

CHAPTER 5 – PUBLIC SERVICES

Introduction

Planning for future growth in Morgan County must take into account the provision of public services. Because all future land use proposals will create a need for expanded public services, the County must evaluate how those services are currently provided in order to ensure adequate provision will be made as growth occurs. If such services are found to be currently inadequate, then the most appropriate first step is to develop solutions to address existing deficiencies.

Due to the absence of zoning designations, it is especially desirable to integrate this chapter into future land use decisions. Without the ability to determine with some certainty the future density and types of proposed land uses, it is important to have an intimate understanding of available public services to determine how each proposal may affect them. These services, which are separate from those outlined in the preceding chapter on infrastructure, typically include general tax funded operations such as schools, police, fire & rescue, libraries, medical, historic & cultural, and local government.

Educational Facilities

Educational opportunities are provided for both youth and adult residents of Morgan County by facilities located within the County and surrounding region. This includes head start programs for toddlers, K-12 public system, vocational institutions, and numerous small colleges and universities.

Morgan County Public Schools

As with most jurisdictions, possibly the largest publicly funded service is the Morgan County Schools System. School systems are required to develop and adopt a Master Plan. For Morgan County, a Plan was developed and adopted in 1998 and is referred to as the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP). Information from this Master Plan which covers school projections from 2000 to 2010 will be used in this Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of providing historic and current statistical data, as well as developing from that data and the growth projections located in this Plan goals to address the effect future development will have on the public school system. The School System reviews this Plan during the plan period and makes updates as necessary to address annual changes.

It is stated in the CEFP that the primary purpose of this plan is to “establish a planned, organized, systematic approach to providing educational facilities which will support the Morgan County School System in the delivery of the best possible education to its students within the parameter of available resources.” The plan provides an outline of the schools as they existed in 1998, methods to address deficiencies, student population projections, and methods to manage increased enrollment over time.

As growth has escalated significantly in the period after the Plan was completed, the projections used for the period between 2000 and 2010, were exceeded as of 2001. While the CEFP estimated a total population under age 19 at 3,160 by 2010, the actual population under age 19 for 2000 was more than 3,600. Further, the estimated 2000 population over 65 is less than the CEFP projected. This would conclude that the projections for school enrollment expected the County to grow at a slower pace, include less school aged people, and be more aged than the current trends would indicate.

The Morgan County Public School system is made up of 8 public schools, which include a total State rated capacity of 3,126 students. Enrollment for the system has increased from the CEFP 1998 study year of 2,328 students to a 2005 enrollment of 2,584. This includes an increase from 1,084 kindergarten and elementary students to 1,273, a decrease in middle school population from 649 to 572, and increases in high school enrollment from 595 to 739. Based on the 2005 enrollment figures and the State rated capacities of 3,156 seats, there are an estimated 568 available seats within the system, most of which are located in the two high schools of Paw Paw and Berkeley Springs.

Although the middle school appears to show a slight decline in total enrollment since the 1998 adoption of the CEFP, this number has been steadily increasing from a low of 513 in 2001, due in part to the significant increases of more than 200 additional elementary students in that same period. The high schools have remained static over the past five years showing a net decline of 2 students, with highs peaking in the 2003 and 2004 school years. As the wave of elementary students continues to increase, both middle and high school figures will also be affected.

Table 5-1 Morgan County Public Schools

School	District	2005 Enrollment	Capacity	%	Seats Available
Morgan Co. Child Dev. Ctr.*	Cacapon	86	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenwood Elementary	Timber Ridge	55	70	79%	15
Paw Paw Elementary	Cacapon	120	170	71%	50
Pleasant View Elementary	Sleepy Creek	145	147	101%	-2
Widmyer Elementary	Bath	517	525	98%	8
Warm Springs Intermediate	Bath	436	500	87%	64
Warm Springs Middle	Bath	572	672	85%	100
Berkeley Springs High	Bath	645	802	75%	157
Paw Paw High	Cacapon	94	270	35%	176
Total	9 schools	2,584	3,156	82%	568

* Note: Child Development Center is not included in total figures.

