

Part 3: Addressing Traffic Issues in the Boroughs

- Coordinate, retime, and perform minor equipment upgrades to the four (4) traffic signals in Zelenople for better efficiency and safety of vehicles and pedestrians.
- Perform a major upgrade of the four (4) signalized intersections in Zelenople Borough to further reduce delay throughout the day and enhance pedestrian mobility and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Provide and maintain crosswalks and other traffic calming measures at all intersections to provide for the safety of pedestrians

Part 4: Enhancing Heritage Tourism in the Boroughs

- Develop a joint marketing campaign for the Boroughs.
- Renovate an "anchor building" in each business district to catalyze further investment.

Part 5: Land Use and Flooding along Connoquenessing Creek

- Reduce flooding by restoring riparian areas and reducing impervious surfaces along Connoquenessing Creek.

Part 6: Expanding Recreational Amenities

- Revitalize the Zelenople Community Swimming Pool
- Implement the Master Site Plan for Zelenople Community Park
- Initiate a plan between the two Boroughs to jointly manage the communities' parks and recreation.
- Further develop a trail system throughout Zelenople and Harmony.

Public Participation

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Boroughs of Zelenople and Harmony was developed through a highly participatory planning approach. A project Steering Committee, which included elected officials, business-owners, and other community leaders, guided the development of the Plan. A committee of business-owners was also formed with the specific goal of evaluating the issues facing the two Boroughs' commercial cores. Two public meetings were held at strategic times during the planning process to educate residents of the importance of the Plan and gather their input. A series of four focus group meetings were also held in order to explore the Plan's main topic areas.

Overall, citizens, business owners, and public officials were given multiple opportunities to voice their opinions and provide feedback throughout the process. The public participation process used for this Plan engaged citizens and strengthened communication and cooperation between the two Boroughs.



Zelenople and Harmony

Joint Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary

June 2010



The preparation of this Plan was financed in part through a Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) Grant and a Shared Municipal Services Program (SMSP) Grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, as administered by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development as well as a grant from the Local Government Academy.

prepared by: Pashek Associates; Poggemeyer Design Group; RDM; and URS

What is the Zelenople and Harmony Joint Comprehensive Plan?

Zelenople and Harmony Boroughs have joined together to develop this multi-municipal comprehensive plan, which will help the communities protect and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by area residents. The plan is organized into six main parts, each of which covers an important topic or issue to the Boroughs. These topics were identified through data analysis, interviews, input at public meetings, and work with the Steering Committee. The plan is organized around these central themes because they were determined to be important issues impacting the quality of life in Zelenople and Harmony.

Each Part of the Comprehensive Plan includes a series of actions/projects that, when implemented, will improve the quality of life in the Borough's relative to that Part's topic. The project's Steering Committee was tasked to prioritize the many projects discussed during the planning process in order to provide a logical and practical direction for the Boroughs' implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The results of this prioritization effort are reflected in the organization of each Part of the Plan. The Parts are divided into three Tiers:

Tier 1 – Immediate Priority Projects

The first tier focuses on the projects that the Boroughs believe are the most important and are reasonably achievable in a short time period following adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. The Boroughs are committed to begin implementation of these projects as soon as possible.

Tier 2 – Secondary Priority Projects

The second tier includes a discussion of other important ideas that could be undertaken in the future to further improve the Boroughs.

Tier 3 – Other Important Projects

The third tier includes a series of additional project ideas that would help enhance the communities but are not currently priorities in the Boroughs. These priorities might change if a project gains community support or if funding becomes available.

The Boroughs' Vision for the Future

The "vision" is a statement that articulates the type of place a community is striving to become. The Vision for Zelenople and Harmony was developed through public meeting comments, feedback from interviews and focus groups, and steering committee discussions. It sets the context for the implementation plan by identifying the ideal future conditions in the community and providing the community with something to work toward. The vision for Zelenople and Harmony is the following:

Zelenople and Harmony Boroughs are a regional destination, attracting new residents and visitors to their thriving downtowns and well-preserved historic buildings. Zelenople's downtown maintains its balance of small retail, restaurants and cultural attractions, while Harmony's is flourishing as a center of tourist-oriented businesses. Young families and professionals are moving into the Boroughs' attractive, walkable neighborhoods and downtown living options.

Previously vacant industrial properties along Connoquenessing Creek are being reused for a combination of recreation, conservation, and new businesses. A network of paths along this important greenway links the two communities and provides views of and access to the Creek. New businesses near the Creek effectively manage stormwater to reduce flooding and protect water quality.

Travelers move smoothly through the communities. Truck through-traffic has been routed around downtown Zelenople and there is ample parking for businesses, events and tourist destinations. The two Boroughs are working together to share services and equipment whenever practicable and are setting an example for efficient, cost-effective municipal government.



Part 1: Controlling Borough Costs while Maintaining or Enhancing Services

- Share public works equipment and jointly purchase new equipment while coordinating services like snow removal and leaf collection.
- Coordinate administrative purchasing such as supplies and services, health/disability/workman's compensation benefits, and information technology (IT).

Year One Implementation Schedule	2010						2011						
	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Overarching strategies													
• Hold quarterly joint Borough Council Meetings. ¹	•			•			•			•			•
Part 1: Controlling Borough Costs while Maintaining or Enhancing Services													
• Borough Council's appoint a Shared Services Committee to drive the implementation of the projects in Part 1. ²													
Shared Services Committee develops recommendations to present to the Borough Councils at the quarterly joint Borough Council Meeting. ³				•						•			
• Borough Councils act upon Shared Services Committee's recommendations.													

1: The first meeting should be the joint Borough Council Meeting held June 2nd, 2010. This is the meeting where Councils adopt the plan.

2: Could be formalized within the resolution adopting the Joint Comprehensive Plan

3: Shared Services Committee should reconvene once the Borough Councils have acted upon the Committee's initial recommendations to develop additional ideas for implementation.

Part 2: Revitalizing the Boroughs' Main Streets

- Creating a common sign and wayfinding system for the two business districts.
- Establishing a façade enhancement program to encourage building upgrades.
- Utilize common streetscape amenities for the two main street areas.

