

**“MAKE NO LITTLE
PLANS;
THEY HAVE NO MAGIC
TO STIR MEN’S
BLOOD.”**

DANIEL BURNHAM

*To get this on your
phone, scan here.*



MISSION

Crawford County Planning is committed to providing solution oriented services through community development and planning to facilitate the growth of the local economy, enhance the quality of life, and preserve the natural environment for current and future generations.

CORE VALUES

Crawford County Planning works to achieve our mission through our five core values.

Communication: We strive to reach as many people as possible by utilizing every possible media available to us to connect with residents, elected officials, appointed boards, and community groups.

Community: We promote places that have an identity and inspire a sense of belonging, which often stems from the physical character of a place as well as the people who live there.

Engagement: We aim to include everyone in the planning process since multiple perspectives lead to a more diverse conversation and successful result.

Integrity + Ethics: We are driven to conduct our business with the highest standards of professional behavior, which include transparency, honesty, and respect in all our interactions.

Sustainability: We encourage and support projects that maintain or improve the economy, environment, and equity of Crawford County.

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

In 1968, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 247 referred to as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The Law empowers boroughs, cities, counties, and townships to plan for the future of their communities by ensuring orderly development and growth, establishing various governmental boards, as well as outlining the legal actions/proceedings or time-frames associated with these authorized powers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Crawford County Planning acknowledges the efforts made by the following individuals to further planning within communities across Crawford County over the past year.

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric Henry, Chairman
Francis F. Weiderspahn, Jr., Vice Chairman
John Christopher Soff, Secretary/Treasurer

CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Maria Dreese, Chairman
Ron Mattocks, Vice Chairman
Peter Zimmer, Secretary (former)
Dick Astor, Treasurer
John Lawrence
John Frye
Scott Sjolander
Katie Wickert
Dan Arnett (former)

CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

Zachary Norwood, Planning Director
Thomas Gilbertson, Asst. Director- Community Planning
Jenny Tompkins, Asst. Director- Community Development
Phil Baranyai, GIS Manager
Peter Grella, Land Use Planner
Samantha Travis, Community Planner
David Amy, GIS Technician & Addressing Specialist



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Our communities have changed over the last year. Some of these changes have been slowly occurring over time such as population decline and struggling tax bases; however, a number of the changes were immediate like uncharacteristic flooding or a global pandemic. Regardless of how or when these changes occurred, they are here. It is now our job as community planners to address them and help ensure our communities not only survive, but thrive.

Crawford County Planning made large strides over the last year to help improve the communication and impact of our time, talent, and treasure in local communities. We recognized the need to share information and connect with local leaders as they work diligently to serve their citizens. Between coordinating financial aid for traditional infrastructure like roads and bridges or helping communities think about the impact of regulating solar energy production in their community, the Planning staff tirelessly worked to ensure our “front line workers” had what they needed to thrive.

Unfortunately, I do not have a crystal ball. Meaning I can't say what tomorrow will hold, but I do know how Crawford County Planning will prepare for whatever comes. We will continue in the next year and beyond to connect with our local municipal officials to listen and understand what is going on in their communities. We'll focus our efforts on large scale county-wide significant impacts such as broadband expansion and regional recreational opportunities.

Specifically next year, Crawford County Planning will focus on education and outreach as we aim to undertake an update to Crawford County's comprehensive plan, identify methods to help streamline the development review process, and build a culture of planning across Crawford County.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Zach Norwood". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Zach Norwood
Planning Director

Commission Updates

Board Transitions

The Planning Commission welcomed two new members, Katherine Wickert and Daniel Arnett, in January of 2021. Both members reside in and represent the Western portion of Crawford County. Having a geographically dispersed representation among communities is a key value for the Commission.

Over the year, the Commission had two of its members, Peter Zimmer and Daniel Arnett, resign from the Commission for personal reasons. It is unfortunate to lose them both, but we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Office Updates

Staff Transitions

In 2021, the Planning Office welcomed a new staff member and wished the best in retirement to a champion of local planning.

In early 2021 the Planning Office welcomed David "Dave" Amy to the GIS Division as the County's GIS Technician/Addressing Specialist. Dave comes to the office with a background in addressing and public safety. Under the direction of our GIS Manager, Phil Baranyai, Dave is working to ensure the County's addressing and GIS system is accurate and up-to-date in an effort to support county and local services. Most folks may not be aware of this, but Crawford County provides addressing services to 48 of 51 local municipalities. Should a citizen, developer, or municipality need assistance with addressing, please reaching out to the Dave Amy at 814-724-2562.

The Planning Office saw the retirement of a planning stalwart, Robert "Bob" Hopkins, in the spring of 2021. Bob joined the Planning Office as a temporary draftsman in 1980 and gradually worked his way up to the position of land use planner. Over the years he established relationships with many of the agencies, organization, and communities across the County.

