

## Implementing the Small Area Plan

Effective implementation will be the difference between having a plan that just sits on the shelf or an action-oriented plan that helps make great community. The residents of Pine Grove Mills will have primary responsibility for developing short-and long-term implementation actions. This starts with getting organized as a community and then forging a regular dialogue with Ferguson Township and other partners to coordinate actions and assist with implementation. Some initial organizational issues residents should consider are:

- What type of group will be established by residents to implement the Small Area Plan? Formal, informal, non-profit, open to businesses and others, meeting frequency, etc.
- After getting organized, honestly assess what the group wants to accomplish and determine how much time and energy residents are willing to put forth to achieve it.
- Keep the Township Board of Supervisors informed and on board with implementation actions. The Board is the governing body that will determine how Township funds and staff and be utilized to help implement the plan. The Township also has working relationships with other partners who could help implement other recommendations in the Plan.
- Work to find solutions to two or three short-term specific problems (a one or two-year period).
- Also discuss, and organize the longer-term priorities, but if possible, set them aside until the group is established. For example, what are some of the key capital projects that residents may ask the Township to consider in future budget years to implement the goals in the Small Area Plan?
- What community events can be used to achieve specific goals identified in the Small Area Plan?
- What opportunities are there to work with citizen volunteers or other partners?

## Organizing Implementation Actions

Implementing the Small Area Plan should be lead by the Pine Grove Mills Community and be assisted by staff at Ferguson Township and other agencies. Implementation activities should also be organized by the four categories below. The categories primarily serve as an organizing element to capture different types of projects. The categories also provide some clarity for residents regarding tasks that can be completed by residents without assistance by others and more complex projects that may require outside assistance and funding.

1. Pine Grove Mills Community – These projects are planned and implemented by the Pine Grove Mills community and do not require outside funding or staffing. Examples may include designing and maintaining a web page, organizing community events, or preparing and distributing community newsletters.
2. Municipal Regulations – Municipal regulations determine the location, form and character of private projects. Typical examples include the subdivision, zoning, and grading and drainage ordinances.
3. Municipal Capital Projects which are funded by and maintained by the municipality. Examples include improvements to the public rights-of-ways, parks, or bike paths.
4. Other Partnership Projects – These are programs or actions that may require community participation and municipal participation or coordination but are funded and built by other units

of government or private entities. This could include improvements to state roads, and connections with Rothrock State Forest.

## Implementation Program Tracking Chart

The Implementation Program Tracking Chart provides a list of recommended projects that should be completed to implement the goals and objectives of the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan. The goals and objectives are simply a list of items the community wants to achieve, and they are not in any priority order. The Implementation Program Tracking Chart turns goals and objectives into actionable projects by establishing priorities, timeframes, and identifying primary and secondary resources to complete each project.

Progress on implementing the Small Area Plan should be reviewed annually and formally updated bi-annually to ensure visibility, relevancy of projects, and regular progress towards achieving goals and objectives. The Implementation Plan Tracking Chart should only include projects that can be completed in a two or three-year time period. Every two years, new projects should be added, projects that have been completed should be removed, and projects that have stalled or no longer high priorities should be reassessed.

The Implementation Program Tracking Chart is not a static document, but a dynamic, evolving process that bi-annually involves residents from Pine Grove Mills and Ferguson Township staff. The process involves residents and staff to encourage an organizational environment that supports collaborative actions to implement actions from the Small Area Plan. The process should also encourage a consensus-based approach to identify and implement projects that best meet the needs of Pine Grove Mills within the context of other Township projects.

Updating the Implementation Program Tracking Chart will involve residents, Township staff, and perhaps the Township Planning Commission to recommend priorities to the Board of Supervisors if the project requires staff time or funding from the Township budget. The Implementation Program should also include annual reporting to the Board of Supervisors. In summary, the outcomes of this process:

- Proactively engage residents, municipal staff, and the Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders in an annual process to be accountable and show progress.
- Ensure residents have the opportunity for an active role to identify and establish priorities and reach consensus on the most relevant and beneficial projects and programs to undertake to implement the Small Area Plan on a bi-annual basis.
- Provide a systematic process to address and adjust, on a bi-annual basis, local priorities, needs, and projects to implement long-term goals in the Small Area Plan.
- Ensure that the Small Area Plan remains a dynamic, up-to-date, relevant, and responsive guide for the physical development of Pine Grove Mills.

### Guidelines for Establishing Priorities

Potential priorities should come from the community and be related to goals and objectives in the Small Area Plan. The guidelines for establishing the highest priority projects should be straightforward and address the following questions:

- To what extent does the project align with the goals and actions in the Small Area Plan?
- How well does the project address a clearly demonstrated Small Area Plan issue or need?
- How well does the project benefit Pine Grove Mills?
- To what extent are there resources available to implement the project?

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