



## 12th Best Place to Live in America

**H**ow does a community our size get to be ranked 12th Best Place to Live in America? Niche.com concluded that Ferguson Township — out of more than 10,000 communities nationwide — is among the top 15 best places to live based on data from the U.S. Census, FBI, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, and other sources. This data documents the Township's crime statistics, cost of living, public schools, job opportunities, and local amenities.

Looking for "a neighborhood to call your home, a school where your child will thrive, a college that will change your life?" Niche aims to find communities where people can find their niche. At 12th on the list, Ferguson Township looks like a place where people are most likely to create a life that meets their needs and fulfills their goals.

In 2015, Niche also named Ferguson Township the fifth best Pennsylvania suburb.

Ferguson aced nearly all of the Niche criteria, earning an A+ for the following:

**Education** — the percentage of residents who hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Public Schools** — the average Niche grade for every public school serving the area, weighted by the number of students.

**Health & Fitness** — the area's general well being and access to care.

**Nightlife** — access to bars, restaurants and cultural amenities.

**Shortest Commute** — the length of commute as well as the proportion of residents who walk, bike, or use public transportation.



The Township earned an A for access and proclivity toward **Outdoor Activities**.

We earned an A- for **Diversity of socioeconomic and demographic composition**, for **Jobs** — employment opportunities and economic stability, and for **Crime & Safety**, which incorporates statistics that capture our location's general safety.

We scored a B+ for **Family Amenities** — access to parks, libraries, cultural activities and outdoor amenities, for **Real Estate** — which measures trends in housing prices, affordability and homeownership rates, and for **Weather**, which captures our year-round weather. Maybe our mild winter in 2015-2016 had something to do with that grade!

Our one C — for **Cost of Living** — incorporates statistics that capture an area's housing, food and fuel costs.

Ferguson Township is a best place to live for all of these reasons, and more.

*Our Township is a tree community, home to about 5,000 purposefully planted street trees in our subdivisions, and many older trees throughout, including this privately owned white oak on Farmstead Lane that dates back to the signing of the U.S. Constitution.*

*Our New Residents Guide is a comprehensive directory of amenities and resources available to new and current residents. Learn more on page 2.*



## Residents

### Welcome Guide offers resources for new Township residents

New residents of Ferguson Township, or those who may be planning to relocate here, are invited to consult our New Residents Guide called "Welcome to Our Community."

Available to view online, with clickable links to helpful resources, this 22-page guide provides the following:

- Key characteristics of the Township at a glance, including location, size, population and demographic details
- Contact information for the Township and its community partners
- Move-in essentials, such as Internet, Cable, and Utilities
- Services provided by Township departments including Finance, Planning and Development, Police and Public Works
- Township communication vehicles
- A guide to area health care facilities
- Doing business in the Township
- Frequently asked questions

Print copies are available by request.

We're glad you chose Ferguson Township to live, work, study, and visit. We hope our "Welcome to Our Community" New Residents Guide informs you about all the benefits of being part of this community.

Ferguson Township Manager Mark Kunkle describes it



this way: "Real service to residents happens daily and affects residents' lives directly."

Those of you who call Ferguson Township home rely on daily services provided by our Public Works crews, and our police who help to ensure your neighborhoods are safe.

You also value our commitment to preserving our agricultural heritage and our wide open spaces, responsible development, and to doing all we can to promote a sustainable community.

### Thanks for helping us update the Ferguson Township Strategic Plan

*The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors first officially adopted our Strategic Plan in 2006. As we prepare to update the plan, we invited you, as Township residents, to help us by providing your opinions.*

*We kicked off our campaign with an invitation to take an online survey, which asked:*

- What do you envision will be our biggest challenge in the next five years?
- How should the Township invest your tax dollars in conservation and sustainability?
- What services does the Township provide that we can improve upon?
- What do you like best about living in Ferguson Township? How should Ferguson Township promote economic development?

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey. We will share the results soon.

We also invited residents to attend focus groups scheduled at locations in each ward and hosted by facilitator Peter Marshall.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to help provide direction to the Township staff on goals for the future — in short, addressing "Where We Are...Where We Are Going...How We Are Going to Get There." We revisit the Strategic Plan periodically to update it with new goals and objectives based on Township priorities. The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors last adopted an official update in 2014.



**Planning a community-wide event in Ferguson Township? We welcome your submissions to our Community Calendar: <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.map&mapTypeID=40315>**





## Township brings people together to discuss living, doing business in our community

Ferguson Township appreciates our residents who join us for quarterly Coffee & Conversation and Business Leaders Luncheons, as well as semiannual Homeowner and Condo Association Open Forums.

