

Eastern Schuylkill Planning

- A. Ludgate Engineering Corporation was retained by Eastern Schuylkill Planning (ESP), a joint planning agency comprised of representatives from five Schuylkill County municipalities:
1. Borough of Tamaqua
 2. Rush Township
 3. Schuylkill Township
 4. Walker Township
 5. West Penn Township
- (These five municipalities comprise the Tamaqua Area School District, which provides public school education for over 5,000 children in the ESP region.)
- B. To prepare three different joint planning documents:
1. ESP Region Joint Comprehensive Plan
 2. ESP Region Joint Zoning Ordinance
 3. ESP Region Joint Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
- C. Which, if adopted, will replace the existing land use ordinances currently in effect in these municipalities.
- D. ESP was originally formed in 2001 when these five forward-thinking municipalities began exploring the possibility of creating joint planning documents in order to provide for a more uniform and orderly development pattern in the region.
- E. Ludgate Engineering Corporation has been providing professional land planning services to ESP, from its' inception. Ludgate Engineering prepared a "Planning Questionnaire" which was mailed to over 6,800 households in the region. Ludgate then analyzed over 1100 responses that were received and provided a report to ESP detailing citizen response. Ludgate Engineering also assisted Eastern Schuylkill Planning with formation of "Focus Groups" in their efforts to study the following areas of interest:
1. Infrastructure and Technology Needs
 2. Economic Impacts
 3. Neighborhood and Quality of Life Issues
 4. Environmental Impacts
 5. Transportation Needs
- F. Utilizing the data generated by the responses to the "Planning Questionnaire", the results of the "Focus Groups" analysis of the five different areas of interest, guidance provided by the ESP board members via monthly meetings and our considerable experience with joint planning efforts conducted in Berks County, PA, Ludgate Engineering then prepared drafts of the three joint planning documents.
- G. Once these draft joint planning documents have been officially reviewed by:
1. the ESP Board
 2. the Planning Commissions of the five ESP Region Municipalities
 3. the Governing Bodies of the five ESP Region Municipalities
 4. the general public
 5. the solicitors and engineers of the five ESP Region Municipalities
 6. and the Schuylkill County Planning Commission

then public hearing(s) can be scheduled by the governing bodies of the five ESP Region Municipalities.

- H. By adopting these three innovative, forward-thinking joint planning documents, the five member municipalities will have approved a Master Blueprint that will allow their slice of Pennsylvania to continue to develop in a logical, productive way.