geographically referenced information. GIS allows data to be readily updated, analyzed, manipulated, and displayed in map formats that can help the user better understand the inter-relationships between various physical systems and aid in a variety of municipal functions such as public works, administration, and emergency preparedness.

Lansdowne Borough has indicated that they would like to use GIS to streamline and enhance Borough operations. Among the operations Lansdowne would like to utilize

Map 3-1 – Community Facilities

GIS for are sanitary and storm sewer management, code enforcement, and emergency services. Some of the benefits GIS offers in these areas are:

- GIS could be used to show the location of sanitary sewer lines for the purpose of approving digging activities;
- It could be used to show the location of storm sewers and keep track of the flow of sanitary and storm sewers;
- Housing conditions and code enforcement violations/ citations could be mapped using GIS;
- The Police Departments could use GIS to keep track of locations of reported incidents of crime, neighborhood watch areas, and patrol routes;
- Parking and speeding violations could be mapped to show patterns/concentrations;
- GIS could be used to show locations of accidents and incidence of accidents throughout the Boroughs.

In addition to the operations identified above, there are a number of other areas of local government that Lansdowne and East Lansdowne could use GIS for. GIS could be used to help the Boroughs respond to questions about zoning, tax parcel information, streets, utilities, etc, and it could help identify demographic, health and human services information, such as age groups, voting patterns, occupations, and usage of municipal services. GIS could also be a tool for economic development, identifying vacant or underutilized sites available for development and for simulating development alternatives. For public works and day-to-day management purposes, GIS could be used to map sidewalk and pavements in need of repairs and the locations of signs, signals, street trees, manhole covers, and underground and overhead utilities, and for sanitation and snow removal routing.

To get started the Boroughs should first conduct a GIS needs assessment to gain a better understanding of how they could utilize GIS to improve Borough operations. The Boroughs should also consider the type of hardware and software that will be needed to use GIS. DCPD and the Delaware County Board of Assessments can provide digital aerial photos, base maps, and selected data layers (municipal boundaries, parcels, roads, etc) to municipalities for GIS development which means significant savings for the Boroughs as the cost to replicate the information from scratch would be extremely expensive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boroughs should...

3-1 Pursue funding to pay for necessary improvements to the municipal buildings.

Funding Programs:	Local Government Capital Loan Program (DCED) PHMC Keystone Grant
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- 3-2 Lansdowne should secure a site to house the joint code enforcement program with Yeadon.
- 3-3 Continue to communicate with residents via a variety of mediums while looking for ways to enhance Borough operations through effective communication.
- 3-4 Evaluate which services to offer residents via the Internet based on which would be most useful, and update their website accordingly.

Technical Assistance: PSAB

- 3-5 Conduct a GIS needs assessment to establish which departments would use GIS and what they would use it for.

- 3-6 Install GIS software on Borough computers.

Funding: DEP GIS Grants

Technical Assistance: DEP
ESRI

- 3-7 Secure training for Borough staff to use GIS software.

Technical Assistance: ESRI

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Objective 3-2: To maintain and enhance the level of emergency service by providing adequate facilities, modern service vehicles, attracting volunteers and continuing support of high level of training for service personnel.

The Delaware County Emergency Services Department operates its Communications and Management divisions from Lima, Middletown Township. The County's enhanced "911" system, regarded as one of the nation's best, receives computer aided dispatch (CAD) calls for the entire County. Requests for police, fire, and ambulance assistance are received here, and are routed to the appropriate local department. In extreme cases, the departments of surrounding municipalities or even those outside of the County respond after being called via a common radio frequency.

The County Emergency Services Training Center in Darby Township opened in the fall of 1992, and provides course instruction, training grounds, and facilities for 78 volunteer fire companies, 33 ambulance services & 31 municipal police departments in Delaware County. Facilities include an indoor pistol range, burn building, confined space training,

three-story live fire training building, propane training area, flashover simulator, driver's training area, and six classrooms.

