

6.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

A study of the community facilities and services that a municipality offers to its residents is necessary to identify any current inadequacies and future needs. Many of Middlesex Township's community facilities and services are overseen and managed on a daily basis by Township staff. The Township staff works with a number of boards and commissions to help meet the needs of the Township residents. Some community facilities and services (such as schools) are overseen and managed by others. This section provides a discussion of existing conditions and issues associated with the provision of community facilities and services within Middlesex Township.

6.1 POLICE

The Middlesex Township Police Department provides police protection services for the Township. The Middlesex Township Police Department, which is housed within the Township Municipal Building Complex at 350 N. Middlesex Road, currently has seven full-time and seven part-time officers, including a K-9 unit. The Police Department also has one full-time clerical staff and one part-time clerk. The Township employs a Police Chief as the top officer in charge. Emergency dispatching is handled through Cumberland County. Governed by a county agreement on intermunicipal coverage, the Middlesex Township Police Department assists adjoining municipalities, who, in turn assist Middlesex Township on an as needed basis.

The Department has seven vehicles, including four marked cars and three unmarked cars. The Department is highly computerized and tied into the Harrisburg Metro computer system. The Department conducts DARE programs for the Township. They also conduct other public safety programs for community organizations upon request.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) standards recommend a level of service of 1.0 to 1.3 officers/1,000 persons in an urban-suburban area. Based on the provision of seven full-time officers and the Township's 1996 estimated population of 6,258, the level of service provided by the Middlesex Township Police Department is 1.12 officers/1,000 persons; which falls within the 1.0 to 1.3 officers/1,000 persons range, as recommended by FBI standards.

6.2 FIRE

Middlesex Township is served by four fire companies based in neighboring communities including; New Kingstown Fire Company, Union Fire Company; North Middleton Fire Company and Shermansdale Fire Company. Emergency dispatching is handled through Cumberland County. The Township contributes to the local fire companies.

The New Kingstown Fire Company is located on Locust Point Road just south of U.S. Route 11 in the village of New Kingstown, within Silver Springs Township. The fire company's primary service area consists of the southwestern portion of Silver Spring Township and the southeastern and east central portions of Middlesex Township. The New Kingstown Fire Company's major equipment includes:

- Dodge Brush Truck/Mini Pumper (1977, refurbished 1998);
- G.M.C. Darley Engine (1983);
- Mack Tanker (1995).
- E-1 Class A Engine (1998); and
- Chevrolet Squad Truck (1998).

The Union Fire Company is located at 35 West Louther Street in the Borough of Carlisle. The fire company's primary service area is central and eastern Carlisle, the south west and southeast corners of North Middleton Township and the southwestern portion of Middlesex Township. The Union Fire Company's major equipment includes:

- Dodge four wheel drive power wagon/brush truck (1976);
- Pirch Class A Engine (1984);
- Seagrave Class A Engine (1992);
- Chevrolet Utility Truck (1993); and
- Dodge Ram Brush Truck (1996).

The North Middleton Fire Company has two stations; the larger located at 310 North Middleton Road, and the other located at 310 Fern Avenue, both in North Middleton Township. The fire company's primary service area is the north, central, and east central portions of North Middleton Township and the west central portion of Middlesex Township. The North Middleton Fire Company's major equipment includes:

- Jeep Truck used as brush truck (1968);
- Baker aeroscope ladder truck (1974, refurbished in 1987);
- R Model Mack Engine (1976);
- Mack CF Engine (1990);
- Mack Tanker (1995); and
- E-1 Engine (1998).

The Shermansdale Fire Company is located at 5450 Spring Road in Carroll Township, Perry County. The fire company's primary service area is Carroll Township, the western portion of Rye Township and the northern portion of Middlesex Township. The Shermansdale Fire Company's major equipment includes:

- Chevrolet Tanker (1973);
- GMC Utility truck ;
- Kovak Engine; and
- Tanker/Engine (1998).

The National Board of Underwriters recommends a maximum four mile radius to a fire company. The American Planning Association's "Small Town Planning Handbook" contains the standards presented in Table 6-1.

