

Status

This list of strategic goals was derived by the Master Plan Committee (MPC) from input from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and from relevant goals found in the Master Plans of other municipalities. They were reviewed by the Planning Board on January 10, 2024.

Note that these goals are not a complete or finished set. They are assembled to help guide the team that is writing the draft Public Works Services Plan element. The team may develop additional goals and may choose to modify the wording of these goals as their work progresses.

The Public Works Services Plan element will be written by the Public Works team. The first draft is due before August 20, 2024, and will be posted here when it has been released by the writing team.

Comments and suggestions for the element-writing team should be emailed to planning@penningtonboro.org.

5. Public Works Services Plan

This Plan Element, previously referred to as the Utilities Plan Element, analyzes the need for, and shows the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities and storm water management facilities. This Element is helpful to the Borough as it considers likely future development and to what extent it will be served by water, sewer, flood, solid waste, and stormwater infrastructure and what, if any, upgrades are necessary to ensure adequate service. The Element is prepared in coordination with the Borough Engineer. The Element also covers the other important services provided by the Public Works Department, borough tree maintenance, leaf collection, snow plowing and road repairs.

Public Works and Services Plan Goals

5.1. Continue to provide high-quality, cost effective and environmentally conscious utility services for all Pennington residents and businesses. Consider offering some of these services for a fee to Hopewell Township residents whose homes can only be accessed via Borough roads. Ensure that the SBRSA sewage plant serving Pennington is protected from flooding along Stony Brook.

5.2. Lobby the Mercer County Improvement Authority to accept more materials for recycling, such as other plastics and polystyrene packaging. County collection of electronic goods, batteries, and hazardous materials needs to be more frequent than every six months. Investigate whether the Borough can generate income from composting and from recycling metals in addition to cost savings from reducing the volume of waste going to landfill.

5.3. Continue to provide services in Borough public areas and rights-of-way such as stormwater management, tree management, infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, snowplowing, and road repairs. Coordinate with Mercer County on work on County Roads in the Borough.

5.4. Maintain MS4 certification and stay current on State stormwater mandates. Seek all available Federal, State, and County financial assistance to improve stormwater infrastructure to prevent flooding. Reduce stormwater runoff by encouraging a reduction in impervious coverage, landscaping for improved water absorption, and managing stormwater close to where it falls.

5.5. Continue to maintain and improve utility systems to ensure uninterrupted service, maximize system capacity, and reduce the long-term cost of municipal ownership. Improve climate resiliency through utility infrastructure improvements and redundancy to maintain service during extreme climate change-related events.

5.6. Support the Borough's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Borough operations to zero by 2035. When the opportunity arises, move to electricity as the sole energy source for public facilities and operations, and continue to improve energy efficiency. When Borough mobile equipment needs replacing, prioritize moving to electric or hybrid alternatives.

5.7. Support the Borough's goal to help reduce residents' greenhouse gas emissions from homes, activities, and transportation. Develop and update a list of information sources and current financial incentives for residents on heat pumps, electric stoves and in-home EV charging to encourage the move from fossil fuels. Provide advice and minimize impediments for the installation of domestic solar or geothermal energy. Develop a list of eligible community solar programs and encourage residents to participate.

5.8. Take every opportunity to put utility lines underground.