

Priority Projects 2020-2021

Morgan County West Virginia

Introduction

The western most county in the region, Morgan County is rural. With the population density of 76 people/sq. mile being four times less than its neighbor Berkeley County 324 people/sq. mile. Morgan County also falls short in economics. Its Median Household Income is approximately 17% less than Berkeley and 35% less than Jefferson, bringing economic development strategies to the top of the list.

While these numbers are lower, it does have a wealth of opportunities that can be leveraged. Infrastructure expansion can facilitate a more level playing field for generating interest of employers in Morgan County.

Priority Project #1: Warm Springs PSD Inflow & Infiltration and Southward Expansion

The 2018 flooding events exposed weaknesses in existing sanitary pipes that allows stormwater to enter flows the system. Known as Inflow and Infiltration it has reduced the volume capacity for future system expansion and limiting economic development in Morgan County.

Priority Project #2: High-Speed Internet Broadband Expansion

The FCC has set targets of 10 Meg down/1 Meg up and 25 Meg down/3 Meg up as their definitions of 'broadband,' but large portions of Morgan County are not able to receive consistent access to even the lesser 10/1 service. In November 2019 the Morgan County Commission adopted the a Strategic Broadband Plan, that when implemented will expand access to high-speed internet.

Priority Project #3: US 522 Bypass Business Development

A new bypass relieving congestions within downtown Berkeley Springs, will open up developable properties attractive for commercial use.

Priority Project #4: Morgan County Business Resource Center

A technical service office located at the Pines Opportunity Center will aid entrepreneurs in starting businesses in Morgan County.

Priority Project #5: Emergency Services Communications / E911 Center

Priority Project #6: Secondary Water Source

Priority Projects 2020-2021

Town of Paw Paw, WV

"The Town of Paw Paw is looking to bring some new businesses to town."

*-Ron Davis
Town Administrator*

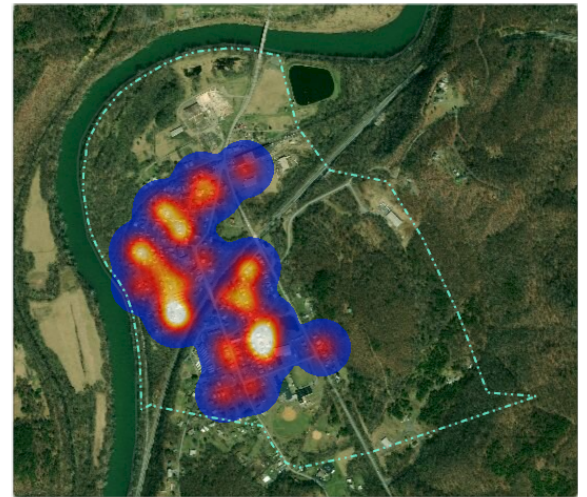
Introduction

A small community located in Morgan County, Paw Paw West Virginia is one of only three municipalities that borders the Potomac River in the Eastern Panhandle. A public boat ramp for water related recreation and bridge spanning the River into Maryland gives Paw Paw direct access to the C&O Canal.

Priority Project #1: Remove dilapidated buildings:

The appeal of a community is strongly influenced by the "look" of its neighborhoods. As communities age, this "look" can dramatically change if buildings are allowed to deteriorate. The result can be a downward spiral reflecting the declining spirit of a once vibrant community. Encouraging active use of and development in older structures and neighborhoods, while supporting the removal of unsafe or dilapidated structures will promote conditions that foster the preservation and improvement of Paw Paw and avoid decline.

- Identify buildings with no water or sewer service. (See Map Right)
- Assist the Town as they work with WVU BAD Buildings Program to establish proper procedures and measurable standards for dilapidated buildings.



Priority Project #2: Upgrade water and sewer operations:

Infrastructure can not be razed and comprehensively replaced. A piecemeal approach to infrastructure upgrades is the only way to provide continuous service while rehabilitating the overall system. Infrastructure upgrades. In an effort to keep service rates and fees reasonable, Paw Paw should pursue grants and loans for public utilities.

- Review potential of federal funding opportunities such as USDA- Small City Block Grants and others.
- Assist the town with appropriate financing applications

Priority Project #3: Economic Development

Paw Paw wants business to come to town. Paw Paw is also looking for a pathway of possibilities to capitalize on the many visitors that frequent the C&O Canal Trail, Potomac River, and Paw Paw Tunnel, a 3,118 foot long bore through the Appalachian Mountains.

- Explore becoming an official “Canal Towns” through the C&O Trust Partnership. Canal Towns are featured in publications and promoted through various other digital platforms;
- Build a strong relationship with the Morgan Economic Development Authority;
- Develop a marketing plan that lists Paw Paw assets, traffic counts, and population demands for recruiting businesses and employers.

Priority Project #4: Improve Recreational Parks

Paw Paw seeks a 1/4 mile circular walking trail, with play fields at Old Festival Grounds located adjacent to the Potomac River and a community gathering area and stage at the Paw Paw Municipal Park.

