

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## DEMOGRAPHICS

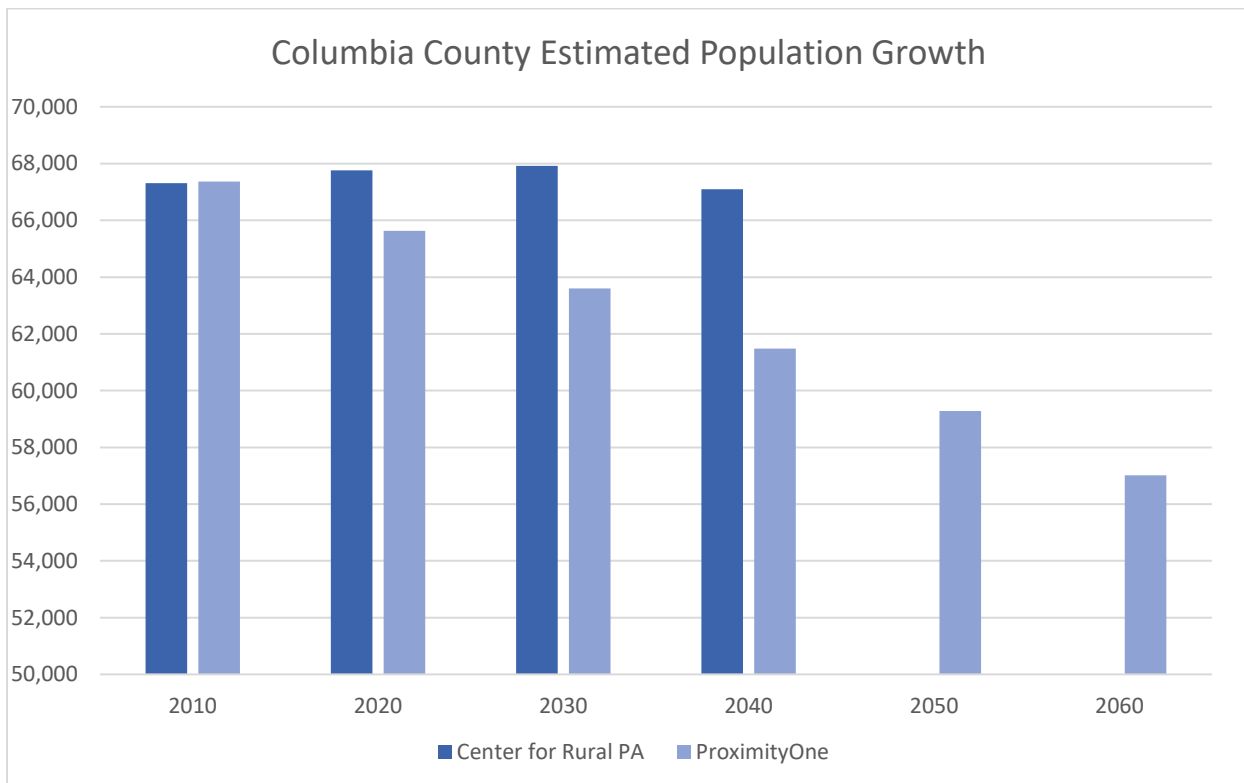
### POPULATION

Briar Creek and North Centre Townships have a combined population of 5,161 people. The population of the area has grown more than 7% since 1990. This growth exceeds Columbia County, where the population increased by 3.6% during this time.

There has been less growth in Briar Creek Township than in North Centre Township. In fact, the population of Briar Creek Township has been declining slightly since 2000.

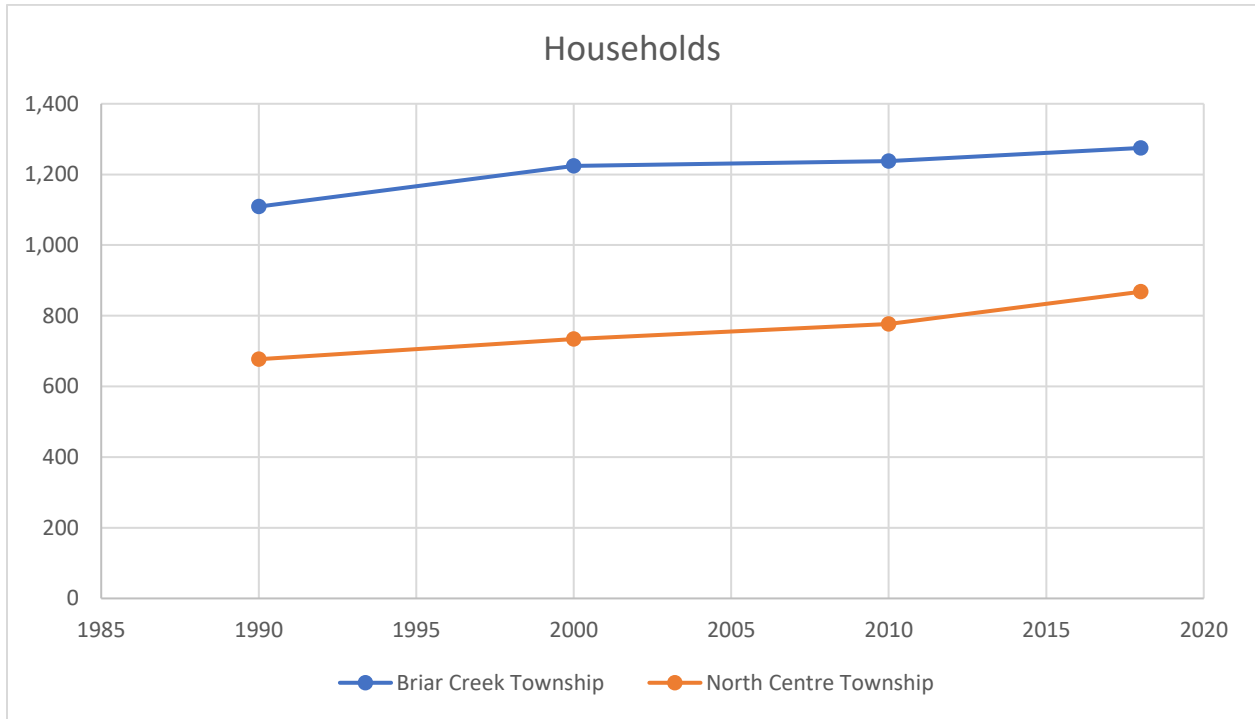
In North Centre Township, the population has increased nearly 14.5% since 1990. Most of this growth occurred between 1990 and 2000 and has slowed since then.

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania projects that the population of Columbia County will remain relatively stable through 2040; however, ProximityOne projects a population loss of 6.3% between 2020 and 2040 and a total population loss of 13.1% from 2020 to 2060.



## HOUSEHOLDS

While the population of the two Townships increased 7.1% from 1990 to 2018, the number of households increased 20% during this time. This suggests that there is a larger percentage of households with fewer members.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Most of the growth in households can be attributed to North Centre Township. In Briar Creek Township, the number of households increased nearly 15% from 1990 to 2018. Like population growth, most of this change occurred between 1990 and 2000.

In North Centre Township, the number of households grew 28.2% from 1990 to 2020. While most of this growth occurred from 2010 to 2018 (11.7%), growth was also significant from 1990 to 2000 (8.4%) and from 2000 to 2010 (5.9%).

## DENSITY

The number of people per square mile is similar in North Centre Township (144.32) and Briar Creek Township (143.26). While North Centre Township has become slightly denser since 2010, density decreased slightly in Briar Creek Township.

Density	2018	2010
Briar Creek Township	143.26	143.93
North Centre Township	144.32	140.71

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**DISTRIBUTION**

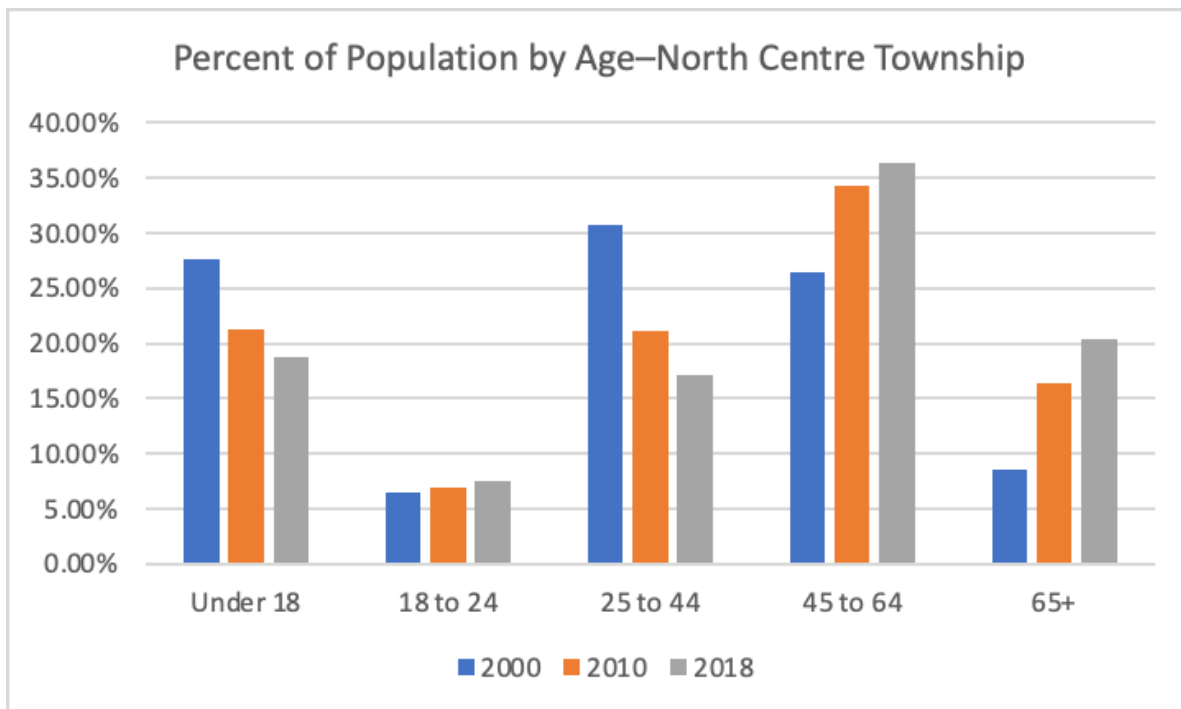
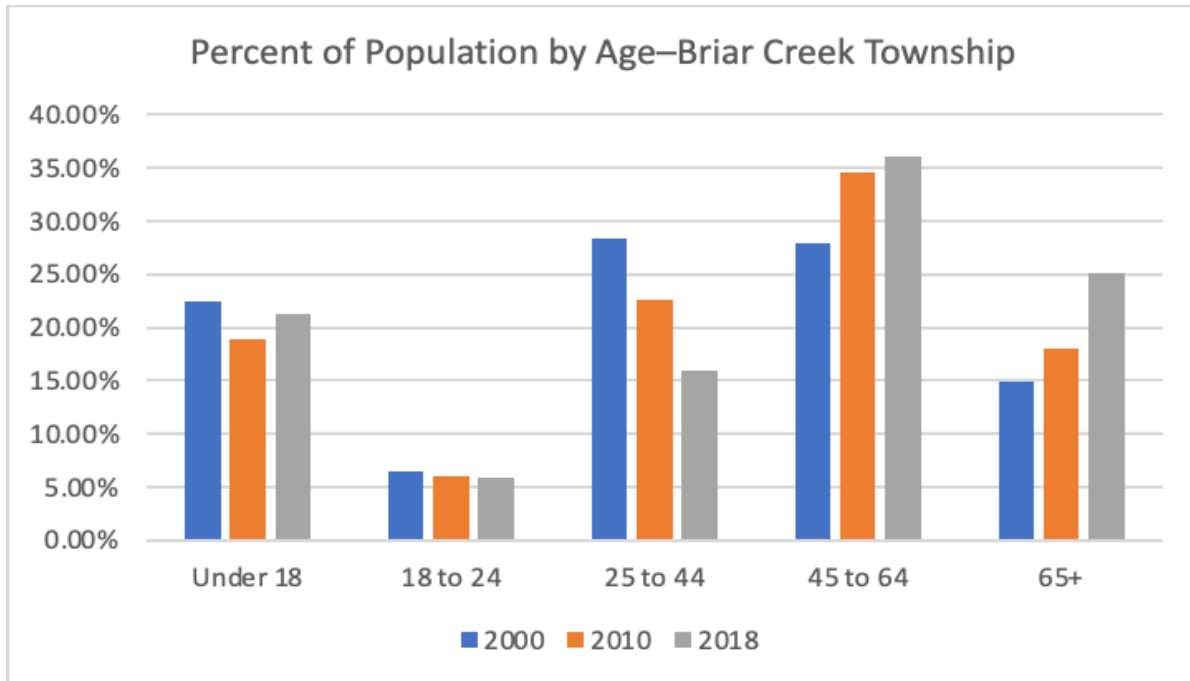
While the Townships are mostly rural, there are several population centers: “The Avenues,” Foundryville, and Evansville in Briar Creek Township. There are also three large mobile home communities.

The Avenues is a densely populated area of Briar Creek Township that is adjacent and just north of Berwick Borough. Foundryville is a large area that spans from the Borough of Berwick to Berwick Heights. There are many homes along Foundryville Road in the southeastern part of the Township and Dogwood Terrace, a 37-unit mobile home community, is adjacent to this area. Hellers Mobile Home Park, which has 40 units, is located in the western part of the Township, northwest of the Evansville area. There are a few densely populated areas of North Centre Township zoned Suburban Residential. There is one mobile home community, Brookside Village, located north of Ridge Road.

**AGE AND SEX**

The population of children and young adults aged 18 to 44 has declined over the past 20 years while the percentage of older adults aged 65 and older has grown tremendously.

In Briar Creek Township, the median age increased 14.25% from 2010 to 2018 while in North Centre Township the median age increased 21.34% during this time. The under 18 population remained fairly stable in Briar Creek Township but declined 32.18% in North Centre Township over the past 20 years.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**Greater than 65 and Less than 18**

More than 500 households in the two Townships have at least one person over the age of 65. A higher percentage of households in Briar Creek Township (27.8%) have at least one older adult than in North Centre Township (16.8%). In North Centre Township, there is a higher percentage

of households with at least one person under the age of 18 (36.2%) than in Briar Creek Township (28.2%).

>65 and <18	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
Households w/1+ person > 65	355 (27.8%)	146 (16.8%)
Household w/1+ person < 18	359 (28.2%)	314 (36.2%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Gender

The gender distribution in the Townships is fairly even with slightly more women than men in Briar Creek Township and slightly more men than women in North Centre Township.

Gender	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
Male	48.5%	51.46%
Female	51.5%	48.54%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Median Age and Dependency

The median age in the Townships is much higher than Columbia County and Pennsylvania. The Townships thus have much higher old age dependency ratios—particularly in Briar Creek Township. This figure is calculated by dividing the population of people aged 65 and older by the population aged 18 to 64, then multiplying that number by 100.