**July 15: Coffee & Conversation at The Naked Egg Cafe, joined by State Representatives Richard Irvin and Kerry Benninghoff.** Ferguson Township Assistant Manager Dave Pribulka and Chief of Police Diane Conrad hosted a discussion of the opioid abuse crisis in Centre County and around the Commonwealth. Irvin and Benninghoff talked about initiatives state legislators are taking to combat the opioid crisis. The conversation also focused on local police use of radar, street tree pruning, and our Strategic Plan update. This informal gathering is an opportunity to meet with Township staff to offer suggestions, seek answers, discuss any questions or concerns specific to your community, and chat about living in the Township.

*The next Coffee and Conversation will take place 9- 10:30 am Saturday, October 15, at the Walker Clubhouse at the Penn State University Golf Course. The coffee is on us! We hope to see you there.*

**July 27 Business Leaders Luncheon.** Hosted by Township Manager Mark Kunkle, Assistant Township Manager Dave Pribulka, and Communications Coordinator Diana Griffith, the Township aims to give our business and community leaders an opportunity to discuss community and economic priorities. The July 27 discussion focused on how to create affordable housing for people on limited incomes who work in the Township, as well as zoning, business and economic development issues.

Attending were Andrea Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Centre County Youth Service Bureau; Peg Rudy Hosterman, Administrative Assistant of Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation; Bob Poole, Chief Executive Officer of S&A Homes; Sally Rothwell, Owner and Administrator of Greenhills Village and her assistant Tina Hibbert, and Thomas Songer, President of The Torron Group.

**April 13: Homeowners and Condo Association Open Forum.** Local neighborhood association board members discussed street trees, stormwater management, prescription drug disposal, development plans, and more. The next Open Forum will take place in November. To keep the dialogue moving, attendance is typically limited to board members of the HOA and Condo Associations.

## General Code now publishes Township ordinances

The Ferguson Township Code of Ordinances is updated semi-annually by General Code. The Code of Ordinances was adopted in its entirety on December 8, 2003. The first codification was in 1975.

All of the ordinances are fully searchable.

The Code of Ordinances is available on CD-ROM or can be accessed online at the link below. A mobile application is available on the Android and Apple marketplaces.

**View the Ferguson Township Code of Ordinances online:** <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Code-of-Ordinances/>

*Please note: The Code of Ordinances is generally updated twice per year. As a result, some of the ordinances listed on the General Code website may be out of date. Please contact the Township offices at (814) 238-4651 to verify whether the ordinance listed online is the current version. You may also visit the "New Laws" section of the Code online for newly adopted ordinances that have not yet been codified.*

**D**uring the past year, Ferguson Township Police investigated a homicide as well as child and adult sexual assaults and fatal drug overdoses. Our police are actively engaged with others to help educate the public about the heroin and opioid epidemic that is destroying lives in even the smallest rural communities.

It helps to put these events in perspective by recognizing how effectively our community minded officers police the Township. They work hard to educate residents about crime prevention strategies in our neighborhoods and on our roads. Our officers are committed to working with the community to solve problems, and their first instinct is to help.

Residents who may be asking, "How safe is Ferguson Township?," can also look at statistics to allay their concerns.

Statistics compiled by a reporting program known as the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) indicate that crime in Ferguson Township is very low and tends to follow state and national trends. In 2014, the last year for which statistics are compiled, the rate of most serious crime, categorized in the report as Part 1 Offenses, per resident in Pennsylvania was 6.7 percent. The rate in Ferguson Township was .76 percent. For all other crimes, the Pennsylvania rate was 4.4 percent, while Ferguson Township's was 3.4 percent. Our police department reports monthly on crime statistics.

You'll find our reports under Police and Publications at our website, including our 2014, 2015 and 2016 statistics to date.

The UCR is designed to provide information about crime trends and volume based on the reporting of statistics by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania State Police for Pennsylvania and by the FBI for the nation.

FBI crime data factored into the Township's "safest city" rankings by home security firms: 50th on the SafeWise 2015 Safest Cities in Pennsylvania Report, 25th on CreditDonkey's list of safest Pennsylvania cities, according to a 2016 study.

Both rankings cited our officers' involvement in the community, such as our annual Bike Rodeo, as well as training in crisis intervention to help them respond appropriately to those experiencing emotional distress. The training helps first responders recognize underlying conditions and use advanced de-escalation strategies when practical. Their goal is to avoid or reduce the criminal justice system's involvement with those who may be acting out because of a mental or emotional crisis.

Officers also have completed diversity training. They learn to respond with empathy to people of color who may have concerns about being racially or ethnically profiled, and to act without prejudicial assumptions. Crimes committed by those with an underlying malicious intent because of the victim's race, color, religion, or national origin, are taken very seriously and arrests are made when possible.