The Township is adequately covered in terms of engine or pumper companies for residential development. However, most of the commercial and industrial development along the U.S. Route 11 corridor is located one to three miles from the closest fire company. This distance is greater than the one mile radius suggested by the "Small Town Planning Handbook".

The primary issue of concern confronting the area fire companies is volunteer staffing levels, especially during daytime hours.

Several other needs/issues were identified by the Middlesex Township Fire Chief as follows:

- "Knox Box" system for commercial and industrial buildings;
- Fire or smoke alarm ordinance;
- Potential for hazardous materials spills at trucking facilities and the ability of trucking companies to properly handle and quickly notify the proper authorities;
- Annual review of funding support to fire and emergency service companies serving the Township; and
- Upgrade communications equipment.

6.3 AMBULANCE/EMERGENCY SERVICE

Middlesex Township is served by two ambulance and emergency services companies; Carlisle Community Ambulance, and Silver Spring Ambulance. Silver Spring Ambulance's service area within Middlesex Township is confined to the northeast portion of the Township. Carlisle Community Ambulance is responsible for emergency service coverage for the remainder of the Township. Emergency dispatching is handled through Cumberland County.

6.4 HOSPITALS

There are no hospitals located within Middlesex Township. Three hospitals are located nearby, including Carlisle Hospital in Carlisle, Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, and Seidle Memorial Hospital (Pinnacle) in Mechanicsburg.

6.5 SCHOOLS

Middlesex Township is in the Cumberland Valley School District. The school district, which is independent of the Township, also includes Hampden, Monroe and Silver Springs Townships. One elementary school is situated within Middlesex Township. Middlesex Elementary School, which is located on N. Middlesex Road, serves grades K through 5. This school building was replaced and now can accommodate a larger enrollment of 675 students. Minor increases in enrollment are projected by the Cumberland Valley School District. No other new school facilities within Middlesex Township are proposed at this time.

**Table 6-1
Recommended Distribution Standards for Fire Protection**

Type of Land Use	Suggested Service Radius	
	Engine or Pumper Company	Ladder Company
Commercial/Industrial	.75-1.0 miles	1.0 mile
High to Medium Density Residential	2 miles	2.0 miles
Scattered Residential	3-4 miles	3.0 miles
Rural Low Density Residential	4-6 miles	-----

Source: Small Town Planning Handbook, American Planning Association.

Students from Middlesex Township in grades 6-8 attend the Eagle View Middle School. Students in grades 9 - 12 attend Cumberland Valley High School. Both of these schools are located in Silver Springs Township.

Other public and private schools serving the Cumberland Valley area include Cumberland-Perry Voc-Tech in Silver Springs Township, Trinity High School in Shiremanstown, Harrisburg Academy in Wormleysburg, Good Hope Baptist School in North Middleton, and St. Patrick School in South Middleton.

Dickinson College and the U.S. Army War College are both located nearby in Carlisle.

6.6 LIBRARIES

There is no public library within Middlesex Township. The Cumberland County Library System offers 8 branch libraries, with the Bosler Library in Carlisle being the closest. Township residents may also use the Dickinson College Library. The U.S. Army War College Library is open to the public during normal working hours but books are not available for loan.

6.7 PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreational facilities available to Middlesex Township residents within the Township include public municipal and institutional facilities and private institutional facilities. Two parks are owned by Middlesex Township and collectively occupy about 130 acres (Figure 6-1). The two parks include one community park and one small

neighborhood park. A description of each facility is as follows:

Middlesex Township Park: This 127-acre site is located along Beagle Club Road in the northwest quadrant of the Township. This facility functions as a community park. Recreation facilities include seven baseball/softball fields, two multi-purpose fields, one basketball court, one volleyball court (sand), one tennis court, one playground, several hiking trails, two pavilions, one concession stand, and one community center/arts building with rest rooms. The park is bisected by Spring Run. The existing concession stand and community center, playground, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, as well as some of the ball fields, are located on the south side of Spring Run.

Proposed expansion plans for this park include additional fields, trails, restroom facilities on both sides of Spring Run, a concession stand north of Spring Run and a bridge over Spring Run serving to connect the facilities within the park.

