

## **Chapter 9: Community Facilities & Services**

Goals & objectives.....	9-1
9.1 Education.....	9-1
9.2 Parks and Recreation.....	9-5
9.3 Emergency Services.....	9-6
9.4 Public Safety.....	8-8
9.5 Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness.....	9-9
Hazard Mitigation Plan.....	9-10
Animal Control.....	9-10
9.6 Public Libraries.....	9-11
9.7 Solid Waste.....	9-11
9.8 Tools for Providing Community Facilities.....	9-12
Policies and Actions.....	9-13
Policies.....	9-13
Actions.....	9-15

## Community Facilities and Services

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# Chapter 9

## Community Facilities & Services

This chapter examines the community facilities and services needed to serve development in Charles County including schools, parks, libraries, public safety, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services, and solid waste.

Water, sewerage, and stormwater facilities are discussed in Chapter 4. Transportation is discussed in Chapter 8. Telecommunications and broadband are discussed in Chapter 7.

### Goals & objectives

- 9-1 Provide a system of community facilities and public services that is consistent with the land use plan and adequate to serve existing and projected development.
- 9-2 As a first priority, meet the public facilities needs in existing developed areas.
- 9-3 Plan new capital improvements consistent with where development is encouraged to locate.
- 9-4 Ensure, through sound management of available resources, that community facilities are implemented on a timely basis.
- 9-5 Limit provision of facilities and services in rural County areas which do not permit efficient investment in services or which might encourage more growth than is desired.
- 9-6 Where possible increase public services as additions or expansions to existing systems, rather than add new facilities.

