

## APPENDIX B

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### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2007 EXCERPTS** **(WITH UPDATES THROUGH 2022)**

The following excerpts from the Comprehensive Plan Update 2007 are valid through the next 10 years and should continue to be utilized as a tool for planning.

To the extent possible, some of the excerpts have been updated through 2022.

#### Chapter 4. A Plan for Land Use

B. Natural Resources B.2.

G. Historic Resources B.4.

#### Chapter 6. A Plan for Community Facilities

A. Community Facilities B.9.

B. Parks & Recreational Facilities B.14.

Chapter 7. A Plan Utilities B.21.

Chapter 8. A Plan for Transportation & Circulation B.30.

## A PLAN FOR LAND

### B. NATURAL RESOURCES

As expressed in the Municipalities Planning Code, Article VI, Section 301, a Comprehensive Plan shall include: "A plan for the protection of natural and historic resources. This includes, but is not limited to wetlands and aquifer recharge zones, woodlands, steep slopes, prime agricultural land, floodplains, unique natural areas and historic sites."

Northeastern Pennsylvania is known for its beauty and abundance of natural features, a feature this Plan refers to as the "Pocono's Environment". These features are a source not only of the Township's desirability, but also its viability in the long term. Groundwater resources are the only source of drinking water; the watershed is a high quality watershed with unique characteristics required to be protected under State law. The hospitality and tourism industries, the largest segment of the Township's economy, are based on the natural, scenic, and recreational amenities available. Balancing these features with residential and economic development is a delicate exercise, made all the more difficult by the sheer quantity of these resources within the Township.

**Map 4-1** depicts the natural resources that currently receive some level of protection in the Township:

- Wetlands;
- 100-year Floodplain;
- Very Steep Slopes (greater than 25% slope);
- Steep Slopes (greater than 15% slope);
- Natural Areas (Monroe County Natural Areas Inventory); and
- State Forest/Parkland.

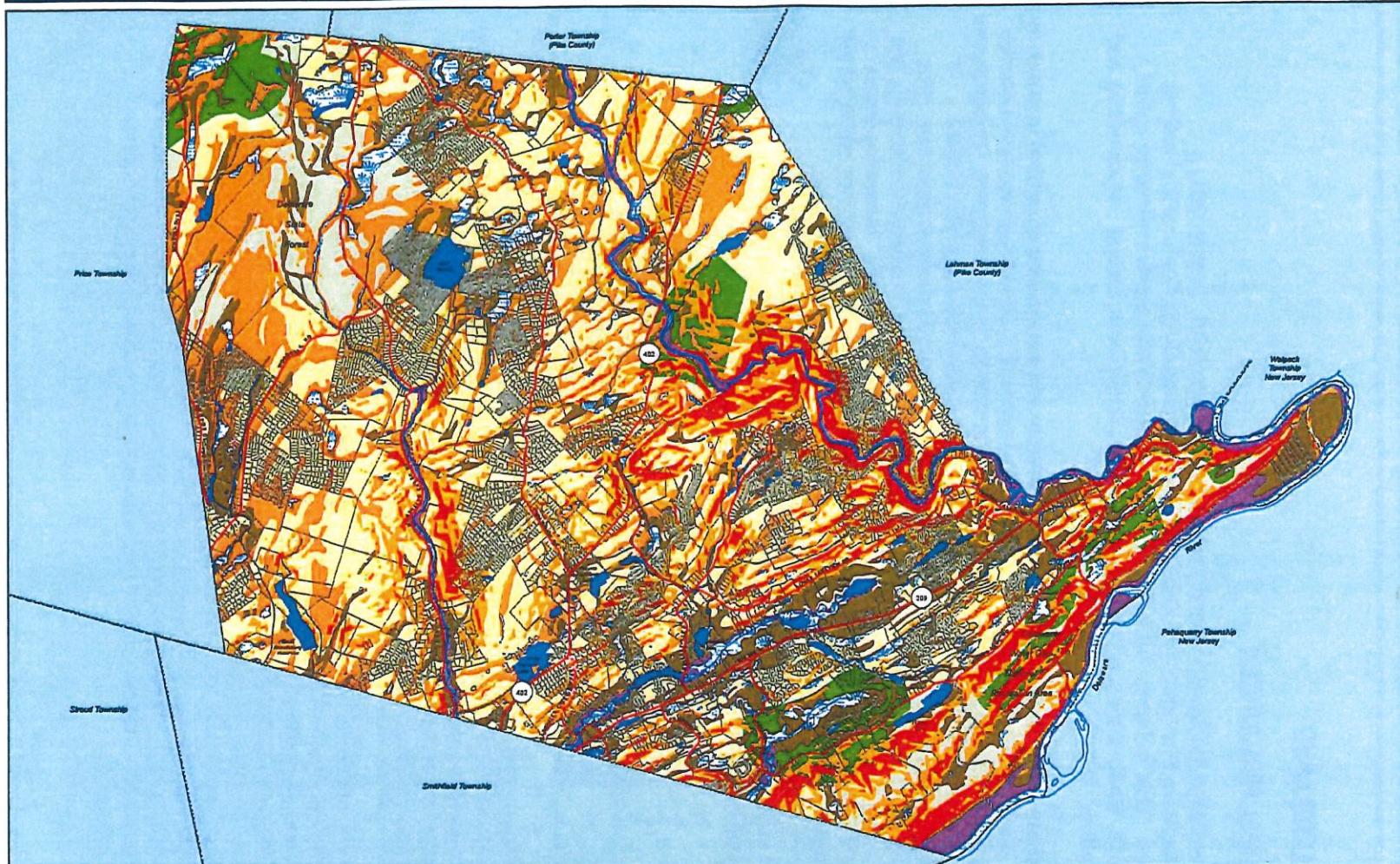
#### Natural Resources Goal:

As referenced in the previous chapter the Township's overall goal for natural resources is to **protect the natural, cultural, scenic, and historic resources of Middle Smithfield Township, while allowing economic development; and advocate the preservation of these resources in adjacent municipalities.**

This goal is supported by the following objectives:

1. Protect and maintain a high quality water supply.
2. Enhance wetland, floodplain, and surface water protection.
3. Improve standards for development on steep slopes (15%-25% slope) and very steep slopes (greater than 25% slope).
4. Establish forest and tree protection standards.
5. Mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
6. Identify and protect scenic vistas, ridgelines, wildlife corridors, and historic resources (Historic Resources are discussed further in Section G of this Chapter).

## Map 4-1: Natural Resource Protection Areas



Middle Smithfield Township  
Comprehensive Plan  
Update

Monroe County, Pennsylvania



Data Sources:  
Base Features - Monroe County Planning  
Commission, September 2006  
Wetlands - National Wetlands Inventory  
Floodplains -  
Soil - NRCS SSURGO Soil Database, 2004  
Slopes - USGS DEM, 30 Meter, 1999  
Natural Areas - Monroe County Natural  
Areas Inventory

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Legend

Surface Water	Slopes 15% - 25%
Wetlands	Slopes 25% +
100-Year Floodplain	Natural Areas Inventory Site
Hydric Soils	State Forest/Parkland
Seasonal High Water Table Soils	