The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Planning.

William A. Hendrickson, Regional Supervisor, Bureau of Planning, Dept. of Community Affairs

# comprehensive plan

BOROUGH OF BLOOMING VALLEY, CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

#### ABSTRACT

(2)	$\widehat{\exists}$
AUTHOR:	TITLE:
Beckman,	Blooming
Swenson & Associates	Valley Comprehensive Plan

SUBJECT: Plan to guide the future development of Blooming A survey and analysis of existing conditions and a Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090

(4) PLANNING AGENCY: October 12, 1970 Saegertown Area Planning Commission Blooming Valley Planning Commission Department of Community Affairs

6 SOURCE OF COPIES: Blooming Valley Planning Commission Saegertown Area Planning Commission Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Erie, Pennsylvania Regional Office Department of Community Affairs

Region II, Federal Bldg., Pgh., Pa. Department of Housing & Urban Development

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{HUD}}$  - Division of Planning Assistance Washington, D. C.

 $\Im$ HUD PROJECT

P-27701

8

NUMBER OF PAGES:

(9) THE ABSTRACT:

This report consists of maps and written material, which analyze the existing conditions within the community. It facilities and utilities. and goods, and a Plan for the development of community for the use of land, a Plan for the Movement of People includes a statement of objectives for the future, A Plan

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	- L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L
	THE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY THE WORKING COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES THE LAND USE PLAN THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND UTILITIES PLAN COMPREHENSIVE COMP

## IST OF PLATE

S

7	M	Ŋ	σ	<u></u>	17	21	25	27	29	33
DRAINAGE BASINS	SLOPE LIMITATIONS	EXISTING MAJOR THOROUGHFARES	CONDITION OF STRUCTURES	EXISTING LAND USE	DEVELOPMENT PLAN	LAND USE PLAN	MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN	COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES PLAN	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMING VALLEY, CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, the Blooming Valley Borough Planning Commission has been created and appointed to consider among other things long-range plans for the growth of the Borough; and

MIEREAS, the Planning Commission has obtained and utilized the services of Beckman, Swenson & Associates, professional city planners, and studies, surveys, and analyses of probable growth trends, objectives, and needs have been completed; and

WHEREAS, plans and policies affecting the future of Blooming Valley Borough have been formulated, adopted and recommended by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Blooming Valley Borough Council has held hearings with the Planning Commission on the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the community and its people, both individually and collectively, to establish a municipal policy for future growth; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Borough Council to utilize foresight to assist and guide themselves and others in the affairs of the Borough:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMING VALLEY, COUNTY OF CRAWFORD, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

the Comprehensive Plan for the future development of Blooming Valley THAT this document with all plans, maps, sketches, and text constitutes

