

Activity 2: Group Invitation

Read the following description of Keystone Township. Develop a community vision for future land use in your community. Use the Community Visioning Worksheet, Comprehensive Plan Considerations and the Toolbox Vocabulary. You are welcome to offer additional recommendations. Prepare your plan on a flip chart and use a map to draw growth boundaries and show recommendations.

Description

Located in the ridge and valley province of Pennsylvania, Keystone Township is beginning to feel land development pressures from local and outside sources. The township is located on the north side of the Nimby Valley. The northern tier of the township consists of a wooded ridge rich with hardwood forests and wildlife.

The East and West Branches of the Little Nimby Creek flow off of the ridge. The main stem of the Nimby Creek enters the township in the northeast through a gap in the ridge and flows southwest across the township. Both branches of the Little Nimby Creek are exceptional value streams. The Nimby Creek is high quality with some sediment problems from the surrounding farmland. Fishermen from across the state and nation visit these streams to fish for wild brook and brown trout.

The majority of the township is productive farmland. In the past, soil and rainfall had been excellent for growing crops but the last few years, drought conditions have persisted and water shortages could be possible.

The town of Gatesburg was originally a farming town providing support services and supplies to farmers. It is located at the junction of major highways PA 8 and PA 15. The East Branch of the Nimby Creek joins the main stem of the Nimby Creek in town. Gatesburg is an attractive site for high tech industries because of the abundance of high quality water, gentle topography and access to Interstate 99, just south of town.

The small borough of Portland is located on the main stem of the Nimby Creek. The borough grew up adjacent to a cement plant which used the high quality limestone found on the valley floor. There is a large limestone quarry. The plant closed recently, leaving many people unemployed. The plant and quarry have been abandoned.

There are small community parks in both boroughs. People enjoy biking trails that could connect to the state parks.