Anderson Park: This park is a small neighborhood park/playground less than 1 acre in size. This park is located at the intersection of Valley Drive and Hill Drive. The only facilities available at this small park are playground equipment.

Township park lands are acquired in a number of ways as per a recent amendment to the Middlesex Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The subdivider or developer of a subdivision or land development for residential and non-residential purposes must either pay a fee for use by the Township

MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP

(Cumberland County, Pennsylvania)

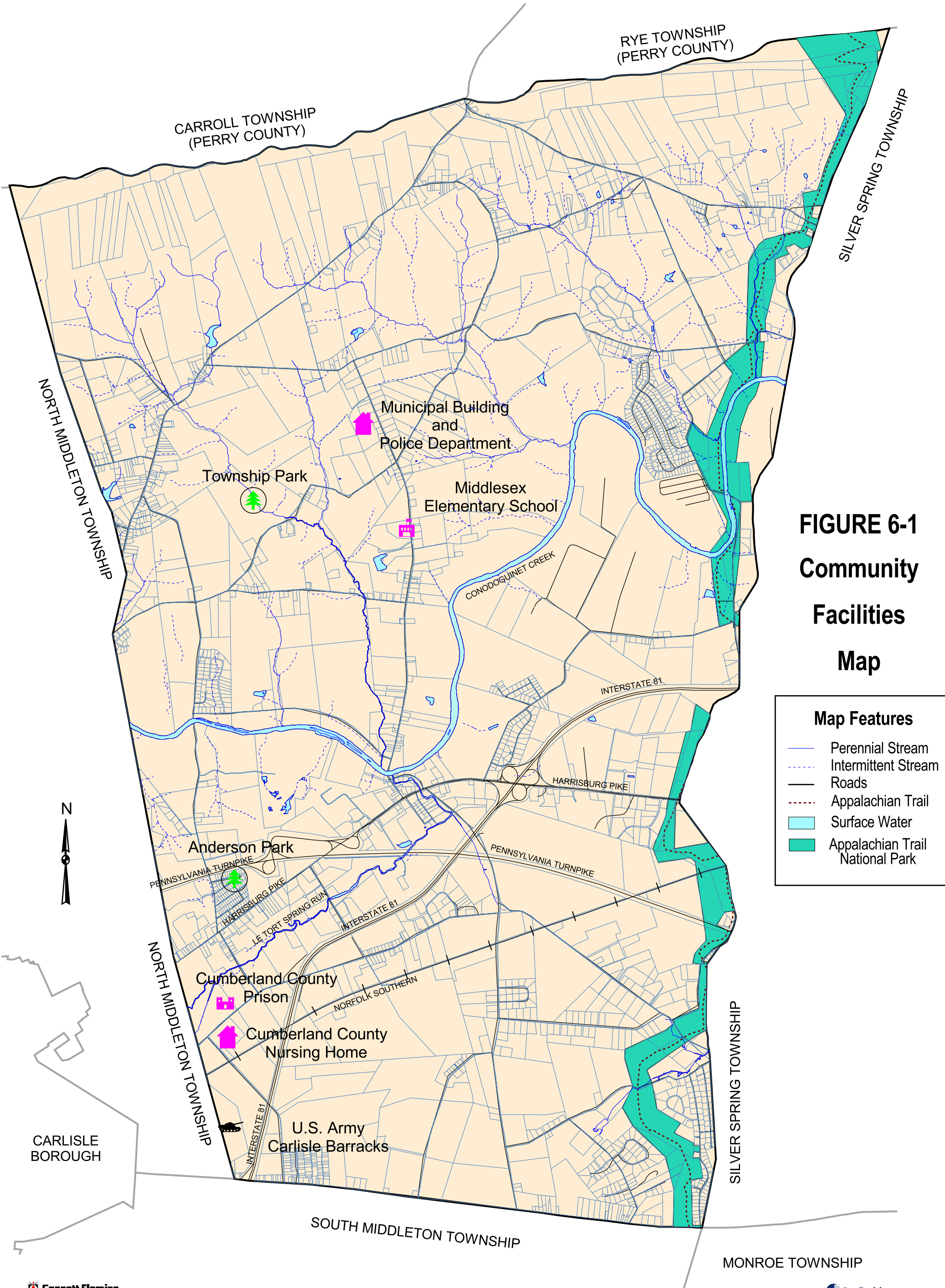


FIGURE 6-1
Community
Facilities
Map

Map Features	
	Perennial Stream
	Intermittent Stream
	Roads
	Appalachian Trail
	Surface Water
	Appalachian Trail National Park