Source: Morgan County Public Schools

The Morgan County Board of Education Office opened in 1956, and is currently located on Harrison Avenue, in Berkeley Springs which was previously operated as North Berkeley Elementary School. Since its original start it added 2 rooms in 1975, and an annex in 1983. Total staffing is currently at 27 full time personnel, and there are plans to add a Maintenance Warehouse for maintenance department services.

The Morgan County Child Development Center, which also includes Starting Point and Headstart, is located in what used to be the Great Cacapon Elementary School. This program was created in 1975 as a head start for children before entering kindergarten. Its primary service area is the Berkeley Springs attendance zone, and included a 2004 enrollment of 86 children. There are 57 professional staff and 15 service staff who operate the program. There are no plans for expansion of the facilities or operational needs as the overall growth in the program has experienced a minor increase from 79 children in 2001 to 86 in 2004.

Greenwood Elementary School located in the Timber Ridge district opened in 1956, and is located on Winchester Grade Road. It was expanded in 1975, adding both office space and additional classrooms. The State rated capacity is 70, with the school experiencing a decline from 64 students in 2001 to 55 in 2005. However, due to increased growth in this area, the school system is planning to renovate and expand the existing building which is now operated by 8 professional and 4 service staff.

Paw Paw Elementary School is a split school that feeds directly into Paw Paw High School, and serves grades K-6. It is located on Pirate Circle in Paw Paw and has experienced a slight increase in enrollment from 115 in 2001 to 120 in 2005. Current plans for improvements include renovation and construction of an addition to increase student capacity. The school has a State rated capacity of 170 students. The current enrollment is served by 17 professional and 6 service staff.

Pleasant View Elementary School, located on Martinsburg Road in the Sleepy Creek district, is currently over capacity at 147 students. There are no plans for any future additions beyond the single addition completed in 1989, which expanded the school during a period of higher growth in this area of the County. The total staffing is 15 professional and 5 service personnel. The 1998 CEFP, which reflected a projected closure of this school, was amended to retain it for the plan period and provide renovations as needed.

Widmyer Elementary School is the largest elementary school in the County, serving 517 students in grades K-2 in 2005. This attendance area was originally served by North Berkeley Elementary School, until the new Warm Springs Intermediate School opened in 2005 to serve grades 3-5. This school received a new gym in 2005. Although there are no plans for expansion at this time, the growth for this school attendance area, which is up significantly from 305 in 2001 and operating under a State rated capacity of 525, is under review for expansion to address the growing enrollment. Also, with growing enrollment and larger facilities the adequacy of the current staff of 37 professional and 18 service is also under review.

Warm Springs Intermediate School, the newest elementary school, which opened on Warm Springs Way in the Bath district in 2004, serves grades 3-5 for total student enrollment of 436 in 2005. This number has decreased slightly from 530 in 2001. Given the limited State rated capacity of this facility at 500, and the increase of student population from the feeder Widmyer Elementary, future expansions and improvements are being considered. This school, which operates with 34 professional and 12 service staff, serves the Berkeley Springs attendance zone.

Warm Springs Middle School is the only traditional 6-8 middle school in the County. This school is the second most recent addition to the system, opening in 1998 and adding 4 additional classrooms in 2003. Although enrollment has not reached the 672 student State rated capacity, it has steadily increased from 513 students in 2001 to 572 in 2005. It is fed by Warm Springs Intermediate, Pleasant View, and Greenwood elementary schools. Plans for further expansion include added classrooms and site improvements. It is served by 46 professional and 14 service staff.