### 9.1 Education

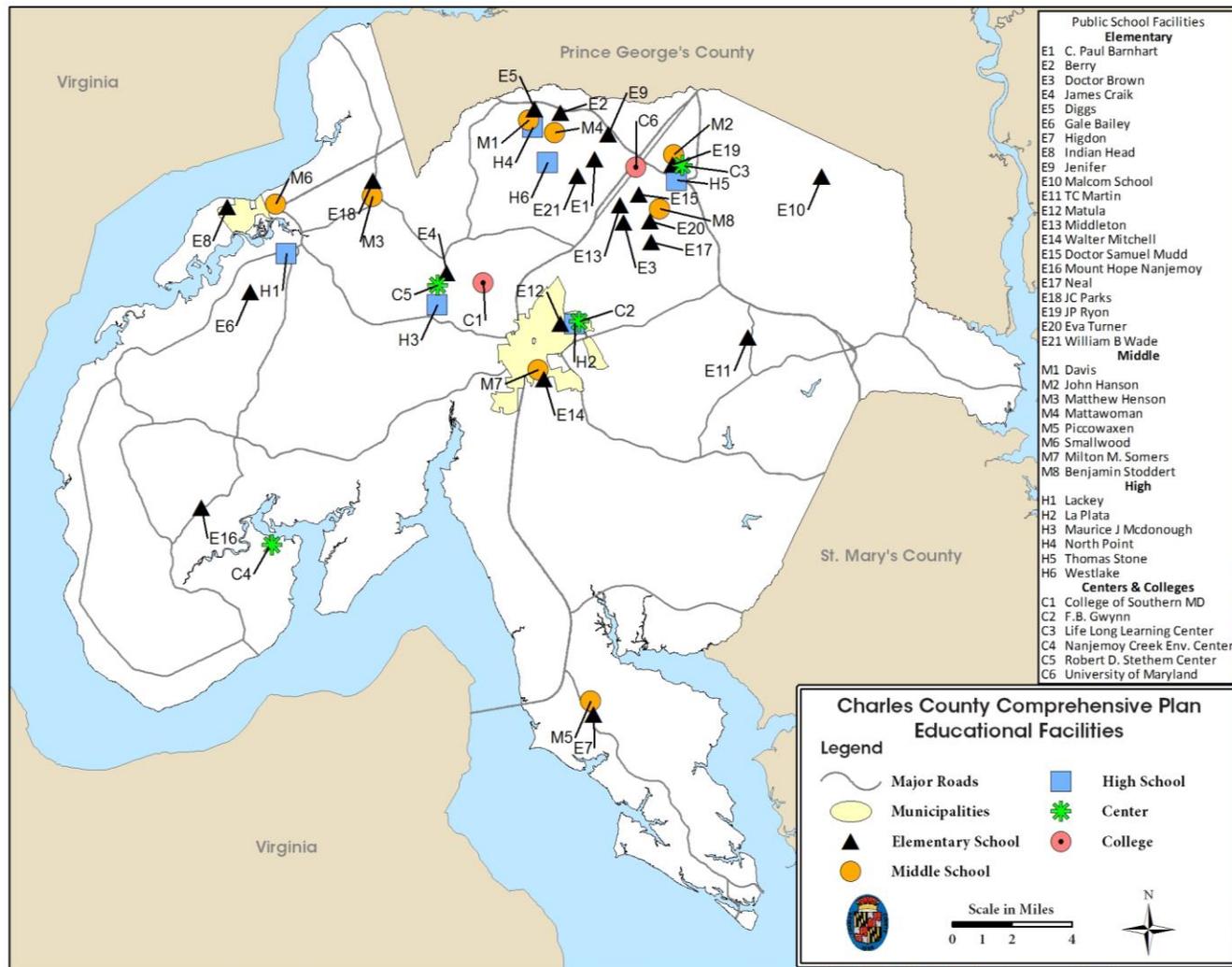
#### Primary and Secondary

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) follows a five-year plan that focuses on academic achievement, career readiness and personal responsibility. The plan, which is updated annually, addresses instruction, technology and equity, and defines the school system's expectation levels and evaluations.

#### *Organization and Facilities*

CCPS operates 21 elementary schools, eight middle schools, six high schools, an alternative school, an adult services center, and an environmental education center (see Figure 9-1).

Figure 9-1 Educational Facilities



Public schools in Charles County are organized into three levels: elementary schools are from Pre-K through grade 5; middle schools are grades 6 through 8; and high schools are grades 9 through 12. The Stethem Educational Center houses alternative programs for students at the middle and high school levels. F.B. Gwynn Center houses programs serving students from infants and toddlers through middle school. Pre-K programs (Chapter 1) are offered at all schools, including six elementary schools with full day Pre-K. Special education is provided through a continuum of services for students ages from birth to age 21.

Career and technology education opportunities are provided in each high school as well as through specialized programs at North Point High School. Career and Technology Education (CTE) prepares students for a wide range of careers through programs that promote both academic and technical achievement. Students enrolled in CTE program courses can enter careers that require varying levels of education: high school diplomas, post-secondary certificates, apprenticeships, military service, or college degrees. Additionally, CTE Programs of Study provide opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credit while still in high school. Students learn skills and develop attitudes that support career employment, college readiness, and life-long learning.

An Alternative Program (Robert D. Stethem Educational Center) is provided for about 70 students who are having difficulty functioning in their home schools' traditional setting. Special programs are housed at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.

Adult Services is comprised of the Lifelong Learning Center and the External Diploma Program and are located in Waldorf beside John Hanson Middle School. The External Diploma Program at the Lifelong Learning Center is an alternative to the GED exam based on skills achieved through life experiences. The Lifelong Learning Center located beside John Hanson Middle School has several programs for adults including basic education, literacy and GED preparation, citizenship classes and English as a second language classes. Four elementary schools (four school-wide) house Title I programs for three-year olds (C. Paul Barnhart, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Indian Head and J. P. Ryon are regional centers serving students from Dr. Samuel Mudd and Eva Turner).

Each school has a geographically-based attendance area or zone. Students living within a zone attend the designated school with certain exceptions for children attending special education classes or other designated exceptions. A transportation link on the school system's website (ccboe.com) identifies the appropriate attendance zone upon entry of a street address. The Board of Education sets the attendance boundaries and, in so doing, strives for stability. However, changes are made when conditions such as overcrowding or new school construction dictate that redistricting take place. There is no feeder school system; some elementary and middle schools serve multiple high school districts.

### *Enrollment Projections and Facilities Needs*

The CCPS projects continuing growth at all grade levels based on the push from one grade to the next (cohort survival analysis) and data provided by the Maryland Department of Planning, and the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, including live births and in-migration. Overall system enrollment is projected to increase from approximately 26,778 in 2011 to approximately 29,268 in 2021 (see Table 9-1).

