

Community Facilities and Services

Recreation and Parks

The Brooklyn Park area is served by several local parks owned and maintained by the County's Department of Recreation and Parks. These community parks are shown on Map 11 and are listed below along with their approximate size and the types of facilities found in each.

Table 12. County Park Facilities in Brooklyn Park Small Area

Park	Location	Acreage	Facilities and Services
Arundel Village Park	Cross Street at Baltimore City line	16	picnic pavilion, basketball court
Brooklyn Park #1 (10 th Avenue Park)	10 th Avenue	15	soccer and baseball fields
Brooklyn Park #2	E. 11 th Avenue behind library	21	soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, play area (elementary school)
Hammonds Park	Hammonds Lane and Bon Air Ave.	7	tennis and basketball courts, play equipment
Pumphrey Park	Belle Grove Road	23	tennis and basketball courts, playground, community center
Riverside Park (2 sections)	Old Riverside Road, Meadow Road W., and Grove Park Rd.	3	basketball court (at Meadow Road W.), playground (at Grove Park Road)

The Brooklyn Park Middle School complex includes a football field, track, baseball field, tennis courts and basketball courts. The Recreation and Parks Department has an agreement with the Board of Education allowing use of all school ballfields by the general public during after-school hours. There is an additional public basketball court behind the Northern District Police Station off of Hammonds Lane. The middle school complex also contains the North County Recreation Center which offers a variety of recreational and educational classes for youth and adults.

Recent capital projects in the local parks include the installation of an irrigation system for the soccer field at Brooklyn Park #2, which will be used by a local soccer league; repaving of the parking lot at 10th Avenue Park; construction of a roller hockey rink at Brooklyn Park #2; and resurfacing of the basketball court in Riverside Park. Plans for the near future include installation of a stormwater management pond and walking trails in Arundel Village Park, and

new lighting at 10th Avenue Park.

Map 11

A portion of Patapsco Valley State Park extends along the north side of Belle Grove Road west of the Harbor Thruway Tunnel. There are some scenic views along this stretch of park land, but there are no facilities or trails in this section of the park. Much of the acreage is classified as wetlands and the entire area is a designated floodplain and a Resource Conservation Area within the Critical Area. The park is used by local residents primarily for fishing.

Located nearby but outside of the planning area, the BWI Bike Trail encompasses the airport property and also connects with the B&A Trail which extends to Annapolis. Local and State planners are looking at alternatives to connect these trails to Baltimore City and to the Southwest Area Park in Baltimore County. Two alignments currently being studied run along Belle Grove Road through Pumphrey and Brooklyn Park and along the MTA rail line.

Public Education

The Brooklyn Park Planning Area is located in the North County school feeder system and is served by three elementary schools, the Brooklyn Park Middle School, and the North County Senior High School. The elementary schools are Belle Grove Elementary, Brooklyn Park Elementary, and Park Elementary, all of which serve grades K through 5. Park Elementary also has a pre-kindergarten program. The middle school serves grades 6 through 8 and the high school serves grades 9 through 12. All three elementary schools have recently been assigned teaching positions in either or both first or second grades to reduce class sizes. Full day kindergarten is provided at Park Elementary and will be implemented at the other two area elementary schools during the 2004-2005 school year.

The State of Maryland assigns rated capacities to each school based on the number and type of classrooms in elementary schools and the number of teaching stations in middle and senior high schools. Projections of expected capacities are done over a ten year period. Rated capacities, actual 2003 and projected 2013 enrollments, and utilization percentages at each school are shown in Table 13. All of the schools are currently and projected to be below capacity, although Park Elementary School may be at full capacity by the end of the projection period. The addition to North County High School, completed in 2003, helped to relieve overcrowding in the school. This information is based on the July 2004 *Educational Facilities Master Plan*. New residential developments under construction in the Brooklyn Heights community and a planned development off of Cedar Hill Lane will all feed into Park Elementary School and will need to be accounted in future school enrollment projections.

The capital project to expand North County Senior High included additional classroom space, modernization of science facilities, an expanded cafeteria, and other internal renovations. Other programmed capital projects include funding for planning and engineering to replace the existing physical education facility at the high school. A feasibility study scheduled for FY08 will determine whether funds will be programmed for improvements to Belle Grove Elementary School. This school was originally occupied in 1952 with no major renovations to date and is

considered to be in poor physical condition.

Table 13. School Enrollment and Capacities

School	State Rated Capacity (2004)	2003 Actual Enrollment	2003 % Utilization	2013 Projected Enrollment	2013 % Utilization
North County High ¹	2110	2051	97%	1861	88%
Brooklyn Park Middle	835	609	73%	590	71%
Belle Grove Elementary ²	222	162	73%	175	85%
Brooklyn Park Elementary	664	335	50%	329	50%
Park Elementary	459	410	89%	453	99%

1. PE facility planning in FY04.

2. 2013 projected enrollment utilization based on state-rated capacity of 207. Feasibility study scheduled for FY08, with possible planning and construction in FY09-10.