Berkeley Springs High School is the single largest school in the County system at 802 State rated capacity. At 645 students in its 2005 enrollment figures, it does have some room to accept additional growth in its feeder area. The school is also one of the oldest in the system, opening in 1939 on Concord Street in the Bath district. Since that time, it has received numerous upgrades including expansions in 1975 and 2001, Arts and Humanities programs in 1963, a new gymnasium in 1975, and a vocational building in 1986. The school operates with 57 professional and 15 service staff, which is the largest number of personnel at any one school in the system. Its feeder school is the Warm Springs Middle School which, as noted, is experiencing a steady increase in student population due in part to larger numbers of students being received from the various elementary schools. Current plans include renovation of the maintenance area into classroom space.

Paw Paw High School is a joint middle and high school, including grades 7-12. Rated to handle 270 students, this school, which opened in 1956, has a current enrollment of 94 students. The School includes 15 professional and 2 support staff. Its service area includes much of the Cacapon district, which is just starting to experience an increase in growth. The school received an expansion to include shop and band programs in 1960. However, as enrollment has remained steady since 2001 there are no current plans for future expansion.

Table 5-2 Morgan County Public School System Services

School	Acreage	Facilities	Professional	Service
Morgan Co. Child Dev. Ctr.	2	1 building	57	15
Greenwood Elementary	8	2 buildings, play fields	8	4
Paw Paw Elementary	15*	1 building, play fields	17	6
Pleasant View Elementary	5	1 building, play fields	15	5
Widmyer Elementary	12	1 building, play fields	37	18
Warm Springs Intermediate	100**	1 Building, play fields	34	12
Warm Springs Middle	100**	1 building, play fields	46	14
Berkeley Springs High	8	5 buildings, 1 varsity field	57	15
Paw Paw High	15*	1 building, 2 varsity fields	15	2
Total	150		286	91

* Paw Paw Elementary and High schools share a campus of 15 acres and fields

** Warm Springs Intermediate and Middle share a campus of 100 acres and fields

Source: Morgan County Public Schools

Vocational Schools

There are two schools that provide alternative educational opportunities for both young and adult students in Morgan County. These include the James Rumsey Center, located in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and the Morgan County Adult and Community Education program.

The James Rumsey Center, located in Berkeley County serves high school students from the Eastern Panhandle and post secondary students from the quad-state region. The Adult Basic Education Center is available for students to upgrade or enhance their skills as well as prepare for the civil service test, the CDL test, and the GED. Adult and community education classes, along with specialized business and industry seminars are also available.

The Morgan County Adult and Community Education program is a State funded program conducted through the Morgan County Board of Education, providing service to adults.

Colleges

Although there are currently no colleges located in Morgan County, there are several institutions located within 60 miles.

Table 5-3 Local Colleges

College	Location	Distance	Degrees
Shepherd College	Shepherdstown, WV	34	Bachelor, Masters
Shenandoah University	Winchester, VA	28	Bachelor, Masters
Frostburg University	Frostburg, MD	56	Bachelor, Masters
Allegheny College	Cumberland, MD	48	Associate
WVU Eastern Division	Martinsburg, WV	22	Bachelor
Valley College of Technology	Martinsburg, WV	22	Associate
Mountain State University	Martinsburg, WV	22	Bachelor

Libraries

The Morgan County Library, which serves the entire County population, moved to its present location on Congress Street in 1998. It was originally opened in 1979 on Fairfax Street. It is served by 4 part-time staff and 18 active volunteers. Circulation has increased from approximately 25,500 volumes reviewed by more than 15,000 patrons in 2001 to nearly 33,000 in 2005. This is nearly triple the 13,000 volumes circulated in 1983. During this same time period the local budget share, which supports funding of this important community resource, has increased from \$37,000 to \$39,000. The primary funding source however is from State funds of more than \$80,000 per year.

As circulation increases, the Library has determined that it will need additional future operating funds to cover the increasing costs for heating as well as additional shelf space for display of the increasing amount of materials made available to the public.

