
**H. Community Facilities
and
Public Utilities Analysis**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES ANALYSIS

Life in a community is affected by the scope of public utilities and community facilities provided. Infrastructure in most areas are basic and gaps do exist. This section of the background studies will examine and comment on these various utilities and services for Rice's Landing Borough.

Community Facilities

Community facilities cover a broad range of buildings, facilities, and services all of which are very important to life in a community. Educational facilities such as K-12, technical, and advanced education, parks and recreational facilities, libraries, churches, municipal buildings, senior citizen centers, and public safety resources such as fire, police, and ambulance make up part of the infrastructure found in communities. The number and types of these facilities found in a community depends not only on the needs and desires of the citizens, but on the supporting funds available. The availability, quality, and adequacy of these facilities to serve the existing population is an important factor in ensuring the stability and the future development of a community.

The Municipal Building

Rice's Landing Borough was first settled in 1796 and incorporated in 1903. The Borough occupies .77 square miles. The Rice's Landing Community Center is located at 100 Water Street, Rice's Landing, Pennsylvania 15357. The site is located at the original settlement point near Lock #6 and the Pumpkin Run Fishing Rail. The building shell was constructed in the late 1970's using proceeds of a civic organization from the bicentennial celebration. The Borough then used revenue sharing and grant monies to complete construction in the early 1980's. The building is considered to be available to any Borough organization who wishes to reserve times for meetings. Groups such as the Recreation Authority, Planning Commission, and Borough Council currently use the facility for monthly meetings. The Borough Secretary maintains an office in the building and is available from 10-2, Tuesday through Thursday. Other than the Borough Office the building has a large meeting room, storage room, and restroom. Current renovations include an internal window to the Borough Office.

Rice's Landing maintains a storage building located at 154 Bayard Avenue. This building houses one Borough pickup truck, a dump truck, police car, Kabota tractor, non skid materials for winter road maintenance, and various hand tools.

Educational Facilities

The Jefferson-Morgan School District serves the local area including Rice's Landing, Morgan, Jefferson, and Clarksville. The teaching philosophy or educational approach is "to take advantage of who we are by utilizing the resources throughout our community in pursuit of higher levels of intellectual and social development in all our students and the community." The administrative office is located on Greene Street, Jefferson, PA 15344. Currently there are 76 teachers, 4 administrators, and support staff bringing the total employees to 125 persons.

The district operates two schools, one elementary and one Junior/Senior High School. The Jefferson-Morgan Elementary School handles grades K-6 and is located on Greene Street in Jefferson. The building was constructed in 1980 with removal of storage lockers and painting of the interior the latest improvements occurring in 1996. Recreational facilities at the elementary school include a gym, two playgrounds and other large open green spaces. The Jefferson-Morgan High School serves grades 7-12 and is located on Greene Street in Jefferson. The building was constructed in 1955 and was renovated in 1976. Recreational facilities at the high school include a football field, baseball field, softball field, and a gymnasium. Currently plans for expansion include the replacement of a building at the football stadium and the addition of a storage building, also at the high school.

Enrollment for the school district since 1986 shows moderate decline with a peak of 1,222 students in 1987. Currently the number of students is at a 10 year low of 1,047 persons dropping 10 percent since 1987. As a result the current facilities are adequate for future educational levels. However, improvement to the buildings will occur. Table H-1 shows the enrollment figures over the past decade.

TABLE H-1

Jefferson-Morgan School District Enrollment, 1989-1996											
Jefferson-Morgan	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Enrollment	1,164	1,222	1,191	1,189	1,127	1,139	1,101	1,088	1,119	1,100	1,047
% Change	-	5.0	-2.5	-2	-5.2	1.1	-3.3	-1.2	2.8	-1.7	-4.8
Source: 1997 Jefferson-Morgan School District Administrative Offices											

Recreational Facilities

There are very few areas identified as recreational in the Borough. Nevertheless, these facilities are identified on the Community Facilities Location Map # 13. A summary of these facilities are as follows:

Municipal-Owned Parks

1. *Pumpkin Run Fishing Rail - Rice's Landing*: The Borough owns and operates a park fishing rail which is a small tract of land covering an area from the community center to the Monongahela River. The small park consists of parking, restrooms, benches and fishing access.

2. *Pumpkin Run Park - Rice's Landing*: Owned and operated by the Rice's Landing Recreation Authority this park occupies land located south by southwest of Main Street across from the community center. It is considered to be a Greene County Conservation District. Construction assistance came from Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area by the US Department of Agriculture soil conservation services and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development authorized under the recreational improvement and rehabilitation act.