**Table 9-1 Charles County Public School Enrollment Trends and Projections 2011-2021**

	Elementary	Middle	High	Total	Change	
					Number	Percent
2011	11,299	5,999	9,159	26,778		
2021	12,515	7,002	9,751	29,268	2,490	9.3%

Source: Charles County Public Schools, Educational Facilities Master Plans FY 2012, FY 2013

According to the Maryland State Department of Education<sup>1</sup>, as of September 2011, 2,014 (full time equivalent Pre-k and kindergarten to grade 12) students were enrolled in non-public schools in Charles County. Some of these students may reside outside of Charles County. Each year the Charles County Public Schools prepares a 10-year Educational Facilities Master Plan. Under the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, a program of additions and renovations to existing schools brought countywide capacity up to the projected enrollment. This program has been restructured in the Capital Improvements Program in order to fund St. Charles High School, at the direction of the County Commissioners. The County’s future growth continues to require capacity increases, and the FY 2013 Educational Facilities Master Plan proposes an aggressive school construction program of new schools, renovations, and upgrades. The Board of Education has adopted a capacity policy for new and renovated schools as follows: 768 students for elementary, 940 for middle and 1,600 for high.

The program includes four new schools; two elementary, one middle and one high school. All four schools are to meet future enrollment needs in the Development District and in La Plata. St. Charles High School in Fairway Village on the east side of US 301 was opened in September 2014 and the redistricting committee. Charles County Public Schools requested planning approvals for the other three schools beginning in FY 2015.

New school site acquisitions will be needed for some of the elementary and middle schools. CCPS has an inventory of nine future school sites. The elementary school sites are being considered for the Pinefield area in north Waldorf and for the La Plata area, as well as other potential sites. A site for the middle school has not yet been identified. Other CCPS facilities needs include additions and renovations to support full-day kindergarten in all elementary schools, and a continued program of renovations to existing aging facilities.

### Higher Education

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and University of Maryland University College (UMUC) are the two institutions of higher learning in the County.

CSM began in 1958, and has been at its current location since 1968. The primary campus is on 173 acres on Mitchell Road north of La Plata. CSM also operates sites at the Waldorf Center for Higher Education on Old Washington Road (a leased facility), at the Industrial

<sup>1</sup> Nonpublic School Enrollment, State of Maryland, September 30, 2010, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Accountability and Assessment

Training Center in La Plata, at public school facilities and at campuses in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties (Figure 9-1).

CSM offers associate degree and certificate programs; job training programs; cultural enrichment; leadership development; community and economic development initiatives; customized workforce training; and wellness and fitness opportunities. CSM enrollment has increased more than 23 percent since 2002, with a Fall 2009 enrollment of 8,810 (credit seeking students at all campuses). CSM also serves as an educational, cultural, and recreational center for the community and offers its facilities and services to functions that enhance community life.

In 2011 CSM developed a new master plan to review options for future expansion, including acquiring additional land. At the time of the master plan, the La Plata campus had less than five acres for expansion. CSM is currently building a new campus in Hughesville centrally located to the La Plata, Leonardtown and Prince Frederick campuses.<sup>2</sup>

UMUC offers undergraduate and graduate level classes at the Waldorf Center for Higher Education. Enrollment is currently approximately 1,500 per semester<sup>3</sup>.

## 9.2 Parks and Recreation

Outdoor recreation contributes to both the physical fitness and mental well-being of County residents, workers, and visitors. Recreation sites, facilities and open space are important components of Charles County's quality of life. The continued acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, in line with a growing population, are necessary to meet future demands.

Goals and objectives for parks and recreation are set forth in the Charles County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), adopted in August, 2012 and required under state law to be updated every six years. The LPPRP is a functional plan that helps implement the Comprehensive Plan.

According to the LPPRP, as of 2011 the County had a total of almost 28,000 acres of publicly accessible recreation and natural resource land under ownership by the County, the incorporated towns, the state and federal governments, and private/quasi-public entities. The LPPRP sets forth a 15-year acquisition and development program. The program includes 12 acquisition projects totaling between 350 and 560 acres. The largest projects are a regional park in the central part of the County, three community parks (including two in the Town of La Plata), a shoreline/waterfront park, and a program of four multi-service centers/community centers to replace the eight existing community centers located mostly at middle schools. The four centers would be in Waldorf, La Plata, Nanjemoy, and Hughesville/Bryantown. The program also includes 13 facility development projects, developing sites acquired in recent years but not yet developed (such as Waldorf Park), and developing/expanding existing parks such as Pisgah Park.