Median Age and Dependency	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Columbia County	Pennsylvania
Median Age-Women	53.6	50.8	42.2	42.4
Median Age-Men	50	47.2	39.7	39.1
Median Age-All	52.1	48.9	40.8	40.7
Sex Ratio (Males per 1,000 Females)	94.2	106	93	95.9
Old Age Dependency Ratio	43.5	33.5	28.8	28.3
Child Dependency Ratio	29.4	30.8	27.8	33.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**RACE AND ETHNICITY**

There are few Hispanic or Latino and non-White residents in the Townships. In Briar Creek Township, 5.93% of the population is Hispanic or Latino and 5.76% non-White. Most residents who are non-White identify as some other race.

Race and Ethnicity	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	5.93%	1.57%
<i>Puerto Rican</i>	178	0
<i>Other Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	34
<b>Non-White</b>	5.76%	1.85%
<i>Black or African American</i>	0	12
<i>Asian</i>	16	8
<i>Some Other Race</i>	150	0
<i>White and Black or African American</i>	7	0
<i>White and Asian</i>	0	20

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**LANGUAGE**

The majority of Township residents only speak English. For those who do not speak English, most speak other Indo-European languages and a smaller percentage speak Spanish. For those who speak a language other than English, a very small percentage, totaling 33 people, speak English less than very well.

Language	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>English Only</b>	2,830 (98.2%)	2,052 (99.1%)	4882 (98.5%)
<b>Spanish</b>	11 (0.4%)	5 (0.2%)	16 (0.3%)
<i>Speak English Less than Very Well</i>	0	5 (0.2%)	5 (0.1%)

<b>Other Indo-European Languages</b>	42 (1.5%)	14 (0.7%)	56 (0.9%)
<i>Speak English Less than Very Well</i>	13 (0.5%)	4 (.02%)	17 (0.3%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**POPULATION MOVEMENTS**

More than 75% of residents have lived in their current home for at least 10 years. About 27.2% moved into their current home between 2000 and 2009. About 8.4% of residents moved into their current home since 2015.

<b>Year Moved Into Township</b>	<b>Briar Creek Township</b>	<b>North Centre Township</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2017 or 2018</b>	11 (0.9%)	11 (1.3%)	22 (1%)
<b>2015 or 2016</b>	56 (4.4%)	103 (11.9%)	159 (7.4%)
<b>2010 to 2014</b>	175 (13.7%)	168 (19.4%)	343 (16%)
<b>2000 to 2009</b>	371 (29.1%)	212 (24.4%)	583 (27.2%)
<b>1990 to 1999</b>	227 (17.8%)	109 (12.6%)	336 (15.7%)
<b>1989 or Earlier</b>	435 (34.1%)	265 (30.5%)	700 (32.7%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Housing Location One Year Ago

Nearly all (96%) of Briar Creek Township residents, and 91.4% of North Centre Township residents, lived in the same house one year ago. For those that did not live in the same house one year ago, most of them moved from another location in Columbia County. Less than 1% moved to the area from outside Pennsylvania.

<b>Housing 1 Year Ago</b>	<b>Briar Creek Township</b>	<b>North Centre Township</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Same House</b>	2,832 (96%)	1,997 (91.4%)	4,829 (94.1%)
<b>Different House in Columbia County</b>	23 (0.8%)	149 (6.9%)	172 (3.4%)
<b>In PA, not Columbia County</b>	84 (2.8%)	17 (0.8%)	101 (2%)

<b>Outside PA, in US</b>	12 (0.4%)	14 (0.6%)	26 (0.5%)
<b>Abroad</b>	0	5 (0.2%)	5 (0.1%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Place of Birth

Most Township residents (82.2%) were born in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. About 14% were born in the United States, but outside of Pennsylvania, and nearly 4% were born in a U.S. territory or another country.

<b>Place of Birth</b>	<b>Briar Creek Township</b>	<b>North Centre Township</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	2,521 (84%)	1,723 (79.8%)	4,244 (82.2%)
<b>US, not PA</b>	327 (10.9%)	394 (18.2%)	721 (14%)
<b>US Territory</b>	21 (0.7%)	6 (0.3%)	27 (0.5%)
<b>Outside US</b>	133 (4.4%)	36 (1.7%)	169 (3.3%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**Not Born in United States**

For those residents who were not born in the United States or its territories, all of them entered the country before 2010. The majority of foreign-born residents (87%) are naturalized citizens. Most (64%) were born in Latin America and the remainder were born in either Europe or Asia.

<b>Not Born in US</b>	<b>Briar Creek Township</b>	<b>North Centre Township</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Foreign-Born Residents</b>	133	36	169
<b>Naturalized Citizen</b>	133	14	147
<b>Not a Citizen</b>	0	22	22
<b>Entered since 2010</b>	0	0	0
<b>Entered before 2010</b>	133	36	97
<b>Born in Europe</b>	9	22	31
<b>Born in Asia</b>	16	14	30
<b>Born in Latin America</b>	108	0	108

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018



**FAMILY PATTERNS**

The majority of households in the area (71.7%) do not have any children. The percentage of households without children is slightly higher than the State (70.5%). More than 300 households—nearly 15% of all households—are people aged 65 and older who live alone. In Pennsylvania, about 12.6% of households are people aged 65 and older who live alone.

Households	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Total Households</b>	1,275	868	2,143
<b>Households without Children</b>	945 (74.2%)	591 (68.1%)	1,536 (71.7%)
<b>Married with Children</b>	254 (19.9%)	213 (24.5%)	467 (21.8%)
<b>Single with Children</b>	77 (6%)	64 (7.4%)	141 (6.6%)
<b>65+ Living Alone</b>	160 (12.5%)	158 (18.2%)	318 (14.8%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**OTHER POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

In Pennsylvania, 13.91% of people have a disability. This percentage is slightly lower in Briar Creek Township (10.53%) and slightly higher in North Centre Township (14.65%).

Disabilities	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
<b>People with Disabilities</b>	10.53%	14.65%
<b>Under 18 with Disability</b>	2.16%	10.37%
<b>65+ with Disability</b>	26.75%	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

# HOUSING

## INVENTORY

### Units of Housing

There are currently 1,449 units of housing. The area’s housing inventory has increased 27.74% since 1990. Most of this increase took place between 1990 and 2000. There has been a similar increase in housing inventory in both Townships. From 2010 to 2018, there was a much larger increase in housing units in North Centre Township than in Briar Creek Township.

Units of Housing	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total	Percent Change - Total	Cumulative Percent Change - Total
1990	1,138	690	1828	n/a	n/a
2000	1,346	793	2139	17.01%	17.01%
2010	1,397	821	2218	3.69%	21.33%
2018	1,449	886	2335	5.28%	27.74%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

### Housing Type

Most housing (84.1%) consists of one unit detached dwellings. There are a considerable number of mobile homes, particularly in North Centre Township where they account for 22.7% of homes. While Census data seems to indicate that there is an apartment complex with 20 units in North Centre Township, this is due to the margin of error and is not accurate as there are no apartment buildings in the Township.

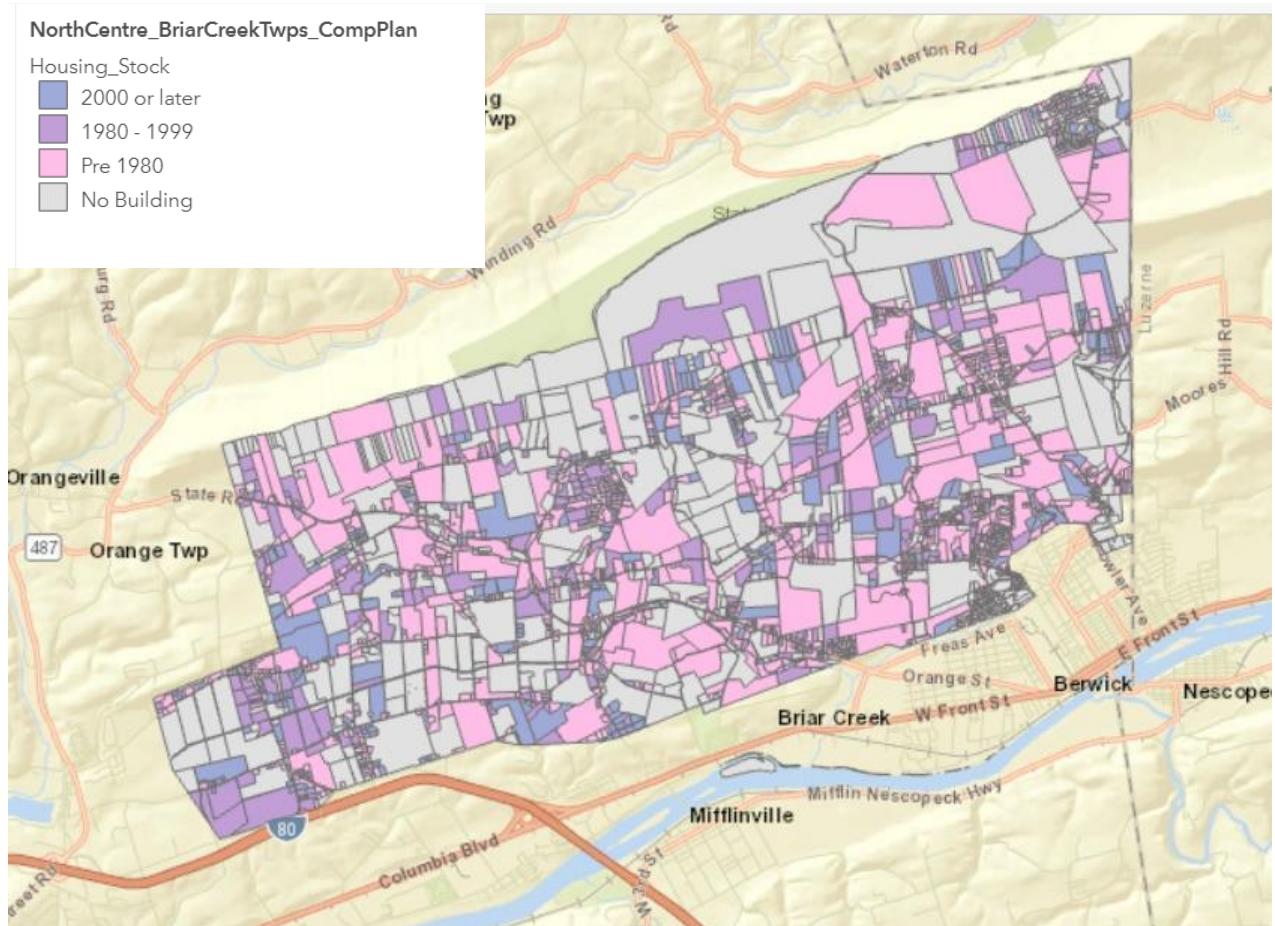
Housing Type	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
1 Unit Detached	1,300 (89.7%)	666 (75.2%)	1966 (84.1%)
1 Unit Attached	0	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)
2 Units	60 (4.1%)	0	60 (2.6%)
20 or More Units	0	20 (1.9%)	20 (0.8%)
Mobile Home	89 (6.1%)	201 (22.7%)	290 (12.4%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Housing Built Date

The majority of homes (65.2%) have been built since 1970. About 442 homes have been built in the past 20 years. There are also several dwellings that were built before 1940, representing 12.7% of all housing units.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018



Bedrooms

There are no studio (no bedroom) units in the Townships. There are a small number of one-bedroom units in Briar Creek Township. The majority of homes (54.9%) have three bedrooms and 18.1% have four or more bedrooms.

Bedrooms	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
No Bedroom	0	0	0
1 Bedroom	62 (4.3%)	0	62 (2.7%)
2 Bedrooms	391 (27%)	176 (19.9%)	567 (24.3%)
3 Bedrooms	751 (51.8%)	531 (59.9%)	1282 (54.9%)
4 Bedrooms	209 (14.4%)	147 (16.6%)	356 (15.2%)
5 or More Bedrooms	36 (2.5%)	32 (3.6%)	68 (2.9%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**TENURE**

Rentals

There are few rentals in the Townships. Most homes are owner-occupied (85.9%).

Rentals	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
Owner-Occupied	1,108 (86.9%)	733 (84.4%)	1841 (85.9%)
Renter-Occupied	167 (13.1%)	135 (15.6%)	302 (14.1%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Homeownership Rate

The homeownership rate has declined slightly in both Townships since 2000. Since that time, the rate has declined 3.4% in Briar Creek Township and 7.1% in North Centre Township.

Homeownership Rate	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
2000	89.96%	90.88%
2010	86.47%	92.2%
2018	86.9%	84.45%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**OCCUPANCY**

Most units in the Townships (91.7%) are occupied. There are fewer than 200 vacant units in both townships. There is rental availability in Briar Creek Township as 11.2% of rentals are vacant.

Occupancy	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Occupied Units</b>	1,275 (88%)	868 (98%)	2143 (91.7%)
<b>Vacant Units</b>	174 (12%)	18 (2%)	192 (8.3%)
<b>Homeowner Vacancy Rate</b>	0	0	0
<b>Rental Vacancy Rate</b>	11.2%	0	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**AFFORDABILITY**

The median value of owner-occupied homes in the Townships is \$167,767; however, there are a variety of housing values. More than a quarter of homes (26.6%) have a value of less than \$100,000.

While only 22.4% of homeowners with a mortgage and 11.6% of those without a mortgage are cost burdened—paying more than 30% of their income toward housing expenses—more than half of renters are cost burdened.