**June 2: Law Enforcement Torch Run.** Ferguson Township Police Sergeant Ryan Hendrick ran for Special Olympics Pennsylvania. The LETR unites officers from law enforcement agencies and corrections departments across the state in support of Special Olympics. He was joined on the run by Ferguson Township Police Officer Caleb Clouse. The three-day, 150-mile Torch Run began in Pittsburgh, and concluded at Opening Ceremonies at the Pegula Ice Arena on the Penn State campus. Sgt. Hendrick carried the torch inside the Pegula Ice Arena for the ceremonial lighting.



**June 4: Ferguson Police Bike Rodeo.** When children learn to ride a bike safely, they're getting their first lessons in driving a car safely. That's why Sergeant Ryan Hendrick and his fellow officers host the annual Ferguson Township Police Bike Rodeo, a community service event where children ride alongside Ferguson Township police officers to learn safe bicycling skills, register their bicycles for free, and enjoy free food and drinks provided by local sponsors. Thanks to everyone who attended the 2016 Ferguson Township Police Bike Rodeo and to all of our sponsors: Weis Markets, The Bicycle Shop, SafeKids Pennsylvania, Domino's Pizza, Rita's Ices, and 3WZ.





Ferguson Township Police Chief Diane Conrad was joined by Officer Bill Chambers as participants in the Centre County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony on May 18, on the steps of Old Main, Penn State campus. Chief Conrad was among the speakers who read the names of 137 law enforcement officers killed nationwide in the line of duty during 2015. Two officers presented a wreath in their memory.

## Police thank residents for expressing their sympathy and support

*"My fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality and justice."*

*From the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics*

The Centre County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony on May 18 honored the memory of 137 officers nationwide who died in the line of duty in 2015. Created by President George W. Bush in 2002 to recognize officers "who serve and protect us with courage and dedication, the observance [of Peace Officers Memorial Day] serves as a reminder of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism."

Sadly, on Thursday, July 7, extreme violence and terrorism by a lone sniper took the lives of five Dallas, Texas police officers who were on duty at a peaceful protest, where they were providing protection and support for the protesters. The murders were the deadliest single incident of U.S. law enforcement officers being killed on the job since September 11, 2001.

The senselessness of this act, committed in retaliation by a man upset about recent police shootings, has moved many throughout the nation to express their support for police in light of the dangers and challenges they face every day by putting their lives on the line. As Dallas Police Chief David Brown said at the memorial service for the five officers, "We're asking cops to do too much in this country...Every societal failure, we put it off on the cops to solve. Policing was never meant to solve all those problems."

Former President Bush, in his eulogy for the officers, said: "Most of us imagine if the moment called for, that we would risk our lives to protect a spouse or a child. Those wearing the uniform assume that risk for the safety of strangers. They and their families share the unspoken knowledge that each new day can bring new dangers."

He added: "Too often, we judge other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions. And this has strained our bonds of understanding and common purpose. But Americans, I think, have a great advantage. To renew our unity, we only need to remember our values."

Americans have come together in recognition of those values to express sympathy and support to the law enforcement community over the loss of these fallen brothers.

In his eulogy for the fallen officers, President Obama said: "Like police officers across the country, these men and their families shared a commitment to something larger than themselves...they'd probably agree with Chief Brown when he said that cops don't expect to hear the words 'thank you' very often, especially from those who need them the most."

Ferguson Township Police received approximately two dozen calls, cards and visitors expressing thanks for the job we do on a daily basis. "Thank you for all that you do to keep our community safe," wrote one. Others wrote simply, "Thank you."

We thank you for your understanding and support.



## Year-round prescription drug drop-off now available at Police Department

The Ferguson Township Police Department is one of six year-round prescription drop-off sites in Centre County, thanks to a grant applied for and secured by Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller.

The new site is part of a local law enforcement and community initiative to educate the general public about the current opioid addiction crisis and the potential for abuse of medications.

"Anyone who takes opioids or has access to them is at risk of becoming addicted," according to Ferguson Township Chief of Police Diane Conrad.

Chief Conrad, who serves on the Centre County Criminal Justice Advisory Board subcommittee formed to address the overdose issue in our community, said the boxes are one way to help keep these medications out of the hands of those inclined to abuse them. An opiate and heroin epidemic is taking lives and devastating families nationwide as well as locally, and it will take a collaborative effort to stop it. That collaborative effort is being realized in the newly formed Heroin, Opioid, Prevention, Education (HOPE) Coalition. This initiative aims to prevent and reduce the number of overdoses and overdose-related deaths in Centre County.

The Centre County Coroner's Office reported 15 overdose-induced deaths in 2014, 15 in 2015, and 12 to date in 2016. Six occurred in Ferguson Township.

Previously, Ferguson Township Police hosted a Prescription Take-Back Day annually, as an initiative to address a vital public safety and health issue. On April 30, Officer Travis Park collected 80 pounds of old and unused prescription medications at Giant Foods, Northland Center.

