

The Route 219 Association introduced a preliminary purpose and need report in July of 1997 with the intent of fostering interest in bolstering comprehensive economic development by improving the transportation system connecting Canada and Pennsylvania and all Appalachian Counties. Impacts to trade and tourism are discussed in the need analysis. According to figures compiled by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, between 1995 and 1996, total value of Commonwealth exports increased 5.7 percent to 16.1 billion in 1996.

The largest percentage of Pennsylvania exports includes industrial and commercial machinery including computers:

- industrial/commercial machinery; 19.2 %
- electronic and electrical equipment; 14.9 %
- chemicals and allied products; 13.4 %
- transportation equipment 9.0 %
- primary metals industry; 8.0 %
- others combined; 35.5 %

Canada remains the top importer of Pennsylvania U.S. exports, a trend of the 1990's. Exports to Canada made up 33 % of the total of Pennsylvania exports in 1996. It is reported that the Ontario/New York highway trade accounts for nearly 29% of all Canadian/US highway trade. In 1995, \$65 million in Canadian/American trade passed over the Peace Bridge daily.

With this in mind, the Continental One Corridor becomes visibly significant.

F.4 Railways/Mass Transit (Buses)

Rail Systems

Bus Lines

Conrail - Class I Carrier

ATA - Area Transportation Authority
800-972-0450 or (814) 965-3211

Allegheny & Eastern - Class III

Fullington Trailways - (814) 781-1012

Buffalo & Pittsburgh - Class III

(814) 773-7000

Knox & Kane - Class III

Rail freight traffic continues to decline in and through Elk County. Active rail lines, some of which are solely tourism excursion trains, include:

<u>Rail Road Name</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Line Name</u>
MNL	Clearfield Co.	Cameron Co.	Mt. Laurel RR Low grade line
Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc.	McKean Co.	Jefferson Co.	Main line
Knox, Kane & Kinzua Railroad Company	McKean Co. (excursion tourist train only)	Forest Co.	Knox
Allegheny Railroad, Inc.	Cameron Co.	McKean Co.	Allegheny Railroad

The Buffalo Pittsburgh line is the major line operating to provide freight services to Elk County.

The 12 year plan also identifies mass transit or rail road projects to be completed such as Area Transportation Authority (ATA) (i.e. Equipment Purchasing, Vehicle Purchasing, and construction of a new maintenance facility), and Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad (i.e. Mainline Rehabilitation).

Private company bus transportation connects the county to major population centers including Buffalo, Erie, and Pittsburgh.

F.5 Air Travel

The official airport, serving Elk County, is the Bradford/McKean County Airport.

<u>Local Airports</u>	<u>Longest Runway</u>	<u>Location</u>
St. Marys	4300'	Municipal airport-119 Airport Road P.O. Box 89, St. Marys, PA 15857
Bradford/McKean County	6499'	40 miles north of St. Marys in McKean County
DuBois/Jefferson County	5504'	40 miles southwest of St. Mary's in Jefferson County

Greater Pittsburgh International Airport

This international airport is currently the fifteenth busiest airport in the United States serving over 95 national and international cities with over 476 non stop flights daily. It is located 14 miles northwest of downtown Pittsburgh and less than an hour flight from Elk County. A major expansion has recently been completed, making this the second largest airport in the United States. The new mid-field terminal houses 75 jet gates and 25 commuter gates, making connecting flights from smaller airports a more feasible option.

Numerous projects scheduled for improvements to the St. Marys Airport in the PennDOT 12 year program (i.e. Master Plan Update, Assess Roads, Runway Extension, Hangers, Administration/Terminal Building Construction, and Maintenance).

F.6 Pedestrian Systems

There are extensive trail systems in the ANF and the State Parks in Elk County. Additionally, the Quehanna Trail transverses Moshannon State Forest and connects with the Bucktail Trail near Sinnemahoning, Cameron County.

The rails to trails program uses inactive rail lines in the area to provide recreation corridors to link communities and natural areas.

The trails in Elk County include:

- **Clarion-Little Toby Creek Trail** - This 18 mile trail follows the old Pennsylvania rail line from Ridgway to Brockway following the Clarion River and Little Toby Creek. The trail continues to be developed towards Falls Creek as funding permits..