Cost-Burdened	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Cost-Burdened Owners with Mortgage</b>	122 (21.7%)	86 (23.4%)	208 (22.4%)
<b>Cost-Burdened Owners without Mortgage</b>	53 (12%)	41 (11.2%)	94 (11.6%)
<b>Cost-Burdened Renters</b>	79 (52.7%)	56 (49.6%)	135 (51.3%)

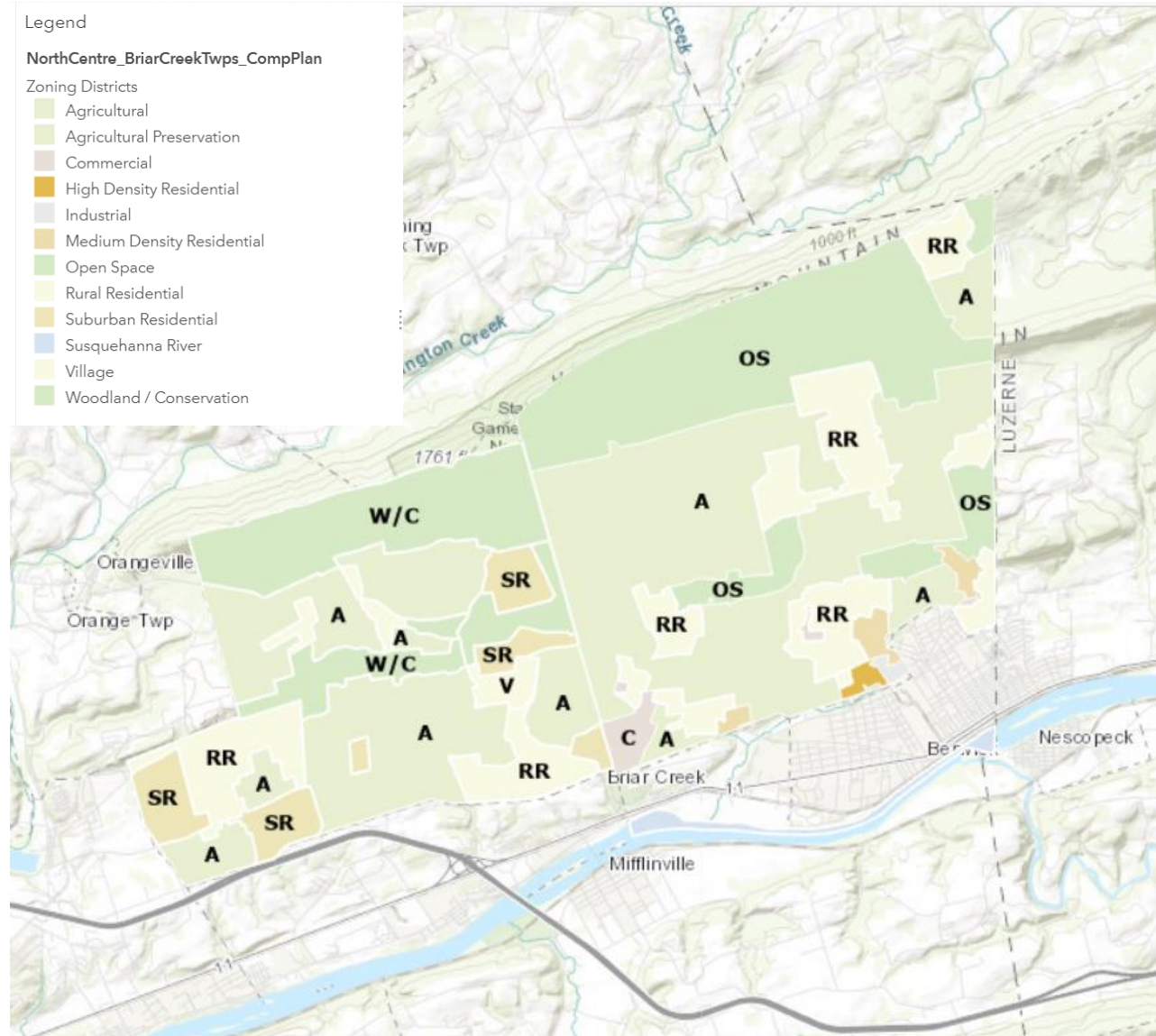
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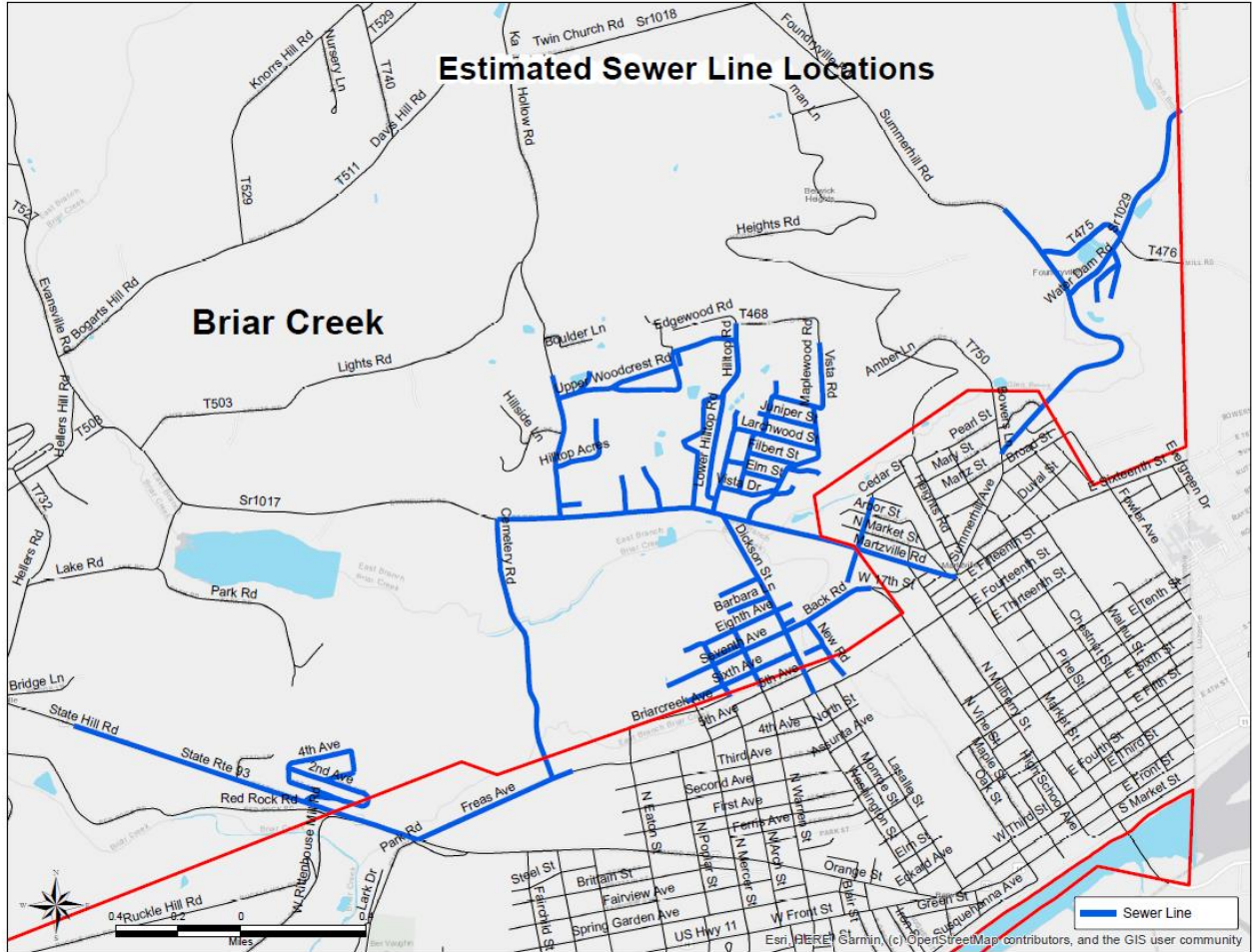
**ZONING**

The Townships’ zoning ordinances provide for all housing types; however, it is easiest to build single family dwellings on large plots of land, one acre or larger. Due to the lack of public water and sewer in North Centre Township and the limited availability of public water and sewer in Briar Creek Township, larger plots of land are needed in order to meet the Pennsylvania

Department of Environment Protection minimum horizontal isolation distances for on-lot septic systems.

The minimum lot size in Briar Creek Township is .25 acres in the Residential High-Density District if both public water and sewer are provided. This zoning district is only permitted in the Avenues area of the Township, which is primarily built out. In North Centre Township, the minimum lot size is .23 acres in the Village District if both public water and sewer are provided. The Village District is not close to any public water or sewer lines.





**HOUSING MARKET TRENDS**

Much housing data is available by zip code. There are four zip codes represented in the Townships: 18603, which also includes the Boroughs of Berwick and Briar Creek; 18655, which is mostly rural; 17859, which also includes the Borough of Orangeville; and 17815 which also includes the Town of Bloomsburg. Thus, the real estate market data represents the larger geographic region and is not specific to the Townships.

Active Listings

In October 2020, there were 26 active listings in zip code 18603 and 16 listings in 18655. This is considerably lower than one year before and may be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the median list price increased nearly 42% in 18603, the list price per square foot only increased 13.3%. In zip code 18655, the median list price is the same as one year ago; however, the median list price per square foot decreased 20.1%. This data is not available for zip codes 17859 and 17815.

Active Listings	October 2020		October 2019	
	18603	18655	18603	18655
Active Listings	26	16	71	37
Median List Price	\$179,950	\$229,050	\$126,750	\$229,050
Median Square Feet	1904	2173	1520	1737
Median List Price/Square Feet	\$94.51	\$105.41	\$83.39	\$131.87
Median Days on the Market	54	63	66	95.5

Source: Realtor.com

Zillow estimates that home values will increase 5.8% in Columbia County over the next year. This is less than the estimated 7.1% increase in Pennsylvania.

**FUTURE NEEDS**

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice reports that were recently created for the Town of Bloomsburg and Borough of Berwick revealed that people search for affordable housing opportunities in the Townships of Columbia County due to a lack of availability in more developed areas. There is a lack of affordable housing throughout the region. The Columbia County Housing Needs Assessment (2008) indicated an unmet affordable housing need of 1,688 owner-occupied homes and 3,468 rentals. With the growing senior population, there will be an even greater need for affordable, easy to maintain housing in the future. The transition of the senior population to more manageable housing units will open new housing opportunities for families who wish to move into the area.



## ECONOMY

### INDUSTRY

#### Business Size

There are few large and medium-sized businesses in Briar Creek Township. Nearly all of them (97.37%) have less than 20 employees. In North Centre Township, more than half of businesses have less than 20 employees and most (97.59%) have less than 50 employees. There are a variety of businesses in the Townships including but not limited to: several farms and agriculture-based businesses such as a produce wholesaler, a nursery, and equine establishments; two wineries; a motocross park; a gift shop; a bar and restaurant; a golf club; a student transportation company; a food additive manufacturer; a restaurant supply company; a gunsmith; a fish bait supplier; an LED lighting manufacturer; and a self-storage facility.

Business Size	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
Less than 20 Employees	97.37%	56.63%
Less than 50 Employees	97.37%	97.59%
Less than 250 Employees	97.37%	100%
Less than 500 Employees	97.37%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses

#### Industries

Township residents work in a variety of industries. The most common are educational services, health care, and social assistance (28%), manufacturing (17.3%), and retail (8.9%).

Industries	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total 2562
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Mining	24 (1.6%)	12 (1.1%)	36 (1.4%)
Construction	104 (7.1%)	45 (4.1%)	149 (5.8%)
Manufacturing	281 (19.2%)	161 (14.7%)	442 (17.3%)
Wholesale Trade	8 (0.5%)	25 (2.3%)	33 (1.3%)
Retail Trade	133 (9.1%)	95 (8.7%)	228 (8.9%)

<b>Transportation and Warehousing, Utilities</b>	152 (10.4%)	113 (10.3%)	265 (10.3%)
<b>Information</b>	60 (4.1%)	17 (1.6%)	77 (3%)
<b>Finance and Insurance, Real Estate</b>	24 (1.6%)	72 (6.6%)	96 (3.7%)
<b>Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, Waste Management Services</b>	122 (8.3%)	9 (0.8%)	131 (5.1%)
<b>Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance</b>	370 (25.2%)	347 (31.7%)	717 (28%)
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Service</b>	27 (1.8%)	100 (9.1%)	127 (5%)
<b>Other Services, Except Public Administration</b>	96 (6.5%)	63 (5.7%)	159 (6.2%)
<b>Public Administration</b>	65 (4.4%)	37 (3.4%)	102 (4%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Market Value of Products Sold

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are a total of 1,248 producers in Columbia County. The total market value of products sold by Columbia County farms was \$67,287,000 in 2017—accounting for 1% of sales statewide. About 56% of these sales are crops and 44% are livestock, poultry, and products. The largest crop sales are grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas (\$19,643,000) and vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes (\$9,110,000). The largest livestock, poultry, and product sales are in poultry and eggs (\$12,359,000), milk from cows (\$7,620,000), and hogs and pigs (\$6,645,000). The majority of Columbia County farms (51%) have sales of less than \$5,000 per year.

**LABOR FORCE**

About 2,665 residents are part of the civilian workforce. Of these, 3.9% were unemployed according to the most recently available Census data; however, this percentage is likely higher now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the unemployment rate in Columbia County was 6.7% in September 2020 and was as high as 15.4% during earlier in 2020. The unemployment rate is more than twice as high in North Centre Township than in Briar Creek Township.

Workforce	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Civilian Workforce</b>	1,503	1,162	2,665
<b>Unemployed</b>	37 (1.4%)	66 (3.6%)	103 (3.9%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Most residents work in management, business, science, and the arts (32.4%) or production, transportation, and material moving (23.9%). Other residents work in sales and office occupations (20.9%), service (12.3%), or natural resources, construction, and maintenance (10.6%).

Employment Sector	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Management, Business, Science, Arts</b>	449 (30.6%)	381 (34.8%)	830 (32.4%)
<b>Service</b>	166 (11.3%)	148 (13.5%)	314 (12.3%)
<b>Sales and Office</b>	297 (20.3%)	238 (21.7%)	535 (20.9%)
<b>Natural Resources, Construction, Maintenance</b>	179 (12.2%)	92 (8.4%)	271 (10.6%)
<b>Production, Transportation, Material Moving</b>	375 (25.6%)	237 (21.6%)	612 (23.9%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Most residents of the Townships (82.3%) drive to work. A small percentage carpool (7.4%) and about 4.4% work at home.

Employment Transportation	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
<b>Drive to Work</b>	1,250 (85.8%)	943 (86%)	2193 (82.3%)
<b>Carpool</b>	98 (6.7%)	98 (8.9%)	196 (7.4%)
<b>Walked to Work</b>	0	13 (1.2%)	13 (0.5%)
<b>Other Transportation to Work</b>	9 (0.6%)	25 (2.3%)	34 (1.3%)
<b>Work at Home</b>	100 (6.9%)	18 (1.6%)	118 (4.4%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Nearly all households in the Townships have at least one vehicle; only 2.5% do not have one. More than a quarter of households have one vehicle, 41% have two vehicles, and nearly 30% have three or more vehicles.

Vehicles	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
No Vehicles	31 (2.4%)	23 (2.6%)	54 (2.5%)
One Vehicle	403 (31.6%)	173 (19.9%)	576 (26.9%)
Two Vehicles	492 (38.6%)	386 (44.5%)	878 (41%)
Three or More Vehicles	349 (27.4%)	286 (32.9%)	635 (29.6%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

The average commute time in the Townships is between 22 and 23 minutes. About 29% of Briar Creek Township residents, and 27% of Briar Creek Township residents, work within a 15-minute drive of their home. The majority of North Centre Township residents commute for 15 to 29 minutes while about 40% of Briar Creek Township residents have a commute time within this range.