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<sup>2</sup> College of Southern Maryland Facilities Master Plan, January 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Phone interview with Director of the Waldorf Center for Higher Education, Tim Murphy, June 27, 2012.

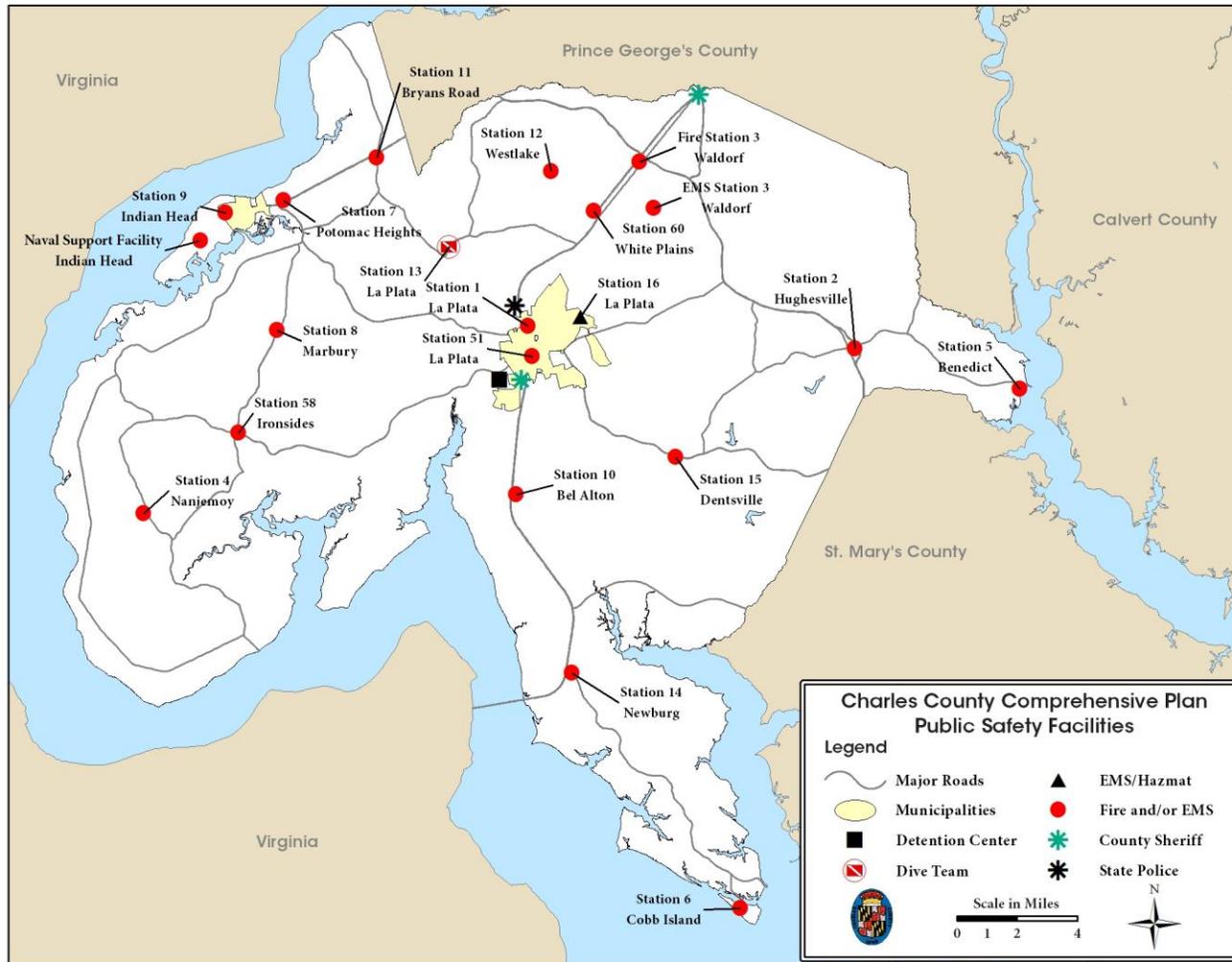
### 9.3 Emergency Services

The county is served by the Department of Emergency Services which provides career Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedic personnel and a hazardous material response and mitigation capability on land and water. Additionally, the county is served by 18 volunteer stations providing fire suppression/EMS and dive rescue services. 11 of the volunteer stations provide both fire suppression and EMS services, and two provide only fire suppression services. Four provide only EMS services and four volunteer suppression companies provide special operations services including: structural collapse rescue, high/low angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, and swift water rescue. There is also a federal fire suppression and EMS station situated at the Naval Support Facility Indian Head (Figure 9-2).