Now, our year-round collection site—located in the Police Department lobby at 3147 Research Drive—provides a safe, convenient, responsible and confidential way to dispose of prescription drugs.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are accidental poisonings and overdoses. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

In addition, Americans are advised that the usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards.

Residents are encouraged to bring your old or unused prescription medicine bottles to the Ferguson Township Police Department.

The collected medications are periodically transported to a site where they will be incinerated.

While MedReturn accepts non-opioid over-the-counter medications and vitamins, Chief Conrad said residents are encouraged to dispose of those by other means—adhering to the FDA guidelines. Those medications may be thrown in the trash, provided they are wrapped in coffee grounds or kitty litter and tightly sealed.

"The real focus of the MedReturn box is to keep opioid medications out of circulation—out of medicine cabinets where family members or visitors to your home can access them," Conrad said. "Studies have shown that many young people first acquired these addictive medications from the homes of family and friends. If your over-the-counter medications contain an opioid, and you no longer need them, please bring them to the MedReturn box." MedReturn also accepts physician samples.

To protect your identity, always remove prescription labels from bottles or use a black marker to scratch out all identifying information before depositing the containers in the MedReturn box.

*Learn more at our website: <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Prescription-Drug-Collection/>*

*A second Town Hall on the Heroin and Opioid Crisis will take place from 7 to 9 pm September 13 at the Mount Nittany Middle School auditorium.*



**Blueprint for Success:** Officer Shawn Morrison participated in PICCC's Blueprint for Success program, a two-week, high-impact, summer youth career development program for students ages 12-16. Officer Morrison showcased some of the tools and processes used in crime scene investigations, talked about what officers do on patrol, and led the students on a tour of the police station.



**O**ak Wilt is a fungus that attacks all species of oak trees, but Red Oak and Pin Oak are the most susceptible. Once infected, an otherwise healthy tree rapidly drops its leaves during the summer months and dies while other nearby trees still have green leaves.

The disease can spread through root grafts to nearby trees, and can be carried by bark beetles that feed on an infected tree and then move to a healthy one.

Township Ordinance 991 requires in part that private property trees infected with disease, such as Oak Wilt, be removed to prevent the spread of the disease. The cost of such removal is the responsibility of the property owner.

In a confirmed case of Oak Wilt in a private tree on Cherry Ridge Road in Park Hills -- and on the Ferguson Township Tree Commission's recommendation -- the Board of Supervisors took proactive measures and authorized the expenditure of funds to help prevent the spread of the disease. As such, the diseased tree has been removed, a trench was dug around the tree to break root grafts, and other oak trees on the property were treated with a fungistat.

The Board also authorized the treatment of oak trees within a 200-foot radius (subject to execution of an agree-

ment with the property owner) to prevent the spread of the disease, and this work is complete. The Board directed Township staff to prepare an updated policy (to be reviewed by the Tree Commission) to address future such occurrences.

Residents who have oak trees on their properties are advised to follow these recommendations to help stop the spread of the fungus:

- Be aware of the signs of oak wilt and report any concerns to your arborist or the Township Arborist.
- Prune your oak trees only during the dormant period, which runs from November 1 through March 31. Pruning at any other time may attract beetles to the fresh wounds and possibly transfer the fungus.
- Tree trimmers should not use climbing spikes or spurs strapped to their boots when climbing a tree to prune it. Spiking opens fresh wounds in the bark that can attract beetles. The spikes or spurs themselves can also carry the fungus as climbers move from one tree to another.

*For more information, contact Lance King, Township Arborist, at 814-238-4651, or email at [lking@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:lking@twp.ferguson.pa.us)*

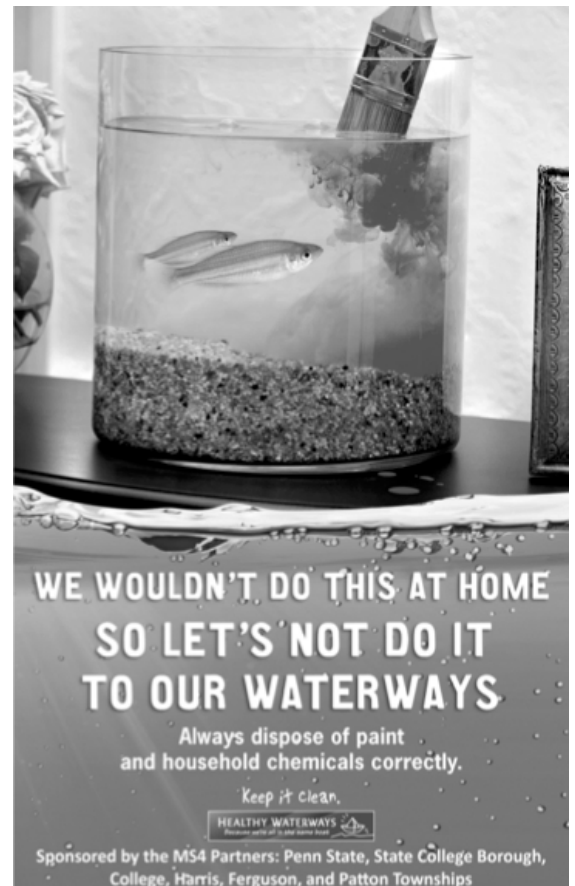
## Do you know where your stormwater goes?