ADOPTED THIS

DAY OF

A.D. 1970

President of Couhci

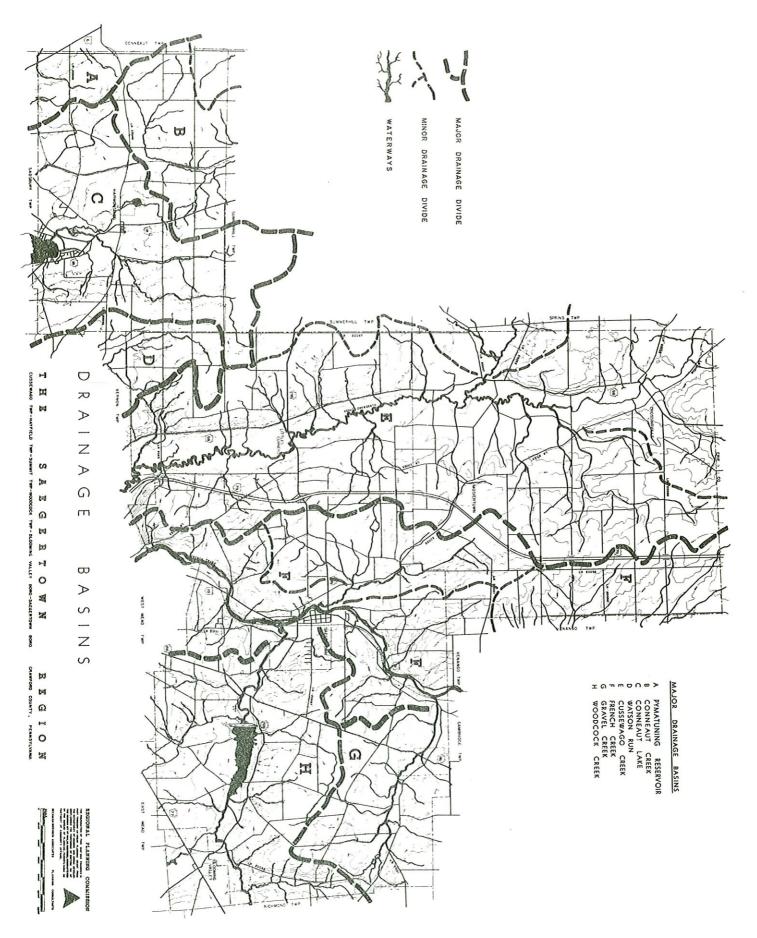
## H R R N O N B R N H

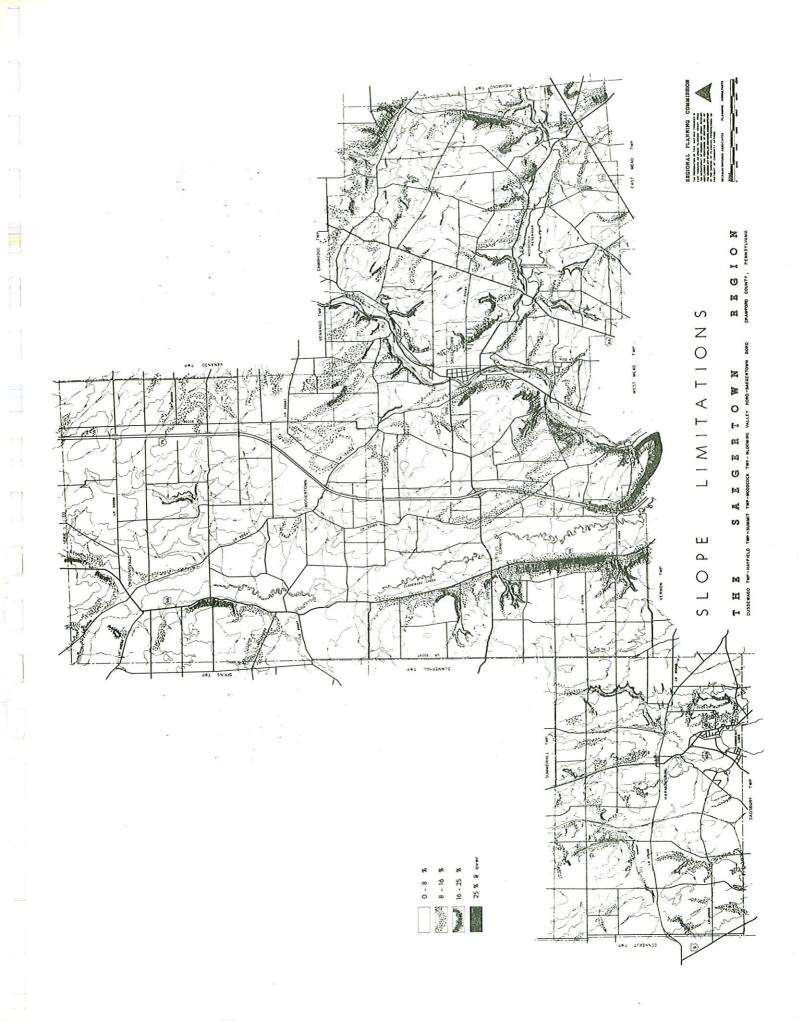
Blooming Valley Borough occupies an area of 1180 acres in central Crawford Its center is about six and one-half miles east northeast of the center of Meadville. The Borough is rectilinear in form with its maximum north-south dimension being 6700 feet and its largest east-west dimension being 9500 feet. It is not a simple rectangle since the northwest corner is not included in the Borough.

of the Borough forms an indefinite dividing line between these two creeks As its name suggests, the topography of the Borough is characterized by a valley lies in the upper extremities of the Woodcock Creek Valley running two drainage systems. Instead, a swampy area along the southern boundary west northwesterly from the upper area of the Borough, and Little Sugar Croek Valley which enters the Borough from the south. An unusual aspect of the topography is that there is no clear ridge line separating these valley running north and south through the center of the Borough. The

Blooming Valley Run descends to Woodcock Creek. Where this run leaves the The lowest point in the Borough is on the northwestern corner where the Borough, it has an altitude of about 1219 feet above sea level.

of Sugar Creek is about 1270 feet above sea level. Five ponds are located The marshy land on the southern central boundary at the upper extremities north. Al! of these ponds have been filling in through a natural process in this valley with four of them to the south of Route 77 and one to the of growth and siltation so that the division between pond and marsh land