Providing adequate coverage and resources to the ever growing demand for emergency services is paramount to the future growth of Charles County. While the volunteer stations have been successful in continuing to meet the demand for fire suppression services, the need for emergency medical services has grown exponentially. In response the county established the career EMS division within the Department of Emergency Services in 2001. The EMS Division provided county-wide, 24/7 advanced and basic life support services while operating out of eight volunteer stations.

The county's decision to establish a career EMS division is based on two factors. First, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS), the State EMS regulatory agency, recommends one 24/7 Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit per 20,000 to 25,000 population based on the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standard for EMS response. The second factor is the recommendation contained in the 2004 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) EMS Plan which set forth the scope, time line and deployment plan for ensuring adequate EMS coverage county-wide. MIEMSS also recommended that ALS services be delivered in accordance with both the NFPA's and the American Heart Association's standards for ALS response times. Accordingly the County has adopted response time standards for the delivery of EMS services that are consistent with both NFPA – 1720, and the American Heart Association's standards. These response times are as follows: Basic Life Support (BLS) – 10 minutes or less 90% of the time and Advanced Life Support (ALS) – 9 minutes or less 90% of the time.

Figure 9-2 Public Safety Facilities



A reliable water supply for fire suppression in rural areas is of critical importance. The 1995 Fire, Rescue and EMS Comprehensive Plan's supplemental Water Supply Report found that 87 percent of the land area and 45 percent of Charles County residents were more than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. The County has prepared maps of locations close to potential water supplies where dry hydrants could be installed. An ad hoc working group organized by the County's Department of Emergency Services is evaluating and updating the current, rural fire-water map. This working group includes individuals from a number of county departments and designated representatives from the volunteer fire companies.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluates fire departments and assigns a public protection classification (PPC) rating. This rating is used by insurance companies to determine premiums charged for fire insurance or a homeowner's policy. Improving the PPC rating can result in lower protection classifications and annual savings in insurance premiums. Since the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, the Marbury and Newburg companies improved their PPC rating resulting in lower insurance premiums.

## **9.4 Public Safety**

Charles County is served by the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), the Maryland Department of State Police and, within the town of La Plata, the La Plata Town Police. The Sheriff's Office is the primary source of law enforcement within Charles County.

The Sheriff's Office also provides all the traditional responsibilities associated with the courts within Charles County, including security for the Court House and the various court rooms. The CCSO also staffs and operates the Charles County Detention Center.

### **Facilities**

The Waldorf area is currently served by a district station housed in a renovated building at 3670 Leonardtown Road in Waldorf. This building houses both District III and District IV and serves the west side of 301 and the Waldorf / MD 228 corridor. It also serves the east side of US 301 and the Waldorf / Hughesville area.

The headquarters facility in La Plata is 30,000 square feet in size. The County's current (FY2013-2017) five year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a project for the renovation of the headquarters facility and upgrades to the high density filing room. The Charles County Detention Center, part of the Headquarters Complex in La Plata, exceeds its design capacity on a regular basis. The CIP includes a project to construct a 4,900 square foot modular addition, to serve as a centralized inmate intake and booking area.

The former Charles County Detention Center was renovated and reopened to house much of the work-release inmate population that had been housed in the main Detention Center. This will provide relief from overcrowding and provide temporary housing for inmates displaced by construction activities in the expansion of the current Detention Center.

A new range facility has recently been completed for the regular training and firearms qualification activities required by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. This facility is located at the Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit in Charlotte

Hall. A similar facility for police vehicle operations qualification is still needed. This mandated activity is currently carried out outside the County, at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Center in Sykesville, Maryland.

## **9.5 Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness**

The Department of Emergency Services directs the County's emergency management program from its facility on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The Department's mission is to protect the safety, health and well-being of the community by coordinating disaster preparedness planning, risk mitigation, 24-hour-a-day response, emergency communications systems, and incident recovery activities. Divisions within the department include Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 911 Fire/EMS Communications, Tactical Response Team (TRT), False Alarm Reduction Unit (FARU) and Animal Control/Tri-County Animal Shelter (TCAS).

The Emergency Management Division develops, directs, and promotes a comprehensive emergency management program incorporating planning activities to address emergencies or disasters whether natural or man-made including:

- Public education and information
- Promotion of mitigation activities
- Liaison and collaboration with local, state and federal governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations
- Developing and maintaining the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which ensures maximum preparedness for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made emergencies or major disasters

Potential technological (man-made) disasters include: terrorist attack, radiological emergency (fixed facility and transported), transportation accident, hazardous material accident, and special hazards (e.g. fire and explosion potential from operations at Naval Support Facility Indian Head, at petroleum storage facilities, propane storage facilities, and tire storage facilities). Natural disasters include hurricane, flooding, snow and ice storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and water shortages.

The Emergency Operations Plan designates roads and facilities to be used by County residents for evacuation and refuge. The Department of Emergency Services is actively engaged in three evaluation workgroups to address local as well as regional evacuation issues including but not limited to: emergency protective actions that would need to be implemented were an emergency to occur in the National Capital Region, specifically the possibility of influx of evacuees into or through the County from various jurisdictions.

The Department manages a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and a Community Animal Response Team (CART) that provides training promoting partnership efforts between emergency services, animal control, and County residents. The program educates the public about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact the community and trains them in basic disaster response skills for the public as well as animals. The CART also assists with animal sheltering during any opening of emergency shelters within the County.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

In 2012, the County adopted a new five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000<sup>4</sup>. The multi-jurisdictional plan is a blueprint for coordinating and implementing hazard mitigation policies, programs, and projects. The specific purposes of the Hazard Mitigation Plan are to:

- Protect life and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural hazards;
- Qualify for additional grant funding in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment;
- Provide quick recovery and redevelopment following future disasters;
- Integrate existing flood mitigation documents;
- Demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and
- Comply with state and federal legislative requirements tied to local hazard mitigation planning.

The County is considered vulnerable to ten natural hazards: temperature extremes; thunderstorms and lightning; tornado; hurricane; severe winter storms; flood; drought; erosion; earthquake; and wildfire. Additionally, the County is vulnerable to three technological (man-made) hazards; hazardous materials, public health emergency, and nuclear events.

The Plan assesses the County's vulnerability to these hazards and identifies a series of actions to mitigate their potential effects. The Plan focuses on the following hazards that the Plan's hazard mitigation planning committee selected as in the high and moderate risk category:

- Flood
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Severe winter storms
- Temperature extremes
- Thunderstorms and lightning
- Hazardous materials
- Public health emergencies

## Animal Control

The Animal Control Division is part of the County's Department of Emergency Services and is responsible for the enforcement of the adopted county animal regulations and state and federal laws as they pertain to domestic animals.

The Tri-County Animal Shelter is located in Hughesville and serves Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Unwanted and stray animals are housed, redeemed by owners, and adopted by new responsible owners at this facility. There are currently ongoing discussions on whether to have separate county facilities or continue with the tri-county facility.

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<sup>4</sup> Charles County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2011-2016.

## 9.6 Public Libraries

The mission of the Charles County Public Library is to acquire and make available information, books, other library materials and services that most closely match the informational, recreational and cultural needs of the residents of Charles County. In the Charles County's Public Library vision, the community turns to the library as its premier source of information for life.

Libraries play an important role in economic development. When business or industry is looking for new locations, one benchmark used to gauge area services is the funding levels and quality of the public library system. When the economy is lagging, demand for library services increases as people need access to affordable research services.

The Charles County Public Library system consists four branches. The branches are: La Plata branch and headquarters, P.D. Brown Memorial Library branch in Smallwood Village, Waldorf, the Potomac branch, in Bryans Road and the fourth branch, Waldorf West on Smallwood Drive, which is 31,000 square feet, and is the first public building in Charles County meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

A replacement library for the La Plata branch is currently in the County's Capital Improvement Program for FY18. The discussions include potentially keeping the library in the center of La Plata, in conjunction with a town center redevelopment effort currently being studied.

## 9.7 Solid Waste

### Waste stream, Recycling

The County's 2000 to 2010 Solid Waste Management Plan estimated that for the period 2005-2010, Charles County would generate between 112,000 and 122,000 tons of refuse annually. Household waste would contribute approximately 60 percent of this amount, commercial/industrial wastes approximately 27 percent, and other wastes the remaining 13 percent. Approximately 50 percent of household waste is yard waste.

Approximately 70 percent of the County's waste is landfilled at the 114-acre County landfill on Billingsley Road in Waldorf, with the remainder disposed out of County, including landfills in Virginia and Pennsylvania. As a result of reduced volumes at the County landfill, it is expected to have a life of at least 18 years, through at least 2030. The landfill is fully paid for so that any reductions in landfill tonnage will not impact the County financially.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) of 1989, Charles County was mandated to recycle 15 percent of the municipal solid waste (MSW) generated within the County by 1994. The County had since adopted a goal of 35 percent and as of 2010 surpassed it with an estimated recycling rate of 39 percent. Curbside recycling is offered in the major population areas, including the towns of La Plata and Indian Head. The County manages 10 drop-off centers around the County that accept recyclable materials.

## **Future needs**

The County's highest priority is to maximize source reduction and recycling, thus minimizing the requirement for additional solid waste disposal facilities. Source reduction programs generally fall into the following categories: product reuse, reduced material volume, reduced toxicity, increased product lifetime, and decreased consumption. As of 2010, Charles County was one of six Maryland counties to have achieved a 5 percent source reduction credit assessed by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Combined with its 39 percent recycling rate, the County has achieved a 44 percent waste diversion rate.

In the future, alternative facilities such as warehousing facilities, separation and processing facilities, transfer stations, holding and temporary storage facilities, material recovery facilities, and compost facilities may play an important role in solid waste management practices. Currently, County zoning regulations restrict private solid waste facilities.

## **9.8 Tools for Providing Community Facilities**

### **Capital Improvements Programming (CIP)**

Capital Improvements Programming is the multi-year scheduling of public physical improvements. Generally included are plans for streets, water and sewer facilities, parks, libraries, museums, police headquarters, and any other capital expenditures to be funded from public tax support or dedicated revenue funds.

The County must be able to reliably anticipate when it will be necessary to expand existing, or construct new facilities. The Comprehensive Plan establishes the framework within which functional plans such as the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, the Educational Facilities Master Plan, and the Solid Waste Management Plan are formulated. These functional plans may be quite specific as to needed improvement projects, and include broad cost estimates. Such recommendations form the basis for projects in the annual Capital Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The relationship goes further by carefully relating the Comprehensive Plan to the CIP, and the CIP to development regulations. Through this relationship, permits for development are based on whether or not the necessary community facilities are either in place or programmed.

### **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance**

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances help control the development process by conditioning approval upon showing that sufficient infrastructure and services are present or will be provided. These provisions can ensure that land development coincides with the location and timing of capital facilities.

The County first adopted Adequate Public Facilities (APF) requirements into the zoning ordinance for roads, schools and water supply in 1992. The APF requirements have been refined and updated several times since then, and are now a routine part of the development process in Charles County. In 1999, the County adopted a housing unit allocation system as part of APF to better assure the future adequacy of school capacity.

## **Exactions & impact fees**

Exactions and impact fees provide a more direct means of obtaining the funds needed for capital improvements to service new developments. Both were developed to assure that new growth should pay a pro-rata share of the costs for providing new water and sewerage facilities, parks, roads, and schools. Exactions are mandatory dedications of land or facilities in-lieu of fees and usually occur during the subdivision process. Using impact fees for rural roads may be more cost efficient and beneficial to rural developers instead of each project building incremental improvements. This needs to be further studied and is currently funded for FY18 in the CIP.

When combined with an overall growth management plan, impact fees and development exactions assist local government to provide the capital improvements needed for new development.

In 2002 the County adopted a school excise tax on new residential units to help fund new schools. This tax, which became effective in July 2003, replaced the former impact fee system.

## **Developer Agreements**

Under a developer agreement, a jurisdiction conditions its approval of a development on the developer providing benefits to the jurisdiction. Examples of benefits are road improvements, water and sewer infrastructure, land, recreation facilities, and fire and safety equipment. Authority to counties to allow developer agreements is provided in Maryland's local planning enabling legislation.