Police Protection

Lansdowne Police Department

The Lansdowne Police Department was established shortly after the Borough was incorporated on June 7, 1893. The department is fully staffed with 16 full-time employees consisting of 1 Chief, 1 Detective, 5 Sergeants, and 9 patrol officers. The sworn police officers are all hired under Civil Service guidelines and must pass a Civil Service examination before being hired or receiving any promotion through the ranks. All Lansdowne Police Officers are full-time officers. The Borough does not employ part-time police. Police protection is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Although the department is currently fully staffed, the Chief suggested that the addition of three more officers would provide greater flexibility of scheduling and create the ability to utilize specialty units and directed patrols without the need for overtime. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the suggested officer-to-citizen ratio for adequate police protection is 1.9 full-time officers per one thousand residents. In 2003, with 16 full-time officers, the Borough falls short of this standard with 1.45 officers per one thousand residents. The hiring of three additional officers would bring the department closer to the suggested ratio.

In order to keep abreast of innovative police techniques and for professional development, annual training is mandatory for all police officers. On average, officers receive 40 plus hours of continuing education through training classes, firearms training, and emergency vehicle operation courses.

The police building is located on the same site as Borough Hall and is fully handicapped accessible. The building has a total of ten rooms for police department use including a reception room, a meeting room, several offices, a squad room, a processing room, and holding cells. Due largely to the age of the structure there are number of maintenance concerns with the building in addition to a lack of space. The Borough suggested that the police department could use more space for a training and fitness area and for storage.

The police fleet consists of eight vehicles; three marked patrol units, one unmarked unit, one detective's vehicle, a parking enforcement officer's car, and a Chief's car. Some of the vehicles are old and equipment outdated. The Chief suggested that he would like to see vehicles replaced more frequently in order for the department to be able to function at optimal efficiency.

East Lansdowne Police Department

The East Lansdowne Police Department is located in the municipal building on Lexington Avenue. The building consists of four rooms, a Chief's office, a patrol room,

a secretary's office, and a holding room. The department employs 13 staff in total, one Chief, two full-time patrol officers, and ten part-time patrol officers. With a population of 2,586 (2000 Census) the Borough has an officer-to-citizen ratio of 1.16 full-time officers per one thousand residents, significantly less than the suggested FBI standard of 1.9 full-time officers. However, this standard does not account for part-time officers. The department provides round the clock protection to the Borough with one vehicle on patrol at all times and an additional vehicle on Friday and Saturday nights.

Municipal Police Consolidation

The thought of consolidating municipal police departments as an alternative to solving many administrative and operational problems has been considered for many years in Pennsylvania and across the country. This concept appears especially appropriate for Pennsylvania since there are nearly 1,200 municipal police departments in the state. This an exceptional number when compared to most other states which get along with three or four hundred.

In 1973, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals recommended the consolidation of police departments of less than ten full-time sworn officers. Two years later, in December 1975, Pennsylvania adopted as one of its many standards and goals for the improvement of police services in the Commonwealth, Standard 6.4 which deals with police consolidation. Standard 6.4 states in part that "where appropriate to do so, police departments should consolidate for improved efficiency or effectiveness, but in no case should an individual department member lose salary or status as a result of such consolidation." The standard further indicates in its text that every local government and every local police department should study the possibilities of combined and contract police services and where appropriate implement such services.

Without regard to the support for police consolidation just discussed, elected officials in Pennsylvania are seriously considering this approach to solving many of the problems associated with providing municipal police services. Continuously rising costs and increasing complexity force municipal officials to consider other methods of providing police services at a higher level of efficiency. A reduction of funding at the federal and state level has placed additional pressure on elected officials to scrutinize all the services they provide, including law enforcement. Over the last decade, the number of regional police departments in Pennsylvania has jumped 130 percent, according to the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Advantages of Municipal Police Consolidation

Improvement in the uniformity and consistency of police enforcement – Policy, regulations, and local law governing police practices and performance often vary greatly from community to community. A regional force would require uniform policies and procedures increasing consistency.

Improvements in the coordination of law enforcement services – It is not uncommon within any given area of Pennsylvania for five or six police officers to be investigating a series of criminal offenses all committed by the same person when the investigation could be handled by one officer. They must do so simply because the offenses are committed in different political subdivisions. It is also not uncommon for each of those five or six municipal police departments to maintain their own radio dispatch systems, records system and other support services when one would be sufficient. Consolidation improves coordination of police efforts.

Improvement in the distribution and deployment of police personnel – Police personnel should be assigned to duty according to the highs and lows of police activity. If forty percent of the crime and police activity occurs during a particular period of time each day (on average), forty percent of the police patrol force should be working during that time. In a police department employing five officers, little more can be accomplished than simply placing one officer on duty each shift of the day. Therefore, in an area where there are five or six small police departments with the need to have at least one officer on duty at all times, five or six officers may be patrolling an area that could be adequately covered by one or two during that time of the day. Merging of police departments through consolidation results in better use of police personnel.

Improvement in training and personnel efficiency – Providing proper and necessary police training can be very difficult in smaller police departments. Sending an officer to police training sessions often means not providing police patrol during certain periods of the day. Therefore, exposure to necessary training often does not occur. Properly trained police officers are much more efficient in their work and a higher quality police service results. Consolidating police services opens the door to improving training and efficiency.

Improved management and supervision – Because of limitations in time and personnel, police chiefs in smaller police departments often function in the capacity of a patrol officer and are unable to devote the necessary effort to developing sound management systems. Therefore, developing and implementing procedures that would result in maximum productivity and return of the tax dollar spent are often placed in the background. Experience has shown that increased efficiency in police department management has been a positive result from regional police programs.

Reduced Costs – The cost of providing police services is lower in communities served by consolidated police departments. A 1989 study by the former Department of Community Affairs found that combining departments can save municipalities as much as twenty-four percent the cost of running their own police forces. Generally, lower costs result from the need for fewer officers, fewer vehicles, fewer ranking positions and fewer police headquarters facilities.

Improved Career Enhancement Opportunities for Police Officers – The larger police departments resulting from police consolidation provide greater opportunities for police officers to receive a wider range of training and opportunities to specialize in such areas

as criminal investigation, youth services, traffic enforcement, and crime prevention activities. The potential for advancement and higher salaries is also greater in consolidated departments.

Disadvantages of Municipal Police Consolidation

Loss of Local Control – In the traditional law enforcement situation where the municipality creates and maintains its own police department, the entire governing body is often directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the police department. In Boroughs, the mayor is designated Police Commissioner and is delegated the responsibility of overseeing the operation of the police department. In consolidated or regional police departments, the municipality appoints one or more of its elected officials to a Regional Police Board or Police Commission which is responsible for the effective operation of the police department. The municipality's representative(s) is its liaison to the police department through which all communications flow. Each community's control over the police department is diluted by the necessity to get general agreement on policies and finances.

Loss of citizen contact – Consolidating police departments often means a transfer of personnel from one jurisdiction to another because of a need to reestablish patrol zones and districts. Therefore, sometimes an attitude develops that the citizens of a participating municipality will not have as close a relationship with the police department.

Loss of local nonenforcement services – Police officers in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the country perform many duties that cannot really be considered police functions but are often very much a part of the job of a police officer in the community. Collecting monies from parking meters, delivering messages and communications for other municipal officials, raising and lowering the flag, running errands, and issuing licenses and permits are some of them. Consequently, when police consolidation takes place these services are usually discontinued and the municipality must look for other ways of performing them.

Fire and Ambulance Service

Lansdowne Fire Company

Lansdowne Fire Company provides primary fire protection and emergency medical service (EMS) to the Borough of Lansdowne. They also provide mutual aid fire and EMS service to the boroughs of Clifton Heights, East Lansdowne and Yeadon and Upper Darby Township. They provide coverage using two engines, one ladder, one rescue, an ambulance and one chief's car. The members of the Lansdowne Fire Company are all volunteers, and receive no pay for responding to calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The membership is composed of about 50 dedicated people from both Lansdowne Borough and the surrounding communities. It is the goal of the Lansdowne Fire Company to continue to provide fire and EMS service to the Borough and surrounding communities for many years to come.