The Paw Paw Public Library serves western Morgan County and adjacent Maryland areas. The library moved from Winchester Street to Moser Avenue in Paw Paw in 1977 and consists of two part-time staff. Circulation has decreased from approximately 1,068 patrons checking out 16,568 volumes in 1983 to 4,981 patrons circulating just over 11,000 items in 2005. However, given that 2005 was the first year circulation data was kept on computer, the drop may be reflective of simply more accurate record keeping. Since 1983, it has increased its days of operation from four to six.

Over the past five years, the total budget has decreased from \$49,000 to \$39,000, while circulation has climbed from around 7,500 in 2001 peaking at 12,200 in 2004. The building was expanded in 1997 and future plans for further expansion include an addition for a History Room. This will add to the number of resources offered by the library, which includes Internet access, various reading and viewing media, and story time and summer reading programs.

Police

There are three police departments that serve Morgan County. These departments include the Berkeley Springs Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, and Paw Paw Police Department. There is also a West Virginia State Police Department office located in Berkeley Springs that provides additional service to the County. Although the Sheriff's Department serves the County as a whole the Berkeley Springs and Paw Paw police departments are limited to being the service provider for the jurisdictions and communities they are governed by.

The West Virginia State Police office provides 4 uniformed officers and 1 secretary to serve Morgan County for the purpose of law enforcement. Its calls for service are more than the average 500 reflected in the provided table as they do not include calls other than investigation of criminal activity and accident reports. The field office is located on Valley Road in Berkeley Springs. There are no current plans for any future expansion to operations.

The Morgan County Sheriff's Department is located in the Rescue Squad Building on US Rt. 522 south of Berkeley Springs, and provides 1 sheriff and 9 deputies. Calls load has increased significantly from 584 in 2001 to 4,664 in 2005. The department serves the entire County population both inside and out of the corporate limits of Bath and Paw Paw, by providing such services as law enforcement, court security, transport of prisoner/mental health detainees, and serving of papers. There are no identified needs outlined by this department at the present time.

The Berkeley Springs Police Department is located on Wilkes Street in the Town of Bath. It serves an estimated town population of 700 residents as well as numerous businesses. Call load has significantly increased over the past five years, tripling from 500 in 2001 to more than 1,500 in 2005. However, there is no expansion planned either for personnel or construction.

The Paw Paw Police Department, originally located in the old jail on Lee Street in Paw Paw, dates as far back as 1891. It presently holds office on Winchester Street and consists of one full-time officer occasionally supported by a trainee. Records for calls for service show an increase

from 9 in the second half of 2000 to 71 for 2005. This department serves an estimated municipal population of 524, and has no identified plans for expansion in the foreseeable future.

Table 5-4 Police Calls For Service

Department	Personnel	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
West Virginia State Police	5	646	500	402	464	456
Morgan County Sheriffs	10	584	2,429	3,014	4,229	4,664
Berkeley Springs Police	3	500	925	1,115	1,455	1,533
Paw Paw Police	1.5	9	47	47	62	71
Total	19.5	1,739	3,901	4,578	6,210	6,724

Source: Police Department Reports

As population grows and development expands across the County, adequate staffing, especially for the Sheriff’s department, is the primary concern. A policing standard of 1 police officer per 1,000 persons is typically used to measure police staffing levels. With an estimated 2005 population of more than 17,000 people, being served by approximately 20 police personnel for all departments combined, staffing appears adequate at this time. However, with a projected population increase of more than 11,000 by 2025, under the medium growth scenario, additional personnel will be needed to address future growth.

To accomplish meeting the long-term needs, especially for the County Sheriff’s Department, periodic review of police staffing levels should be conducted to maintain a sufficient number of officers in relation to a growing population. This will ensure that there is adequate staff to provide efficient response times in meeting police emergencies.

Fire & Emergency Medical Service

Morgan County is served by four Volunteer Fire Companies. These companies include Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company, Great Cacapon VFC, Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. and South Morgan VFD. In addition to these companies providing some level of emergency rescue service, the County is also served by the Morgan County Rescue Service, which specializes in EMS operation throughout the County.

The Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company, currently located on North Mercer Street in Berkeley Springs, originally opened in 1893. It moved to its present location and added a new building complete with 3 bays to house necessary equipment to serve approximately 12,000 of the County’s 15,800 residents and numerous businesses. There are no paid personnel, but the company has grown from 45 active volunteers in 1980 to an active 75 volunteers who provide qualified fire suppression, emergency medical, and other services to the community. The service area includes the Sleepy Creek region, much of the northern Central Valley region as well as the US Rt. 522 corridor. Calls for service over the past five years have ranged from a low of 463 in 2004 to a high of 649 in 2005, which is nearly three to four times the call load of the 180 experienced in the early 1980’s. Expansion efforts for this department include funding for a new engine and updating the turnout gear used to protect volunteers responding to active fire scenes.

The Great Cacapon Volunteer Fire Company is located on Spring Street in the unincorporated community of Great Cacapon. The facility originally opened in 1946 and was expanded in 1969 to add 2 engine bays to the west side of the original building, and again in 1977 to add 3 bays on the east side. It is served by 28 active volunteers who provide service from Bennett Lane to Fisher's Bridge and West of Cacapon Mountain to the Potomac River. This service area includes an approximate population of 2,000 residents and a small number of businesses in a mostly rural setting. As this area has experienced little growth over time, calls for service have remained steady over the past five years, and there are no plans for additional expansion.

The Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Company Inc., located on Moser Avenue in Paw Paw serves approximately 2,500 to 3,000 residents and numerous businesses in the southwestern region of the County, as well as serving 1,500 to 2,000 residents in neighboring Hampshire County to the west. Service to this growing area and to the Town is accomplished by 23 active volunteers, most of whom are trained in both EMS and Fire response. Although the Company moved from its original 1938 location on Winchester Street, it has identified a need for a new station at its current Moser Avenue location. This would serve to address the increased call load of approximately 200 in 2001 to more than 300 in 2005. Although active volunteers have increased slightly from 15 in 1980 to 23 in 2005, the call loads have increased nearly fifteen times that over the same period.

The South Morgan County Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc., located on Winchester Grade Road in southern Morgan County, serves one of the fastest growing areas in the County, which includes the Rock Gap and Timber Ridge districts. The company was created in 1970 and has since made building additions in 1980, 1988, and 1998, as well as added equipment and apparatus in keeping up with the changing regulatory requirements of the State and Federal laws. It currently includes an active volunteer staff of 18 which respond to an average call load of 100 calls for service per year. Given the development activity within this area, it appears the most pressing need for immediate future improvements to this necessary public service would be additional personnel.

The Morgan County Rescue Service moved from its original location to Valley Road in Berkeley Springs in 1998. It opened in 1969, with a Volunteer Board of Directors that went from overseeing more than 25 active volunteers to the current 32 career personnel and 4 active volunteers. Much of the decrease in volunteer participation over time was due to the increased changes in certifications required of career personnel responding to EMS scenes, and the recognition by local government of the increased costs of this regulatory process. This department serves the entire County and provides 911 emergency medical service, emergency transport, and limited routine transfers related to all emergency situations and scenes. Its calls for service have steadily increased from 969 in 2001 to 1,707 in 2005. As the need for this service becomes more specialized and additional personnel are required, the department has identified at a minimum operational goals of a full 24/7 second crew and obtaining benefits for retention of employees from competitive counties. Although there may be additional needs for capital expansion of services and infrastructure, none have been identified at this time.

The Morgan County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the central dispatch for all calls within the County. Opening in 1969, it is located on Valley Road in Berkeley Springs, and

includes a total staff of one and a half paid personnel and 4 volunteers. It receives and routes calls for fire, police, EMS, animal control, and other miscellaneous requests for service. During the 2004 and 2005 calendar years, the office reported an increase in total call load from 14,853 to 15,609 for a total of 757 additional calls, or a 5% increase. Due to the increasing volume, its most immediate future need is identified as increased staffing to cover the call volume and ensure adequate staffing for full 24-hour operations.