Commute Time	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
Less than 15 minutes	29.5%	26.7%
15-29 minutes	39.9%	51.6%
30-44 minutes	20.4%	11.1%
45 minutes-1 hour	4.6%	7.2%
More than 1 hour	5.5%	3.3%
Average commute	23	22

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

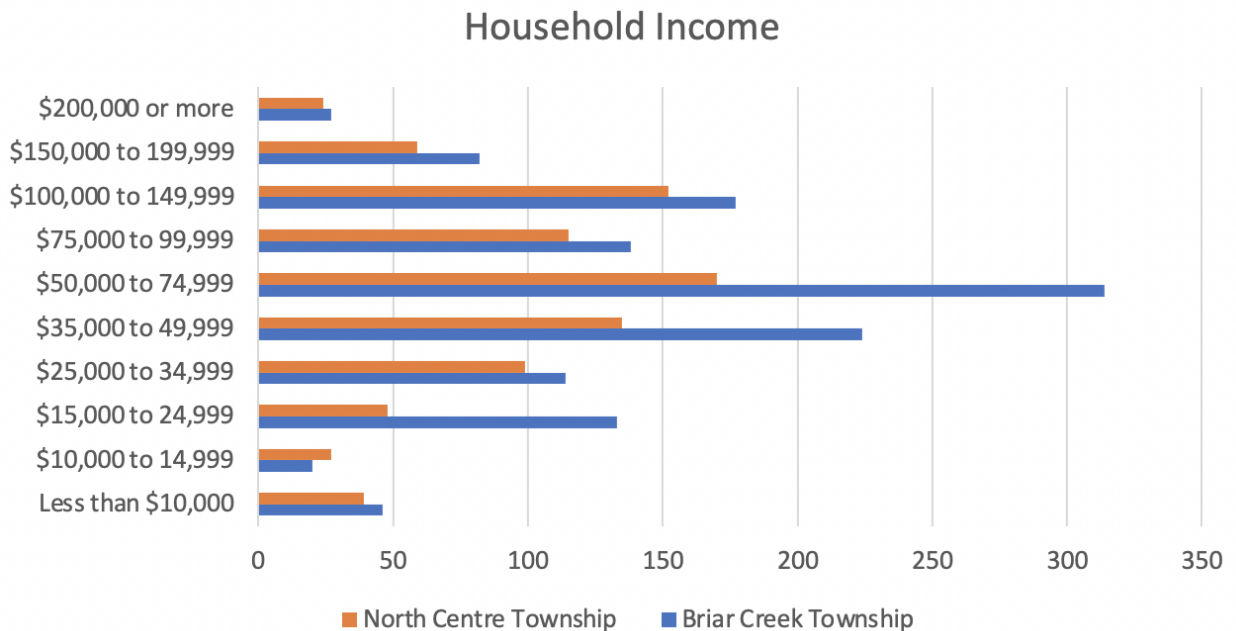
The majority of Township residents aged 25 and older (87.5%) have completed high school. More than 15% of residents—11% in Briar Creek Township and 23% in North Centre Township—have at least a bachelor’s degree. More than 12% of residents have not completed high school.

Education	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
Less than 9th Grade	33 (1.4%)	29 (2.1%)	62 (1.7%)
9th to 12th Grade	243 (10.6%)	153 (10.9%)	396 (10.7%)
High School or GED	1,175 (51.1%)	574 (41.1%)	1749 (47.2%)
Some College	406 (17.7%)	215 (15.4%)	621 (16.8%)
Associates Degree	194 (8.4%)	106 (7.6%)	300 (8.1%)
Bachelor’s Degree	165 (7.2%)	234 (16.7%)	399 (10.8%)
Graduate Degree	84 (3.7%)	87 (6.2%)	171 (4.6%)
At Least High School	88%	87%	87.5%
At Least Bachelor’s Degree	10.8%	23%	15.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

**INCOME**

Households have a variety of incomes. The majority of households have income between \$35,000 and \$149,000 per year. More than 10% of households have income under \$25,000 per year. The median household income is just under \$60,000.



Income	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
Median Household Income	\$59,811	\$59,643
Mean Earnings	\$76,244	\$77,784
Per Capita Income	\$30,574	\$31,191

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Poverty Rate

The poverty rate in the Townships is fairly low—4% in Briar Creek Township and 5.9% in North Centre Township. Nearly 11% of children in North Centre Township, and 10% of adults aged 65 and older, live in poverty.

Poverty Rate	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
All People	4%	5.9%
Under 18 Years Old	5%	10.9%
65 and Older	9.8%	4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Area Medium Income – Briar Creek Township

Nearly 70% of renters in Briar Creek Township are low income (income below 80% of the area median). Renters are twice as likely to be low income than homeowners. Nearly 30% of homeowners in the Township are low income. In total, there are 49 extremely low-income households (income at or below 30% of the area median), 120 very low-income households (income between 31 and 50% of the area median), and 180 low-income households.

Area Medium Income Briar Creek Township	Homeowners	Renters	Total
Less than or equal to 30% AMI	45 (4.3%)	4 (2%)	49 (3.9%)
Between 31 and 50% AMI	45 (4.3%)	75 (37.5%)	120 (9.6%)
Between 51 and 80% AMI	120 (11.5%)	60 (30%)	180 (14.5%)
Between 81 and 100% AMI	150 (14.4%)	0	150 (12%)
Higher than 100% AMI	685 (65.6%)	60 (30%)	745 (59.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,245</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, 2013-2017

Area Medium Income – North Centre Township

In North Centre Township, 345 households, including 485 homeowners and 45 renters, have income below the area median. This represents 39.7% of households. There are 65 extremely low-income households (income less than or equal to 30% of the area median), 40 very low-income households (income between 31 and 50% of the area median), and low-income households (income between 51 and 80% of the area median). Renters are twice as likely to have income below the area median than homeowners.

Area Medium Income North Centre Township	Homeowners	Renters	Total
Less than or equal to 30% AMI	45 (6.1%)	20 (15.4%)	65 (7.5%)
Between 31 and 50% AMI	10 (1.4%)	30 (23.1%)	40 (4.6%)
Between 51 and 80% AMI	105 (14.2%)	35 (26.9%)	140 (16.1%)
Between 81 and 100% AMI	90 (12.2%)	10 (7.7%)	100 (11.5%)
Higher than 100% AMI	485 (65.5%)	40 (30.8%)	525 (60.3%)
<b>Total</b>	740	130	870

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, 2013-2017

**CONSUMER EXPENDITURES AND RETAIL POTENTIAL**

Consumer expenditure and retail potential data is available at the Census Tract level. These geographic areas will be used to approximate data for Briar Creek Township (Census Tract 505) and North Centre Township (Census Tract 504).

Consumer Spending – Current

Consumer spending in the Townships totals \$189,291,375. Residents spend most of their money on housing (21.5% of consumer expenditures) and transportation (18.9%), and food and beverages (15.2%).

Consumer Spending	Census Tract 505 Briar Creek Township	Census Tract 504 North Centre Township	Total
Apparel	\$3,180,000	\$3,539,000	\$6,719,000 (3.5%)
Entertainment	\$5,161,000	\$5,764,000	\$10,925,000 (5.8%)
Education	\$2,507,000	\$2,868,000	\$5,375,000 (<1%)
Food and Beverages	\$13,707,000	\$15,066,000	\$28,773,000 (15.2%)
Gifts	\$2,147,000	\$2,414,000	\$4,561,000 (2.4%)
Household Furnishings	\$3,221,000	\$3,592,000	\$6,813,000 (3.6%)
Housing	\$19,374,000	\$21,348,000	\$40,722,000 (21.5%)
Household Operations	\$3,611,000	\$4,002,000	\$7,614,000 (4%)
Personal Care	\$1,241,000	\$1,369,000	\$2,610,000 (1.4%)
Utilities	\$7,109,000	\$7,697,000	\$14,806,000 (7.8%)
Reading	\$203,000	\$225,000	\$428,000 (<1%)
Tobacco	\$606,000	\$636,000	\$1,242,000 (<1%)
Transportation	\$16,932,000	\$18,803,000	\$35,735,000 (18.9%)
Health Care	\$8,155,000	\$8,878,000	\$17,033,000 (9%)
Miscellaneous	\$1,758,000	\$1,942,000	\$3,700,000 (2%)
Personal Insurance	\$634,000	\$719,000	\$1,353,000 (<1%)
Contributions	\$2,949,000	\$3,303,000	\$6,252,000 (3.3%)

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development



Consumer Spending – Projected

Consumer spending is expected to increase more than 17% between now and 2025. The largest increases, by percentage, will be in education (19.6%), gifts (17.7%), personal insurance (16.8%), and contributions (16.7%).

Projected Spending	Current	2025 (Projected)	Percent Change
<b>Apparel</b>	\$6,719,000 (3.5%)	\$7,731,000	15.1%
<b>Entertainment</b>	\$10,925,000 (5.8%)	\$12,599,000	15.3%
<b>Education</b>	\$5,375,000 (<1%)	\$6,429,000	19.6%
<b>Food and Beverages</b>	\$28,773,000 (15.2%)	\$32,662,000	13.5%
<b>Gifts</b>	\$4,561,000 (2.4%)	\$5,370,000	17.7%
<b>Household Furnishings</b>	\$6,813,000 (3.6%)	\$7,840,000	15.1%
<b>Housing</b>	\$40,722,000 (21.5%)	\$46,408,000	14.0%
<b>Household Operations</b>	\$7,614,000 (4%)	\$8,757,000	15.0%
<b>Personal Care</b>	\$2,610,000 (1.4%)	\$2,981,000	14.2%
<b>Utilities</b>	\$14,806,000 (7.8%)	\$16,553,000	11.8%
<b>Reading</b>	\$428,000 (<1%)	\$492,000	15.0%
<b>Tobacco</b>	\$1,242,000 (<1%)	\$1,349,000	8.6%
<b>Transportation</b>	\$35,735,000 (18.9%)	\$40,629,000	13.7%
<b>Health Care</b>	\$17,033,000 (9%)	\$19,208,000	12.8%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$3,700,000 (2%)	\$4,225,000	14.2%
<b>Personal Insurance</b>	\$1,353,000 (<1%)	\$1,580,000	16.8%
<b>Contributions</b>	\$6,252,000 (3.3%)	\$7,295,000	16.7%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

Retail Potential

Retail potential data shows the amount that consumers are expected to pay each year for various consumer items. Since there are few stores in Briar Creek and North Centre Townships, most of this money is exiting the Townships. Retail demand in the Townships totals \$54,651,693. More than a quarter of demand is for warehouse superstores (26.6%). There is also a large percent of

retail demand for gas stations without a convenience store (18.3% of retail demand), full-service restaurants (10.9%), and limited-service restaurants (7.3%). Thus, there is an opportunity to offer more services within the Townships as there is sufficient demand from residents who are currently spending their dollars in other municipalities.

Retail Potential	Census Tract 505 (Briar Creek Township)	Census Tract 504 (North Centre Township)	Total
Health and Personal Care Stores	\$91,000	\$62,000	\$153,000 (0.3%)
Gasoline Stations with Convenience Store	0	0	0
Gasoline Stations without Convenience Store	\$4,768,000	\$5,219,000	\$9,987,000 (18.3%)
Men’s Clothing Stores	\$68,000	\$76,000	\$144,000 (0.3%)
Women’s Clothing Stores	\$298,000	\$331,000	\$629,000 (1.2%)
Children’s Clothing Stores	\$126,000	\$140,000	\$266,000 (0.5%)
Family Clothing Stores	\$793,000	\$882,000	\$1,675,000 (3.1%)
Clothing Accessory Stores	\$63,000	\$71,000	\$134,000 (0.2%)
Other Apparel Stores	\$97,000	\$108,000	\$205,000 (0.4%)
Shoe Stores	\$325,000	\$360,000	\$685,000 (1.3%)
Jewelry Stores	\$149,000	\$169,000	\$318,000 (0.6%)
Luggage Stores	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$23,000 (<1%)
Sporting Goods Stores	\$392,000	\$444,000	\$836,000 (1.5%)
Hobby, Toy, and Game Stores	\$116,000	\$130,000	\$246,000 (0.5%)
Sewing and Needlecraft Stores	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$76,000 (0.1%)
Musical Instrument Stores	\$33,000	\$37,000	\$70,000 (0.1%)
Book Stores	\$143,000	\$160,000	\$303,000 (0.6%)
Record, Tape, and CD Stores	0	0	0
Department Stores	\$1,611,000	\$1,785,000	\$3,396,000 (6.2%)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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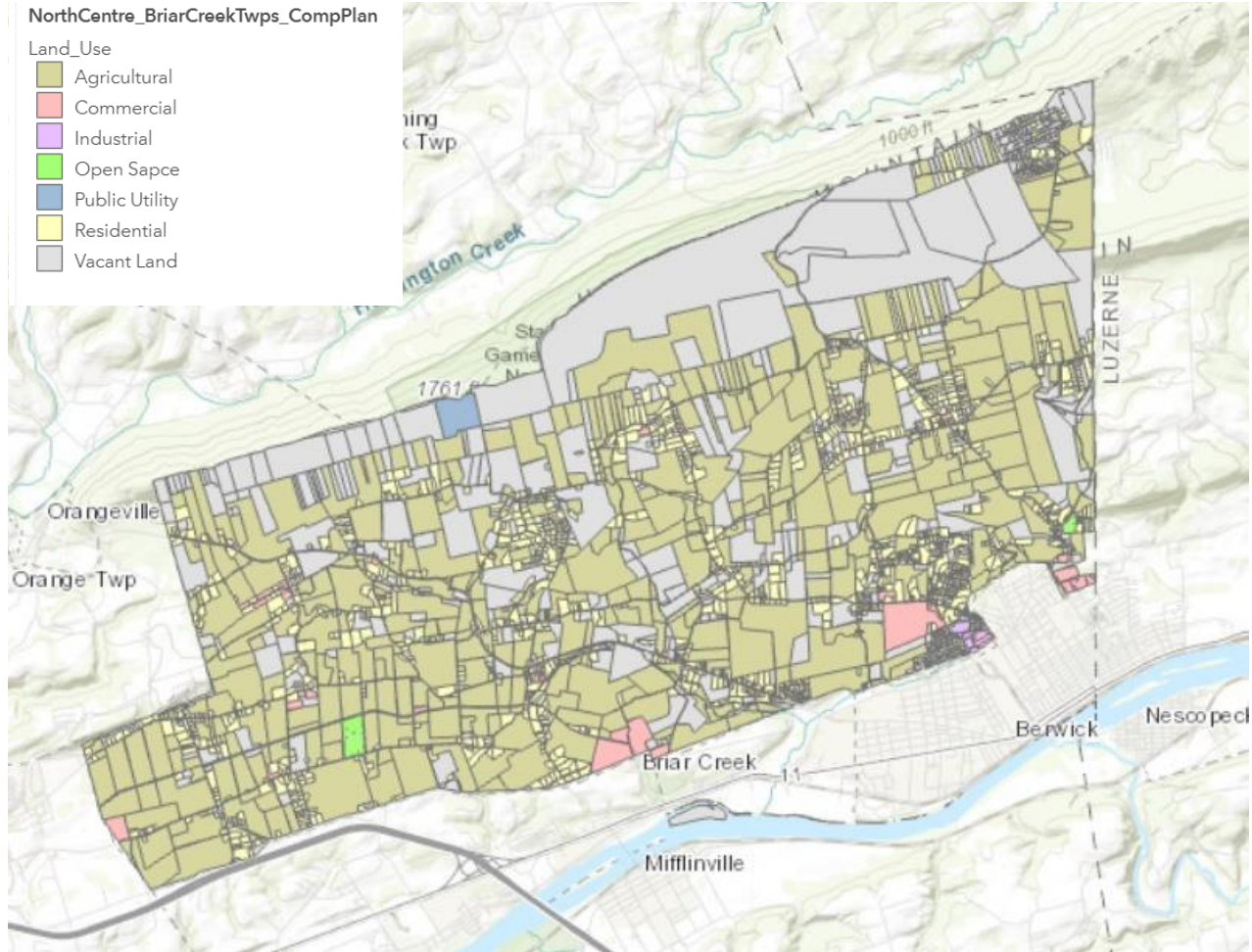
<b>Warehouse Superstores</b>	\$10,075,000	\$4,472,000	\$14,547,000 (26.6%)
<b>Other General Merchandise Stores</b>	516,000	\$680,000	\$1,196,000 (2.2%)
<b>Florists</b>	\$30,000	\$34,000	\$64,000 (0.1%)
<b>Office and Stationery Stores</b>	\$84,000	\$94,000	\$178,000 (0.3%)
<b>Gift and Souvenir Stores</b>	\$102,000	\$114,000	\$216,000 (0.4%)
<b>Used Merchandise Stores</b>	\$59,000	\$65,000	\$124,000 (0.2%)
<b>Pet and Pet Supply Stores</b>	\$351,000	\$389,000	\$740,000 (1.4%)
<b>Art Dealers</b>	\$21,000	\$31,000	\$52,000 (0.1%)
<b>Mobile Home Dealers</b>	\$51,000	\$67,000	\$118,000 (0.2%)
<b>Other Miscellaneous Retail Stores</b>	\$155,000	\$169,000	\$324,000 (0.6%)
<b>Mail Order and Catalog Stores</b>	\$2,390,000	\$2,649,000	\$5,039,000 (9.2%)
<b>Vending Machines</b>	\$67,000	\$72,000	\$139,000 (0.3%)
<b>Fuel Dealers</b>	\$245,000	\$269,000	\$514,000 (0.9%)
<b>Other Direct Selling Establishments</b>	\$184,000	\$203,000	\$387,000 (0.7%)
<b>Hotels and Travel Accommodations</b>	\$302,000	\$336,000	\$638,000 (1.2%)
<b>RV Parks</b>	\$3,274	\$3,438	\$6,712 (<1%)
<b>Rooming and Boarding Houses</b>	\$1,956	\$2,025	\$3,981 (<1%)
<b>Full-Service Restaurants</b>	\$2,822,000	\$3,138,000	\$5,960,000 (10.9%)
<b>Limited-Service Restaurants</b>	\$1,877,000	\$2,087,000	\$3,964,000 (7.3%)
<b>Special Food Services and Catering</b>	\$476,000	\$530,000	\$1,006,000 (1.8%)
<b>Drinking Places</b>	\$137,000	\$152,000	\$289,000 (0.5%)