East Lansdowne Fire Company

The East Lansdowne Fire Company was organized in 1911 and provides fire protection and emergency medical service to the Borough. Originally, the firehouse was located in the municipal building. In 2003, the fire company relocated to a site across the street from the municipal building at 164 Lexington Avenue. The company provides fire protection using two engines, two ambulances, and a multi-purpose vehicle. Currently, there are a total of 30 active volunteers serving the company.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boroughs should...

- 3-8 Continue to support the high level of service supplied by the County Emergency Services Department.
- 3-9 Evaluate staffing needs of the police departments to establish whether or not additional officers or staff members should be hired.

- 3-10 Lansdowne Police Department should pursue funding for the renovation, rehabilitation and possible expansion (or relocation) of the police department building.

Funding Program: Local Government Capital Loan Program

- 3-11 Consider the feasibility of creating a consolidated, multi-municipal police force to reduce the cost of providing police services.

Funding: Regional Police Assistance Program (DCED)
Shared Municipal Services Program (DCED)

Technical Assistance: DCED

LIBRARY SERVICE

Objective 3-3: Provide the highest level of library service to area residents.

The Lansdowne Public Library provides library service to Lansdowne residents and residents of surrounding communities. The library is a member of the Delaware County Library System (DCLS) and participates in the “Access Pennsylvania” statewide database project. These programs help prevent duplication of library efforts, thereby reducing the costs of certain programs and materials. Through the DCLS, patrons can take advantage of the inter-library loan program with a linked card catalogue system. This makes the entire County collection accessible to residents, usually within 48 hours. Another benefit of the inter-library loan program is that it eliminates the need for expansive storage spaces to house a complete literary collection.

Lansdowne Public Library

The Lansdowne Public Library was organized on November 28, 1899 by a group of interested citizens working with members of the Lansdowne School Board. The Library's first home was in one room of the Highland Avenue School located at Baltimore and Highland Avenues. At the time of its formal grand opening, the Library's collection consisted of 1,345 books. Six years later the Library's collection had grown to 3,190 books and its membership had reached 676. As a result, the library moved to a larger facility – a renovated baker's shop on a corner of the school grounds. On March 13, 1929 the Lansdowne Borough Council, under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania, assumed all responsibility for maintaining a free, non-sectarian library supported by a tax levy of 1/2 mill.

The Library moved once again on April 17, 1934. This time the Library moved into an old ice cream parlor at 47 South Lansdowne Avenue. On January 12, 1942, the Library Board of Trustees and the Lansdowne Borough Council entered into agreement to discontinue the separate levy of 1/2 mill. Instead the Library would receive an

appropriation from the Borough budget. The amount of the appropriation would be determined annually according to the estimated financial needs of the library. Both the Library Board and the Borough Council reaffirmed this agreement on October 20, 1970. Eight years later at the general election of November 7, 1978, the voters of Lansdowne passed Ordinance #973 authorizing Borough Council to create a Library fund up to 3 mills so that "it may continue its current level of support to the Lansdowne Library."

TABLE 3-1
LANSDOWNE PUBLIC LIBRARY -
HOURS OF OPERATION

Days	Hours
Monday - Thursday	9am - 9pm
Friday	9am - 6pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm (July and August: 10am - 2pm)
Sunday	1pm - 4pm (July and August: Closed)

Source: Lansdowne Borough Public Library, 2003.

The Friends of the Lansdowne Public Library (FLPL), an organization important to the life of the Library, was formed in October 1970. The mission of the FLPL was "to encourage, develop, and promote community awareness of the services and opportunities for improvements of the Lansdowne Public Library." This wonderful organization continues to support and promote the library.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new library building took place on Saturday June 19, 1982. The new location, 55 South Lansdowne Avenue, was conveniently located next door to the old Library building. When it came time to move from one place to the next, a human chain was formed and material was passed from one hand to the next. The Library move occurred in November of 1982 with the official dedication following on October 15, 1983.

The Lansdowne Library was the first library of the Delaware County Library System to be automated. The Library's collection was outfitted with barcodes in order to be scanned out to patrons and then scanned back in upon return. The automated circulation system was up and running in 1990.