We hope to continue Bob's success at forging relationship across the County. Both the Commission and Office staff would like to publicly thank Bob Hopkins for the time and talent that he dedicated to making Crawford County a better place to live, work, and play. We wish him the best in his retirement as he tends to his farm in Sparta Township and enjoys time with his friends and family.



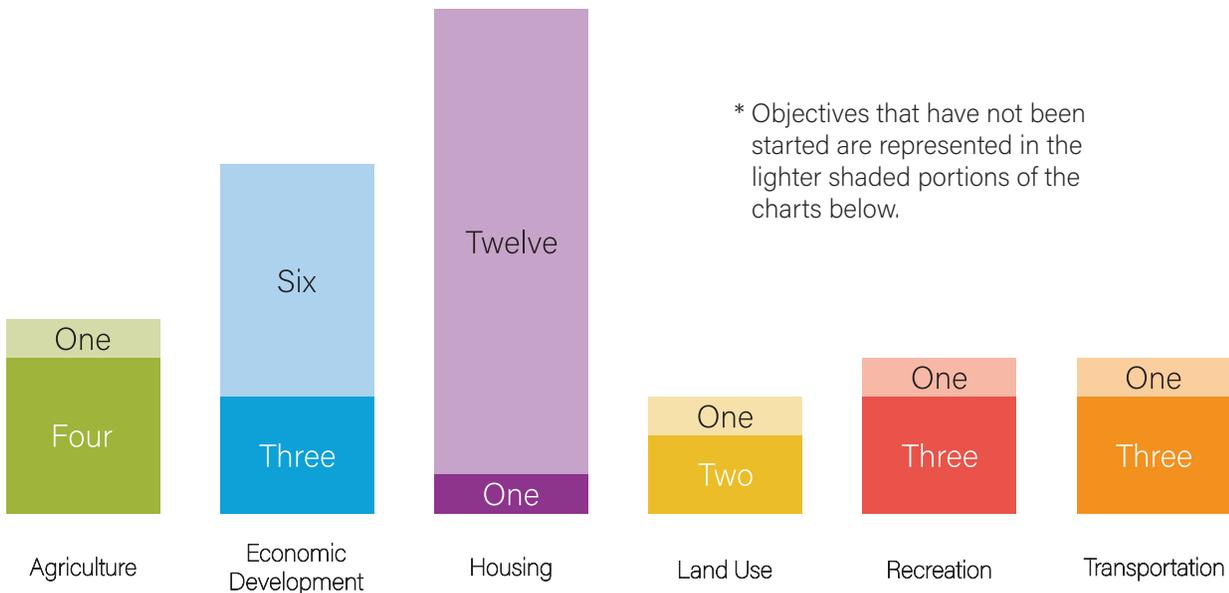
Left to right: Commissioner Soff, Bob Hopkins, Commissioner Weiderspahn Jr., Commissioner Henry
Photo Credit: Ellie Donnell

Student Planner Program

Over the summer of 2021, Crawford County Planning initiated a partnership with Allegheny College to expand planning capacity while providing an experience-based learning opportunity for students. We had our first student planner over the summer, Haley Pageotte, who worked to help build a GIS database system to inventory outdoor recreational resources across the County. The tool will be utilized in the spring of 2022 to interview public and private entities, including municipalities, to obtain information on existing recreational resources. The Planning Office is working to refine the program for future projects.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REPORT CARD

In 2018, Crawford County Planning developed the "Comprehensive Plan Report Card" to monitor our progress toward achieving the goals and implementing the policies outlined in the 2014 Crawford County Comprehensive Plan – *Cultivating Crawford - Growing a Community*.



Crawford County Planning Strategic Plan

Formally adopted by Crawford County Planning and accepted by the Board of Commissioners, the County's planning agency finalized a strategic plan. As a result of the planning process, the Commission prioritized focusing on:

- Using the agencies mission to establish a priority activities list to focus workloads,
- Initiating an update to Crawford County's Comprehensive Plan,
- Revisiting the role Crawford County has in the development review process,
- Instituting better-defined roles for the Planning Commissioners, and

- Initiating improvements for selecting Planning Commission membership.

Actionable steps taken to date include:

- Conducted a municipal survey regarding Subdivision and Land Development administration and concerns to determine gaps in services rendered;
- Developed an interview process and commission evaluation matrix to improve membership selection;
- Began conversations with State agencies regarding an update of Crawford County's Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUNITY PLANNING DIVISION

Under the direction of Thomas Gilbertson, the Community Planning Division provides resources and oversight for current planning and long-range planning activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, municipal comprehensive plan and land use regulation reviews, planning studies, and creation and management of data to support decision making.

Long-Range Planning Activities

County Forest Strategic Plan

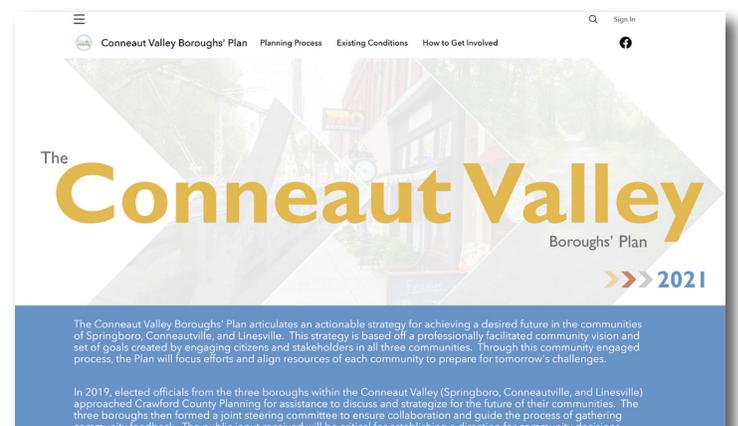
Continuing through 2021, Crawford County Planning has been working to develop a strategic plan for the Crawford County Forest property. The County Forest Strategic Plan aims to identify a clear direction for the Crawford County Forest and outline the actions that can be taken to get there. In other words, this document works to bridge the connection between the aims of the County's 2014 Forest Stewardship Plan and the general public with the programs and resources necessary to make such goals a reality. Soon, Crawford County Planning will be instigating the public outreach phases of this project.

The County Forest Strategic Plan aims to identify a clear direction for the Crawford County Forest and outline the actions that can be taken to get there.

Comprehensive Planning

Beginning in 2019, the boroughs of Springboro, Conneautville, and Linesville in northwest Crawford County officially confirmed their intent to form a multi-municipal comprehensive plan that builds off the ground-work established in their existing comprehensive plans. Despite delays brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Crawford County Planning has continued with the process of forming a multi-municipal comprehensive plan for these communities. To date, a profile of community change analyzing U.S. Census Bureau data has been completed along with a detailed review of all existing plans that have influence over each community. Soon, an existing conditions analysis will be completed and made available for public viewing along with a detailed report on a recent community surveying administered in each borough. Those interested in the planning process can check out the multi-municipal plan's ArcGIS Hub website at – <https://conneaut-valley-plan-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Beginning in the Spring of 2022, community residents and stakeholders within each borough will be engaged in a series of events to establish a community vision.



Conneaut Valley Project Website

Developing a Geo-database and GIS Strategy

In 2020, Crawford County Planning expanded its geospatial strategy for data collection and management. As an organization we look at how we develop, use, and maintain data tied to a location on a map to conduct our tasks more efficiently and effectively. Doing so will enable Crawford County Planning to have pertinent information at our fingertips, streamline the work that we do, become more competitive for funding opportunities, and create standards for the development and management of GIS data which will ensure consistency, quality, usability, and longevity of the information.

Over the remainder of 2021 and into next year, Crawford County Planning will be working to finalize and implement a standard operating procedure for the development and maintenance of GIS data. This protocol will set policies for how we build and document our data. Doing so will go a long way to ensure that our data measures up to a consistent standard of quality. Additionally, our standard operating procedures will include annual duties for the maintenance of our GIS data. Taking this annual step will make sure that our data remains functional and prevents future team members from having to recreate or substantively overhaul certain datasets.

Although the term “geospatial strategy” might sound like some trendy fad or convoluted undertaking, it really just comes down to how we develop, use, and maintain location data to conduct our work more efficiently and effectively.

In addition to adopting standard operating procedures to maintain the integrity and function of our GIS, Crawford County Planning plans to conduct a series of internal work sessions to figure out how we can build useful data resulting from activities that already take place during our routine workdays. By taking advantage of opportunities that emerge from existing work to build and maintain GIS data, we will be much more likely to have important information available at our fingertips when confronted with circumstances that call for it.

Current Planning Activities

Subdivision & Land Development Reviews

Crawford County Planning reviewed a total of 48 subdivision proposals across 19 municipalities, with subdivision and land development regulations in the county. These subdivision proposals involved 83 lots and resulted in the creation of 111 lots accounting for an increase of 28 new lots.

Additionally, 21 of the 48 subdivision proposals reviewed by the Planning Office involved some form of lot and/or tax parcel consolidation. Overall, around 1,017 acres of land was involved in a subdivision between 10/26/2020 and 7/26/2021 resulting in an average new lot size of just over nine acres.

Crawford County Planning reviewed a total of 10 land developments across eight municipalities. These land development proposals combine for a total footprint of 659,240 square feet of newly built improvements.