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

# LAND USE

## LAND USE

The majority of land types in both counties is agricultural and woodland. The majority of land use is agricultural and vacant. Both Townships wish to limit both residential and commercial development and preserve the existing land types and land uses.

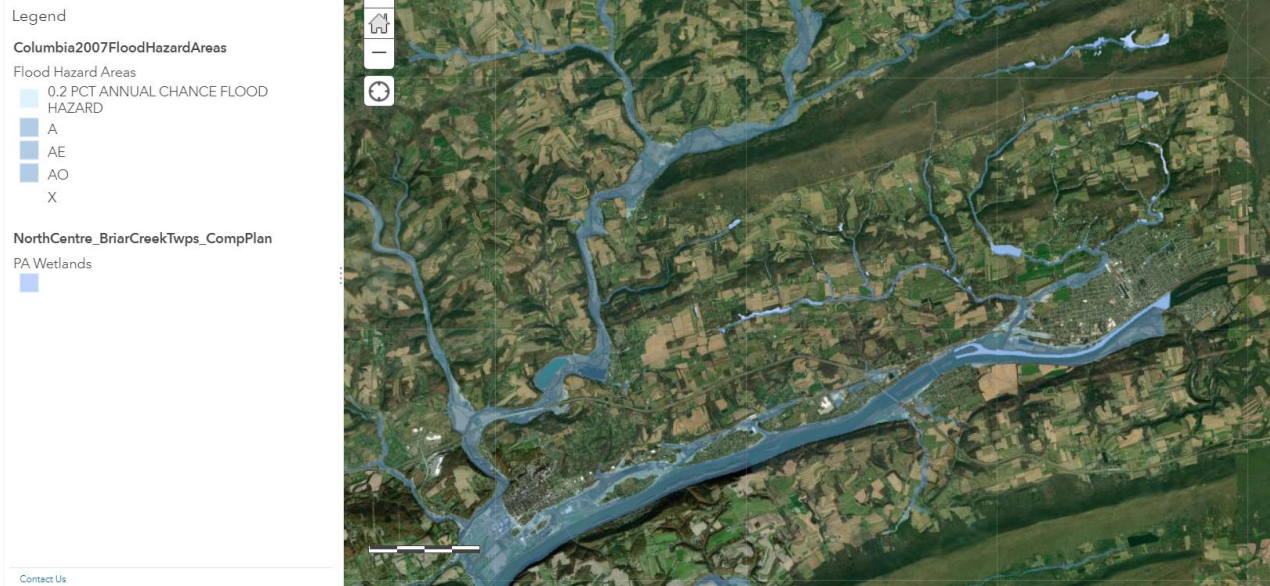


Farms

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are 779 farms in Columbia County with a total of 106,748 acres. The number of farms declined 17%, and the amount of farmland declined 13%, between 2012 and 2017. About 74% of farmland use is cropland, 5% is pastureland, 16% is woodland, and 6% is other uses. Most farms (73%) are between 10 and 179 acres.

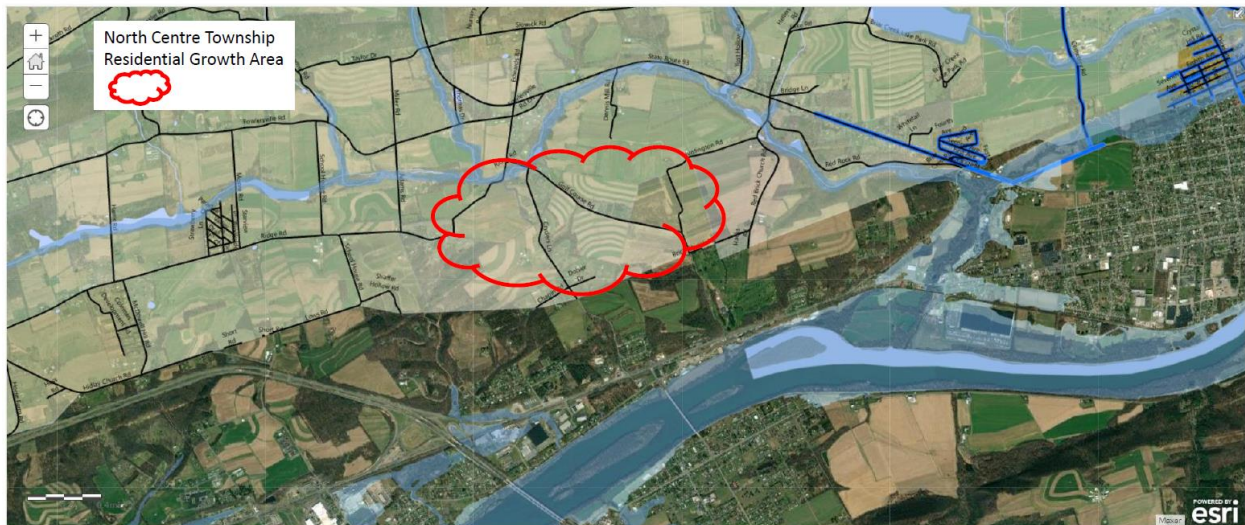
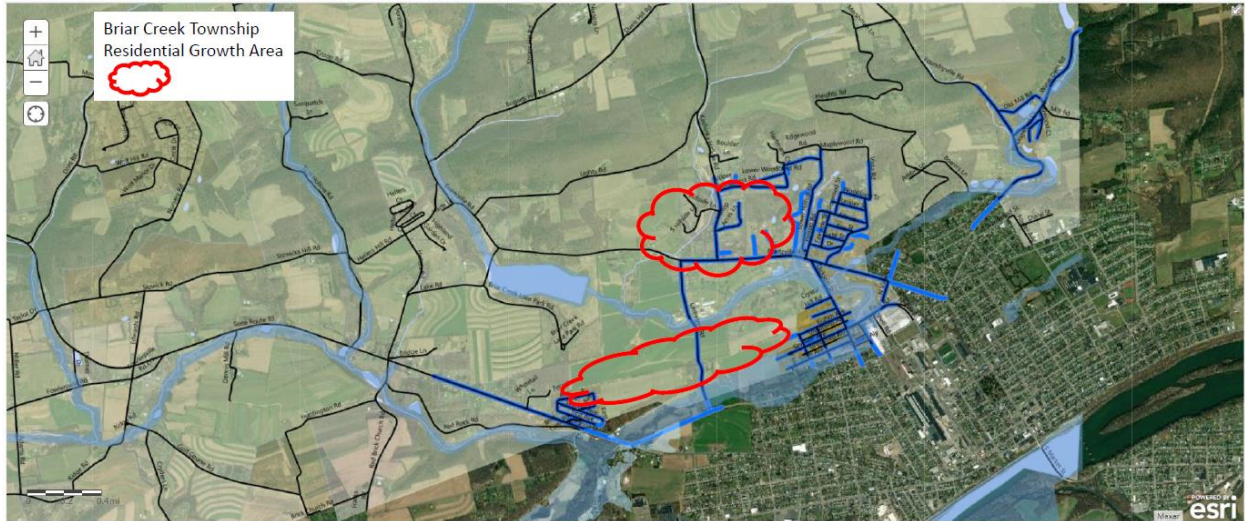
Farms (Columbia County)	2017 Census	Change Since 2012
Number of Farms	779	-17%
Land in Farms (acres)	106,748	-13%
Average Size of Farm	137 Acres	+5%
1 to 9 Acres	70 (9%)	
10 to 49 Acres	271 (35%)	
50 to 179 Acres	295 (38%)	
180 to 499 Acres	108 (14%)	
500 to 999 Acres	22 (3%)	
1,000 or More Acres	13 (2%)	
No Till	29%	
Reduced Till	11%	
Intensive Till	15%	
Cover Crop	17%	
Corn for Grain	21,275 Acres	
Soybeans	14,332 Acres	
Forage (hay)	11,751 Acres	
Christmas Trees	4,737 Acres	
Wheat	4,221 Acres	
Chickens	323,838	
Pullets	82	
Cattle and Calves	7,770	
Hogs and Pigs	14,825	
Horses and Ponies	1,144	
Goats	991	
Sheep and Lambs	830	

Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplain



Future Land Use

The Townships should consider focusing future land use planning on preservation of agricultural areas and conservation of natural resources and open space. Briar Creek Township should consider directing the limited residential growth to the geographic areas immediately outside of the Borough of Berwick. North Centre Township should consider directing the limited residential growth to the southwestern corner of the Township, near Golf Course Road.



## CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following cultural resources exist in the Townships:

#### Social Organizations

- Slavonic American Club

#### Churches

- Ebenezer Church
- Ebenezer Faith Bible Church
- Evansville United Methodist Church
- Fowlersville United Methodist Church
- Hilday Evangelical Lutheran Church
- New Covenant Church
- Old Stone Church
- St. Peters Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints



#### Cemeteries

- Saints Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Cemetery
- Summer Hill Cemetery

### HISTORIC RESOURCES

There are no historic resources in the Townships that are registered with the state or federal government. North Centre Township has a historical society. Historic structures and other assets in North Centre Townships include the former limestone quarry on Fowlersville Road, the Hutton stone cottage, Centre High School, and Fester School.





## TRANSPORTATION

Briar Creek and North Centre Townships primary modes of transportation are the state highways and local roads. The communities expressed a need for walking and biking paths along roadways and trails. The Townships should maintain relationships with the SEDA-COG MPO and PennDOT to communicate transportation related concerns and needs.


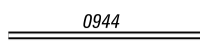
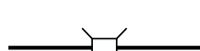
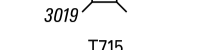
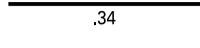
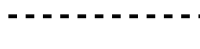




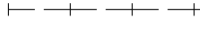


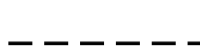

### STATE HIGHWAYS

SR93 connects the southern areas of the Townships. An average of 2,700 vehicles in Briar Creek Township, and 4,700 in North Centre Township, travel along this route each day. Residents have suggested that this road has become busier in recent years. There is also considerable traffic along SR1019 and SR1025 which connect the northern part of Briar Creek Township to the southern part, which includes SR93, SR11, Berwick Borough, and Briar Creek Borough. About 4700 vehicles travel across North Centre Township each day (east/west) along SR1008. (Annual Average Daily Traffic, PennDOT).

