

## **Community Facilities**

### **Recreation and Parks**

Within the County portion of the Annapolis Neck Small Area, there are four major public park sites. Bestgate Park, located on Bestgate Road, has a playground, baseball/softball fields, multipurpose fields, tennis courts and basketball courts. Broadcreek Park, and the Arundel Olympic Swim Center are located on Riva Road. Peninsula Park, located on Bay Ridge Road, has a playground, baseball/softball fields, lighted multipurpose fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, concession stand and restrooms. Quiet Waters Regional Park on Hillsmere Drive is a 336-acre park that offers picnic facilities, pavilions, miles of hiking/jogging/bike trails, exercise courses, a multilevel children's playground, concession stands and restrooms. It is not used for organized sports. There is a Visitor's Center that includes formal gardens, art galleries and a café. The Blue Heron Center at Quiet Waters is an indoor facility that has a 150-seat capacity. Boat-rental and ice-skating are available seasonally. The location of these parks is shown on Map 24.

The Annapolis Waterworks Park located on Defense Highway, is a 45-acre park that includes restrooms, sitting benches, pavilions, nature areas, hiking trails and fishing (catch and release only). Access is by permit only. Thomas Point Park, further south and east on the Annapolis Neck on Thomas Point Road, is a small, limited use park that allows fishing. Access is by permit only.

The City of Annapolis has their own Recreation and Parks Department which works closely with the County's Department of Recreation and Parks. The County Department Parks and Recreation also works closely with the County schools to provide facilities through a Joint Use Agreement. Fields for organized sports are located primarily at school sites.

On the programming side, there is a day camp at Quiet Waters Park, and summer activity programs operate at Hillsmere and Rolling Knolls Elementary Schools. Adult recreation programs are provided mostly at Truxton Park in the City of Annapolis.

Nine acres of land adjacent to Peninsula Park were recently acquired by the County for an expansion of the park. Planning and engineering funds for the development of the parcel are programmed in FY2005.

### ***Issues***

The following recreation and park issues were identified at public forums and by committee members. The preservation of open space and increase in the number of recreational sites was expressed as a concern, as was the need for playing fields and active use parks with more hiking and biking links between existing communities. Access to the waterfront, especially for launching canoes or kayaks, is insufficient. Most access points to the water serve only private

Map 24

developments. There is no public access to the water on the County portion of the Neck. Parking along Peninsula Park is a problem and there is a dilemma between providing more parking or more park space.

### ***Recommendations***

1. Identify locations on the Annapolis Neck for additional active recreation such as basketball courts and ball fields.
2. Fund the design and engineering necessary to expand Peninsula Park to the adjacent acquired property in order to build needed ball fields and parking facilities.
3. Consider creating community fields with spectator stands at the Annapolis Middle School. If there is excess space within the school, consider using it to create office and storage space for community athletic organizations.
4. Annapolis Neck residents would prefer to establish pedestrian and bike paths that connect major recreation and park sites on properties south of Forest Drive. Such a connection should be considered between Peninsula Park and Quiet Waters Park. Another such connection should be considered between Quiet Waters Park and Annapolis Middle School. The third connection should be planned between Annapolis Middle School and the Newtowne/Bywater area.
5. Evaluate subdivision regulations for medium and high-density housing developments to consider providing additional space allocations for useable outdoor recreation.
6. In the Annapolis community, prepare a single newsprint document to list all of the athletic programs and planned cultural events being offered, within a quarter-year time-frame, by the County, the City, the Community College, Maryland Hall, St. Johns, the Naval Academy and other league organizations. This document would be useful to tourists as well as to residents.
7. Identify, acquire and develop additional active recreation space in the Bestgate Road corridor.
8. Consider permitting private owner boat launches of canoes and kayaks from the rental facility in Quiet Waters Park.

### **Public Education**

The Annapolis Neck Small Area is primarily served by the Annapolis Feeder System. A portion of the Small Area is also served by the South River Feeder System. Some of the communities are served by Central Middle and South River High however, the elementary-aged children in these communities would attend Mills-Parole Elementary. The Annapolis Feeder system is one of the few systems in the County with excess capacity. The 2001 Actual

Enrollment for the Annapolis Feeder System was 5,385 students. The total State Rated Capacity for the Annapolis Feeder System is 8,009 seats. The South River Feeder System has a 2001 Actual Enrollment of 4,797 students and a State Rated Capacity of 5,233 seats. Table 12 below shows the current and ten-year projected enrollments and the utilization percentages for each of the affected schools within these feeder systems. This information is based on the July 2002 *Educational Facilities Master Plan*.

