

# *Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update*

## **Chapter I - Introduction**

The Wayne County Comprehensive Plan is a general framework for addressing the needs of tomorrow. It builds upon traditional Wayne County themes while acknowledging change is inevitable and devising strategies to deal with it. There was considerable public input throughout the preparation of this document, nearly all of which supported this pragmatic, practical approach to planning.

A comprehensive plan's most basic function is the development of governmental policies for addressing growth and change in a community. A comprehensive plan, by its very nature, involves no rules or regulations. It is not a law, but a guide. It inventories assets, identifies potential problems, suggests possible solutions and articulates the philosophy of County government with respect to the issues.

Wayne County contains 28 local municipalities. These 28 municipalities include 22 townships of the second class and six boroughs. The County is approximately 55 miles in straight line distance, and 75 miles by highway, from its northern border with Broome County, New York to its southern border with Monroe County, Pennsylvania. No other county within the Commonwealth has a longer span between its northern and southern borders. It includes, as a result, geographic areas of widely differing economic, demographic and physical characteristics.

Background data provided in this plan offers a thorough description of Wayne County and explores its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. These elements have been blended with public input received from public meetings held throughout Wayne County. Public input was also obtained through two questionnaires. One was a solicitation of the attitudes of 3,000 randomly selected residents of Wayne County. The other questionnaire was sent to 1,000 randomly selected vacation home owners in Wayne County. Copies of these questionnaires and the responses are contained in this document. The background data, comments obtained from the public meetings and input from the two questionnaires all aided in the preparation of this Comprehensive Plan.



**General Anthony Wayne  
(for whom Wayne County is named)**

As we look forward to the next decade, the *Wayne County Comprehensive Plan* will be available to assist municipal, County and private sector decision makers in creating the conditions for healthy growth of the area that preserves what is best about our past while looking to the future. Wayne County views the role of county government as one that supports and builds upon the work of the private sector, community organizations and municipalities. Each of the plans that, together, compose the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan is infused with this principle.