**W**hen it rains, pollutants from pet waste, cars, and lawns can find their way into our streams and groundwater through stormwater runoff. You can help protect our streams and groundwater by minimizing these pollutants. Since 2003, Ferguson Township has been required to participate in a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). The purpose of this program is to control the inflow of pollutants into the Township's storm sewers and drainage ditches. Products such as oil, antifreeze, litter, animal wastes, fertilizer, pesticides and sediment from erosion can be washed into the storm drain system during rain storms or by melting snow. Eventually this untreated storm water flows into our streams and aquifers and can impact water quality.

The MS4 program contains six measures designed to reduce these "nonpoint sources" of water pollution. Two of these measures include public education and public participation. Steps you can take to protect water quality:

- Never dump automotive waste materials or used household products into a storm drain, anywhere on the ground or in a basement sump pump.
- Always use household and lawn care products in accordance with instructions.
- Be conscious of what lies "downstream" when washing cars or applying lawn care products.
- Avoid long term exposure of uncovered soil stockpiles, establish vegetation to prevent erosion.
- Clean up pet waste and dispose in a method that will prevent introduction into storm sewers and ditches.

The Township continues to implement the other programs relevant to monitoring for illicit discharges, inspecting stormwater facilities, monitoring construction activities, and implementing good housekeeping practices. For more information, visit <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Stormwater-Management/>. Or, contact the Township Engineer at (814) 238-4651, or by email at [rseybert@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:rseybert@twp.ferguson.pa.us)



## Public Works awarded funds to relieve traffic congestion, improve pedestrian safety

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is distributing funds to help underwrite the cost of upgrading traffic signals throughout the state.

Ferguson Township applied for and will be awarded funding through the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) program and the Green Light-Go program.

Through ARLE, the Township will receive \$498,000 to improve performance and communication at all 20 of our traffic signals. The new system will monitor real-time traffic in the Township and allow staff, with PennDOT approval, to fine-tune the signals to accommodate changing traffic demands.

In a news release, Governor Tom Wolf said the ARLE funding is made possible by fines paid for red light violations in Philadelphia. "While having all drivers traveling safely is our ultimate goal, I'm pleased that traffic fines are being reinvested into making our communities safer," he said.

The Township is one of 18 Pennsylvania municipalities to receive ARLE funding, which totals \$5.5 million for 23 safety projects.

Through the Green Light-Go Program, the Township will be awarded \$176,084 to upgrade the traffic signal at the intersection of West College Avenue and Corl Street. The upgrades will allow full pedestrian accessibility and are located immediately adjacent to the pedestrian sidewalk improvements being installed on West College Avenue as part of a separate streetscape project.

Green Light-Go funds will be distributed to 109 municipalities including Ferguson Township, with a total of \$12 million in allocated funds.

Said Ferguson Township Engineer Ron Seybert: "These improvements will help lessen traffic congestion and consider pedestrian safety to help make Ferguson Township a more walkable community."

## PADEP grant will fund new brush and leaf collection equipment

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Ferguson Township Public Works Department a \$169,708 grant for brush and leaf collection equipment. The award was announced June 4 in the PA Bulletin.

The award will pay for a new brush chipper, two dump trailers to haul brush to use in conjunction with the Township's grappler, and to refurbish a one-operator leaf vacuum collector truck. The total cost of this project is \$188,565. The DEP award will pay 90 percent of that cost.



More than 100 children in grades K - 5 and their teachers from Wonderland Charter School attended the Township's Arbor Day celebration April 29 at Tudek Park. Lance King, the Township Arborist, and the Ferguson Township Tree Commission planted two trees and gave away 300 red oak seedlings to the students, who potted them using composted soil from the brush and leaves collected throughout the Township. Centre Region Parks & Recreation, Penn State Master Gardeners, Snetsinger Butterfly Garden, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources assisted with the event.

### Brush and Leaf Collection

Brush and Leaf Collection begins the first Monday of the month. A special brush collection is scheduled for Monday, October 17.

For more information, including guidelines, visit <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Brush-and-Leaf-Collection/>

## Guide to Public Works 2017 Capital Road Projects

Road Projects make up the bulk of the Township's capital improvement expenditures. In 2017, \$2 million is budgeted as the Township's share of the cost to install streetscape improvements along West College Avenue from Corl Street to Buckhout Street at the Township/Borough line. The total budgeted cost of Capital Road Projects — outlined in the 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Program — is \$3,728,079.

