

Top 5 Services Provided by Townships

Each township has similar responsibilities; however the level of service can vary depending on the wants and needs of township residents. Below are the top 5 most popular services that can be provided by townships.

1



Public Infrastructure

Townships are responsible for the public infrastructure in their community. This may include construction, repair, and maintenance of roads and bridges, traffic lights, fire hydrants, public sewer systems and water systems. Most of the funding provided for these services comes from taxes.

2



Public Safety

To keep their community safe, townships have emergency management planning and contract with various agencies to provide necessary emergency responses. Some of these agencies include volunteer fire companies, emergency management service agencies, rescue squads and police. Like public infrastructure services, many of the public safety services are funded by local taxes.

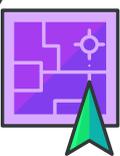
3



Environmental and Safety Regulations

Pennsylvania requires townships to adapt certain environmental and safety regulations. This can include developing and implementing a sewage management plan, regulating the collection of solid waste and recyclables, requiring floodplain regulations in townships that are flood-prone, managing stormwater runoff, enforcing statewide building codes for new or altered structures, enforcing property maintenance codes, and regulating the maintenance of historical districts. Most of these services are funded by local taxes and in some cases user fees.

4



Land Use Regulations

Townships can create a vision for community planning and development through any of the following means: a comprehensive plan, zoning or subdivision and land development ordinances. Each method allows townships to achieve what they want the township to look and feel like physically, socially, and economically.

5



Parks and Recreation

When it comes to parks and recreation facilities, townships have the power to designate acquired land, build for recreational purposes, and construct recreational facilities. Townships can also fund educational and cultural services, as well as libraries, fairs, and community celebrations. These recreational services can be funded by both taxes and program fees.