along the southern boundary is indefinite. Hills rise on either side of the

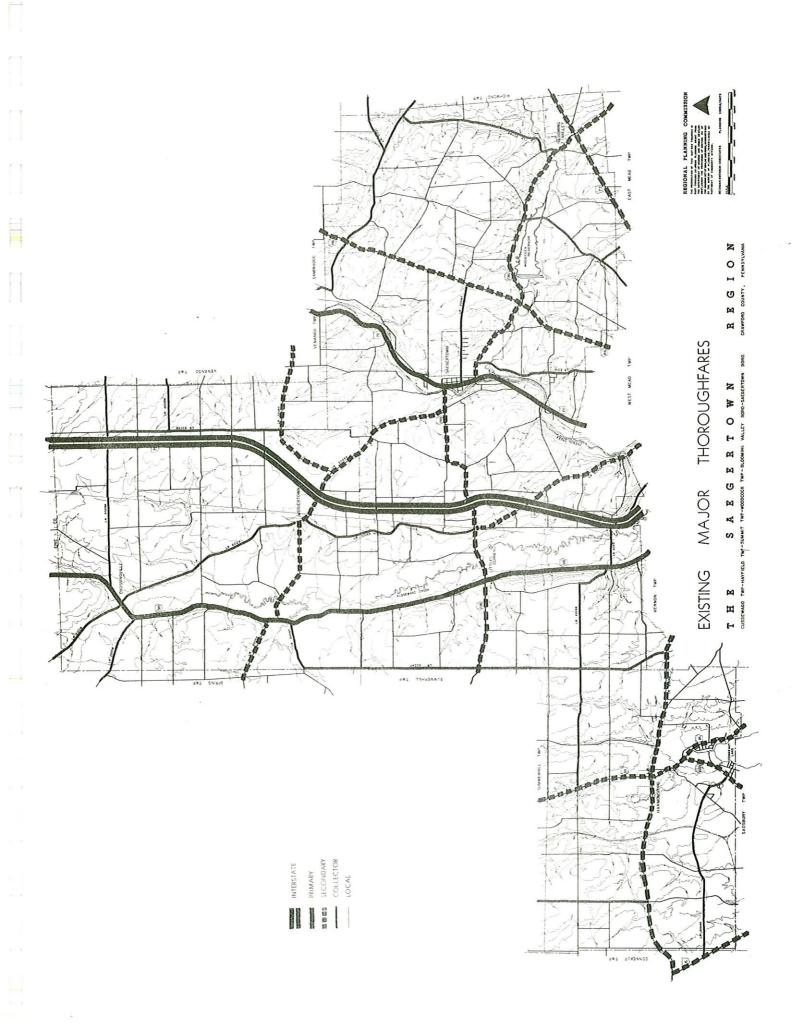
topography falls away fairly evenly on contours that approximately parallel Dickson Street to about 1270 feet. Thus, the maximum local relief in the Borough amounts to about 260 feet. A hill rises along the western boundary also reaching a maximum height of 1385 feet at the southwest corner of the ary midway between Route 77 and Hickory Corner Road. From that point the The highest point in the Borough is 1530 feet located near the eastern bound-

The slopes are reasonably gentle on these hills. The steepest category of slope is about 20 per cent and this is limited to only a few areas, as around the high knob along the eastern boundary of the Borough. The hill-sides rising above the central valley have a slope of between 8 to 16 per cent and this offers no unusual problems to residential development.

#### Ignways

198 crosses from the southeast to the northwest. A few secondary routes branch off of these two State highways, and a local residential icop street is located in the center of the Borough. Route 77 crosses the Borough from the southwest to the northeast, and Route The highways in the Borough are a simple intersection of two State highways

the topography of the community. It enters the Borough from the Meadville side at a height of approximately 1360 feet, descends to about 1250 feet Route 77 has a straight alignment across the Borough descending into the valley and rising again. This straight line across the valley emphasizes where it crosses the Blooming Valley Run about one-third of the way through



corner of the Borough. The emphasis of the topography results in a strong sense of identification with the valley, and this has obviously had its influence on the naming of the community. the Borough and then rises to a height of about 1430 feet at the northeast

accommodate the construction of the Woodcock Reservoir. being realigned along the hillside to the north of the Creek in order to the northwest it follows Woodcock Creek and is presently in the process of Route 198 follows the eastern edge of the valley through the Borough. To

# HE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

Blooming Valley dates back over 100 years as a place of residence, but its population has changed very little during that time. In 1870 its population Without a railroad to sponsor any industrialization, and with competition of larger urban centers, such as Meadville, the area has remained predominately a low density residential community. Its early peak in population was reached in 1880 It had been established principally as a central trade and From that time, it had declined in population to a service area for the surrounding agricultural community. when it stood at 232. low of 141 in 1920. stood at 209.

elsewhere for employment. During the 20's the community gained more than 50 people and another 20 during the 30's. By 1950 it stood at 256; in 1960 296 reflection of the ability of the residents to commute by private automobile Following the 1920's the community has grown slowly. The growth has been a and in 1970 remained almost unchanged at 297.

## Condition of Housing

Twelve of these were less than 10 years old; another 12 were between 10 and The 1960 Census of housing counted 97 residential structures in the Borough 20 years old; and 73--three out of every four structures--were more than 20 years old.