View details: <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/2017-Capital-Road-Projects/>



# Ferguson Township (Pa.) Guide to Zoning Approval

*When are zoning permits required? What information is required to obtain a zoning permit? What are the cost considerations for a permit? This guide is designed to answer these and other common questions. This page is perforated for easy reference. See the complete guide on our website: <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Zoning-Permit-Requirements/>*

## Zoning Permit Requirements

You must secure a zoning permit before a building permit can be issued by the Centre Region Code Administration. A zoning permit is mandatory for the following:

1. The proposed erection, extension, or alteration of any structure or portion of a structure (for example, new dwelling units, room additions, decks, enclosed porches, utility sheds, and swimming pools).
2. The proposed use or change in use of a structure, portion of a structure, or land (for example: a change from office to retail use).
3. The proposed change in use by a new landowner/tenant for commercial and industrial properties.
4. Basement renovations.

A zoning permit is **not** required for the following:

1. Normal maintenance activities and minor repairs that do not constitute the erection, extension, or alteration of any structure or portion of a structure.
2. The erection of fences, walls and signs. (A sign permit is required to erect a sign.)
3. Demolition of a structure. (A building permit is required.)

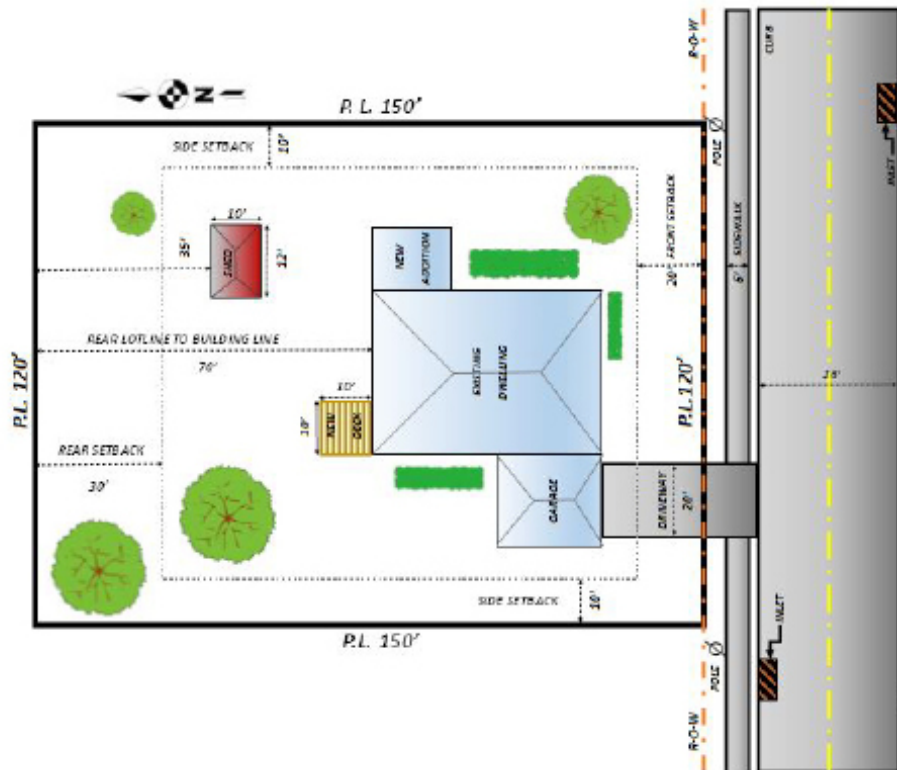
## Application for Zoning Permit Requirements

To apply for a zoning permit, you must submit the following items to the Zoning Administrator:

1. A completed application for a Zoning Permit form and associated fee. Application forms are available from the Township office or online at [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)
2. A copy of a sewage permit is required if the zoning permit application is for a new structure needing sewer service, or a use that requires different sewer needs, such as a new dwelling or office building. Sewage permits are obtained from the Sewer

Authority for off-site sewer service, or from the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer for on-site sewer service.

3. A copy of a water permit from the Water Authority or private company is required if the zoning permit application is for a new structure needing water service, such as a new dwelling or office building. A water permit is not required if the property will be served by an on-site well.
4. A completed Road Occupancy Permit application is required when access will be made onto a Township road.
5. A Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Highway Occupancy Permit is required when access will be made onto a state road.
6. An approved copy of a land development plan, if required, or a sketch plan showing the information illustrated at right.



## Approval Process

Except when a land development plan is required (see [Guide to Ferguson Township Subdivision and Land Development](#)), the Zoning Administrator will grant or deny all applications for zoning permits within 30 days of submission. A zoning permit is valid for two years from the date of issue, provided work at the site is commenced within the two-year period.