Regional Recreational Facilities

Residents often enjoy recreational activities that are not located within their municipal boundaries. Access to significant regional parks and recreation can be very attractive to residents. This section lists many regional parks and recreational opportunities that the Rice's Landing residents enjoy while traveling under 20 minutes.

County Parks

1. *Wanabee Park -Carmichaels*: A Greene County operated park located in Carmichaels offers tennis courts, a basketball court, a walking track, playground equipment, two softball fields, a swimming pool, picnic areas with three pavilions, and many picnic tables scattered throughout the park.

2. *Ten Mile Creek Park*: A Washington County operated park approximately 20 minutes from Rice's Landing.

State Parks

1. *Ryerson Station* - The Ryerson Station State Park Office is located at R.R. 1, Box 77, Wind Ridge, PA 15380 and can be reached by phone at (412) 428-4254. It occupies 1,164 acres including 64 acres of water front land with activities such as picnicking through pavilion rentals, softball fields, children's playground, swimming pool, snack bar, visitor center, fishing, boat rentals, boat mooring and launching, hunting, 10 miles of hiking trails, ice skating, ice fishing, 6 miles of snowmobile trails, sledding, cross country skiing, and 50 primitive family campsites.

State Game Lands

State Game Lands offers seasonal hunting, fishing, and trail opportunities and are called Girard's Fort.

Private Recreational Resources

Numerous privately operated recreational resources exist throughout the area within a 30 minute drive of Rice's Landing.

1. *Greene County Country Club*
2. *Rohanna Golf Course*
3. *Carmichaels Golf Course*
4. *Greene County Museum*: Owned and operated by the Greene County Historical Society.
5. *Waynesburg Central Pool*

Public Services

Services available to the residents of Rice's Landing are extremely important to the safety and well-being of the community. Rice's Landing public services are limited but sufficient considering the current population. Public services include safety features such as police, fire, and ambulance; health concerns such as sanitary sewer and water; and other services such as libraries, mail service, retirement homes, etc. The following sections examine those available in Rice's Landing.

Emergency Services

Police protection in Rice's Landing, as of this writing, is served through Greene County 911 which dispatches State Troopers from Waynesburg. Rice's Landing maintained a police staff of one part-time officer until 1990-1991. In late October of 1996 the Borough purchased a used police vehicle from Mason Borough in anticipation of Borough funded plans to hire a part-time police officer. Currently the candidate, a retired State Trooper, is going through recertification and minor training such as CPR with hopes of beginning by February of 1997. The officer will be dispatched through Greene County 911 and will serve calls for Rice's Landing only.

Fire protection is provided for the Borough through the Rice's Landing Volunteer Fire Department Station 66. The fire and ambulance protection serve Rice's Landing, a portion of Jefferson Township, and Cumberland Township. The facility is located at the corner of Bayard Avenue and Carmichaels Street in the renovated barn of the old Joshua Bayard farm. The barn houses all the departments equipment including ambulances. The original barn has two garage doors which stores two vehicles. An addition on the rear of the building is a four car garage. The fire equipment stored is as follows: two engines, one brush truck, and one squad truck (a suburban with one cascade unit on board).

Under Fire Chief Murry Kline the active volunteer roster is 40 persons. The Department is authorized to carry up to 50 volunteers. Within those 40 volunteers are 20 Emergency Medical Technicians.

Ambulance services for the Borough are also located in Station 66 and served by the same volunteers. The equipment used for such services are two ambulances and two boats used for River Rescue.

Library

Currently there is no active public library in the Borough. Borough residents travel to Flenniken

Library in Carmichaels and Bawlby Library in Waynesburg for library services. Children enjoy libraries located in the schools within the Jefferson-Morgan school district.

Mail Service

Daily mail service for an area is always supplied by the United States Post Office branch locations. Additional services are often available such as Federal Express, UPS, or other package carriers. The locations and availability of services for Rice's Landing are examined below.

The Borough of Rice's Landing has postal service through a US Post Office Branch located just off the intersection of Routes 188 and 88.

Churches

Below is a list of the churches and their locations located within the Borough of Rice's Landing:

- 1. Hewitt Presbyterian Church* - Located at 121 Crucible Road at the corner of Crucible Road and Carmichaels Street. Hewitt Cemetary is a large Cemetary located on the grounds of the church with an entrance from Carmichaels Street.
- 2. Rice's Landing's United Methodist Church* - Located at 125 Main Street and the corner of Rice Street.
- 3. Sacred Heart Church* - Is located on Crucible Road across from Hewitt Presbyterian in Cumberland Township. On the premises are the church with a separate building used for meetings and social gatherings.