“Reviewed a total of 48 subdivision proposals across 19 municipalities”

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Community Development Division remained extremely busy in FY 2021, working to provide vital pandemic relief funds to households, businesses, and communities across the county. Building upon the half million dollars distributed in 2020, staff assisted in the distribution of approximately \$1 million in relief funding this year. To prepare for the injection of \$24.6 million to all political subdivisions from the American Rescue Plan Act, the Division offered direct technical assistance to municipalities and will continue to do so through the end of 2026. The effects of the pandemic are far from over, and the Community Development Division seeks to fill gaps for pandemic prevention and response. All residents are encouraged to reach out to discuss unmet needs.

While responding to the pandemic rightfully remained a primary focus, the Division continued its work to secure funding and implement activities in support of the County's Comprehensive Plan and other efforts. Staff contracted with the Commonwealth for over \$1 million in annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, awarded over \$300,000 in Act 13 funding, and initiated design or construction on projects exceeding \$600,000. In a rapidly changing world, a shift was made to online applications for assistance and updated web pages for our common funding programs. Information regarding the County's CDBG and Act 13 programs are now found on the following websites:

CDBG: <https://cdbg-program-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>

Act 13: <https://act-13-program-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>

Community Development remains a resource for local municipalities to explore additional local, state, and federal public funding opportunities. Staff provide numerous letters of support to projects annually. In 2021, staff assisted municipalities to braid funding from sources including, but not limited to:

- Northwest Commission
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
 - PA Department of Transportation
 - US Department of Treasury
 - US Department of Agriculture

In 2021 Community Development divided its work program into Federal and State resources along with local or regional resources. The remainder of the report is broken into these divisions.

Pandemic Response Resources

The Planning Office continued as the lead County department for COVID-19 pandemic prevention and response funding programs in 2021. As the direct impacts of the pandemic persist with new variants developing, the Planning Office will continue to play an essential role in promoting public health planning, equitable access to recovery resources, and safe, sustainable economic stabilization.

COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP)

The Community Development Division partnered with the Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County to design a program to distribute state funds aimed to cover lost revenue for bars, restaurants, and accommodation-based businesses. EPACC administered the program, providing a total of \$944,539 to 28 businesses.

Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV)

Crawford County, the City of Meadville, City of Titusville, and Vernon Township received a combined \$618,908.00 in FY 2020 from the CARES Act under the CDBG-CV Program. In 2021, the City of Meadville in collaboration with the Center for Family Services and the Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS) provided almost \$32,000 in rental assistance to households impacted by the pandemic. The City of Titusville's Fire Department purchased a vehicle to provide quick response services (QRS) for medical care, a need realized due to COVID-19. The Crawford County and Vernon Township Small Business Assistance Programs awarded all available funding to eligible businesses, totaling over \$180,000.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The Biden Administration's stimulus package created by the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 included funding allocations to every state and municipality in the country based on population. The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a total of \$16.4 million to Crawford County, and a combined \$8.2 million to our 51 municipalities.

To summarize hundreds of pages of federal guidance and assist municipalities in planning for the use of ARPA funds, Community Development held regional ARPA Informational Sessions in Conneaut Lake, Meadville, and Titusville in late May 2021. Approximately 65 officials participated, representing 36 municipalities. Community Development aided municipalities to complete federal contracting and state application requirements for receiving ARPA funds. Staff assisted and/or connected with 58 municipalities that shared their intent to pursue their ARPA allocations.

The Planning Office will oversee the administration of the County's ARPA funds, including the creation of several community development programs. To increase capacity, the County is in the process of hiring an ARPA Program Coordinator. The Coordinator and other staff will also continue to be available for brief technical assistance and for full administrative services for municipal ARPA allocation at a nominal hourly rate to cover staff expenses. Community Development plans to hold additional public educational sessions when the final federal guidance is released for municipalities.

Community Development Block Grant – Annual Allocations

2020 marked the first year for which the Planning Office administered all CDBG funding made available to communities in Crawford County when the City of Titusville contracted with the County for administrative services. Community Development staff began meeting quarterly with Meadville, Titusville, and Vernon individually in 2021 for the CDBG program. This section outlines recently completed and upcoming funded projects as well as proposed projects for the FY 2021 application due later in the year.

Recently Completed Project Celebration

Hudson Adams Place, Cochranon Borough, Crawford County FY 2018 Allocation

After five years of development and the collective efforts of many partners, the Hudson Adams Place Senior Housing Complex opened in early summer 2021 with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on August 5th. The facility offers 39 one- and two-bedroom affordable apartments to senior 62 and older.