### Local Roads

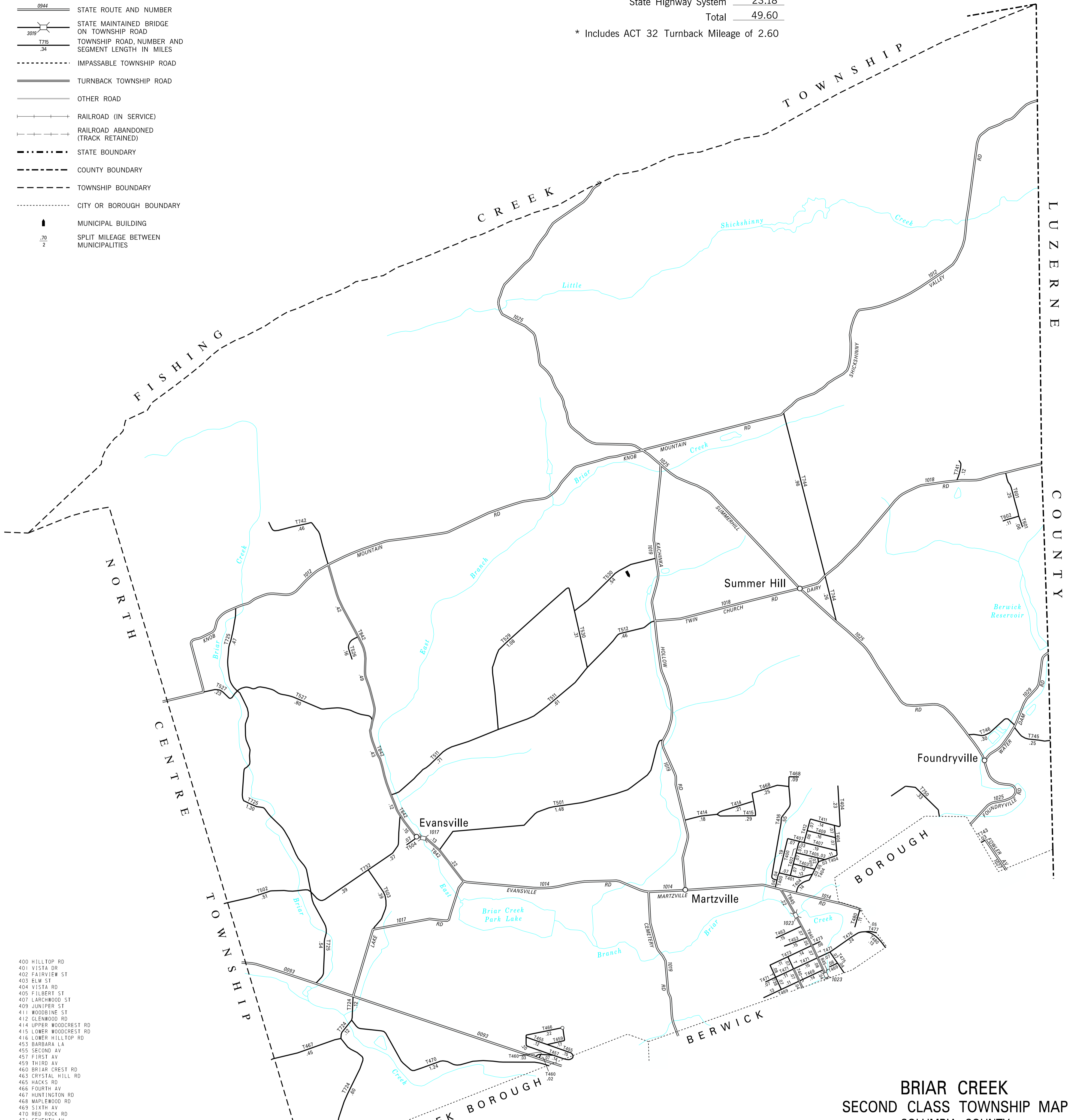
Briar Creek Township owns and maintains 23.82 miles of roadway. North Centre Township owns and maintains 24.5 miles of roadway. Funding for road maintenance is provided by the State Liquid Fuels Fund.

**LEGEND**

-  LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY
-  STATE ROUTE AND NUMBER
-  STATE MAINTAINED BRIDGE ON TOWNSHIP ROAD
-  TOWNSHIP ROAD, NUMBER AND SEGMENT LENGTH IN MILES
-  IMPASSABLE TOWNSHIP ROAD
-  TURNBACK TOWNSHIP ROAD
-  OTHER ROAD
-  RAILROAD (IN SERVICE)
-  RAILROAD ABANDONED (TRACK RETAINED)
-  STATE BOUNDARY
-  COUNTY BOUNDARY
-  TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
-  CITY OR BOROUGH BOUNDARY
-  MUNICIPAL BUILDING
-  SPLIT MILEAGE BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

TOTAL MILES	
Township Road System	26.42*
State Highway System	23.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.60</b>

\* Includes ACT 32 Turnback Mileage of 2.60



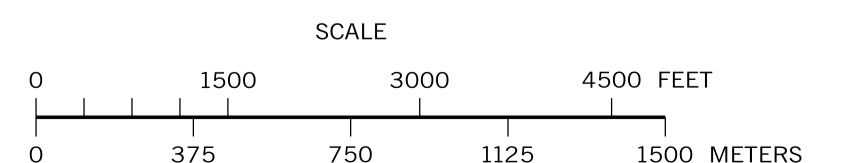
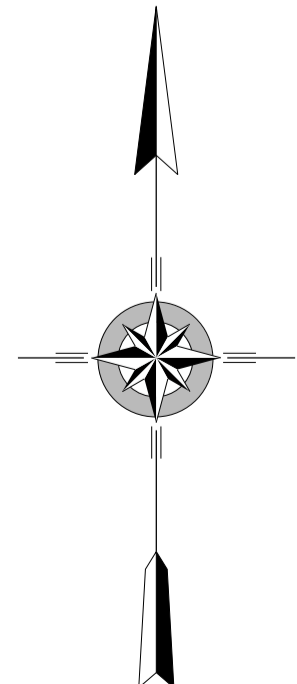
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- 401 VISTA DR
- 402 FAIRVIEW ST
- 403 ELM ST
- 404 VISTA RD
- 405 FILBERT ST
- 407 LARCHWOOD ST
- 409 JUNIPER ST
- 411 WOODBINE ST
- 412 GLENWOOD RD
- 414 UPPER WOODCREST RD
- 415 LOWER WOODCREST RD
- 416 LOWER HILLTOP RD
- 455 BARBARA LA
- 455 SECOND AV
- 457 FIRST AV
- 459 THIRD AV
- 460 BRIAR CREST RD
- 463 CRYSTAL HILL RD
- 465 HACKS RD
- 466 FOURTH AV
- 467 HUNTINGTON RD
- 468 MAPLEBROOD RD
- 469 SIXTH AV
- 470 RED ROCK RD
- 471 SEVENTH AV
- 473 EIGHTH AV
- 475 NEW RD
- 476 BACK RD
- 477 SEVENTEENTH ST
- 480 VINE ST
- 501 LIGHTS RD
- 502 SLOWICKS HILL RD
- 503 HELLERS RD
- 504 HARTS LA
- 511 BOGARTS HILL RD
- 512 DAVIS HILL RD
- 526 SUNRISE TER
- 527 CROOP RD
- 529 NORRIS HILL RD
- 530 MUNICIPAL RD
- 601 WOODLAND ACRES LA
- 602 HONEYSUCKLE LA
- 724 BRICK CHURCH RD
- 725 YOST HOLLOW RD
- 732 HELLERS HILL RD
- 738 ARCH ST
- 740 WARREN ST
- 741 BERRY FARM LA
- 742 EAGLE FARM RD
- 743 BROAD ST
- 744 VALLEY RD
- 745 MILL RD
- 746 OLD MILL RD
- 750 BOWERS LA
- 842 EVANSVILLE RD
- 845 DICKSON ST

**BRIAR CREEK  
SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP MAP  
COLUMBIA COUNTY**

PREPARED BY THE  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BUREAU OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DIVISION  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



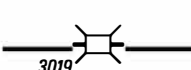
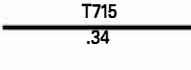



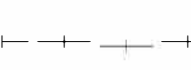






MUNICIPAL CODE 19 203

THIS MAP IS PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENTAL  
DOCUMENTATION OF LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND MILEAGES  
REVISED PER FORM 990 DATED 10-26-07



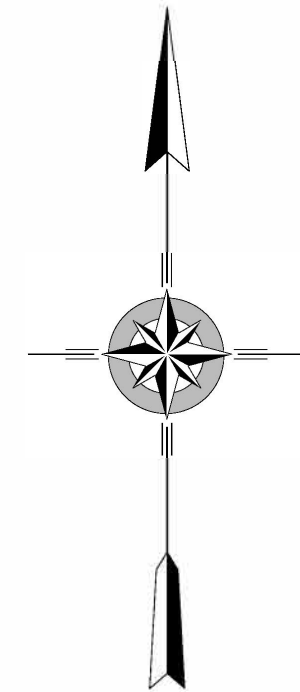
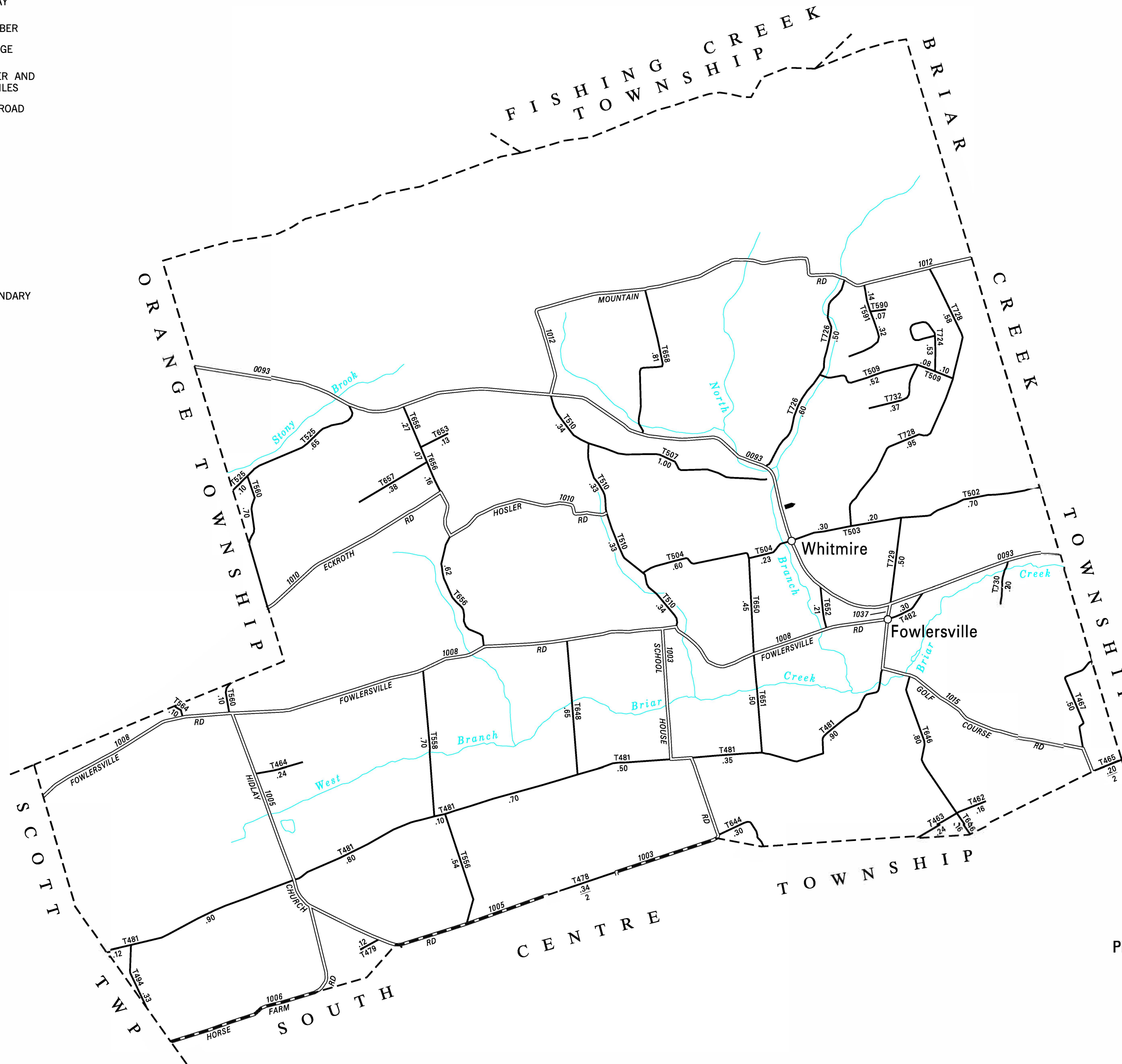
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CONTACT:  
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SALES STORE  
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TELEPHONE: (717)787-6746

**LEGEND**

-  LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY
-  STATE ROUTE AND NUMBER
-  STATE MAINTAINED BRIDGE ON TOWNSHIP ROAD
-  TOWNSHIP ROAD, NUMBER AND SEGMENT LENGTH IN MILES
-  IMPASSABLE TOWNSHIP ROAD
-  OTHER ROAD
-  RAILROAD (IN SERVICE)
-  RAILROAD ABANDONED (TRACK RETAINED)
-  STATE BOUNDARY
-  COUNTY BOUNDARY
-  TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
-  CITY OR BOROUGH BOUNDARY
-  MUNICIPAL BUILDING
-  SPLIT MILEAGE BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

TOTAL MILES	
Township Road System	24.76*
State Highway System	20.51
Total	45.27

\* Includes ACT 32 Turnback Mileage of 1.34



**NORTH CENTRE  
SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP MAP  
COLUMBIA COUNTY**

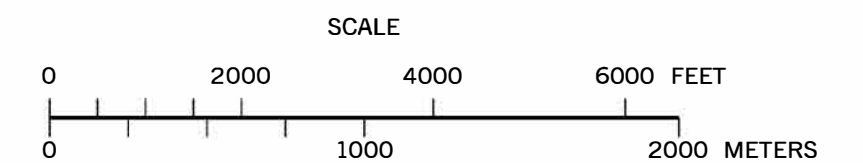
PREPARED BY THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**BUREAU OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DIVISION**

IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

**MUNICIPAL CODE 19 218**

REVISED PER FORM 990 DATED 10-18-11



- 462 DOBLER DR
- 463 CHAPIN HOLLOW RD
- 464 ALEXIS DR
- 465 BRICK CHURCH RD
- 467 HUNTINGTON RD
- 478 SHORT RD
- 479 HESS RD
- 481 RIDGE RD
- 482 FOWLERSVILLE RD EXT
- 494 SHAFFER RD
- 502 SLOWICK HILL RD
- 503 SLOWICK RD
- 504 TAYLOR DR
- 507 EZZYK RD
- 509 WOLFE HILL RD
- 510 SHELHAMER RD
- 525 WHITMIRE RD
- 556 McDOWELL HILL RD
- 558 HARRIS RD
- 560 DIETTERICH RD
- 564 SPONBERG HILL RD
- 590 COUNTRY LA
- 591 DEER PATH DR
- 644 SHAFFER HOLLOW RD
- 646 CRYDERS LA
- 648 MOORES RD
- 650 MILLER RD
- 651 ADAMS RD
- 652 THOMAS DR
- 653 DANIEL LA
- 656 CABIN RUN RD
- 657 CAROL DR
- 658 HELLER LA
- 724 CIRCLE DR
- 726 DOHL RD
- 728 NURSERY RD
- 729 EDWARDS RD
- 730 DENNIS MILL RD
- 732 WOLFE MANOR DR

061

## **TRAILS: WALKING, BICYCLE, AND EQUESTRIAN**

Briar Creek Lake Park has a walking trail. The 2019 Middle Susquehanna Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan included trail enhancements as a medium priority.

There are no bicycle trails within Briar Creek and North Centre Townships. The Townships are part of the Susquehanna Greenway Corridor. The 2019 Middle Susquehanna Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan proposed a pathway to connect Berwick and Bloomsburg. As part of this pathway development, the Townships should consider planning to connect the Briar Creek Lake Park walking trail and possibly other areas of the Township to the pathway.

There are equestrian trails within the Townships on private property.

## **SIDEWALKS**

Sidewalks exist in the Avenues area of Briar Creek Township. A lack of sidewalks and shoulders are a concern for residents.

## **RAILROADS**

There are no active rail lines within Briar Creek and North Centre Townships.