According to the 1960 Census, the condition of structures was reasonably

classified as seasonal or unavailable and vacant. houses available for rent in the Borough, although eight units were as deteriorating; and 6 as dilapidated. At that time there were no vacant good. Seventy-six were classified as in sound condition; 18 were counted

gether into the similar category "Dilapidated" which is generally comparable to the 1960 categories "Deteriorating" and "Dilapidated". was obtained by a field survey conducted by Beckman, Swenson & Associates A more recent evaluation of the condition of structures in Blooming Valley inspection. the structures and did not include any detailed measurement nor any interior in the summer of 1969. This survey included only an exterior evaluation of The two categories poor and very poor have been grouped to-

were in poor or very poor condition. As a general observation, the total the 60's. number of units judged in poor or very poor condition has decreased during shows 56 units were in sound condition, 36 were in fair condition, and 6 dition of Structures". A tabulation of the structural conditions in 1969 The results of the 1969 field survey are shown on the adjacent map "Con-

At a time when the standards of construction for new buildings has been respect to the continued acceptability of housing in the Borough. steadily rising, these aging structures represent a cause for concern with result from the advanced age and the accumulation of maintenance problems. ficiencies, as observed from the exterior. In many cases the minor problems housing units judged in fair condition only, show evidences of minor deto a substantial portion of the housing supply in Blooming Valley. Those The large number of older homes judged only in fair condition still amounts



CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

### Existing Land Use

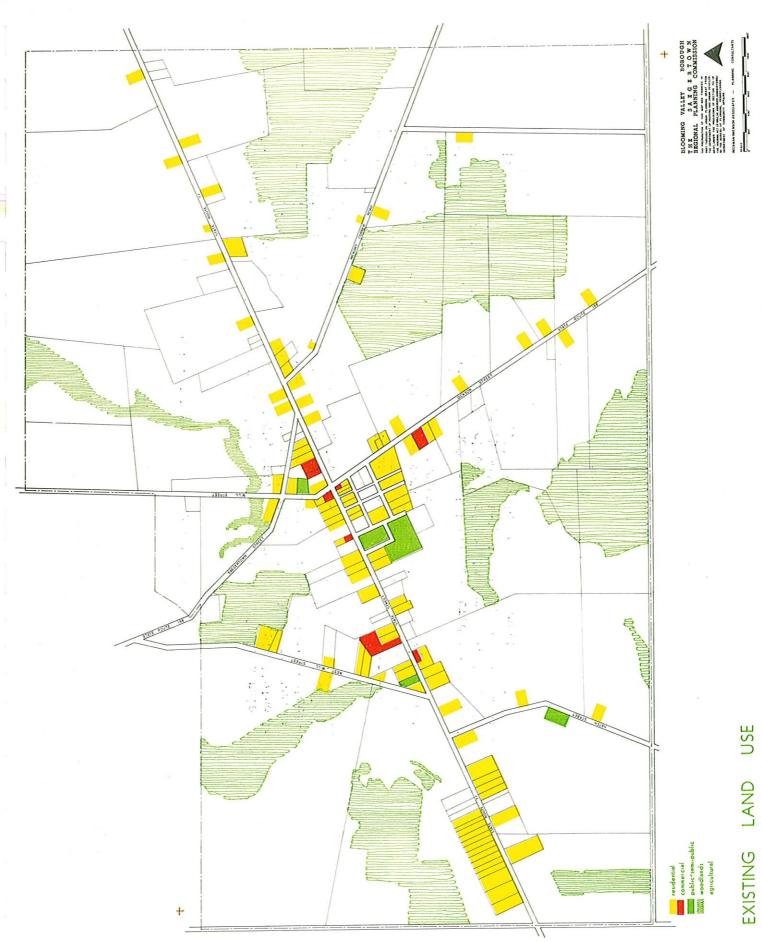
the map "Existing Land Use". This map was prepared from data obtained from a field survey in the summer of 1969. It classifies land use according to categories of Residential, Commercial, Public-Semi-Public and Agricultural. Stands of Woodlands are also shown on this map. There are no industrial uses located in the Borough. The pattern of existing land use and the extent of residential is shown on This map was prepared from data obtained from

around the school in the center part of town. streets branching off Route 77. A number of homes are located along Route addition, scattered housing development has occurred along the roads and Street and Hickory Corner Road. In addition, a cluster of housing occurs 198 to the south of the center of town, and along West Mill Street, Hatch from one end of the Borough to the other along this one single artery. In linear. Almost all the development is located along Route 77 and is strung While the Borough is rectangular, the pattern of residential development is

Borough. In addition, large areas of woodlands prevail in the Borough, particularly in the hilly areas of the community. Agricultural land or rural land occupies the bulk of the land area in the

just north of the main intersection. Street, and the Municipal Building and fire station located on Mill Street Public uses include an elementary school, located on the southside of State

barber shops, taverns, and the like. primarily small convenience retail outlets for gasoline, drugs, groceries, Commercial uses are located in a random pattern along State Street and are



ployment in other areas. tively minor source of income. In 1960, only 24 of the 296 people living in Blooming Valley were classified as farm population. Since 1960, the number of full-time farmers has further decreased. Except for some minor agriculcent and mining and construction for 9 per cent. 30 out of 89. industries. Valley is predominately a bedroom community with its residents obtaining emtural activities, and the limited commercial uses in the Borough, Blooming Although agriculture is the largest land use in the Borough, it is a rela-In 1960, the majority of the employed labor force worked in manufacturing Manufacturing accounted for 35 per cent of the employees, or Trade accounted for 32 per cent; professional services 9 per

that the median income stood at about \$5,500. This is higher than the median family income for Crawford County (\$5,110) but lower than Pennsylvania's Family income for Blooming Valley was not specifically computed for the residents of Blooming Valley, but the distribution of population would indicate