In 2000, the Lansdowne Public Library received a grant supported in part through a contract with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Department of Education, with funds provided from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. The grant was earmarked to renovate the interior of the Library. The renovation not only provides the community with a brighter and more accessible library, but also with shelving and other furnishings that allow for greater expansion of print and non-print collections.

Today, the Lansdowne Public Library has over 8,500 registered Lansdowne borrowers, the collection has grown to over 56,000 cataloged print and non-print items, 5 public access Internet stations, 2 public non-internet computers and 2 children's CD-ROM computers. Thanks to the Delaware County Library System and the State of Pennsylvania, patrons have in-library and remote access to databases that offer genealogical, literary, scientific, business, medical, school-related information and more.

GENERAL LIBRARY STATISTICS

Number of catalogued items	61,437
Books per capita	6
Registration	5,150
Circulation	103,055
Circulation per capita	9
Local government income	\$241,076.00
State government income	\$65,463.00
Total operating income	\$343,430.00
Income per capita	\$31.10

Source: Lansdowne Public Library, 2004.

Although the library recently underwent interior renovations, the Borough indicated that the air conditioning system needs to be replaced and the building will need a new roof within the next two years. Also, space is beginning to become an issue and the library will need to expand in the coming years to accommodate additional materials and programs. According to the American Library Association's publication *Planning the Small Public Library Building*, a library should contain a minimum gross floor area of 12,089 square feet per 12,000 people.

Lansdowne's population of 11,044 (2000 Census) equates to an 11,125 square foot spatial requirement. Currently the library building has 5,699 square feet of floor space – little more than 50% of the minimum gross floor area suggested for a community of Lansdowne's size. Furthermore, this does not account for the fact that the library also provides service to surrounding communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Boroughs should...

- 3-12 Continue to support the high level of library service provided by the Lansdowne Public Library.
- 3-13 Consider potential options for expanding current library facilities to increase the space available for new materials, special events, and programs.

EDUCATION

Objective 3-4: To improve level of educational services available to Borough residents.

William Penn School District

The William Penn School District (WPSD), comprising six boroughs, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Yeadon, Darby, Aldan, and Colwyn, was created in 1972 as a result of a

Pennsylvania State mandate. The district has ten school facilities and serves approximately 5,520 students. Of the ten school district facilities, three are located within the Boroughs, Penn Wood High School, Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, and the East Lansdowne Basic Magnet School.

The district is served by 403 teachers and 45 teacher's aides. It also employs six speech therapists, five psychologists, eleven counselors and 45 lunchtime monitors. Schooling is offered to children from kindergarten through grade 12.

Student enrollment projections are important when considering the carrying capacity of the school district facilities. The 10-year enrollment projections for the WPSD show an overall decrease in student population, approximately 580 students, over the next ten years. Enrollment is projected to decrease from 5,520 (in 2003) to 4,936 by the year 2012. Therefore, current capacity is expected to be adequate to accommodate the student population for the next ten years.

The local property tax is the largest source of revenue for schools in the district. Approximately 70% of the local property tax is levied by the WPSD. Property taxes account for 57% of school funding, with 36% from the State, 3% from Federal funds and the remaining 4% from other funds. The school district also subsidizes its budget with revenues from grants.

District Curriculum

The district offers a variety of courses and programs. The Before and After School Foundations program is held at Walnut Street Elementary, Park Lane Elementary, and Penn Wood West in Darby Borough, and the Evans Computer Magnet School in Yeadon, in addition to grant funded programs of "Caring Community" at Evans and "Responsive Classroom" at Aldan Elementary School. Extensive curricular assistance programs are held during the year and over the summer in reading, writing, and mathematics, and SAT preparation. The Penn Wood High School in Lansdowne offers five Advanced Placement (AP) courses, numerous electives and vo-tech options for students. Prior to graduation, all seniors are required to complete a senior project that assists the school and the community-at-large. Academically talented classes are conducted on the elementary and junior high level. PSSA teacher-conducted tutoring is offered in all schools for students below proficiency and early intervention reading programs for non-special education students take place in all elementary schools throughout the year. Numerous special programs are available for special education students, which make up twenty percent of the district's enrollment.