Photo Credit: Samantha Travis

Ongoing & Upcoming CDBG Projects

Rural Family & Workforce Transit Program, Crawford County & Crawford Area Transit Authority (CATA)

Utilizing CDBG funds, CATA is offering a shared-ride, door-to-door transportation service for low-to-moderate income, rural residents at an 85% subsidy. Interested households residing outside the City of Meadville, City of Titusville, and Vernon Township are encouraged to reach out to CATA to determine eligibility by calling (814) 333-5600 or visiting www.catabus.org/newpage.

Huidekoper Park Improvements, City of Meadville

The City initiated a public input process for improvements to Huidekoper Park on August 2nd. Funds from the FY 2020 and 2021 allocations will be utilized for the community-driven improvement project with potential amenities to include improved sport courts, playground upgrades, and trail expansions.

Park Development Project, 108-110 Diamond Street, City of Titusville

Expanding upon the use of CDBG funds utilized to acquire and demolish a building in its central business district after a horrific fire in 2018, the City will create a passive park in the space. Considerations for the park to be developed in 2022 include community art installations, benches, and a central tree for holiday celebrations.

Municipal Building Architectural Barrier Removal, Vernon Township

The township will utilize FY 2018 and 2019 funds to remove architectural barriers for people with disabilities and the aging at its municipal buildings. Accessibility improvements will include new ramps and sidewalks, and an entryway reconfiguration.

FY 2021 Application Highlights

Crawford County's 2021 CDBG application will include 11 community development projects totaling \$1,051,535.00. The contract will include allocations for the City of Meadville, City of Titusville, and Vernon Township. One project for each entity is included below with a brief project description.

Blight Removal Initiative, Venango Borough

Venango Borough applied for a portion of the County's FY 2021 allocation to reduce blights in its business district as a portion of a larger community revitalization vision. The Borough will receive \$41,000 for the clearance and demolition of several properties.

Fairview/Fairmont Apartment Improvements, City of Meadville

The City plans to utilize \$6,833.56 to make safety and energy efficiency upgrades to the Fairview/Fairmont Apartments. Improvements will include the repair of exterior railings, replacement of 105 carbon monoxide detectors, and the conversion of interior hallway lighting to LED bulbs.

Church Run Flood Improvements, City of Titusville

In response to recent and historic hazardous flooding associated with heavy rainfall overcoming the banks of Church Run, the City seeks to utilize CDBG funds for storm water improvements. Both gray and green storm water best management practices are planned.

Roche Park Playground Improvements, Vernon Township

The Township plans to replace the existing playground equipment at Roche Park. In combination with funding from its FY 2020 allocation for the creation of a dog park and the expansion of the existing trail network, significant investment will be made to the Park in the next few years.

Crawford County Act 13 Program

With assistance from the Community Planning Division, Community Development implemented its revised Environmental Initiative and At-Risk Bridge Policies for the FY 2021 application cycle. The County's Act 13 programs have returned to a competitive application process for municipalities and community organizations. The competitive application window will open annually in January. The new policies and information about applying can be found on the new Program website at: <https://act-13-program-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>

Recently Completed Projects (At-Risk Bridge)

Liberty Street Bridge Rehabilitation, City of Meadville

The City completed the rehabilitation of the bridge over Mill Run near Meadville Medical Center on April 15th, utilizing \$97,366.17 in FY 2017 At-Risk Bridge funding.

Environmental Initiative

Mount Pleasant Road Realignment Feasibility Study, Union Township

Utilizing its FY 2021 Environmental Initiative award as match, Union Township received a grant from the Northwest Commission to complete the feasibility study in August 2021. The Township hopes to utilize the study to make necessary safety improvements for trail users crossing Mount Pleasant Road.

FY 2021 Awarded Projects: At-Risk Bridge & Environmental Initiative

The 2021 allocation for the At-Risk Bridge Municipal Fund totaled \$100,268.74. With the limited funding available, the Planning Office selected three projects for funding, totaling \$228,950.00. Due to the need for emergency funding, the County awarded funds to Cambridge Springs Borough out of the At-Risk Bridge Capital Investment Fund. More information about the selected projects can be found below.

Crawford County FY 2021 Act 13 At-Risk Bridge Awardees

Municipality	Project Name	Funding Award Total
Townville Borough	West Freemont Road Culvert Replacement	\$60,000
City of Meadville	Clinton Court Mill Run Bridge Rehabilitation	\$68,950
Cambridge Springs Borough	Church Street Emergency Culvert Replacement	\$100,000

The competitive FY 2021 allocation for the Environmental Initiative Fund totaled \$79,500, divided into three regional allocations based on population. The Western, Central, and Eastern Regions received \$20,500, \$43,950, and \$15,000, respectively. A total of nine projects across the three regions received funding. More information about awarded applications is below.