Miscellaneous Municipal Facilities

This category covers all public, non-profit, and private functions placed within the Borough which serve the basic needs of the community. Examples of such functions would be housing authorities, day cares, elderly care centers, state government agencies, health care facilities, etc.

Rice's Landings miscellaneous municipal facilities are as follows:

- 1. Lions Medical Center* - Despite being outside of the Borough the center is an important health care facility ver accessible to the Borough. Located on Route 188 one mile north of the Borough, the center houses doctors offices and the Greene County MRI.

Community Infrastructure

The service level and conditions of the community infrastructure provides critical components which not only affect community life but developmental potentials as well. Water and sanitary sewer services are two key issues concerning Rice's Landing. Both of these needs are very basic to every community and greatly affect land use patterns within a community. An overview of these systems are to be examined.

As a first step in the examination and evaluation of the public utilities of the study area, a complete inventory was made. Emphasis was placed on the adequacy, capacity, location, and service area of each utility in the borough. Maps of the entire area were prepared for sanitary sewer and water service at a scale of 1"=500'.

Water Service

An adequate supply of potable water and water service for fire protection are essential components of a community water distribution system. The Water Distribution System Map #__ depicts the locations of water lines and fire hydrants within the municipality.

Water is supplied to Rice's Landing by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Authority. The office is located at P.O. Box 187, Jefferson, PA 15344. The system is under utilized with a capacity of 9,000,000 gallons per day (GPD), while average demand is only 3.5 million GPD and peak demand is 5.0 million GDP. The demand is not seasonal and no significant water pressure problems exist. The Borough is served at above 95 percent with room for expansion. No tap-ins are required and no abnormal maintenance problems are experienced in the lines serving the Borough. Likewise, no expansions or major repairs are scheduled for the lines in the next five years. The water source is the Monogahela River used 365 days a year with no plans to change to another source. A wellhead, aquifer, or water quality protection ordinance does not exist for the Borough. Overall the Borough is adequately served and the system can handle growth.

Sanitary Sewer Service

Sanitary sewer service is not available for the Borough. All sewage needs are taken care of by individual structures through septic systems. The community and I agree that a lack of a public sanitary sewer system greatly inhibits development in the Borough.

Refuse

Garbage collection has been handled by William Atcheson for at least 30 years. The hauler pays the Borough \$75.00 per year for a permit.

Public Utilities

Public Utilities are the basic features of community life not supplied by the municipality but deemed as important for the livability of the community. They include private companies regulated by the federal government supplying gas, cable, phone, and electric services to municipal residents and businesses.

Gas

Gas service for Rice's Landing is primarily supplied by Columbia Gas.

Cable

Basic cable service for Rice's Landing is provided by Helicon.

Phone

Phone service is primarily provided by Alltel. Long distance is provided by many carriers.

Electric

Electric power for Rice's Landing is supplied by Allegheny Power who maintains administrative offices 1 mile north of the Borough on Route 188 besides Lions Medical Center.

Findings

For the majority of Borough's community facilities main concerns are educating the children, public safety, water, and sewer facilities.

- Enrollment for the school district since 1986 shows moderate decline with a peak of 1,222 students in 1987. Currently the number of students is at a 10 year low of 1,047 persons dropping 10 percent since 1987. As a result the current facilities are adequate for future educational levels.
- The Borough recently hired a part-time police officer enabling the community to not be solely dependent on 911 or the State Police for police services. Fire services are very adequate for the Borough as the large volunteer fire department also serves the surrounding areas. A concern for the fire department is the lack of new volunteers, a common trend.
- Public water is supplied by the Southwestern PA Water Authority who's system is greatly underutilized drawing water from the Monongahela River leaving enough capacity for major growth in its service area without large investments in infrastructure.
- Public sewer is not available for the Borough and is considered the greatest hindrance to growth beyond a few scattered residences.
- Recreational facilities are usually of concern for attracting new residences, especially families with children. Pumpkin Run State Park is a very large park, much larger than the Borough and is located in the downtown area. Regionally, a 30 mile drive places a resident in some of the most enjoyable recreational areas in southwestern PA. Recreation such as walking is not prominent in the downtown area except for those living downtown and going to the fishing wall near the dock.