CARLISLE BOROUGH

Supervisors for Township recreational purposes, or provide a suitable and adequate recreation area, to serve the needs of future occupants of the subdivision or land development. For residential subdivisions a minimum of 0.27 acres per dwelling unit shall be set aside for recreation. For non-residential developments, a minimum of 10 percent of the gross land area being developed shall be set aside for park or recreation use.

Moneys from the Recreation and Land Acquisition and Improvement Fund may be used for developing capital improvements in new or existing recreation areas in the Township. Authorization of expenditures from the fund must be made by the Board of Supervisors after taking into consideration recommendations by the Park and Recreation Board.

In addition to the Township-owned parks, residents benefit from other public and semi-public facilities.

Middlesex Elementary School: The grounds adjacent to the school provide one softball field and playground equipment.

Carlisle Country Club: The Carlisle Country Club provides semi-public recreational facilities in the form of an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail: The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a 2,160-mile long unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The Appalachian Trail is a continuously marked footpath that extends along the crest of the Appalachian Mountain Range traversing 14 states from Georgia to Maine. This trail traverses Middlesex Township, along the Township's eastern boundary with Silver Spring Township for approximately 10 miles.

Through a partnership agreement with the NPS, all day-to-day trail and land management activities are the responsibility of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), a private, non-profit organization. The ATC, in turn, has allocated these activities to trail maintaining clubs. The portion of the Appalachian Trail that traverses Middlesex Township is maintained by the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Management Association and the Mountain Club of Maryland.

Eagles Club Recreation Area: The Eagles Club owns lands on the east side of Wolf's Bridge Road just north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The lands

are used for picnics, family reunions, scouting and other social outings.

State Game Lands 230: The eastern portion of State Game Lands 230 extends into the northwest corner of the Township. This portion of State Game Lands 230 is comprised of wooded mountain lands and unused farmland.

Recreation Programs and Activities: Recreational activities are operated by the Middlesex Township Parks and Recreation Department, which is supported by the borough, the Township. The Department offers a wide range of activities to residents. Several organizations offer youth sports programs. A comprehensive park, recreation and open space plan was prepared for the Township in 1995

6.8 SOLID WASTE SERVICE

In the Spring of 1999 the Township instituted township-wide residential pickup of garbage and recyclables. Collection of refuse from businesses, institutions, apartment buildings and mobile home parks will remain to be performed on an individual contractual basis with private haulers. Business, institutions, apartment buildings and mobile home parks are also required to contract with private haulers for the weekly collection of recyclables. The Township also instituted an annual cleanup this Spring, so that bulk items could be left at the curbside and be picked up by the Township's contractor.

There are no dumps, landfill sites, incinerators or other disposal facilities located in Middlesex Township.

6.9 OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND LANDS

The Middlesex Township Municipal Complex is located at 350 N. Middlesex Road. The complex consists of 3 buildings. The main building, which was constructed in 1995, houses the Middlesex Township offices, the Middlesex Township Municipal Authority offices and the Police Department. The Township's Public Works garage and a maintenance building are also located at this site.

6.10 TRENDS AND ISSUES

Trends - Community Facilities and Services

Police

- ✓ Using level of service criteria from the FBI, it would appear that the level of police protection is adequate.
- ✓ The Township will need to review police staffing level each year to ensure adequate levels of service.

Fire Protection and Ambulance/Emergency Service

- ✓ Attracting and maintaining a trained force of volunteer fireman and rescue personnel is a continuous concern throughout the Township.
- ✓ Frequently review equipment needs to assure that Township needs are being met.

Hospitals

- ✓ Three hospitals are located nearby: Carlisle Hospital; Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill; and Seidle Memorial Hospital (Pinnacle) in Mechanicsburg.