Crawford County FY 2021 Act 13 Environmental Initiative Awardees

Organization/Entity	Region	Project Name	Funding Award Total
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Western	Try-on Weber Woods Access Improvements & Stream Restoration	\$9,378
Linesville Borough		Memorial Park Accessibility	\$9,900
Union Township	Central	Mount Pleasant Round Realignment Feasibility Study	\$4,000
City of Meadville		Bicentennial Park Playground & Parking Improvements	\$16,000
French Creek Recreational Trails		Feasibility Study for Ernst Trail	\$5,000
Crawford County Historical Society		Baldwin-Reynolds Historic Garden and Public Recreation	\$11,095
French Creek Valley Conservancy		French Creek Water Trail Plan & Implementation	\$7,000
Clear Lake Authority	Eastern	East Branch Trail Community Connections Project	\$13,000
Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau	Countywide	Tourism Location Signage	\$3,400

Other Grant Programs

Appalachian Regional Commission Erie to Pittsburgh and PA Wilds Loop Implementation

Crawford County received \$1.2 million in funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission in 2020 for trail improvements along the Erie to Pittsburgh and PA Wilds Loop trail networks in Crawford, Clarion, and McKean Counties. Community Development staff focused on the required legal, environmental review, and stakeholder coordination processes to get the project underway in 2021. Construction is planned for 2022.

State Facility Closure Transition Program

The Commonwealth created the State Facility Closure Transition Program to ensure adequate community support following the closure of their facilities in directly impacted and contiguous counties. Due to the closure of the Polk State Center in Venango County, Crawford County was eligible to receive \$138,494.32. The County secured this funding to expand broadband resources to unserved portions of the Keystone Regional Industrial Park in Greenwood Township. Construction will be completed in 2022.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

In 2020, Crawford County Planning added a division which oversees the County's Geographic Information System (GIS). The County's GIS Manager, **Phil Baranyai**, provides technical assistance in addition to running the countywide GIS network. In an effort to introduce this division's effort to the general public, local municipal officials, as well as regional and state partners, Phil has provided a series of answers to questions about the services rendered by his division.



What did Crawford County GIS do to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic during the early days of the 2020 shutdowns?

Crawford County GIS launched a COVID-19 hub site for concentrated information dissemination for the public. To include a regional COVID-19 case dashboard, a food pantry locator application, the original vaccination registration survey/dashboard for the local hospitals, and a local business status reporter survey/web application.

How did having an established foundation GIS support our ability to respond in such a timely manner?

Back in 2009/2010, when I first started enterprise GIS within Crawford County, I did so with the open-ended understanding it would benefit Crawford County in ways I could never even imagine. That investment has certainly paid off in current operations as well as during the pandemic. Having the infrastructure and the acquired knowledge allowed Crawford County GIS to quickly stand-up the hub sites, develop the datasets, surveys and web applications. This type of sudden need and the ability to respond from a GIS standpoint provides Crawford County with the framework to tackle future needs in a timely manner.

How would you like to see Crawford County GIS engage with the public in the near future?

The sky is truly the limit, currently Crawford County GIS has a few public engagement tools such as: GIS error reporting, 911 address request, assessment review request, hydrant reporter, at-risk bridge survey, public safety after hours business contact registration portal, hazard mitigation plan project registration (as needed), public map/data requests, Crawford First business directory registration, & regional community surveys (as needed), to name a few. As we expand GIS into other departments/ local municipalities, I foresee their needs also driving more public input.

What might the County's newly established ESRI Enterprise agreement mean for our citizens and elected officials?

An ESRI Enterprise agreement is a population-based licensing agreement provided from our GIS vendor. Our local government agreement provides Crawford County Government with unlimited software license deployments, unlimited software extension (specialized tool sets) deployments of the most popular extensions, a larger amount of ArcGIS Online/Enterprise Portal users, and credits (used to store data & analyze data in the ESRI cloud environment). This (the Esri Enterprise Agreement) will allow ease of expansion of GIS within Crawford County Government offices, and some restricted expansion into local municipalities and County related agencies. Within the County offices, it will allow for more users to access the non-public side of the GIS system without multiple purchase requisitions for new licenses or budgetary adjustments.

What near term outreach efforts will be made to let municipalities know about how they might be able to use GIS?

Near term should be expected in the next 2-3 years for a full roll-out, however a pilot program may be available sooner with an early adopting municipality or two. We will provide local municipalities a chance to connect to County GIS and share data, access non-publicly accessible data from the County, as well as provide GIS services/support from Crawford County GIS staff at an annual low cost. This endeavor will be less expensive than the municipalities going out on their own and also it will provide custom development/training from Crawford County GIS. The data shared from the municipalities will also benefit many County offices in their workflow.

What does Crawford County GIS have in store over this next year?