Table 5-5 Fire and EMS Calls for Service

Department	Personnel	Volunteer	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Berkeley Springs VFC	0	75	622	619	521	463	649
Great Cacapon VFC	0	28	286	226	170	189	289
Paw Paw VFC	0	23	200	250	265	280	300
South Morgan VFC	0	18	100	100	100	100	100
Morgan County Rescue	32	4	969	1,197	1,095	1,237	1,707
Morgan County OES	1.5	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	33.5	152	2,177	2,392	2,151	2,269	3,045

Source: Fire and EMS Reports

The County operates on a strong volunteer base for fire and a need to expand its paid personnel for rescue services. The major issues as outlined by the various companies include adequate staffing to provide timely response to emergencies and the basic gear and equipment to carry out their duties.

While staffing levels for fire companies appear sufficient to meet current demand in some areas there should be periodic review of service areas to ensure response times keep pace with projected growth. Operating on a system of volunteer service, it will be important for the County to ensure that there are a sufficient number of volunteers properly trained to respond. This could be accomplished through incentives for public employees to respond to daytime calls or retirees interested in supporting fire service.

As outlined by the County Rescue service and Office of Emergency Service, the need for support of additional paid shifts will continue to increase as growth occurs. This is due in part to the location of new development approved in areas where response time is extended and the lack of facilities in proximity or staffing during certain periods to respond to numerous areas at once. To address this issue, funding sources will need to be identified and the number of personnel necessary will need to be evaluated to plan for improvements to the overall network of emergency services.

Medical Services

The Morgan County War Memorial Hospital is located in Berkeley Springs. It operates under Valley Health Services of Winchester, Virginia as a county-owned, non-profit facility and is licensed by the State of West Virginia as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH). War Memorial Hospital has 25 swing beds, which can be utilized for inpatient acute medical care or skilled care,

as well as a 16-bed extended care unit.

Services include a 24-hour emergency department with on-site physicians, inpatient and outpatient surgery, laboratory, radiology (including mammography, ultrasound, bone densitometry, CT, and mobile MRI), respiratory/cardiopulmonary services, rehabilitation services (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and cardiac rehab) and home health services. Sub-specialty services are also offered in cardiology, dermatology, ophthalmology, podiatry, and urology on a weekly or monthly basis.

War Memorial's Center for Rehab & Wellness is located in Berkeley Springs. The Center offers outpatient physical therapy, pool physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and therapeutic pool classes as well as personal training and fitness programs.

The hospital's active medical staff consists of eight physicians practicing in primary care fields of emergency medicine, family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Consulting medical staff includes 25 physicians practicing in fields of cardiology, dental, dermatology, family medicine, ophthalmology, pathology, pediatrics, podiatry, radiology, and urology. The Hospital employs approximately 115 full-time employees and 45 part-time employees.

In fiscal year 2005-2006, War Memorial's utilization increased. The Hospital's average daily census was 8.1 with 518 annual admissions. Other utilization included 5,197 emergency department visits, 215 surgical procedures, 49,208 outpatient procedures, and 4,586 home health visits.

War Memorial operates two medical office practices in Morgan County, Berkeley Springs Internal Medicine and Surgical Services of War Memorial Hospital. Other medical offices in Berkeley Springs include Family Medicine of Berkeley Springs, Graves Medical Practice, and Pediatric and Family Physicians of Morgan County. Mountaineer Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center, operates in Paw Paw.

Other medical services in the community are available at the Morgan County Health Department, Rankin Physical Therapy, and through Shenandoah Valley Medical System. Three dental practices are located in Berkeley Springs. Nursing home care is provided at Berkeley Springs Rehabilitation and Nursing and assisted living is available at Autumn Acres Personal Care Center.

Other healthcare facilities in the area provide services to some Morgan county residents. These facilities include Tri-State Medical Center in Hancock, Md., Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Va., City Hospital in Martinsburg, and Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown, Md.

