



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 10:30 AM
AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025> OR VIA PHONE
610-477-5793 Conf ID: 651 626 091#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

1. Staff Introduction
 - a. Chris Embert, Creative Manager

Committee Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM:* Staff Review of Upper Macungie Township Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan (CM)
2. *ACTION ITEM:* Delaware River Basin Commission Review – Application to Renew Approval of Existing Groundwater Withdrawal – Morgan Hill Golf Course, Inc. – Williams Township (CR)
3. *ACTION ITEM:* Delaware River Basin Commission Review – Application to Renew Approval of Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Discharge – Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority WWTP – City of Easton (CR)
4. *INFORMATION ITEM:* Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan Update

Next Environment Committee Meeting

May 20, 2025, 10:30 AM



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April XX, 2025

Mr. Robert Ibach
Manager
Upper Macungie Township
8330 Schantz Road
Breinigsville, PA 18031

RE: Upper Macungie Township Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Ibach:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the subject plan at its Environment Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Both meetings were virtual, and occurred on:

- LVPC Environment Committee Meeting
 - April 22, 2025, at 10:30 AM
 - <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - April 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM
 - <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025>

The Upper Macungie Township Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan aims to preserve and enhance the Township’s parks, recreational spaces and natural landscapes, to, “Ensure that residents of all ages and abilities have access to opportunities for active, healthy living.” The draft plan has been developed during a time of unprecedented population growth, and elevated interest in parks, recreation and open space since the COVID-19 pandemic. Upper Macungie Township’s population growth is predicted to continue, as the Township is projected to have a population of 31,457 by 2030 and 44,302 by 2050, an approximately 68% increase from the 2020 population, according to the *DataLV Population & Employment Forecast*. The Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan will help the Township plan for and adapt to future needs from a growing population and evolving recreational preferences. The Draft Plan’s development was influenced by the Township’s 2019 Comprehensive Plan and *2023 UMT Vision Zero Action Plan*, and will be able to work in concert to plan for the future of Upper Macungie Township. Based upon our review, we offer the following comments:

Elements of the draft plan consistent with relevant LVPC plans include:

- Identifying key regional planning documents and their connections to Upper Macungie Township, including *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes*, *Walk/RollLV* and the *Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory – 2013 Lehigh and Northampton Counties* in the “Summary of Existing Planning Documents” section.
- Recommendation 4.5, which proposes open space protections through planning mechanisms such as zoning and SALDO updates (*Lehigh County Livable Landscapes*, Goal 6).
- Identifying parcels for future possible open space acquisition by the Township and including these areas in municipal official map updates (*Lehigh County Livable Landscapes*, Goal 6).

- Identifying opportunities to expand and connect to regional trail and greenway networks, such as a potential connection of the Jordan Creek Greenway to the northern portion of Upper Macungie Township (*FutureLV* Policies 3.1 and 5.3).
- Utilizing recommendations from the 2023 *Upper Macungie Township Vision Zero Action Plan*, to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility within the Township (*FutureLV* Policies 2.1 and 2.2).

The LVPC requests the following:

- Crediting the LVPC for publishing the *Lehigh Valley Return on Environment* study. Page 120 of the Draft Plan credits WeConservePA for the study; however, the LVPC was the publishing agency, even though the plan can be found in WeConservePA's online library.

The LVPC recommends the following:

- Within Vision 1.0, "Accessible, Safe, & Inviting Park Spaces for All," to describe how trails within the Township can be connected to the region-wide trail network.
- Adding potential connections to regional trails outside of the Township in Figure 2.17 on page 44.
- Including a woodland areas layer within one of the natural resource maps included in the "Inventory" section beginning on page 29.
- Mapping the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Inventory Core Habitat areas within the "Inventory" section beginning on page 29. In addition, describe the 'Little Lehigh Grasslands' habitat area, which is one of two PA Natural Heritage Inventory Core Habitats within the Township, along with 'The Jungle.'

The LVPC is supportive of Upper Macungie Township as it looks to implement its Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan and is available as a resource if Township staff would like to discuss implementation strategies. The Draft Plan is a critical tool to preserve the parks, recreational spaces and natural landscapes in Upper Macungie Township, aligning with the Township's comprehensive plan, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes* and *FutureLV: the Regional Plan*.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Susan Myerov, AICP
Director of Environmental Planning

Christian Martinez
Environmental Planner



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April XX, 2025

Ms. Pamela Bush
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

**Re: DRBC Review – Application to Renew Approval of Existing Groundwater Withdrawal–
Morgan Hill Golf Course, Inc.
Williams Township, Northampton County
Docket No. D-2002-024-3**

Dear Ms. Bush:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on April 24, 2025, reviewed the above-referenced application. Our review was based on the adopted plans and policies of the LVPC. We offer the following comments.

The purpose of the application is to renew approval of the Morgan Hill Golf Course Incorporated’s existing groundwater withdrawal of up to 7.03 million gallons per month (mgm) from Well No. IW-1 to the applicant’s golf course irrigation system. The irrigation water system serves the applicant’s Morgan Hill Golf Club golf course. The applicant anticipates the current allocation of groundwater to meet its demands over the next ten years, therefore, no increase in allocation is proposed with this application.

The project aligns with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to ‘protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater’ (of Policy 3.2). According to Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) documentation, no substantial adverse impacts are anticipated with the continued withdrawal. In addition, DRBC may modify or suspend its approval or any permit condition to mitigate adverse impacts.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner



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April XX, 2025

Ms. Pamela Bush
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Re: DRBC Review – Application to Renew Approval of Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Discharge – Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority WWTP City of Easton, Northampton County Docket No. D-1987-010 CP-5

Dear Ms. Bush:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on April 24, 2025, reviewed the above-referenced application. Our review was based on the adopted plans and policies of the LVPC. We offer the following comments.

The purpose of the application is to renew the approval of the applicant’s existing 10 million gallons per day wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and related discharge. The average flow to the plant is approximately 5.82 million gallons per day. The plant will continue to serve the City of Easton as well as its surrounding municipalities outlined in the intermunicipal agreement between the following member municipalities: Tatamy Borough, Wilson Borough, West Easton Borough, Palmer Township and Forks Township. Additionally, the existing WWTP treats conveyance from the following non-member municipalities: Williams Township, Lower Nazareth Township, Bethlehem Township, Stockertown Borough and Glendon Borough, all located in Northampton County. The existing WWTP is located at South Delaware Drive in the City of Easton, Northampton County. No expansion or modification of the treatment plant is proposed with this application.

The applicant’s wastewater treatment plant will continue to serve the needs of its customers and aligns with the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to ‘protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater’ (of Policy 3.2). Per DRBC documentation, no substantial adverse impacts are anticipated with the continued operation of the plant. In addition, DRBC may modify or suspend its approval or any permit condition to mitigate adverse impacts.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner