

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN**

Bally and Bechtelsville each provide or help fund a variety of community-oriented facilities and services to their residents. These include:

- public water and sanitary sewerage;
- stormwater management; and
- police, fire and rescue, among others.

Through their school board members, Bally and Bechtelsville also have input into Boyertown Area School District decisions affecting educational services to their residents.

Aging facilities, a growing population and rising costs challenge the two boroughs' ability to deliver basic services without increasing taxes and user fees. Each community tries to share costs and resources with neighboring municipalities whenever possible. However, inter-municipal efforts are not yet widespread in the region. Cost-effective management, incremental improvements and continued efforts to foster more regional cooperation will be necessary in the future to maintain the efficient delivery of community services to which local residents are accustomed.

The following recommendations are proposed to help improve community facilities and services in Bally and Bechtelsville.

PUBLIC WATER

**Bally**

- Continue searching for a new well with the capacity and water quality needed to supplement the Borough's public water supply.
- Consider long-range replacement of selected under-sized water mains to increase fire protection.

**Bechtelsville**

- Consider a feasibility study to examine the cost and long range feasibility of a public water system.

PUBLIC SEWERAGE

**Bally**

- Continue the Bally Municipal Authority's program to gradually replace sanitary sewer lines in poor condition.
- Proceed with plans to expand capacity at the Bally Sewage Treatment Plant to accommodate new wastewater flows from Washington Township and future development within Bally.

**Bechtelsville**

- Work to incorporate remaining properties with on-lot septic systems into the public sewer system as individual site conditions warrant.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Bally**

- Proceed with plans to reduce flooding and erosion by redirecting stormwater flows in the southwestern portion of the Borough to a nearby old stream bed.
- Direct future stormwater runoff from currently undeveloped lands in the Borough to adjacent drainage basins that do not flow into Bally's major drainageway.
- Prohibit new construction within 100 feet of the drainageway centerline.

**Bechtelsville**

- Prohibit further construction on flood-prone soils.

POLICE, FIRE AND RESCUE

**Bally and Bechtelsville**

- Periodically consider the potential for a joint police force involving Bally Borough, Bechtelsville Borough and Washington Township. Joint police departments are often the most cost-effective way to provide 24-hour police protection.
- Bally should continue to help fund the operating and capital needs of the Goodwill Fire Company and Bechtelsville should continue to help support the Keystone Fire Company. Both boroughs should maintain funding assistance to the Bally Community Ambulance Association.

EDUCATION**Bally and Bechtelsville**

- Both boroughs should continue to work with the Boyertown Area School District to plan for evolving school facility needs according to the following principles:
  - Schools should be located near the students they serve. Schools should either be within walking distance or easily accessible by car and bus. As the School District continues to grow it may become feasible to locate a new elementary school in Bally and/or Bechtelsville or to expand Washington Elementary School.
  - Schools should be located on adequately sized properties away from commercial and industrial uses.
  - Future school construction and renovation should be undertaken with the idea of making indoor and outdoor facilities available for community use.