### BJECTIVES

## Environmental Objectives

All subsequent development and use of land shall be conducted so as to prevent excessive crosion of land through control of grading and the removal of trees from wooded areas, and the removal of topsoil.

sanctuary for birds and small animals and to maintain a sound scological Woodlands and brush areas should remain in a natural state to provide balance.

connection with any development and sewage treatment facilities should be adequate to assure clean water to all downstream users. All development should be carefully evaluated for any detrimental effect on the purity of water or air. Pollutants should not be permitted in

other development, and a natural area at least 75 feet in width should be Land adjacent to creeks should not be encroached upon by residential or maintained in order to filter the nutrients from the creek.

### Housing Objectives

Efforts to encourage the development of a housing industry to provide additional housing units for moderate and low-income families in the region will be supported. A variety of housing types should be encouraged

Efforts to rehabilitate and improve the maintenance on existing housing will be encouraged.

years. or the County in order to assure a sound audity of housing during the coming Building codes and safety codes should be adopted and enforced by the Borough

## Transportation Objectives

the automobile. The dispersed pattern of development in the region is oriented to vehicular traffic, and future development should be planned to accommodate the use of

Through traffic, high-speed traffic and industrial traffic should be limited to assigned major thorough fares through the Region.

All future development should provide adequate off-street parking facilities and off-street loading facilities so that Borough residents need not carry the burden of paving additional on-street spaces.

## Community Facilities and Utilities Objectives

of the growing population. Park and Recreation facilitics should be expanded in advance of the needs

Sanitary sewers should be provided in appropriate areas of the Borough.

#### 5

## Economic Objectives

Sound commercial development within the limits of the economic feasibility of the population should be permitted where they can create a stable business environment.

# HE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PL

cent map "The Regional Development Plan". a regional standpoint. ways and other facilities which will be required to serve the Region in Plan is necessarily general in nature and identifies the kinds of higheach of the four Townships in two Boroughs. the future, and it indicates the general policies on land development from provide the basis for the development of individual municipal plans for Commission to serve as an overall guide for the Saegertown Area and to The Regional Development Plan has been prepared by the Regional Planning The recommendations are incorporated in the adja-The Regional Development

and future residents of the region and in improving their general welfare in the broadest sense. The goals of the regional planning program are broadly stated and they are generally aimed at the protection of the health, and safety of the now

unsafe or hazardous ground; and, the phasing of improvements so that future adoption of specific conservation policies and the avoidance of developing pansion of the housing supply and the improvement of existing housing conditions; the provision of adequate facilities to accommodate the population development can be carried on within the limited financial resources of including public utilities; parks and recreation and highway facilities and the low and moderate income families can increase their earnings; the exthe protection of the environment through the control of pollutants, the local government. goals include the expansion of economic activity in the area so that



# LAND USE PLAN

between the districts and less conflict from divergent uses. woll as shopping center environment, which is an advantage to commercial owners as to the surrounding residents. There is a clearer line of demarcation

### Residential Land

major advantage for the economy of the community services. gether so that a shorter distance between buildings results, provides a when residences are strung out along a single street. Grouping these tocollection, mail delivery, police patrol, and whatever, is more expensive in the Borough has many undesirable aspects. Specifically, the cost of extending services rather they be electrical lines, sewers, garbage Residential land uses recommended an expansion into the fields behind the lots fronting on Route 77. A strong linear pattern which is evidenced today

classification of use. sult in a better environment for each individual family. Homes can be conservation areas with either public or open space being the predominant valley and the central portion of the community are expected to remain as are still expected to remain as agricultural, low-density residential velopment. The eastern, southern, and northwestern edges of the Borough grouped so as to maximize privacy while still minimizing the cost of de-Moreover, the full devolopment of the area, rather than frontage can re-The areas around the ponds and the marsh lands, centering in the

## 1 A J O R T H O R O U G H F A R E P L A N

Routes 77 and 198. truck movements need not traverse the Borough. Major thoroughfares within U. S. 27 bypassed the Borough to the south to provide direct access to routes will bypass the Borough. As shown on the Regional Development Plan, the Borough would be limited to secondary highways including Pennsylvania Interstate 79. Thus east-west, north-south major traffic movements and The Major Thoroughfare Plan for the Borough assumes that primary traffic

These routes are intended primarily to open up access to areas where residential growth is anticipated. The opening of the collector streets paralleling Route 77 in the south will provide for an alternate route around 77 within the Borough. Thus, if a traffic accident should close off Route 77, emergency equipment could still move over the new collector New collector streets are shown on the Major Thoroughfare Plan extending road so that emergency access to most parts of the community would be into the northern boundary and paralleling Route 77 to the south of 77. insured.

and other residential communities. The concentration of industrial growth near the Interstate with further expansion in present growth corridors along French Creek are also anticipated.