## **AIRPORTS**

There are no airports within Briar Creek and North Centre Townships. The closest international airports are Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport (approximately 40 miles) and Lehigh Valley Airport (approximately 75 miles)

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

There is currently no public transportation serving the Townships. SEDA-COG is exploring a pilot route that would travel along State Route 11 and connect the area with other locations throughout the region. Intercity passenger bus service exists at stops in Berwick and Bloomsburg. Shared ride service is available upon request through Rabbittransit.

## MUNICIPAL SERVICES

### FUNCTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Both Briar Creek Township and North Centre Township are second class townships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Both Townships operate out of a Township-owned building.

### POLICE, FIRE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### Police Services

Briar Creek Township provides police service for both Townships. There are few crimes and arrests in the Townships. All of the crimes reported in 2019 were cleared.

Crimes	2019	2018	2017
<b>Violent Crimes-Reported</b>	3	8	2
<b>Violent Crimes-Cleared</b>	3	7	2
<b>Property Crimes-Reported</b>	8	23	45
<b>Property Crimes-Cleared</b>	8	8	19

Source: PA UCR

Arrests for drug abuse violations, drug sales, and drug possession increased from 2017 to 2018.

Drug Crimes	2018	2017
<b>Drug Abuse Violations (i.e., DUI, public drunkenness)</b>	42	39
<b>Drug Sales</b>	4	2
<b>Drug Possession</b>	38	3

Source: PA UCR

Fire Service

Fire service in Briar Creek Township is provided through Summerhill Fire Company. In North Centre Township, service is provided by Lime Ridge, Orangeville, and Lightstreet Volunteer Fire Companies.



Ambulance Service

Ambulance service is provided by the volunteer fire/EMS agencies and Geisinger EMS.

## REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

### HEALTHCARE

Commonwealth Health Berwick Hospital Center, a 90-bed acute care facility, is partially located in the Foundryville section of Briar Creek Township. Additional medical services are available in the nearby Borough of Berwick and the Town of Bloomsburg.

### EDUCATION

#### Number of Students

Students in Briar Creek Township attend Berwick Area School District. Students in North Centre Township attend Central Columbia School District. There are approximately 1,257 students in the Townships. Nearly half of these (45%) are in grade 1 through 8. There are more than 225 college or graduate school students.

Students	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township	Total
Preschool	32	31	63
Kindergarten	75	25	100
Grades 1-8	292	278	570
High School	137	159	296
College or Graduate School	71	157	228

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018

Since the 2015-2016 school year, school enrollment has declined 4.6% in the Berwick Area School District and increased 9.2% in the Central Columbia School District. From now until the 2029-2030 school year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education projects that enrollment will decrease 9.3% in the Central Columbia School District (a loss of 179 students) and 12.7% in the Berwick Area School District (a loss of 346 students). Enrollment continues to be impacted by the rise of charter schools, and this trend has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Central Columbia School District Enrollment

School Year	Total	K-5	6-8	9-12
2015 - 2016	1762	826	441	495
2016 - 2017	1808	834	446	528

<b>2017 - 2018</b>	1827	832	446	549
<b>2018 - 2019</b>	1884	842	472	570
<b>2019 - 2020</b>	1912	863	478	571
<b>2020 - 2021</b>	1924	865	479	580
<b>2021 - 2022</b>	1913	836	492	585
<b>2022 - 2023</b>	1924	853	491	580
<b>2023 - 2024</b>	1908	846	485	577
<b>2024 - 2025</b>	1892	804	485	603
<b>2025 - 2026</b>	1866	780	498	588
<b>2026 - 2027</b>	1848	753	511	584
<b>2027 - 2028</b>	1821	735	477	609
<b>2028 - 2029</b>	1772	698	480	594
<b>2029 - 2030</b>	1745	683	459	603

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Berwick Area School District Enrollment

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>K-5</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>9-12</b>
<b>2015 - 2016</b>	2844	1363	716	765
<b>2016 - 2017</b>	2847	1375	734	738
<b>2017 - 2018</b>	2784	1319	714	751
<b>2018 - 2019</b>	2757	1295	730	732
<b>2019 - 2020</b>	2734	1243	729	762
<b>2020 - 2021</b>	2714	1249	686	779
<b>2021 - 2022</b>	2678	1254	660	764
<b>2022 - 2023</b>	2664	1243	638	783



<b>2023 - 2024</b>	2614	1236	633	745
<b>2024 - 2025</b>	2561	1213	629	719
<b>2025 - 2026</b>	2510	1186	636	688
<b>2026 - 2027</b>	2469	1167	637	665
<b>2027 - 2028</b>	2441	1125	645	671
<b>2028 - 2029</b>	2401	1105	627	669
<b>2029 - 2030</b>	2368	1082	621	665

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

**LIBRARIES**

Residents of Briar Creek Township use McBride Memorial Library in Berwick. Residents of North Centre Township have access to McBride Memorial Library, Orangeville Library, and Columbia County Traveling Library.

**COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA**

The major newspaper in the area is the Press Enterprise. Founded in 1902, this paper has an average daily circulation of about 30,000 readers. The area is in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre television market. The area is served by 1280AM in Berwick.

**RECREATION SERVICES**

The For the Cause Teen Center, Briar Creek Golf Club, and Evansville MX Park are all located in Briar Creek Township. The area offers many natural areas, including Natural Park in North Centre Township, Briar Creek Lake Park in Briar Creek Township, and State Game Lands No. 55 which offer opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, birdwatching, and other nature-based activities.

**SHOPPING**

There are few places to shop in the Townships; however, nearby townships and boroughs offer a variety of restaurants, shops, and services. There are several full-service grocery stores in the communities surrounding the Townships.

With the exception of housing and healthcare, the cost of living in Columbia County is slightly higher than the state. While the state cost of living index is 100, it is 101.4 for the County. The

index is even higher for groceries (103.6) and transportation (108.6). Source: Analysis of Cost-of-Living Data for Pennsylvania Counties, Center for Rural Pennsylvania (2017)

# APPENDICES

- A. Survey Summary
- B. Public Meeting Summary
- C. Statement of Plan Compatibility & Relationship to Other Planning Documents
- D. Individual Interviews

## APPENDIX A: SURVEY SUMMARY

## SURVEY SUMMARY

An online survey was promoted through emails and postcards which were distributed in person at a variety of community locations. The survey was completed by 74 people. Of these, 35 lived in Briar Creek Township, 37 lived in North Centre Township, one lived within 20 miles of the area, and one lived more than 20 miles away from the area. More than 70% of respondents have lived in the area for more than 10 years. Only 12 respondents worked in the municipalities—five in Briar Creek Township and seven in North Centre Township.

## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

About half of survey participants were between the ages of 55 to 74; however, there was representation from all age categories. Slightly more women than men completed the survey. All of the respondents were homeowners. About half of respondents were employed full time, 38% were retired, 10% were self-employed, and the remainder were either part-time or seasonal workers, homemakers, or students.

## SERVICES

The majority of respondents in both municipalities felt that several services should either stay the same or increase.

Increase	Stay the Same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet service</li> <li>• Cell phone service</li> <li>• Services and activities for youth</li> <li>• Recycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road maintenance</li> <li>• Snow plowing</li> <li>• Police and fire protection</li> <li>• Ambulance services</li> <li>• Township office services and hours</li> <li>• Public transportation</li> </ul>

In Briar Creek Township, respondents were split evenly about whether **code enforcement** should increase or stay the same while in North Centre Township most respondents felt it should stay the same. In North Centre Township, respondents were split evenly about whether **hiking trails and bike paths** should increase or stay the same while 71% of Briar Creek Township residents felt they should increase. For **community events** and **other public recreational opportunities**, Briar Creek Township residents thought they should increase while North Centre Township residents felt they should stay the same.

## LAND USE

The majority of residents of both townships would like to see less **manufactured housing** and fewer **multi-family homes**. They would also like to see more **public outdoor recreation** and **protection of natural areas/open space**. There was strong support for more **senior/assisted living units** in Briar Creek Township and more **agriculture/farming** in North Centre Township. For the remaining land uses included in the survey, respondents generally felt that things should stay the same.

Type of Land Use	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
<b>Residential Development - Single Family Homes</b>	More: 40% Less: 26% Stay the Same: 34%	More: 14% Less: 32% <b>Stay the Same: 54%</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	More: 35% Less: 24% <b>Stay the Same: 41%</b>	More: 19% Less: 30% <b>Stay the Same: 51%</b>
<b>Retail/Shopping</b>	More: 29% Less: 18% <b>Stay the Same: 53%</b>	More: 38% Less: 19% <b>Stay the Same: 43%</b>
<b>Convenience Stores</b>	More: 17% Less: 23% <b>Stay the Same: 60%</b>	More: 32% Less: 19% <b>Stay the Same: 49%</b>
<b>Light Industrial/Manufacturing</b>	More: 18% Less: 18% <b>Stay the Same: 65%</b>	More: 27% Less: 30% <b>Stay the Same: 43%</b>
<b>Motels/Hotels</b>	More: 9% Less: 32% <b>Stay the Same: 59%</b>	More: 8% Less: 43% <b>Stay the Same: 49%</b>

## GROWTH

Respondents were asked whether the Townships should focus on growth in several areas. The majority of residents in both Townships indicated that they strongly agree or agree that their communities should focus on growth in the following areas: **agricultural production; parks, open space, and natural land; recreation; education; transportation improvements; service sector; and employment**. Conversely, the majority of residents in both Townships stated that they disagree or strongly disagree that the Townships should focus on growth in **manufacturing and retail development**. Responses in other areas were varied. The chart below shows the

percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed and those that disagreed or strongly disagreed in each Township.

Type of Growth	Briar Creek Township	North Centre Township
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<b>Agree: 59%</b> Disagree: 41%	Agree: 43% <b>Disagree: 57%</b>
<b>Industrial Development</b>	<b>Agree: 55%</b> Disagree: 45%	Agree: 24% <b>Disagree: 76%</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>Agree: 74%</b> Disagree: 26%	Agree: 40% <b>Disagree: 60%</b>

## MISSING AMENITIES

The majority of survey respondents indicated that parks and hiking/biking trails are missing from the Townships.

## BEST FEATURES

Respondents were asked what they like most about the Townships. Residents of both Townships value:

- Rural nature of community/open space/natural beauty
- Quiet and peaceful
- Close to boroughs/shopping
- Good place to raise a family
- Low crime rate

In Briar Creek Township, residents value:

- Friendly people/neighbors
- Public services
- Recreational opportunities - biking, walking
- Limited traffic
- Well-maintained buildings
- Limited development
- Affordable housing
- Public utility access
- Police service
- Well-maintained roads

North Centre Township residents value:

- Farms

- Close to healthcare

## CONCERNS

Survey respondents were asked what their biggest concerns are for the Townships.

Residents of both Townships had the following concerns:

- Development
- Young people moving out of the area
- Road maintenance
- Lack of Internet access
- Lack of recycling
- Crime and drug use
- Lack of things to do
- Fire and police protection

Briar Creek Township residents had the following concerns:

- Trailer parks/modular homes
- Noise at night - guns and fireworks; outdoor stage at Hog's Hollow
- Lack of community input when businesses open
- Burning of toxic materials
- Speeding cars
- Not enough code enforcement
- No economic development
- Lack of shopping
- Poor planning related to housing development
- Threat of more retail and hospitality businesses
- Threat of loss of quality of life
- Lack of communication and community awareness
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Zoning allows businesses in residential areas

North Centre Township residents had the following concerns:

- Safety as businesses and residents grow
- Aging population
- Restrictions on small, home-based businesses
- New industry will change community character
- Lack of walking trails
- Too many restrictions and codes for residents/permitting process
- Loss of agricultural land
- Lack of infrastructure
- No increase in tax base



## CHANGES

Respondents were asked what positive and negative changes they have noticed in the Townships over the past 10 years.

Residents of both Townships have noticed:

- Better road maintenance

Residents of Briar Creek Township have noticed:

- More community involvement
- Responsiveness of police
- Lack of code, ordinance, and zoning enforcement
- More land being developed
- Elimination of recycling
- Loss of rural atmosphere
- New sewer line/mandatory sewer connection expense
- Very few changes
- More people
- More noise
- More speeding
- More blighted properties
- More crime and drug manufacturing/use
- More young people leaving the area

Residents of North Centre Township have noticed:

- Sustainable development
- Creation of Natural Park
- More metal scrap piles
- Not enough focus on maintenance of public facilities and natural areas
- Improvement in road quality
- New housing
- Growth of police department
- Roads need maintenance; lack of ditches and drainage; too many cinders on road in winter

## IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents were asked what can be done to make the Townships better in the future.

Residents of both Townships had the following suggestions:

- Better cell phone, television, and broadband access
- More community engagement activities, entertainment, and activities; municipal carnival; Community Day; food truck event; music and activities at Briar Creek Lake Park

- Bring back recycling
- More road improvements, make roads wider with shoulders
- More outdoor recreation, hiking and biking trails, add bike and running berms on state roads, biking/mountain biking trail system
- Enforce speed limits

Briar Creek Township residents had the following suggestions:

- More healthcare
- Noise ordinance
- More services for seniors
- Ban burning
- Keep Briar Creek Lake Park amazing
- Better communication between Supervisors and residents
- Better code enforcement
- New homes
- Growth
- Promotion of the Township
- Less development
- Neighborhood Watch groups
- Maintain quality of life
- Be thoughtful about development
- Continue joint police coverage, less crime
- More restaurants

North Centre Township residents had the following suggestions:

- Enforce noise ordinance
- Community bulletin board
- Improve Natural Park with a playground, basketball courts, tennis courts, restroom facility with running water
- Make it more appealing for younger people
- Restrictions on collecting junk, require permit
- More support and less restrictions on home-based businesses, be more business friendly
- Gas station, more convenience stores
- Fewer police
- Off-highway vehicle trails
- Healthy economy
- Safety and security
- Faster EMS response
- Affordable development that fits into the landscape
- Maintain agricultural uses, incentives to maintain farmland