Crawford County GIS is operating in its 3rd year (created in 2018). Due to that we are still in heavy development/growth/expansion stages. With a two-person operation, we are attempting to handle the sudden growth of GIS within the Assessment, Planning, Public Safety, Conservation District, and Human Service Departments. As well as strengthen our infrastructure, develop python programming to automate tasks, handle help desk tickets, develop new GIS tools/procedures for the above-mentioned departments. As far as future plans, I hesitate to provide much of a defined road map as we are understaffed and are desperately attempting to handle the current (and growing) workload. I certainly have ideas for the future; however, I dare not lay them out in print until we can get some of our current workload managed.

Moving into the final quarter of 2021 and preparing for 2022, Crawford County Planning is developing our annual work program. This year the Planning Commission will be seeking acceptance from the Board of Commissioners of the 2022 work program.

Community Planning Projects

Conneaut Valley Multi-Municipal Plan

The Planning Office in second quarter of 2022 will finalize the multi-municipal planning efforts in the Conneaut Valley. Through the first quarter and early portions of the second quarter of 2022, planning staff will be engaging in public outreach throughout the region for the plan.

Crawford County Comprehensive Plan Update

Starting the second quarter of 2022, planning staff will begin working on an update to the County's comprehensive plan. This effort will focus on a scaled approach to address critical issues within our communities and result in action steps to resolve these problems.

Crawford County Forest Strategic Plan

The Crawford County Planning Commission, with assistance from planning staff, will complete the strategic plan for the 400+ acre county owned forest. This long-range strategy will guide investments in, revenue streams from, and ecological protections for the forest so that future generations can enjoy this local treasure.

Community Development Projects

Previously Awarded Projects

Design and Engineering Phase

Crawford County Planning, through the Community Development division, will undertake the design and engineering phases of the following projects through the remainder of 2021 and in 2022.

- Conneautville Borough Storm water Improvements (FY 2020 CDBG)
- Roche Park Dog Park & Trail Improvements (Vernon Township FY 2020 CDBG)
- City of Meadville Huidekoper Park Improvements (City of Meadville FY 2020 CDBG)
- City of Titusville Park Improvements (City of Titusville FY 2019/2020 CDBG)
- Greenwood Township Keystone Opportunity Park Broadband Expansion (SFCTP)

Construction Phase

- Crawford County Coalition on Housing Needs Roof Replacement (City of Meadville, FY 2020 CDBG & CDBG-CV)
- Crawford County Care Center COVID-19 Patio Enclosure (CDBG-CV)
- Municipal Building Architectural Barrier Removal (Vernon Township FY 2018/2019 CDBG)
- City of Meadville Street Improvements (City of Meadville, FY 2019/2020 CDBG)
- West Fallowfield Township Rocky Glen Road Culvert Replacement (FY 2020 CDBG)
- Beaver, Richmond, and Steuben Townships Architectural Barrier Removal (FY 2018/2019 CDBG)
- Greenwood Township Keystone Opportunity Park Broadband Expansion (SFCTP)
- East Branch Trail, Knox & Kane Trail, and Brady Tunnel Improvements (ARC POWER)

Ongoing Public Service Administration

- CHAPS COVID-19 Rent/Utility Assistance Program (City of Meadville CDBG-CV)
- CATA Rural Family & Workforce Transit Program (FY 2019 CDBG)