Technology is fully integrated into all district facilities and activities. Classrooms are equipped with computers and high-speed Internet connections in all high school classrooms, most junior high classrooms and elementary settings and laptop computers for distance learning are available and used.

While the tax base earmarked for funding schools in the WPSD has declined over the past decade, school enrollment has increased from 4,778 students in 1990 to 5,520 students in 2002, an 18% increase. The racial composition of the district's students has changed drastically since 1985, when 68% of the students were White and 32% were African-American and other races. In 2002, only 17% of the students were White, 77% were African-American, and 2% were Other Races.

Private and Parochial Schools

There are also three additional schools in the area. St. Philomena is a catholic elementary school located at Baltimore and Highland Avenues that provides education for students in grades K-8. The Lansdowne Friends School, located at Lansdowne and Stewart Avenues, is a private school providing education for students in grades K-6. St. Cyril of Alexandria catholic school is located in East Lansdowne and provides education for grades K-8.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The school districts should...

- 3-14 Design policies to attract and maintain a high-quality teaching work force reflective of the community to prepare students who can meet the demands of the 21st Century.
- 3-15 Support efforts to increase state funding for schools.
- 3-16 Take appropriate actions to lower and/or alter the student/teacher ratio.
- 3-17 Ensure that teachers are well prepared in content and effective methods of instruction and are well versed in research about effective learning and teaching.

UTILITIES

Objective 3-5: To ensure continued availability of necessary public services such as sewage treatment, water supply, and solid waste disposal.

Sanitary Sewers – Act 537 Planning

The boroughs of East Lansdowne and Lansdowne are completely sewered. East Lansdowne estimates its sanitary sewer system's age at 75 years old, and Lansdowne estimates that portions of its system are as old as the town. Most of the sewer lines are composed of terracotta pipe (all of East Lansdowne is terra cotta) or cast iron. Problems characteristic of an aging conveyance system have arisen in these boroughs.

Lansdowne and East Lansdowne
Comprehensive Plan

Both boroughs currently recognize the County's 2002 Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan as their Official Municipal Act 537 Sewer Plan. This Plan incorporates the results of individual municipal infiltration and inflow¹ (I&I) studies prepared by each of the municipalities and makes recommendations for the repair and future maintenance of each of the systems. Other general recommendations include implementation of a downspout disconnection program and consideration of a municipal flow-metering program. Specific recommendations for the boroughs include complete reconstruction of trunk sewers at specified locations and initiating a methodical pipe-cleaning program. Through adoption of the sewage facilities plan, the municipalities are committed to a long-term program implementing the corrective actions identified in the individual I&I studies.

Lansdowne's sanitary sewer system is tributary to the Darby Creek Joint Authority (DCJA) system, which in turn is tributary to the DELCORA (Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority) sewer system. Wastewater flows from the DCJA are currently pumped to the City of Philadelphia, for treatment at the Philadelphia Southwest Pollution Control Plant (PSWPCP) via the Darby Creek Pump Station (Calcon Hook Road, Darby Township) which is owned and operated by DELCORA.

East Lansdowne is part of a multi-municipal agreement between five Delaware County municipalities and the Philadelphia Water Department, sending its sewage through Upper Darby Township's system which connects directly to the City of Philadelphia at a metered interceptor, integrating the flows in to the City system, for eventual treatment at the PSWPCP.

During 1997, the previously mentioned I&I study was performed in Lansdowne Borough. The study indicated the Boroughs' system is in need of manhole inserts, manhole repair/replacement, chemical grouting, slip lining, and 980 linear feet of sewer replacement. Refer to Table 2 below. An I/I study was not undertaken for East Lansdowne as part of the Act 537 planning process. This study could be performed and would help identify areas in the Boroughs' system warranting repair.

¹ Inflow is defined as the water discharged into a sewer system including illegal service connections from such sources as roof leaders, sump pumps, cellar and yard drains, foundation drains, drains from springs and swampy areas, faulty manhole covers, storm waters, surface runoff, or streams. The ideal standard for inflow is zero gallons per day (gpd). Theoretically, these sources are controllable and should not be discharging to the sewer system.