**Table 12. School Enrollment and Capacities**

School	State Rated Capacity 2001	Actual Enrollment 2001	% Utilization 2001	Projected Enrollment 2011	% Utilization 2011
Annapolis High	1789	1565	87%	1488	83%
Annapolis Middle	1634	533	33%	500	31%
Bates Middle	1005	647	64%	607	60%
Annapolis Elem.	319	202	63%	178	56%
Eastport Elem.	294	208	71%	202	69%
Georgetown East Elem.	529	341	64%	339	64%
Germantown Elem.	523	400	76%	414	79%
Hillsmere Elem.	449	341	76%	335	75%
Mills-Parole Elem.	431	363	84%	345	80%
Rolling Knolls Elem.	364	271	74%	250	69%
Tyler Heights Elem.	418	256	61%	291	70%
West Annapolis Elem.	254	258	102%	276	109%
South River High	2154	1969	91%	1875	87%
Central Middle	1178	1087	92%	1018	86%

Each Elementary School classroom counts as 25 seats (grades 1-5). Art, music, PE, reading and speech do not count toward school capacity. Kindergarten counts as 22 students per room. Special education levels 4 and 5 count as 10 per room. Levels 1 through 3 are mainstreamed into regular classrooms. Each PreK classroom counts as 10 seats. The State Rated Capacity for middle schools and senior high grades is 85 percent of the product of the number of

teaching stations and 25 plus the product of teaching stations for special education and 10. Adding the totals gives the State Rated Capacity for each school. Projections of expected capacities are done over a 10 year period. Any projections beyond 10 years are less reliable.

An issue with public schools in the Annapolis Neck feeder system is underutilization and efficient use of school facilities. Annapolis Middle School is projected to be utilized by only 31% in 2011. Bates Middle School is projected to be only at 60% of State Rated Capacity in 2011. The exception is West Annapolis Elementary School, which is currently slightly over capacity.

In order to calculate the impact of new development, the following school pupil generation factors are used in Anne Arundel County: A Single Family Home generates 0.45 students for Elementary School (ES), 0.17 students for Middle School (MS) and 0.20 students for High School (HS). A townhouse generates 0.20 for ES, 0.12 for MS, and 0.12 for HS. An apartment generates 0.07 for ES, 0.04 for MS and 0.04 for HS.

There are no capital projects listed in the *FY2003 Capital Budget and Program* that add capacity to the schools within the Annapolis Feeder System.

### ***Issues***

Several education issues were identified at public forums and by committee members. There is concern about an inadequate quality of public education. School athletic fields should be available to the community and private individuals. There is a need for more community support to schools. The safety of children walking to and from schools was an issue as was the lack of sidewalks along some narrow streets and bus turnaround areas.

### ***Recommendations***

9. Establish all-day kindergarten classes in the schools with the greatest demand for early childhood learning programs.
10. Implement preschool learning programs as a means of preparing parents and children for academic achievement.
11. The following recommendations should be implemented to enhance the public school system:
  - 1) Support the expansion of free training for home daycare providers in early childhood education.
  - 2) Expand the existing volunteer program center based in the school system to support greater community assistance in support of the schools.
  - 3) Expand programs for the professional development and mentoring programs for

teachers.

- 4) Priority should be given to retaining experienced educators and mentoring those with less experience.
  - 5) Develop strategies to involve parents in supporting learning initiatives enacted by the schools, such as the Reading Recovery programs, the Maryland Learning Outcomes and the New American Schools Design Expeditionary Learning program.
4. Plan for alternative community activities in the underused space at the Annapolis Middle School. Expand use of all public schools for alternative activities.
  5. Increase permitted activities where possible to provide optimal use of school athletic fields.

### **Police Service**

There are four police districts that serve the needs of Anne Arundel County. The Southern District Police Station serves the Annapolis Neck Small Area and is located on MD 2 South at Virginia Avenue. A new district station facility is currently under construction at Stepney's Lane near Central Avenue in Edgewater, and the facility is expected to be completed in the spring of 2003. Presently, the Southern Police District boundary lines are expected to remain unchanged. A proposed new Central Police District is under consideration to serve the Annapolis Neck Small Area. In addition, the community of Bay Ridge currently has one officer providing police security. The City of Annapolis maintains its own police force.

The Southern Police District is presently comprised of eight patrol beats providing coverage 24-hours per day and three overlap beats staffed for eight hours each to increase patrol staffing during peak workload hours. Of the beats which comprise the Southern Police District, the Annapolis Neck Small Area is served by three beats staffed 24-hours and two overlap beats staffed eight hours each, one during day watch and one during evening watch. Officers patrol these beats using patrol vehicles, however, some areas are also served by officers using bicycles. The bicycle program provides patrol officers with an opportunity to interact more closely with citizens and enhances the officer's familiarity with the communities they serve.

Calls for service have been stable for the last four years. The response time for high priority calls (life threatening situations) is generally about four minutes Countywide. The County police have a good working relationship and work under a cooperative agreement with the City of Annapolis Police Department and the Maryland State Police. The County has a memorandum of understanding with the Maryland State Police that identifies primary areas of responsibility for the major thoroughfares within the Annapolis Neck Small Area.

There are also volunteer police Reserve Officers who work in the community. They provide auxiliary services at all the major events and assist with traffic control.

***Issues***

Several issues related to police service and public safety were identified at public forums and by committee members. There is a need for a police station (substation) in the Forest Drive Corridor. Some concern was expressed over inadequate police response times. Red light running at major intersections was cited as a problem, as were dangerous drivers on major roadways, particularly during rush hour. Some residents do not know which jurisdiction to call (City or County) regarding concerns about driving conditions, particularly along the Forest Drive corridor. There is a need for increased patrols along some roads in the area to deter random or organized acts of vandalism.

***Recommendations***

1. Improve City/County ability to coordinate police activities.
2. Increase police patrol activity along major roads during rush hours on a case by case basis where problems have been identified.
3. Consider, with citizen input, cameras at intersections with red-light runner problems.
4. Expand the program for police reserve officers. Increase public recognition of this arm of the police and provide increased funding to train and retain this volunteer force.

**Fire/EMS/Rescue Services**

The City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County and Naval Academy firefighters work cooperatively with one another. There is an Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement which means each jurisdiction will respond automatically to another's calls.

At the present time, the only County facility in the Annapolis Neck Planning Area is located on Jennifer Road. Although the West Annapolis Station receives the highest percentage of emergency calls of any station in Anne Arundel County, it does not have Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability. In addition, the West Annapolis Station has inadequate sleeping and living quarters given the current level of staffing in the facility. The Maximus Fire Service Deployment Study (2002) recommends that this station be equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability and that expansion of the sleeping and living quarters at this station be made a priority if the current deployment is maintained.

The City of Annapolis, by a verbal agreement with the County since 1979, receives payment from Anne Arundel County to provide first responder Fire/EMS/Rescue service to citizens on the Outer Annapolis Neck. County Stations in Riva and Woodland Beach provide second responder service to the Outer Annapolis Neck area. Only the Riva Station has Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability. The Maximus Study recommends that the Woodland Beach Station also be equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability.

The City serves its residents and County residents in the Annapolis Neck with three stations, one on Forest Drive, a second in Eastport, and a third on Taylor Avenue. The City's Comprehensive Plan indicates potential problems in the provision of Fire/EMS/Rescue service to the Outer Annapolis Neck, especially to additional new developments. The City's plan states that the Eastport fire station is inadequate, yet it serves as the first responder for the residents in the Outer Annapolis Neck.

Based on Fire/EMS responses between 1998-2001 to the Outer Annapolis Neck south and east of Bay Ridge at Hillsmere Road and north and east of Bay Ridge Road at Edgewood Road, the average response time was 11½ minutes. This does not include the impact of 253 age-restricted units under construction on Edgewood Road nor the 112 age-restricted units on appeal that are proposed for development in the Outer Neck on Edgewood Road. The State of Maryland, EMS Medical Director's Office compiled information that shows in 1999 in Maryland, the number of Emergency Medical Service transports is fairly level between the ages of 16-60. However, between the ages of 60-90 the number of EMS transports increases sixfold. These new age-restricted developments will place additional demands on the already over-extended Eastport Fire Station.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 recommended standards for the delivery of Fire/EMS/Rescue services in career fire departments as a tool for local policy makers to use when evaluating their own service delivery network. NFPA 1710 recommends:

1. a 2-minute or less dispatch and turn out or reaction time,
2. a 4-minute or less travel time for the initial arriving Basic Life Support (BLS) level of care in an EMS system,
3. an 8-minute or less travel time for Advanced Life Support (ALS) response or for a full structure fire.

The goal should be to achieve these maximum response times of 6 minutes for EMS Basic Life Support (BLS) and 10 minutes for EMS Advanced Life Support (ALS) or for a full structure fire a minimum of 90% of the time.