## Cost of Zoning Permit

To estimate the cost of a permit, be sure to consider the following:

1. Zoning Permit Fee.
2. A Township pave cut and road occupancy fee if access is proposed to a Township road.
3. A curb deposit, based on road frontage, is required for all new construction to avoid curb, shoulder, and drainage damage. Upon completion of the construction, the deposit — plus interest — will be returned to the applicant if the curb is not damaged.

## Planning & Zoning

### Domestic Chicken Ordinance allows single-lot homeowners to keep up to six hens

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors voted at its Regular Meeting on July 18 to adopt a Domestic Chicken Ordinance, which allows homeowners of single-family lots in residential districts to legally own up to six (6) chickens — specifically hens — for domestic purposes.

Prior to July 18, 2016, owning chickens was not allowed under Township zoning regulations, other than for typical agricultural operations.

Residents who wish to own chicken hens need to apply for a zoning permit and pay a \$25 fee. This also applies to residents who owned chickens prior to the adoption of the Domestic Chicken Ordinance; if you did, you now need to apply for a zoning permit and pay the \$25 fee to be in compliance with the ordinance. You will not be penalized for owning chickens prior to adoption of the ordinance.

Please review and comply with these conditions in the newly adopted Domestic Chicken Ordinance:

- Only female chickens are allowed on a single-family lot; no roosters are permitted. Residents of Ferguson Township are not restricted to species type, just gender.
- Residents are allowed up to six (6) chicken hens, regardless of the number of dwelling units on the lot.

- Chicken hens must be kept in a chicken pen, chicken coop, chicken tractor or chicken pen during daylight hours and a henhouse during non-daylight hours.
- The minimum chicken coop size shall be three (3) square feet per chicken hen with a maximum structure area of 144 square feet. Henhouses, chicken coops, chicken tractors, fenced areas (chicken pens) or chicken runs shall not be allowed within the front yard, but may be allowed in both side and rear yards as defined. However, they shall not be placed or built within 10 feet of the side or rear property lines.



So that domestic chickens do not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood, residents shall maintain enclosures in a clean, dry and odor-free environment while providing adequate sun and shade. Additionally, to protect hens from rodents and predators, residents should build structures with sturdy wire fencing wrapped on all sides.

*View Zoning Permit Requirements at <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Zoning-Permit-Requirements>, or visit the Planning and Zoning Department, 3147 Research Drive.*

## Finance

### Board of Supervisors adopts 2017 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program

At its Regular Meeting on Monday, August 15, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the 2017 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The CIP is a five-year planning document that identifies “big-ticket” expenditures for the Township’s five departments. Generally, expenditures outlined in the CIP cost at least \$2,500 and have an expected useful life of more than one year. Road improvements, vehicle and equipment purchases, information technology, and buildings are a few examples of items likely to be found in the CIP.

Total projected expenditures in the five year CIP equal approximately \$92.7 million, and the revenue projections assume modest growth with no proposed tax increases. Not surprisingly, capital projects like road improvements and expenses related to the Township’s stormwater management requirements are the highest category of expenditures – with a projected \$12.5 million over the life of the CIP. Building expenditures are the next largest category, with a proposed new Public Works maintenance facility and the construction of a fire station to serve the western end of the Township occurring in the next five years.

It is important to note that the CIP is not an official authori-

zation to spend money. Rather, it is a planning document that allows staff, residents, and elected officials in the Township to prepare for expenses that are likely to occur in the future. The expenditures are not authorized until they are adopted as part of the annual Operating Budget.



2017 - 2021  
Capital Improvement Plan  
FERGUSON  
Pennsylvania

*The entire adopted 2017 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program Budget can be viewed online, or by visiting the Ferguson Township Municipal Building at 3147 Research Drive.*



CATA expanded its Youth Pass discount this summer to all riders under age 18. CATA Public Relations Manager Jacqueline Shader notes this is “a great way to expose children and young adults to alternative transportation.” CATA’s goal is to provide “inexpensive travel to access school, employment, recreational facilities, area libraries, retail facilities, and much more.” The CATA monthly pass offers unlimited access to all CATABUS routes at a cost of \$23 (a \$69 value). To qualify, present a valid middle or high school identification card or a statement signed by a parent, available on the CATA website, [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com), to verify age.



*Passes are available for purchase at CATA's Customer Service Center, 108 East Beaver Avenue, during regular business hours. For more information, visit [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) or call (814) 238-CATA(2282).*

Make your Schlow Centre Region Library Card first on your list of essential school supplies. Located at 211 S. Allen St. in Downtown State College, Schlow Library welcomes new and established Ferguson Township residents to apply for a card in person or at [www.schlowlibrary.org](http://www.schlowlibrary.org). Whether you are a Penn State student, preschooler, young professional or retiree, your card gives you access to premium information and free entertainment:



- “My Library Card” Apple or Android app for your smartphone: Store your card number and get mobile access to Library resources.
- E-books, including best sellers.
- Freemusic service – download, for keeps, up to 5 songs or music videos a week from the extensive Sony catalog, ranging from classical to rap and beyond.
- Flipster and Zinio online magazines, including US Weekly, Star, Yoga Journal, and many more.
- TumbleBooks online storybooks for children of all ages.
- Library events calendar, listing storytimes, lectures, and special events.