Schools

- ✓ Middlesex Township is located within the Cumberland County School District. In 1999 the Township will open the doors to a new elementary school, the Middlesex Elementary School on North Middlesex Road. Students for the Township attend middle school at Eagle View Elementary School in Silver Spring Township and they attend high school at Cumberland Valley High School also in Silver Spring Township.
- ✓ There are a variety of private schools in the vicinity but none are located in Middlesex Township.

Libraries

- ✓ There are no public libraries in the Township. The Bosler Library in Carlisle which is part of the Cumberland County Library System is the closest facility to the county. The Dickinson College library and the Army War College library are both available to Township residents.

Public Parks and Recreation

- ✓ Middlesex Township currently owns two park facilities: Middlesex Township Park (127 acres) on Beagle Club Road and Anderson Park (1 acre) at Valley and Hill Drive.
- ✓ The Township requires developers to pay fees or dedicate land for recreational purposes.
- ✓ A parks and recreation plan was prepared for Monroe Township and Middlesex Township.
- ✓ The Middlesex Township Park is quite large and there are plans for expansion of facilities at this park.
- ✓ The Middlesex Park is centrally located for access by Township residents. However there are no public park facilities located south of U.S. Route 11.
- ✓ Current park facilities should meet the needs of current and project population growth.
- ✓ The Township is host to a portion of the Appalachian Trail, which extends from Maine to Georgia.

Solid Waste Services

- ✓ In 1999 the Township contracted with a private waste hauler to provide pick up of residential solid waste and recyclable.

Other Public Lands

- ✓ Middlesex Township owns and maintains their municipal complex on North Middlesex Road.
- ✓ The new Township building, opened in 1995 is the focal point of this facility.

Issues

- ✓ Increase police and emergency services to meet population and employment growth.
- ✓ Locate a parks facility south of PA Route 11.

6.11 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

- Over 80 percent of the respondents rated the quality of life as high (52.4%) to moderate (31.1%).
- 11.9 percent of the respondents rated the quality of life as very high.
- Over 80 percent of the respondents rated Middlesex Township government as moderate (46.6 %) to high (34.0%).
- The majority of respondents were satisfied to very satisfied with the following Township services:
 - Snow removal (84.3%)
 - Police protection (81.8%)
 - Fire Protection (80.4%)
 - Emergency medical (76.7%)
 - Trash removal (67.6%)
- The majority of the respondents were satisfied with the following Township services:
 - Vehicle traffic management (55.4%)
 - Parks (52.9%)
 - Playgrounds (47.7%)
 - Open space/passive parks (47.2%)
 - Citizen input into community decisions (47.3%)
 - Building permits, codes, inspections (45.0%)
- One third or more of the respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with:
 - Recycling (33.1%)
 - Planning/zoning/subdivision & land development (34.1%)
- The majority had no opinion on:
 - Sports programs (45.0%)
 - Swimming/water activities (51.4 %)
 - Fitness programs - adults (56.8%)
 - Warm weather activities (48.3%)

- ✓ Develop park facilities and recreation programs to meet future growth and needs.
- ✓ Increase fee-in-lieu rates for developers to support parks and recreation programs.
 - Cold weather activities (54.8%)
 - Senior citizen activities (62.6%)
- The majority of respondents were satisfied to very satisfied with:
 - Public schools (74.7%)
 - Technical/vocational training (55.0%)
 - Emergency medical care (61.0%)
- The majority were satisfied with:
 - Medical doctors (51.1%)
 - Dentists (47.5%)
 - Prescription drug service (48.6%)
- The majority of respondents had no opinion on:
 - Psychological/counseling services (55.0%)
 - Retirement/managed care facilities (50.2%)
- The majority of residents agree to strongly agree that:
 - Increase fees from developers for purchase of parklands/open space for development of recreational facilities (58.4%)
- The majority of respondents indicated that there were enough of the following recreation facilities:
 - Community parks (54.2%)
 - Open space/passive recreation (45.0%)
 - Trails-hiking and biking (47.1%)
 - Football fields (45.4%)
 - Softball/baseball fields (57.9%)
 - Soccer fields (49.9%)
- Over one third of the respondents indicated that there were not enough swimming/water activities (37.3%)