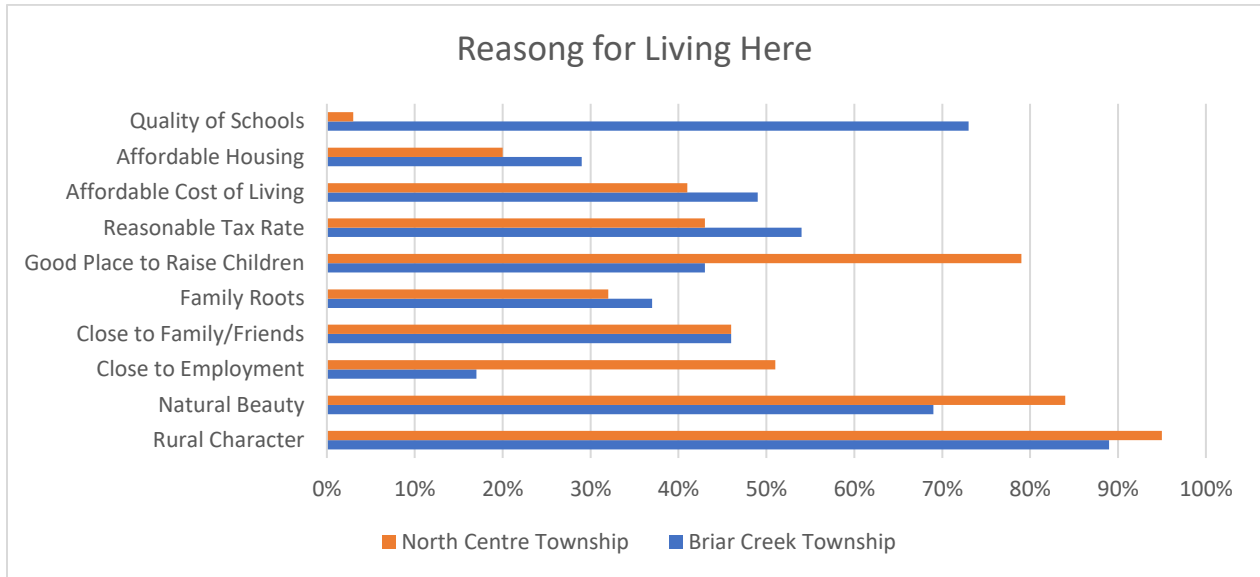
## VISION

Survey respondents used the following words and phrases to describe their vision for the area:

- Attractive to younger people
- Cares for older people
- Adequate services for residents
- Senior housing for people who are not low income, more affordable senior housing
- Residential
- Internet service, expand public utilities
- Community support, community participation
- Beautiful place to live and raise a family
- Peaceful, quiet, safe, Mayberry-esque
- Recreational activities
- Environmental protection, land preservation, green space, natural beauty, clean and green
- Remain agricultural, rural, more agricultural land
- Job opportunities
- Good shopping, dining, and entertainment options
- Activities in the park
- Recycling
- Allow burning trash
- Vibrant
- Better promotion
- More growth and opportunity
- Zoning rules fairly and consistently applied
- Balance of agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial
- Simple lifestyle
- Opportunities to get to know neighbors, Family feel - everyone knows everyone
- Pride
- Balance between rural and town living
- Utopia for landowners, farmers, and average folks to enjoy the great PA wilderness
- Ricketts type draw to the area
- Controlled taxes
- Transform old Fahringer's store into a convenience store
- Conveniences located within minutes
- Make Briar Creek more attractive when entering from Berwick
- Children and grandchildren growing up here and loving coming back to enjoy nature
- Controlled population
- Curb appeal

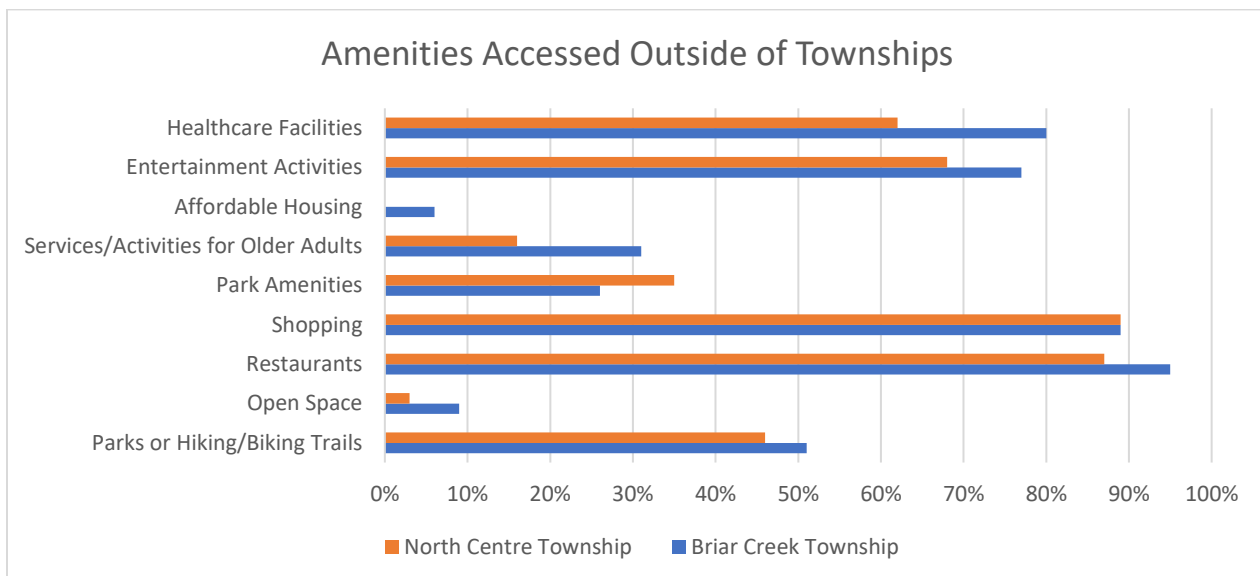
## REASON FOR LIVING HERE

Respondents were asked why they choose to live in their home Township. In addition to the characteristics below, they also mentioned the police department, maintenance department, and moving back after serving in the military.



## AMENITY AND RESOURCE LEAKAGE

Residents were asked which amenities and resources they typically access outside of Briar Creek and North Centre Townships. The chart below shows the percentage of survey respondents that leave their home Township to access each amenity or resource. In addition to these, residents also leave their home Township for the library, church, department stores, and work.



## APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

## PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Two public meetings were held at Freas Farm Winery on September 22, 2020. Due to required social distancing, participants sat six feet apart and completed three independent activities which were later discussed. These activities were: The Big Idea, Fill in the Blanks, and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis.

### THE BIG IDEA

During this exercise, participants thought about what they would do if money were not an object. Five people wanted a **community center**, five would increase **funding for emergency services** (police, fire, ambulance), three would improve **activities and amenities for youth** such as parks, pools, and trails, and two would create **walking and riding trails**. Participants would also: increase the **presence of police**; expand the **sewer** and control the cost of the current sewer program, **beautify** the roadsides, preserve **agriculture**, and address **blighted properties**.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

Participants wrote a short phrase in response to story prompts. Participants shared the following ideas:

*I love to live here because...*

- Rural character
- Natural beauty
- Quiet and peaceful
- Clean
- Quality of life
- Close to shopping and amenities
- Great place to raise a family
- Crime free
- Friends and neighbors

*I wish we had more...*

- Recreation, parks, sporting fields, trails, walking areas
- Tourism, traffic
- Wi-fi/broadband
- Food delivery
- Community events
- Convenience stores
- Recycling
- Commercial space
- Small businesses

*I wish we had less...*

- Traffic (multiple people selected this response)
- Blighted properties
- Business development
- Zoning rules
- Mom and pop stores
- Vacant businesses
- Houses

*If only we could improve...*

- Internet (multiple people selected this response) and cell phone access, access to all public utilities
- Code and ordinance enforcement
- Recycling
- Farmland preservation
- Roadway berms for walking

*The Township needs to...*

- Update zoning
- Consider economic development
- Ensure business development doesn't impact existing homes
- Enforce rules
- Bring back recycling
- Preserve open space and agricultural uses
- Slow traffic
- Increase places to walk, recreational opportunities, community activities
- Keep the area rural and quiet

*I am concerned about...*

- High density housing, too much development, growing too fast (multiple people had similar responses)
- Property values in the long term
- Water conveyance
- Lack of resident involvement in the community
- Trailer parks
- Police, fire, and ambulance services not being available

*In my free time I like to...*

- Travel
- Hunt and fish
- Walk
- Ride bicycle
- Kayaking
- Spend time with family

- Golf
- Gardening
- Woodworking
- Dancing

*To me, quality of life means...*

- High quality healthcare
- Low crime, safe neighborhood, safe to raise kids
- Clean environment, quality air and water, open space
- Retail nearby
- Being happy where I live
- No worries about how to survive
- Rural character
- Access to quality public services i.e., police, road maintenance
- Good neighbors
- Good schools
- Religious choices
- Freedom
- Surrounded by friends and loved ones
- Quiet
- Able to work outdoors

*In ten years, I hope the Township...*

- Remains similar, remains rural, remains rooted in agriculture (multiple people had similar responses)
- Improves the Avenues
- Adds a small market along Route 93
- Grows slowly
- Has more recreational space and opportunities

*My hope is that this multimunicipal comprehensive plan solves...*

- Enforce zoning so people don't interpret the ordinance for their own personal gain
- Cleaning up both townships
- More recreational opportunities, more parks
- Stop transition of farmland to development
- Access to broadband
- Access to emergency services
- Improves volunteering
- Identifies who and what we are
- Creates opportunities for the Townships to work together



*My vision for the community is...*

- Remain rural, agricultural, farmland
- More small businesses
- Improved back roads
- Mostly the same
- Cleaned up blighted properties
- More recreational opportunities, indoor and outdoor activities
- Maintain hometown atmosphere
- Clean and green
- Good place for parents to retire and for future generations
- More friendly to in-home small businesses
- Cooperation with other townships for road maintenance and other services
- Family friendly
- People taking care of each other

**SWOT ANALYSIS**

Participants were given a sheet that listed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats based on the focus groups and survey results. For each item, they rated them from 1 to 5 where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is the lowest priority. The score below shows the average rating of each item. The lowest rated items are the highest priorities. Items are sorted from the highest to the lowest priority.

Strengths

Rural Character - 1.05  
 Natural Beauty - 1.18  
 Quality of Life - 1.32  
 Quality of K-12 Education - 1.35  
 Police Protection - 1.39  
 Good Place to Raise Children - 1.39  
 Well Managed Township - 1.42  
 Road Maintenance - 1.58  
 Fire/EMS Services - 1.61  
 Access to Healthcare - 1.82

Agricultural base was added by three participants.

Weaknesses

Internet Service - 1.53  
 Cell Phone Service - 1.69  
 Lack of Recycling - 1.94  
 Employment Opportunities - 2

Lack of Activities for Youth - 2.1  
Roads - Lack of Shoulders - 2.38  
Lack of Hiking/Walking Trails - 2.8  
Restrictive Ordinances - 3.1

Volunteerism and noise ordinance were added by participants.

Opportunities

Protect Natural Areas/Open Space - 1.43  
Preserve Farmland - 1.43  
Intergovernmental Cooperation - 1.56  
Increased Police Presence - 2.17  
Community Events - 2.38  
Agritourism - 2.38  
Recreational Opportunities - 2.53  
Community Center - 2.78  
Farmers Markets - 2.83  
Opportunities for Home-Based Businesses - 3.1  
Convenience Stores/Small, Family-Run Stores - 3.3  
Accessory Dwelling Units - 3.64

Threats

Increased Traffic - 1.8  
Development - 1.82  
Blighted Properties - 1.92  
Drug Activity - 2  
Recruiting and Retaining Police Officers - 2.08

Noise, solar farms, and factory farms were added by participants.

## **APPENDIX C: STATEMENT OF PLAN COMPATIBILITY AND RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

## STATEMENT OF PLAN COMPATIBILITY & RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires that multimunicipal comprehensive plans have “a statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components,” Section 301 (a)(4.1). The MPC also requires “a statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is compatible with” that of the surrounding municipalities and the county comprehensive plan, Section 301 (a)(5). This section comments on these requirements.

### INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

The Briar Creek and North Center Township multimunicipal comprehensive plan is consistent and promotes common themes throughout the plan. The plan’s priority areas support the vision of a peaceful quality of life and the preservation of the semi-rural landscape. In that regard, the plan focuses on maintaining its rural character and agricultural resources through proactive smart growth land use and development policies. Outdoor recreation opportunities are a priority. Sustainable and modern government services will also support a high standard of living. Finally, the conservation and protection of natural resources and open space align with the plan’s themes. The plan’s background information also supports the common themes throughout the plan. For example, the housing data demonstrates that housing needs are being met. The plan appropriately limits housing and commercial development opportunities to support the community’s desire to remain semi-rural.

### EXTERNAL CONSISTENCY

Other plans and reports that were reviewed during the multimunicipal comprehensive planning process include the following:

- Columbia County Natural Areas Inventory, 2004
- The Great Outdoors Plan, Columbia County Comprehensive Parks, Greenways and Open Space Plan, 2007
- Briar Creek Watershed Coldwater Conservation Plan, 2012
- State Land Use and Growth Management Report, 2015
- Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017
- Middle Susquehanna Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2019

Many of the priorities, key recommendations and trends identified in those plans that relate to North Centre and Briar Creek Townships align with the goals and strategies in the multimunicipal comprehensive plan.

## CONSISTENCY WITH THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Columbia County Comprehensive Plan was completed in 1993 – Phase I: Background Studies and 1994 – Phase II: Planning Recommendations and Implementation Strategies. The Briar Creek and North Center Township multimunicipal comprehensive plan is generally consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. Both plans promote the following concepts:

- Allocate sufficient land to support projected population growth.
- Preserve environmentally sensitive and primary agricultural land.
- Preserve open space.
- Support the agricultural industry.
- Protect wetlands.
- Preserve woodlands.
- Promote a diversity of affordable housing opportunities.
- Ensure municipal services meet the community's needs.
- Expand park and recreational facilities.

## APPENDIX D: INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

## INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

First Name	Last Name	Title, Organization
Gloria	Bobersky	Authority Manager, Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority
Ruth	Bogart	Supervisor, Briar Creek Township
Ronald	Bogart	Zoning Officer, Briar Creek Township
Greg and Shelli	Bower	Owners, 3 Dogs Vino
Tyler	Dombroski	Senior Program Analyst, SEDA-COG
Lisa	Dooley	Manager, Town of Bloomsburg
Kim	Eno	Vice President, Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions & Steering Committee Member
Amy	Evans	Secretary/Treasurer, Briar Creek Township
Wes	Fahringer	Regional Advisor, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Craig	Fisher	Vice Chairman, Board of Supervisors & Fire Chief, Summerhill Fire Company
Dr. Benjamin	Franek	President, Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions
Jeffrey	Groshek	Superintendent, Central Columbia School District
Brittney	Hartzell	Watershed and Education Specialist, Columbia County Conservation District
Rich	Kisner	Executive Director, Community Strategies Group
Connie	Kline	Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, North Centre Township
Wendy	Kupsky	Superintendent, Berwick Area School District
Patrick	McCarthy	Farmland Preservation Administrator, Columbia County Conservation District
Josh	Nespoli	Deputy Director, Community Strategies Group
Kelly	O'Brien	Executive Director, Berwick Industrial Development Association
Theodore J.	Ritsick	Local Government Policy Specialist, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Rich	Ridgway	Commissioner, Columbia County
James	Saylor	Transportation Planning Program Director, SEDA-COG (MPO)
Damien	Scoblink	Manager, Borough of Berwick
Jessica	Shoup	Senior Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Talen Energy
Eric	Stahley	Resiliency Officer, Columbia County
Nick	Uram	Steering Committee Member
Jennifer	Wakeman	Executive Director, DRIVE
Chris E.	Young	Commissioner, Columbia County