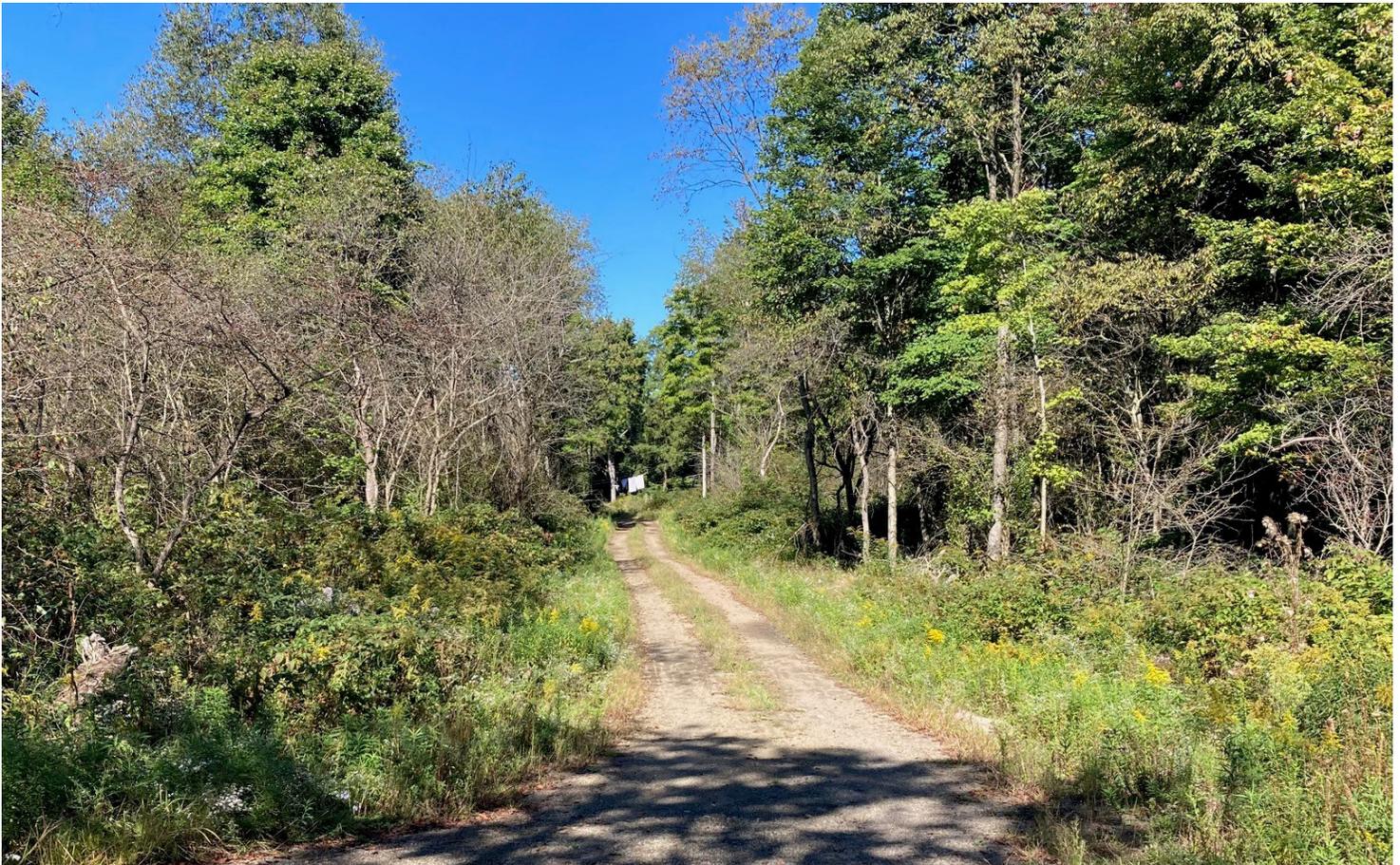
New Funding Applications & Programs

- FY 2022 CDBG Program
- FY 2022 Act 13 Environmental Initiative & At-Risk Bridge
- CDBG-CV Competitive Tranche 2/3
- Crawford County ARPA Community Assistance Program
- Broadband Expansion Initiatives
- Community Revitalization Program
- Housing Plan Implementation through Public/Private Partnerships

Education and Outreach

Trainings + Webinars

- Planning Commission 101
- Uniform Construction Code for Municipalities
- Limited Budgets, Limitless Needs - Transportation Infrastructure Planning
- Rails to Trails and the Economic Benefit of Open Spaces



East Branch Trail, Eastern Crawford County

Photo Credit: Jenny Tompkins



Mark Your Calendars for 2022

Crawford County Planning - Planning Commission's 101

In-person training on what your role and expectations as a newly, or sometimes veteran, Planning Commission member in your community. This event will be held in Crawford County, is open to any Planning Commission or elected official, and will require a registration for a meal. More information will be announced soon.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) - Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

The DCNR Round 27 of the C2P2 funding will be opening up in January 18, 2022 and closing on April 6, 2022. Local municipalities and planning partners are encouraged to participate in a free webinar on November 11, 2021 to learn more about who can apply, what can be funded, where funding will be available, and how to make your application more competitive. To register for the event visit, events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Crawford County's Act 13 Program

The County's Act 13 Program will announce our annual allocation allotments in December of 2021 and will open the application period in January of 2022. Municipalities, community groups, and non-profit entities interested in apply for funding should visit our website at, <https://act-13-program-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Crawford County's Community Development Block Grant Program

Crawford County's annual allocation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will be announced in Spring of 2022. Communities are encouraged to look into County's program on our webpage at, <https://cdbg-program-crawfordcountypa.hub.arcgis.com/>, and to contact us to determine if your project may be eligible.

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development - Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP)

The Strategic Management Planning Program (SMPP) was designed to offer a pre-emptive step for municipalities who feel as if their financial situation, while not yet formally declared distressed, are realizing difficulties and seek to improve their financial position. The Strategic Management Planning Program supports municipalities by offering grants that can be used to fund costs associated with hiring an independent financial consultant to prepare a three to five-year financial plan and management review of their municipality. For more information about the program visit, <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/strategic-management-planning-program-stmp/>.

Scan the QRL code or visit www.crawfordcountypa.net/planning to learn more about what Crawford County Planning is doing for you.