Two of the larger medical offices outside of the hospital include Graves Medical Practice and Berkeley Springs Internal Medicine, both of which are centrally located within the greater Berkeley Springs area. Graves is a family practice that opened in 1993 and includes a staff of 11 employees who have served an average of 7,000 patients annually over the past 5 years.

Berkeley Springs Internal Medicine is also a similar practice, consisting of 2 doctors and 9 support staff who treat an estimated 1,500 patients per month.

There are also many regional medical centers that provide additional patient care to Morgan County residents. These centers include Tri-State Medical Center in Hancock, Winchester Medical Center, Washington County Health Systems, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, and City Hospital in Martinsburg.

Historic & Cultural

The Morgan Arts Council created a Cultural Arts and Recreation Plan in 2000. This Plan takes into account the community makeup and includes other services plans that may relate to tourism recreation, education, and economic development. The Plan was funded by the National Endowment of the Arts for the Morgan County Commissioners and developed under the participation of 8 community organizations to ascertain and inventory the cultural and recreational value within the County.

The group used numerous public meetings as well as 32 interviews and 400 entries to evaluate and develop recommendations and action plans to address deficiencies that exist within the County. The Plan recommendations were divided into the eastern Berkeley Springs area and the western Paw Paw area, with specific items identified for improvement. The final recommendation was to continue the existence of the committee in order to carry out the long-term goals of enhancing cultural and recreational activities throughout the County.

Travel Berkeley Springs is the convention and visitors bureau for the County, with its main office located in the Chamber of Commerce office on Fairfax Street in Berkeley Springs, and having nearly 100 members. Half of its budget is funded through hotel/motel tax revenues. From its 2004 report committee members developed several goals and strategies centered around two distinct objectives: protecting the historic character of Berkeley Springs and preserving the scenic wilderness throughout the County by promoting the tourism ambience of a place “caught in time”.

The Town of Bath established the Bath Historic Landmark Commission in 2002. The Commission was charged with initiating the development of an inventory of existing historic structures as part of a detailed preservation plan for the Town. The inventory consists of approximately 150 potentially significant structures with the 75 acres of the town proper as well as areas more recently annexed. Development of an inventory survey allows for the Landmark Commission to proceed in having the area designated on the National Register, establishing guidelines under which such structures within the defined area would be preserved. Preserving the historical structures of the Town is the primary goal of the Landmark Commission of Bath.

In addition to the above County Historic and Cultural Commissions there are more than 70 civic organizations which participate in various capacities throughout the County.

Local Government

Morgan County

Morgan County consists of a Commission form of government, which includes 3 commissioners elected every 6 years at large. It operates on an approximately 3 million-dollar budget which includes many of the public services provided across the County. All other services such as schools and roads are covered by other entities or State funding sources.

Table 5-6 County Government Officials

Name	No. of Officials	Elected/Appointed	Term
County Commission	3	Elected	6 years
County Clerk	1	Elected	4 years
Assessor	1	Elected	4 years
Sheriff	1	Elected	4 years
Circuit Clerk	1	Elected	4 years
Prosecuting Attorney	1	Elected	4 years
Circuit Judges	2	Elected	8 years
Magistrates	2	Elected	4 years
Board of Education	5	Elected	6 years
Public Service Commission	3	Appointed	6 years
Planning Commission	11	Appointed	3 years
Economic Development Corp.	15	Appointed	3 years
Landfill Advisory Committee	3	Appointed	3 years
Hospital Board of Directors	9	Appointed	3 years
Parks and Rec. Commission	11	Appointed	3 years
Library Board	5	Appointed	5 years
Commission on Aging	20	Appointed	2 years
Farmland Preservation	7	Appointed	4 years
Rural Water	13	Appointed	N/A

Source: Morgan County Government

The Morgan County Board of Education and the Warm Springs Public Service District are considered part of special purpose local government. The elected Board of Education receives funding primarily from local property tax revenues collected by the State. The Warm Springs Public Service District Board is appointed by the Morgan County Commission and oversees the provision of sewer service within the Public Service District, which is supported by customer fees and by State and Federal grants and loans.