## UTURE LAND USE PLAN

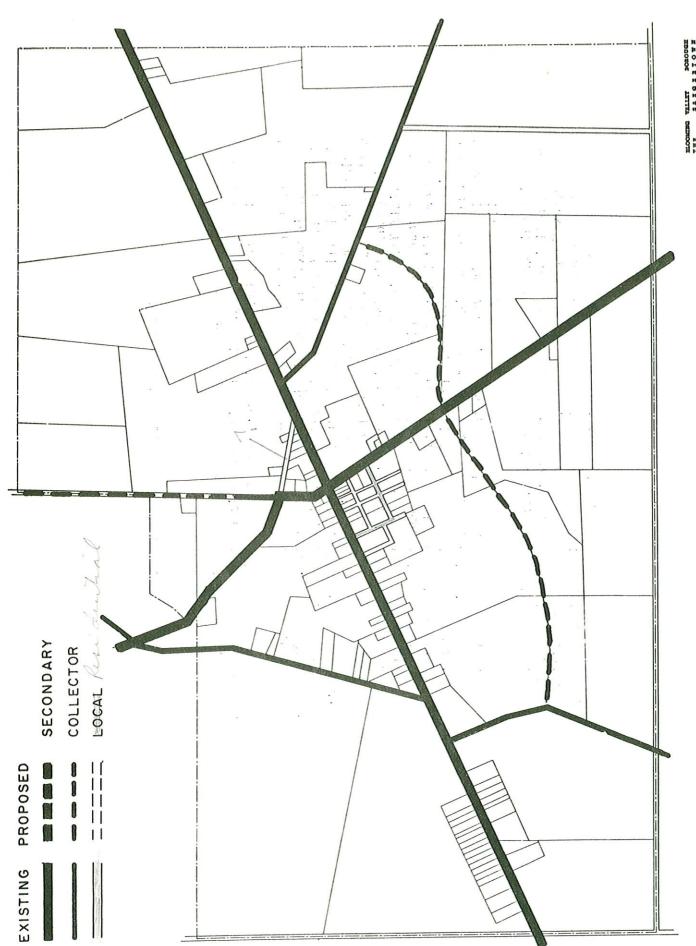
uses around the main cross roads, the expansion of residential areas, and dustrial uses are anticipated. the delineation of specific conservation areas in the Borough. No in-The Plan for future land use anticipates a concentration of commercial

### Commercial Uses

single spot and walk in one store to the next. This principal which is Valley. growth of population in Woodcock Township and in the Borough of Blooming to Blooming Valley. the primary organizational idea of a shopping center, can easily be applied instead of driving from one store to another, the customer can park in a First, it is a more convenient pattern so far as customers are concerned The expansion of commercial uses is anticipated in conjunction with the intersection in the center of town. The clustering has many advantages. The commercial uses are expected to cluster around the principal

centers. Secondly, joint facilities can be used by the stores, such as shopping lighting, and the like can also be jointly arranged. to the shopping facilities simplify traffic movements. Landscaping, to benefit the entire shopping district. Common entrance and exit lanes Specifically, parking facilities can be grouped together so as

In addition, the clustering of commercial uses, establishes a separate





THOROUGHFARE PLAN

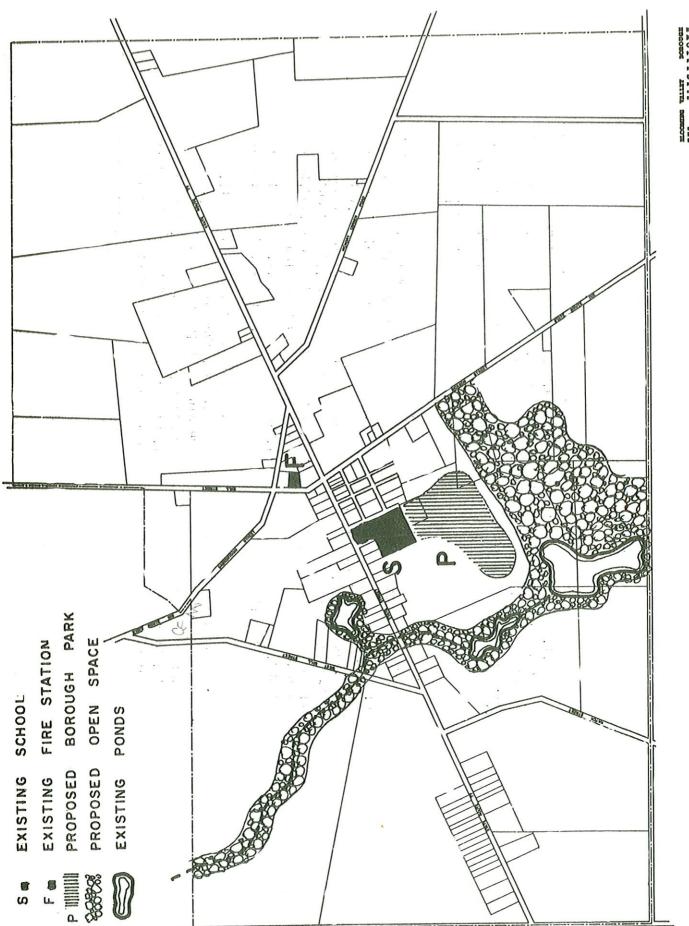
MAJOR

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND UTILITIES PLAN

Blooming Valley is a part of the Saegertown Area School District. clementary school located in Blooming Valley is presently being used only for special education facilities for elementary school children.