Source: Delaware County Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, Municipal & Authority Inflow and Infiltration Study Summary Report, DCPD, 2000

**TABLE 3-2
RECOMMENDED I/I REDUCTION PROGRAM**

	Sewer System (linear feet)	Inserts (each)	Manhole Repairs/ Replace (each)	Sewer Replacement (linear feet)	Chemical Grouting (linear feet)	Sewer Slip Lining (linear feet)
Lansdowne	136,900	120	200	980	950	3,300
East Lansdowne	no study	no study	no study	no study	no study	no study

Source: Delaware County Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update, DCPD 2002.

The County's Act 537 plan, which normalized gallons/cost across all municipalities in the study area, determined that implementation of the recommended corrective action plan could result in a significant reduction in flows into the regional sewer system. The annual estimated rehabilitation costs based on a 5-year program period, as well as the estimated return on investment 20 years is illustrated in Table 3.

**TABLE 3-3
BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF I/I REDUCTION PROGRAM**

	Estimated I/I Reduction (gal/day)	Estimated I/I Cost	Cost per I/I Gallon Removed	Annual Cost/EDU	Investment Return (20 years)
Lansdowne	529,000	\$471.513	\$0.89	\$23.39	26.1%
East Lansdowne	no study	no study	no study	no study	no study

Source: Delaware County Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update, DCPD 2002.

Lansdowne currently pays DCJA for its share of the total flows into the system based on a proportionate share of EDUs. This annual billing share is approximately \$640,000/yr., which in turn is passed on to municipal customers at a rate of \$3.72 per 1,000 gallons discharged. East Lansdowne currently pays the PSWPCP for its sewage disposal costs. The cost to municipal customers is \$85/yr. for residential use; business rates depend on the usage. If the Boroughs were to implement the corrective action plans recommended in the County's Act 537 Plan Update, metering may be necessary to document the associated flow reductions. In order to ensure that the Boroughs are credited for these reductions in flow, it may also be necessary to work with DCJA to amend its agreement with tributary municipalities to allow billing to take place on a metered basis.

Water Service

Aqua Pennsylvania (formerly Philadelphia Suburban Water Company) is responsible for providing the Borough's water supply. Aqua Pennsylvania is supplied with raw water from Crum Creek and the Springton Reservoir, and is supplemented by other out-of-County sources as well. The water company has adequate supplies to serve the long-term needs of the Borough's residents.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling

While municipal solid waste disposal is a service provided at no charge by the County to all municipalities, the various methods and associated local costs for its' collection can differ. East Lansdowne currently contracts with Waste Management for twice-weekly collection of residential waste. The cost to the Borough for this service is \$81,635 in 2004 (\$79,258 in 2003). In turn, the Borough bills homeowners \$85/yr. Lansdowne Borough has its own municipal department for collection of residential waste, which had a budget of \$700,000 and billed homeowners \$180.00 in 2003. Both boroughs bill homeowners as a separate fee, that is, it is not rolled in with the regular tax bill. Bulk waste collection as well as commercial collection is privately contracted. All residential and commercial waste is taken to a County transfer station for subsequent transport to the American Refuel plant in the City of Chester, where it is incinerated. The incinerator ash is subsequently transported to a County-owned landfill in Berks County.

Disposal of waste requiring special handling, including infectious, pathological, and chemotherapeutic waste, is not the responsibility of either the Borough or the County. Each producer or processor of such waste is responsible for the storage, transport, and disposal of these materials in accordance with their respective operating permits, as issued by DEP.

PA Act 101 (Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act of 1988) requires municipal curbside source separation and collection in municipalities with a population of over 5,000. As such Lansdowne has a curbside recycling program but East Lansdowne does not (2000 pop. 11,044 and 2586, respectively). Lansdowne collects clear glass, newspapers, aluminum, tin, and bi-metallic cans; In addition to these curbside collections, Lansdowne Borough has one igloo drop-off center in the Borough Parking lot (12 E. Baltimore Ave.) for the collection of brown, clear and green glass. East Lansdowne does not have an igloo-recycling program.