Proposed Trails in Elk County include:

- **Tri-County Rail-Trail.** This proposed trail will follow the old B & O Rail line from northern Clearfield County to Grant, in Elk County. The old line generally follows Bennett Run and the Sinnemahoning Creek.

Elk County has additional abandoned rail systems with good development potential.

G. EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICES/RECREATION

G.1 Introduction

This section inventories existing public services in Elk County (fire, police, municipal facilities schools) and recreational opportunities in Elk County.

This inventory will provide a base for the public services/recreation plan recommended in Section II - Comprehensive Plan.

G.2 Parks and Recreation

Local Opportunities - Outdoor

Outside of State and National Forests, the municipalities with community parks include the City of St. Marys, the Boroughs of Ridgway and Johnsonburg, and the Townships of Fox, Jay, and Horton. Community/neighborhood parks in other townships are not available.

From the initial inventory, it appears that there is a strong need for recreational facilities which are handicap accessible. See inventory on page IG-2. Additional recreational facilities are proposed in St. Marys and Fox Township.

The Borough of Johnsonburg, Jones Township, Benezette Township, and Spring Creek Township have sought funding to enhance and improve local community centers through the CDBG program and the Keystone Opportunities Program (formerly RIRA).

Fox Township is currently working with Stackpole Hall to enhance local out-of-doors recreational opportunities in the community park, i.e. additional ballfields, soccer fields.

Jay Township has recently appointed a recreation board to consider improvements to the Force playground area, acquired in the Fall of 1998.

State Game Lands

Seven (7) State Game Lands are within the County. They are:

<u>State Game Lands</u>	<u>Total Land Area in Acres</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
State Game Lands 14	911.8	Benezette Township
State Game Lands 25	23852.2	City of St. Marys and Jones Township
State Game Lands 28	8877.90	Highland Township, Spring Creek and Millstone Township
State Game Lands 44	23623.0	Horton Township, Ridgway Township and Spring Creek Township
State Game Lands 54	4842.2	Spring Creek Township
State Game Lands 293	2284.5	City of St. Marys
State Game Lands 311	1375.2	City of St. Marys

Source: DCNR

The Game Lands, extending into Elk County, total nearly 65,767 acres of undeveloped valuable green space. Approximately 62,000 acres are in Elk County.

The State Game Lands are maintained by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. There are no plans for expansion of services or development in the upcoming two (2) years or in the foreseeable five (5) years. The Game Lands currently have some roads and parking lots. Refuge and habitat, as well as food plots are provided. Valuable green space for hiking, hunting, and bird watching is provided. Also, an elk viewing range has recently been established, east of Benezette.

State Forest Land

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of State Parks reports that approximately 70,506 acres of Elk County are State Forest Lands. The Moshannon State Forest lands are maintained by the PA Bureau of Forestry and consist of 31,687 acres of forest land with two (2) trails. There are 25 miles of hiking trails and six (6) miles of cross country ski trails. Hunting and fishing opportunities are provided. The Elk State Forest Lands consist of 200,000 acres of forest land located principally in Elk and Cameron Counties. The Elk State Forest, established in 1900, offers six (6) hiking trails with the two (2) main trails being the Bucktail Path and the Quehanna Trail. The newest addition is the 19 mile long Elk Trail.

TABLE 43

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

	Bird Watching	Boat Launch	Camping	Canoeing	Courts	Archery	Basketball	Horseshoes	Softball	Tennis	Volleyball	Cross Country Skiing	Drinking Water	Fishing
State Game Lands No. 311														
State Game Lands No. 293														
State Game Lands No. 54														
State Game Lands No. 44														
State Game Lands No. 28														
State Game Lands No. 25														
State Game Lands No. 14														
Moshannon State Forest														
Sizerville State Park
Simmenhoning State Park
Twin Lakes Recreation Area
Sandy Beach Park							
Ridgway Reservoir														.
Memorial Park / Pool						
Loleta Recreation Area			.										.	.
Laurel Run Reservoir													.	.
Laurel Mill Ski / Hike Area	.											.		.
Elk State Park
East Branch Clarion River Lake
Clarion River
Benzinger Township Park						
Bendigo State Park
Allegheny National Forest