School will be closed. and first and second grades. In addition, the Euclid Avenue School will Sacgertown will become a primary school and will house Kindergarten, accommodate the special elementary education class which is presently housing grades five through eight. The Brookhouser Elementary School in Hayfield Township adjacent to the new high school will house grades Sunior High School located in Woodcock Township and adjacent to the high school will house grades nine through twelve. acre site in Hayfield Township just west of Saegertown. Upon its complelocated in Blooming Valley. Upon these shifts, the Blooming Valley three and four. The Euclid Avenue Elementary School in the center of northern boundary of Saegertown will be converted to a Middle School tion, the use of present school facilities will be shifted. The new The School District is presently completing a new high school on a 100 The present Junior-

needed to meet the growing population around Saegertown will be meet by has been anticipated that a new elementary level school will be needed No additional school facilities are anticipated in Blooming Valley. It the expansion of the present school facilities. in Woodcock Township in the future. Other expanded school facilities





PLAN FACILITIES COMMUNITY

## Parks and Recreation

ary of the reservoir and will be only about three miles from the center Major recreational facilities will be located around the southern boundof Blooming Valley. In addition, the open space surrounding the reser-Valley will be a major recreational facility for Western Pennsylvania. Woodcock Reservoir now being constructed just downstream from Blooming voir will reach almost to the Borough.

of population, possible by the end of the century, a full ten acres would areas in the southcentral portion of the Borough should be reserved as a be required. of improved recreational facilities are now required. With the expansion This standard applied to Blooming Valley would indicate that three acres hoods. A national standard requires that at least ten acres of improved With this major installation, however, the Borough must provide expanded future park site for the Borough. recreational land per thousand population be provided by each municipality. recreational facilities in close proximity with its residential neighbor-The school site extending back to the ponds and conservation

### ther Facilities

also serves as a municipal building for the Borough. are anticipated for Blooming Valley. roads with quick access to all parts of the community. This is a very good location for the fire station being centrally located to the residents of the community, being located at the principal cross-The fire station is on Route 198 just off the intersection with Route 77. No new facilities The fire station



UTILITIES PLAN MUNICIPAL

#### Utilities

treatment to remove excess nutrients would be required at the treatment Reservoir. northwestern portion of the community. This plant would be located along Century. A small package plant to serve residents can be located in the municipal utilities appear most feasible. Altogether, about half of the areas outlined on the Future Land Use Plan are defined by the areas where water supply will be required in the future by the Borough. The growth the Blooming Valley Run leading down to Woodcock Creek and Woodcock Borough is expected to be served by sewer and water by the end of the it is anticipated that a sewerage system and treatment plant and public While the areas are presently served by individual wells and septic tanks, Since the plant is located above Woodcock Reservoir, tertiary

## THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan is shown on a summary map form and includes the recommendations made previously in this report. Specifically, the Comprehensive munity Facilities and Utilities; a Statement of Objectives located barlier Plan includes plans for the future use of land within the Borough; a Plan for the movement of people and goods within the Borough; a Plan for Common a Statement of regional relationships incorporated in the Saegertown Area in this report with respect to the future development of the Borough; and Development Plan.

munity together with a policy statement reflecting the community-wide inter-This Plan has been set forth to serve as an overall evaluation of the coma guide not only to the Borough Council, but also to other governmental agencies and to private individuals and developers seeking to develop land est in the future development of the Borough. It is intended to serve as or to expand their developments within the Borough. The Plan is set forward so that every individual will be aware of the overall Borough goals and can best coordinate his particular development to meet the overall

To assist in the implementation of the program, a Zoning Ordinance has been prepared reflecting these plans and objectives. The Zoning Ordinance sets forth the districts of the Borough and establishes the uses permissible in each district. In addition, conditional uses are permitted under specific Planning Commission and the Borough Council. The size of yards, height of buildings, density of population, off-street parking requirements, setback circumstances, upon the review and approval of the proposed use by the

and side yard requirements are all set forth in the Zoning Ordinances.