Judges of the Circuit Court and Magistrates are elected officials who are funded by the State. Other agencies receive some financial and in-kind assistance from the County Commission, but are primarily funded by other sources such as private donations and State and Federal funds.

Town of Bath

The Town of Bath is governed by a Mayor and five council members who are elected for two-year terms. The Town Recorder, who maintains town records and financial reports, is also elected for a two-year term. The Council is organized into seven functional committees, which are composed of three members each. The committees are finance, public works, water, ordinances, cemetery, grants, and public safety. The Chief of Police is an appointed position without a specified term. There is also an Historic Landmarks Commission made up of six appointed members.

Town of Paw Paw

The Town of Paw Paw is governed by a Mayor and five Council members who are elected for two-year terms. The Town Recorder is also elected for a two-year term. The Council is organized into five functional committees of three members each. These committees are police, water and sewer, streets and alleys, cemetery, and ordinance and grievance. A sixth committee, the finance committee, is composed of all five Council members. A nine-member parks and recreation commission is appointed by the Town Council to oversee operation and maintenance of the municipal park.

Table 5-7 Municipal Government Officials

Name	No. of Officials	Elected/Appointed	Term
Town of Bath			
Mayor	1	Elected	2 years
Council	5	Elected	2 years
Town Recorder	1	Elected	2 years
Chief of Police	1	Appointed	N/A
Historic Landmark Commission	6	Appointed	1 year
Planning Commission	5	Appointed	N/A
Town of Paw Paw			
Mayor	1	Elected	2 years
Council	5	Elected	2 years
Town Recorder	1	Elected	2 years
Chief of Police	1	Appointed	N/A
Board of Zoning Appeals	5	Appointed	N/A
Parks and Recreation Committee	9	Appointed	N/A

Source: Morgan County Government

Animal Control

The Morgan County Animal Control office is operated by the Morgan County Sherriff's office, which is funded by the Morgan County government.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

The goals for enhancement of public services in Morgan County focus on education, public safety, general government, and the health and welfare of its citizens. They include:

- Increasing educational opportunities across the spectrum of public schools, higher education and technical training institutions;
- Promoting the location of public schools in targeted growth areas;
- Ensuring adequate access to emergency services in areas of new development;
- Promoting expansion of local health care, including mental health services, and recognizing the need to serve both residents and visitors, as well as an aging population; and
- Supporting coordination among local government entities and regional planning organizations in efforts to identify, designate and plan for future public service needs.

Objectives

Furtherance of these goals can be attained by achieving the following objectives:

- Supporting the Morgan County Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan, and encouraging the Morgan County Board of Education to consider the growth management goals and objectives in the Morgan County Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan;
- Working with the library system to identify the need for expansion of library services and facilities;
- Evaluating and supporting appropriate recommendations from local public safety agencies relating to the integration of public safety services into new development;
- Considering creation of a countywide emergency service system, while promoting smaller, more localized emergency services operational hubs to ensure adequate coverage throughout the jurisdiction;
- Supporting arrangements to improve working relationships among police, fire and EMS organizations both within the county and among local jurisdictions;
- Working toward adequate disaster planning by supporting efforts to provide all public safety services with current homeland security training, and citizens and public officials with necessary information about disaster planning and management;
- Encouraging the updating of countywide hazard mitigation plans;
- Supporting development of a directory of local health care network providers and wellness offerings;
- Encouraging the improvement of medical transport access, and the referral process to major health care centers;
- Promoting the expansion of web-based access to local government information;
- Supporting use of public schools, for non-school related activities;

- Encouraging construction of an improved animal control facility and improvement in the County's animal control operations and regulatory system;
- Supporting development of a global information system (GIS) mapping capability for Morgan County to create charts showing property boundaries, natural features, sensitive areas, infrastructure, and emergency services sites, etc.