There are presently no Delaware County Solid Waste Authority (DCSWA) igloos in the boroughs for aluminum, but the Solid Waste Authority could provide one, given a week's notice. Independent contractors could be retained for collection of additional recyclable items. (There are also igloos and recycling drop-off for all types of recyclable materials at a private company in Lansdowne, not affiliated with DCSWA, the Accurate Recycling Corp. at 508 E. Baltimore Ave.

The DCSWA reports that for the year 2002, Lansdowne Borough delivered 4,989 tons of solid waste to the County's transfer station and recycled 1,672 tons of waste, a recycling rate of 24.6%. The sum of these two tonnages equals the total municipal solid waste for the Borough, 6,661 tons. East Lansdowne Borough delivered 1,494 tons of solid waste to the County's transfer station and recycled 399 tons of waste, a recycling rate of 0.6%. Its total municipal solid waste for 2002 was then 1,504 tons. Table 4 shows detailed solid waste statistics and facts for 2002.

**TABLE 3-4
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS**

	Lansdowne	East Lansdowne	Combined
2000 Population	11,044	2,586	13,630
Curbside Program?	Y	N	N/A
Recycling Rate	24.60%	0.60%	20.20%
Total Trash	4,989.25	1,494.29	6,484
Total Recycling	1,672.11	398.88	1,637
Total Municipal Solid Waste	6,616.36	1,503.95	8,120.31
Recycling Includes			
Igloo (drop-off) glass	115.4	0	115.4
Curbside Paper	474.76	0	474.76
Mixed plastics (commercial)	12.3	0	12.3
Yard waste	373.69	214.88	588.57
All commercial	686.53	396.68	1,083.21
Curbside glass and cans*	943.41	0	943.41
Contracted residential waste hauler (2003)	MUNICIPAL	WASTE MANAGEMENT	N/A
Times per week residential waste collected (2003)	2	2	N/A
Cost of service to Borough (per year)	2003 DEPT. BUDGET: \$700,000	2004 CONTRACT: \$81,635 (up from \$79,258 in 2003)	N/A
Cost Borough bills homeowner (per year)	\$180.00	\$85.00	N/A

*includes clear glass, bimetallic, tin, and aluminum cans

Source: DCPD, 2003.

The County currently conducts a regular household hazardous waste collection program, which permits drop-off of designated items several times a year at various County facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public services such as sewage disposal, water supply and solid waste disposal are critical to public health. Therefore, in order to ensure the continued availability of these services it is recommended that

The Boroughs should...

- 3-18 Continue implementing the corrective action plans specified in the Boroughs' 1996 I&I studies included by reference in the Act 537 plan.

Funding: DEP Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Grants

Lansdowne and East Lansdowne
Comprehensive Plan

- Technical Assistance: PA Department of Environmental Protection,
Wastewater Operator Outreach Program
- 3-19 Consider implementation of a sewage flow-metering program to ensure return on investment from implementation of the corrective action plan.
- Funding: Community Development Block Grant
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority
(PENNVEST)
- Technical Assistance: PA Department of Environmental Protection,
Wastewater Operator Outreach Program
- 3-20 Work closely with the Aqua Pennsylvania to ensure continued water service to the Borough residents.
- 3-21 East Lansdowne should consider performing an I/I study to identify areas in their collection system in need of repair.
- Funding: Community Development Block Grant
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority
(PENNVEST)
- Technical Assistance: PA Department of Environmental Protection,
Wastewater Operator Outreach Program
- 3-22 Consider working with the County Recycling Coordinator to arrange for the collection of aluminum at the Borough igloo drop-off centers, or with private collection firms for additional recyclable materials such as plastics.
- Technical Assistance: Delaware County Solid Waste Authority
- 3-23 Lansdowne should consider expanding its curbside recycling program to include more materials such as plastics and colored glass. East Lansdowne should consider working with the County Recycling Coordinator to investigate the potential for igloos at a publicly accessible Borough location.
- Technical Assistance: Delaware County Solid Waste Authority
- 3-24 East Lansdowne should continue to pursue its practice of competitively bidding its twice-weekly collection service, when its current contract with Waste Management expires.
- Technical Assistance: Delaware County Solid Waste Authority