Borough will be required to obtain a Zoning Certificate prior to occupying proposing to build a new building or to establish a new use within the the building or establishing the use. The Ordinance will be enforced by a Zoning Officer, and every individua

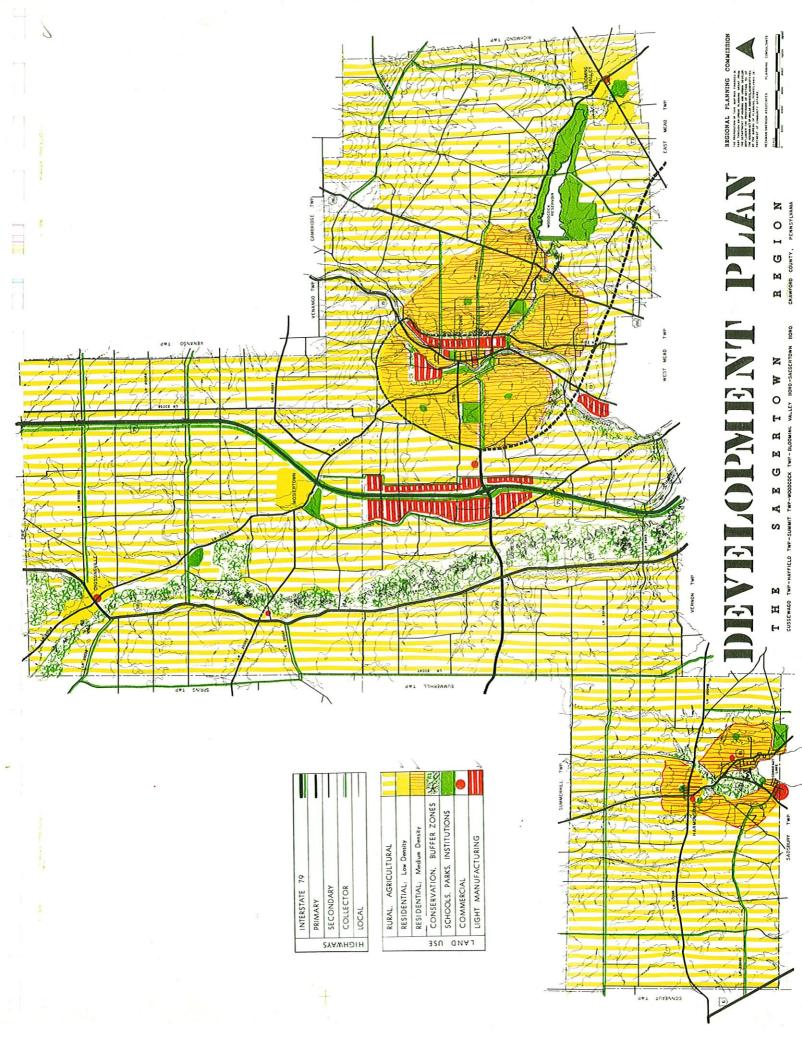
cel of ground in the lots for building purposes. The Subdivision Ordinance Ordinance sets forth the standards and procedures for subdividing any parby the Borough Council as a part of this Planning Program. The Subdivision homes in the subdivisions. stallation of public streets and other improvements as necessary to intended to provide an orderly development of land and for the sound insets forth the type of improvements which are required, and the method of A Land Development and Subdivision Ordinance has been prepared for adoption sure adequate service to those families who will subsequently make their improvements in connection with any subdivision. These provisions are inconstruction and minimum standards for construction for streets and other

Planning Commission and these will be revised by the Planning Commission and capital needs for the Borough have been made in separate reports to the from time to time as dictated by changing needs in the Borough. Additional recommendations with respect to capital improvements programming

appear to be necessary, a proposed amendment to the Plan can be made by the Borough Council if they have first held a public hearing as required changing forces and requirements in the Borough. Where such changes by law with respect to the change. Changes in the Plan itself may occur from time to time as dictated by

COMPREHENSIVE

PLOOMING VALLEY BOROUGH
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPER



activities of all levels of government and of the private developers and thdividual families who will change the present development of the Region. patterns which work together to constitute an entire community. activities are too often un-related, and it is the avowed purpose of the will exist within the Region by the end of the Century. All these isolated activities will combine to build the communities which the whole, is greater than the sum of the individual parts. ming Commission aims for the "synergistic affect" whereby the end product, Regional Planning Commission to pool these individual activities in the instead as commonly agreed upon end products of the accumulated building These above goals should not be taken as promises of things to come, but These individua The Plan-

as well. In addition, major growth around older established areas as at Conneaut Lake and Harmonsburg can be expected to grow. Further of Pennsylvania Route 27, more or less along this access. With this ation facilities which are programmed near Woodcock, and the construction supplemented by major new schools, sewage facilities, major new recrestate 79 through Saegertown to the Woodcock Reservoir. This access is rural residential growth is expected with expansion of Blooming Valley concentrated so that solutions to one problem will solve other solutions concentration, most of the developmental problems of the area can be ment in local improvements and the programmed State improvements in the focused in one area since the major concentration of population, the main providing supporting facilities as well as in the construction of homes sult in aggregation of housing markets and would lead to economics in which would concentrate development pressures at logical points would reestablishing rational land development policies. Region all lie along an access from the Hayfield Interchange of Inter-The Regional Planning Commission hopes to progress toward these goals by location of new industry, the two main investments by the Federal Governthemselves. The pressures in the Saegertown Area can fortunately be For example, a policy