C-NET is pleased to cover via live webstream the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors and many other meetings of public interest. Did you also know that C-NET provides coverage of State High high sporting events and concerts, military history lectures, and other annual community events? They include the Rose Cologne Volunteer Appreciation Dinner; Mid-State Literacy Council Spelling Bee; Schlow Library’s “Write and Illustrate Your Own Book Awards;” Penn State “Healthy Aging” Lectures; “Straight Talk” parenting lecture series, and Centre County Public Issues Forums. C-NET also covers Boalsburg’s Memorial Day celebration, State College Elks Flag Day Ceremony, the Central Pa. Festival of the Arts, and the Logan Volunteer Fire Company 4th of July Parade.



To view Supervisors meetings online, click on agenda items of interest to you and you’ll be taken directly to that point in the meeting. C-NET is grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from Ferguson Township, and is proud to contribute to ensuring “transparency in government” in the Centre Region.

*Meetings of the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors are televised on C-NET Channel 7 at the following times: 2 pm Wednesday, 1 am and 7 pm Thursday, 8:30 am Friday, and 4 pm Sunday. Watch at [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org)*

Centre Region Parks & Recreation (CRPR)’s Fall 2016 Active Guide is now available at [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org). A few milestones to note: CRPR celebrated its 50 years of service to five municipalities of the Centre Region on August 27 at Tom Tudek Memorial Park. CRPR also expresses its deepest thanks to retiring CRPR Director Ron Woodhead for his 20 years of service, hard work and dedication. Under his tenure, the agency has grown exponentially and has seen numerous park additions, facility renovations and expansions, and a visionary approach to the growth of recreation for the residents of our municipalities. The newest of his park projects is in Pine Grove Mills -- named for longtime resident Cecil Irvin.



CRPR also welcomes Woodhead’s successor -- Pam Salokangas, who starts September 1. A Penn State graduate with a degree in Recreation and Park Management, Salokangas is returning to the area from Sandwich, MA where she served as General Park Manager of The Adventure Park at Heritage Museums & Gardens. “I am looking forward to returning to a community I love, serving the current and future residents, and continuing the great work of CRPR,” she says.

Are e-Bikes legal in Pennsylvania? The short answer is yes, Electric Assist Bicycles (e-Bikes) are legal and welcome in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On May 23, 2016, the COG General Forum voted to amend the plan to allow e-Bikes to operate on all of the Region’s Shared Use Paths. By reducing barriers to bicycling, e-Bikes can encourage people to take bike trips and to ride longer than on regular bikes. Because they’re easier to ride, they’re ideal for older adults and people with physical limitations. However, they cannot be operated by persons under 16 years of age. To operate on public roadways in Pennsylvania, an e-Bike must meet criteria adopted in PA Act 154 of 2014. Learn more at [www.crcog.net/bikes](http://www.crcog.net/bikes)

What is an electric bike?



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive

State College, PA 16801

PRSRT STD

US Postage P A I D

State College, PA

Permit No. 213

**CONTACT FERGUSON TOWNSHIP**  
<http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us>  
3147 Research Drive  
Township / 814.238.4651  
Police / 814.237.1172

**REFUSE AND RECYCLING**  
**Advanced Disposal**  
Contact with questions  
about your service or billing  
814.237.3713

**Centre County Recycling  
& Refuse Authority**  
814.238.7005

**Recycling Hotline**  
For information about what you should  
and shouldn't put in your red recycling bin  
814.238.6649

**COG Administration**  
Contact with questions about program  
requirements and problem resolution  
814.234.7198  
<http://crocog.net/refuse>



**2016 FALL & WINTER HOLIDAY  
TRASH & RECYCLING DATES**

If your weekly pick-up day falls on or after these  
holidays, your trash and recycling service will be  
delayed by one (1) day during the holiday week:

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2016 LABOR DAY**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2016 THANKSGIVING**

**NOVEMBER 28, 2016 FIRST DAY OF BUCK SEASON**

**CHRISTMAS WEEK REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**2016 FALL BULK WASTE WEEK**

**October 10 - 14, 2016**

**University Area Joint Authority (UAA) Compost Facility**  
Open year round, 6:30 am - 3 pm Monday through Friday (except holidays)  
Compost is \$7 per cubic yard March 1 - September 30; \$5 per cubic yard  
\$2 per car with container. All loads must be tarped/covered.  
Call (814) 238-5361 for more information.

