

Haverford Township Draft Comprehensive Plan

**Urban Research and
Development Corp.**

Bethlehem, PA

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What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- The Plan is a guide for the development and conservation of Haverford Township over the next 10 to 15 years. It is not a regulation by itself, but is intended to provide the rationale for zoning updates.
- The Plan includes background information about existing conditions and trends, mapping and recommended policies.
- The Comprehensive Plan primarily addresses: 1) Land Use and Housing, 2) Transportation, 3) Community Facilities and Services, 4) Natural Feature Conservation, and 5) Ways to Carry Out the Plan.

What are the benefits of a Comp. Plan?

Addressing land uses in coordination with transportation issues, to avoid traffic problems;

Avoiding conflicts between different types of development, such as not allowing intense business uses adjacent to a residential neighborhood;

Considering development policies in a comprehensive and coordinated manner for an entire area, as opposed to piecemeal review of individual parcels or lots;

Recommending ways that natural features should be preserved and conserved; and

Suggesting improvements that should be the basis of future grant applications.

Public Participation

- ❑ Citizen Survey was completed.
- ❑ A Plan Committee of Township officials and residents has been providing direction for the Plan.
- ❑ Multiple interviews were conducted of persons knowledgeable about different aspects of the Plan.
- ❑ There will also be at least two additional major public meetings, in addition to future meetings before any zoning changes would be adopted.
- ❑ Public comments can be provided to compplan@havtwp.org



Zoom Meeting

- Tuesday Sept. 28th at 7 pm, there will be a Zoom online meeting to ask for Comprehensive Plan input. It will cover the same material as tonight. It is primarily intended for persons who were not able to attend tonight's in-person meeting.
- Please email compplan@hvtwp.org to be sent the zoom meeting link.

Citizen Survey

- Online citizen survey was conducted in 2020. We received 3,575 responses. The full results will be posted on the Township website in the near future.
- What are the most important issues facing the Township over the next 10 to 15 years?
 1. Reducing traffic congestion
 2. Reducing energy consumption and promoting environmental sustainability
 3. Addressing flooding and stormwater problems
 4. Attracting additional businesses to older commercial areas
 5. Improving bicycling and pedestrian access
 6. Preserving historic sites
 7. Providing additional parking in older commercial areas
 8. Improving public transit

Survey cont.

- What types of new businesses should be most emphasized?
 1. Restaurants
 2. Small retail stores
 3. Arts and entertainment
 4. Research and technology uses
 5. Day care centers
 6. Large retail stores
 7. Offices
 8. Personal services
 9. Medical facilities

Survey cont.

- What types of new housing are most needed?
 1. Single family detached houses
 2. Townhouses
 3. Housing targeted for persons over age 55
 4. Side-by-side twin homes
 5. Assisted living, personal care or nursing homes
 6. Apartments above businesses
 7. Apartment buildings
 8. Manufactured home parks

Survey cont.

- What types of parks and recreation improvements should be emphasized?
 1. Off-road paths and trails
 2. Restroom buildings in parks
 3. Outdoor amphitheater for performances
 4. Children's playground
 5. Children's water spray area
 6. Woods and nature study area
 7. Swimming pool
 8. Add lighting to existing athletic fields or courts
 9. Picnic or event pavilion
 10. Creek access
 11. Dog park
 12. Senior activity center

Subject Area Stations

- Six subject area stations are set up around the room. You may move between the stations at your own pace. The intent is to have back-and-forth discussions. You can use post it notes to highlight problems, concerns and opportunities. Comment sheets are also provided. If you wish to stay, we will have an opportunity at the end for a joint discussions.
- Future meetings will discuss specific alternatives and draft recommendations of the Plan.

Subject Area Stations (cont.)

- **1. Land Use and Housing Issues** - With Generalized Existing Zoning Map and Existing Land Uses Map.
- Where would you like to see redevelopment occur? What types of new businesses would you like to see? What types of new housing would you like to see? What areas would you like to see preserved as they are?
- **2. Older Commercial Areas** - With aerial photos of the Eagle Road, Oakmont and Haverford Road corridors.
- What would you like to see happen to bring more business activity to the these areas? What types of businesses would you like to see? Would you like to see some upper story apartments with first floor commercial? What should be done to improve pedestrian access in these areas?

Subject Area Stations (cont.)

- **3. Roads, Bicycling and Walking - With Street Map.**
- Where are the most serious congestion problems? Where are there difficulties for pedestrians and bicyclists? Where improvements are needed?.

- **4. Public Transportation - With map showing bus routes and Norristown High Speed Line stations.**
- What improvements are needed to make it easier to use public transit? What should be done to make it easier to access transit stops?

Subject Area Stations (cont.)

- **5. Parks, Recreation and Trails** - With Public Recreation Areas and Trails Map, and Natural Features Map.
- What improvements would you like to see to parks? Are there any new recreation facilities that are needed? Do you have suggestions for new trail links? Would you like to see improvements to existing trails?
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- **6. Neighborhood and Historic Preservation** - With map of historic buildings currently need approval before they could be demolished.
- What blocks or buildings are important to preserve? Are there any older buildings that you would like to see redeveloped instead of being preserved?