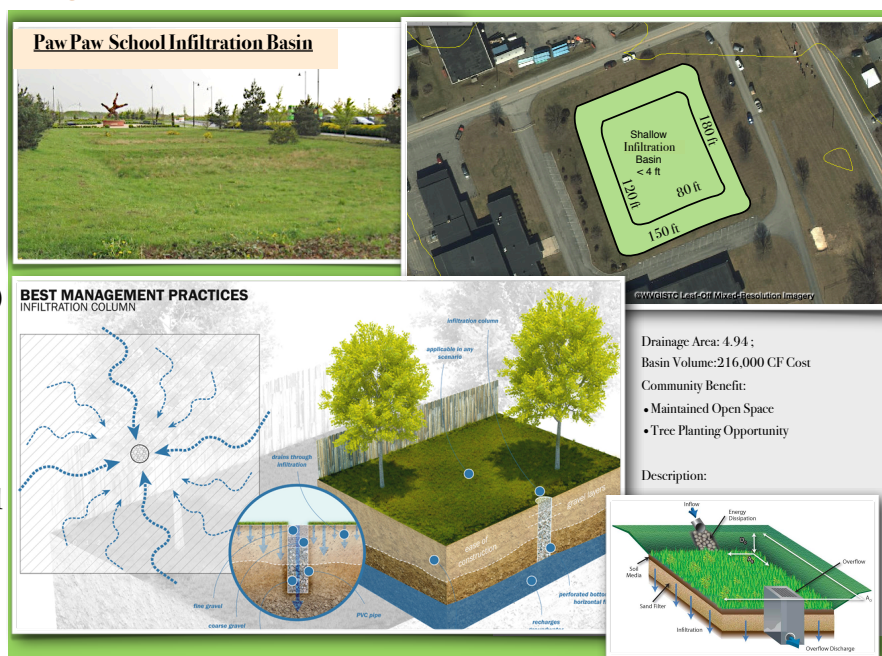
- Research Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Evaluate Chesapeake Bay Access Goal Opportunities (Note: Maryland may own Boat Ramp)
- Research available grants for sidewalk improvements such as [WVDOH Recreational Trails Program](#).

Priority Project #5: Reduce Flash Flooding

Like many towns in 2018, Paw Paw experienced significant impacts during the 2018 flooding events. Paw Paw's terrain is similar to a “salad bowl”, then outlets to the Potomac River. Paw Paw's best chance to reduce flash flooding is to capture stormwater along the high elevations, or the “rim” of the bowl.

Review Green Infrastructure Plan (Attachment A) for off-the-shelf practices to be implemented on public properties (above)

- Work with state and federal funders to cover material costs.
- Develop partnerships with Blue Ridge CTC and other workforce programs, to use these projects as hands-on learning opportunities.
- Apply for a Cacapon Institute C-Tree Grant for paw paw trees, cemetery hillside, and large trees to provide visual screening from sewer plant.



Priority Project #6: StreetScape and ADA Compliance

Old sidewalks throughout town and new pedestrian patterns display need for upgrades. Look to connect these capital projects with other stormwater practices (See Bath Washington St. project)

- Research available grants for sidewalk improvements such as [WVDOH Transportation Alternative Program](#).

Priority Project #7: Mountaineer Health Center

Medical access is limited to Paw Paw, this facility must continued to be maintained and adequately funded.

Priority Project #8: Cemetery and Graveyard rehabilitation

Paw Paw like other Region 9 communities owns and maintains a public cemetery. Old grave markers and roads are difficult and costly to maintain.

- Consider forming a regional workgroup to discuss cemetery maintenance and share funding ideas.

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Town of Bath, WV

Town of Bath, WV

Introduction

Town of Bath is the county seat of Morgan County. The high-yield, mineral springs discharging water at 74.3F degrees are the reason for the existence of the community incorporated in 1776 as the Town of Bath. The nature of the established town boundary is not clearly articulated. For over 200 years, the Town of Bath has been known as Berkeley Springs, the name of its original Virginia post 14 office established in 1802. This identity generally represents both the town and the larger

Priority Project #1: Downtown Revitalization and Implement “Better Buildings Program

Bath like many Region 9 communities suffer from blighted buildings of the past. A comprehensive effort and partnering with WVU Brownfields can provide the technical resources to address these issues. Specific Projects currently being worked

Priority Project #2: Waterline Rehabilitation

Berkeley Springs Water Works continues to make improvements to its aging infrastructure to support existing and new customers

Priority Project #3: Rail Trail and Train Station

The study will help to determine the safest route for bicyclist and pedestrians to travel approximately 3 miles from Sand Mine Road entrance on US 522 in Berkeley Springs, WV up to the Bridge across the C&O Canal at Hancock, MD.

Priority Project #4: Stormwater Management

Priority Project #5: Downtown Ecomonic Developement