In 2004, Charles County adopted "Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements" as a new chapter in the zoning code. The developer agreement approval process is a public process including public hearings before the Planning Commission and the County Commissioners.

## **Policies and Actions**

### **Policies**

#### *General*

- 9.1 Require developers to fully pay for or provide the added public facilities necessary to support their developments when planned County facilities programming will not result in the timely provision of the services that would support the proposed development. These include but are not limited to, schools, parks, roads, and sewer/water facilities.
- 9.2 Plan community facilities with the capability of adaptive use and reuse. Examples include converting school buildings to accommodate before and after-hours uses such as child care and recreational activities, multi-use public auditoriums, and health clinics.

*Education*

- 9.3 Continue to implement the annual Educational Facilities Master Plan.
- 9.4 Continue to pursue a variety of strategies to avoid overcrowding and ensure provision of school facilities when needed including forward funding facilities, developer agreements, Adequate Public Facilities requirements, and other non-traditional types of construction funding.
- 9.5 Continue to coordinate the school construction program closely with available school capacities in the County's housing unit allocation system analyses.
- 9.6 Continue to work with the Town of La Plata to ensure that growth in the town works in tandem with area wide school capacity and enrollment, and housing unit allocation considerations.

*Parks and Recreation*

- 9.7 Develop a high-quality public parks and recreation system with adequate space and facilities, providing an appropriate mix of recreation activities for County residents.
- 9.8 Seek to provide 30 acres of parks, recreation and open space land per 1,000 population, consistent with State goals.
- 9.9 Implement the recommendations of the adopted Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.

*Fire Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services*

- 9.10 Support the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association and volunteer fire departments to implement improvements that would reduce public protection classification ratings.
- 9.11 Install dry hydrants at reliable water supplies in rural areas.
- 9.12 Implement the recommendations of the adopted five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan.

*Public Safety*

- 9.13 Continue programs such as "COP" (Community Oriented Policing), neighborhood watch, and other programs which seek to reach out directly to citizens and communities.
- 9.14 Incorporate design for community safety into land use decision-making.
- 9.15 Design considerations may include lighting and open space, vehicle and pedestrian access, visibility, and location of entrances and exits.

*Public Libraries*

- 9.16 Continue to maintain information sharing and coordination through the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, the Maryland Library Association, and the Division of Library Development and Services of the Maryland State Department of Education.
- 9.17 Include Charles County's local educational institutions, the Charles County Board of Education and the College of Southern Maryland in cost sharing efforts.

*Solid Waste*

- 9.18 Explore the feasibility of municipal solid waste collection in the development district.
- 9.19 Expand the County's recycling program. Expansion will be needed to continue to meet the County's recycling goals. Special emphasis needs to be on residential, commercial/industrial, and institutional recycling and yard waste composting.
- 9.20 Explore the feasibility of alternate waste disposal technologies in a public/private partnerships including transfer facilities. Zoning regulations may need to be adjusted to allow certain types of facilities that are currently not permitted.
- 9.21 Study potential ways to expand the life of the county's landfill through integrated waste management practices including solid waste composting, waste densification, and alternative disposal sites such as rubble fills and/or recycling facilities.

**Actions**

1. Continue to work with the College of Southern Maryland on its new campus in Hughesville.
2. Work with multiple agencies and the Town of La Plata on the LPPRP's recommendation for a program of multi-service centers/community centers.
3. Continue to review the need for new fire/EMS stations every five years. Sites recommended in the 1995 Fire, Rescue and EMS Comprehensive Plan with implementation not started are in Beantown, and Bryantown.
4. Review the Sheriff's department space needs on an ongoing basis. As the county grows additional staff and space needs are likely, particularly in the Waldorf area.
5. Work with the Sheriff's Office to locate a facility for police vehicle operations qualification.
6. Work with the Charles County Public Library to identify a suitable replacement site for the La Plata branch library and expansion plans.
7. New County landfill. The existing landfill is expected to have capacity through at least 2030. The next Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan will be

prepared during the life of this Comprehensive Plan and should evaluate the need to begin planning for a replacement landfill.

8. Explore the feasibility of developing a landfill gas-to-energy project for the county landfill.
9. Study the potential of impact fees as an equitable way to pay for infrastructure needs. Study and recommend potential changes to the provisions for adequate public facilities and other tools for providing community facilities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of such systems (see Section 9.8).