In regard to Emergency Medical Service (EMS), there is no plan to move this service out of any stations. The policy of the fire department is to send the closest piece of equipment to the emergency, even if it is a ladder truck, since all trucks carry personnel that are trained in Basic Life Support (BLS). Seventy to eighty percent of all calls are now for medical emergencies.

Fire prevention efforts have helped to reduce the number of fire calls Countywide, as have inspections by the Fire Department for all commercial buildings and better fire safety requirements for new buildings. There were only 600 structure fire calls in 1998 for the entire county.

The County has two strategies in place to provide adequate fire protection services to the

areas of the County which are not served with public water. The first is a master “Water Supply Study” for serving rural areas without public water. This plan won an award from the Maryland Association of Counties. It should be noted that the Outer Annapolis Neck is urban, not rural. The second strategy in place at this time for the Outer Neck is a 3,000 gallon water supply tanker engine that was acquired by the County but is housed and maintained in the City’s Forest Drive facility. A tanker engine is also located at the West Annapolis Fire Station to serve other portions of the Annapolis Neck Planning Area and as a backup for the Outer Neck. A cooperative agreement exists between the City and County for water service which permits the County to use City hydrants to refill its tankers.

There is a stark contrast in workload between the more urbanized and the more rural areas of the County. Approximately 17% of the land area of the County makes up 51% of the total emergency call workload. While the Annapolis Neck Small Planning Area only comprises 5.5% of the land area of the County, it makes up 15% of the Countywide total emergency call workload.

The Maximus Study states that Glen Burnie and Annapolis Neck have the largest population centers in the County today. The Annapolis Neck is projected to have the largest percentage increase in households in the County in the next 10 years.

A fire station has been proposed near the intersection of Bay Ridge Road and Arundel on the Bay Road since 1978. The County acquired the land for this facility in 1978. Since land for the fire station was purchased, significant growth has occurred in the County portion of the Annapolis Neck. Based on the 2000 Census, the population in this portion of the County grew in excess of 87% between 1980-2000.

The Maximus Study recommends adding five strategically located fire stations within the County without indication of priority. This recommendation includes Station 108 - Annapolis Neck for inclusion in the Capital and Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005. Both the Annapolis Neck SAP Committee and the PAB recommend that development should be delayed on the Annapolis Neck until this fire station is built.

### ***Issues***

Providing adequate Fire/EMS response times and maintaining an adequate water supply to meet fire response demands are primary concerns related to the provision of public safety services on the Annapolis Neck. Traffic conditions on some parts of the Annapolis Neck can also impede emergency response times, particularly along Forest Drive. Fire/EMS/Rescue services need to be improved.

### ***Recommendations***

1. Designate, plan, and budget the Bay Ridge Road/ Arundel on the Bay Road property as a joint usage fire and police facility for City and County use.

**Libraries**

The Annapolis Library on West Street is one of two area libraries in the Annapolis Neck Planning Area. Annapolis is the library system's primary source for business information. In December 1986, a 2,200 square foot addition was completed, creating a total of 20,900 square feet. Between the months of June 2000 and June 2001 the Annapolis branch circulated over 666,520 materials. This represents a 1.4 percent decrease in circulation from Fiscal Year 2000.

Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library is a 12,100 square foot branch library that opened in 1979. It is located on Hillsmere Drive. This library was recently remodeled to provide an information service desk in the central portion of the branch. The Eastport branch circulated approximately 246,658 materials between June 2000 and June 2001. This figure represents a 1.5 percent increase over materials circulation statistics from Fiscal Year 2000.

The two branches have different hours of service. Annapolis is open from 9-9 on Monday through Thursday, and from 9-5 on Friday and Saturday. It is open from 1-5 on Sunday. Eastport has no Sunday hours. It is open from 1-9 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 9-5 on Wednesday and Saturday, and 1-5 on Friday.

**Issues**

The following library issues were identified at public forums and by committee members. The Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library does not have Sunday hours, which may be desirable to residents. Many residents with children enrolled in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten classes pick up their children at noon. Since the library does not open until 1 p.m., they must wait an hour to use the branch. The Eastport-Annapolis Neck branch has only one entrance/exit driveway into its parking lot. Pedestrians cross the lot to enter and exit the building at the same point of entrance and exit for automobiles. This is potentially dangerous to pedestrians. Local residents would like to see the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library expanded and also maintain operating hours on Sundays, and would like a connection to the Hillsmere Shopping Center.

**Recommendations**

1. During the design phase for the Outer Neck activity center, work with library representatives and Hillsmere residents to determine the best location of the proposed hiker-biker trail connecting Old Annapolis Road and Hillsmere Road via the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library property.