Proposed development projects in Anne Arundel County are required through the review process to meet Adequacy of Public Facilities (APF) criteria related to school facilities. New developments are charged an impact fee per dwelling to contribute to education costs. 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.

Police Service

The Brooklyn Park Planning Area falls within the County's Northern Police District. The Northern District police station is located on Hammonds Lane at MD 648. The Station is in good condition and is suitably sized to handle current and proposed future staffing. The Northern District currently staffs 10 beats with 24-hour coverage and five overlap beats with 8-hour coverage. A beat is a particular geographic area covered by an officer. The Brooklyn Park Planning Area lies within portions of three patrol beats-- Beats 2A1, 2A2, and 2B2. Beat 2A1 covers Brooklyn Heights, Belle Grove, and portions of Olde Brooklyn Park with 24/7 coverage on a rotating shift basis. There is also an Overlap Beat assigned to cover 2A1 and 2A2 for an 8-

hour block of time, generally from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The Police Department determines patrol staffing needs and beat allocation based on several factors including: number of calls for service; geography; officer safety; response time; nature of calls for service; current staffing; current delivery of service; quality of service; and projected population increases.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) provides money to the County Police to staff three additional Light Rail beats with 16-hour coverage encompassing five of the Light Rail stations. Two of these (Nursery Road and North Linthicum) are located at the western edge of the Brooklyn Park area on or near MD 648.

The County Administration has been evaluating the need for redistricting to add a fifth police district in the County. A possible site for a new Central District station at MD 178 and MD 32 in Crownsville has been considered, but a final location is not yet determined. Due to current fiscal constraints, it is unlikely that the Police Department will be able to implement a fifth police district before the year 2010.

Within the boundaries of the planning area, the Brooklyn Heights community east of Ritchie Highway was designated a HotSpot in 1999 under the State HotSpot Communities Initiative. Through this program, the County has worked closely with community members to implement a safety strategy targeting illegal drug activity, vandalism, overcrowded homes in disrepair, truancy and trash. The safety strategy includes community mobilization; increased law enforcement; increased supervision through a community probation/police team; nuisance abatement; an after-school youth crime prevention program; victim outreach and assistance through the YWCA Domestic Violence Program; and support for addiction recovery.

Administered by the County Police Department, agencies such as the Health Department, YWCA, Zoning Enforcement, Recreation and Parks, Juvenile Justice, and Animal Control put extra resources into the community to fight crime, improve properties with respect to zoning and health code violations, respond more quickly to dangerous animal complaints and generally to be a presence right in the community. The Police Department has maintained a store front office in a community shopping center on Ritchie Highway, which has been staffed with representatives from the various agencies at different times during the week to be available to help residents obtain government services. However, cuts in funding for the HotSpot Initiative have limited the ability to staff the store front office and to maintain the desired level of community outreach.

Fire/EMS/Rescue Services

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department is a career staff department providing emergency medical, fire and rescue services to County citizens. The members of the Department are highly trained individuals. Every member of the Department holds State certification, showing they meet or exceed the requirements for the position they hold. Many members also hold national certification. In addition to the traditional services provided by the fire service, the County Fire Department has personnel trained in Hazardous Materials incident mitigation,

dive/water rescue, high-angle rescue, confined space rescue, collapse rescue and a variety of other technical rescue situations.

The Brooklyn Park area is served by the Brooklyn Station Company 31, located on the corner of Ritchie Highway and 11th Avenue. The station houses a paramedic unit, an engine company and a truck company. The former station was recently replaced with a new 10,000 sq. ft. facility. The new station opened for operation in 2004.

While it is not fiscally practical to locate a station in every community, stations are strategically placed throughout the County to provide the best overall coverage possible. First due service is provided by the company closest to a given area. However, depending on the type of call received, units from more than one station may respond.

The Brooklyn Station is located in the portion of Brooklyn Park that is served by Baltimore City's water supply system. Currently there is concern over the adequacy of the water supply in this area. The water mains are aging and do not have adequate pressures and volume for fire flow demands. The County has allocated funding in the capital budget to assume ownership of the system in Brooklyn Park, isolate it from Baltimore City's system, and rehabilitate water mains and meters. Completion of this work is pending an agreement with Baltimore City.

Libraries

The Brooklyn Park Branch Library is located at 1 East 11th Avenue. Opened in 1971, this branch has 12,500 square feet and a materials collection of more than 46,100 items. Monthly circulation at the library averages 8,000(+) materials, which represents 2 percent of the entire library system circulation. The Brooklyn Park Branch is open on Monday through Saturday for a total of 44 hours per week.

The County Library System is a quasi-independent agency governed by a 24-member Board of Trustees who serve on a volunteer basis. The Board's current Facilities Master Plan outlined repair and renovation projects for all 15 library branches. Projects are prioritized by need and requested through the budget process each year. Completed projects at the Brooklyn Park Branch in 2000-01 included drainage and roof improvements, interior painting, renovation of restrooms, and upgrades to interior and exterior lighting. Future projects will include the fill-in of the story pit area with concrete and carpet, and renovation of the staff kitchen. After completion of the Crofton Library replacement facility in 2002, the next planned capital project for the library system will be construction of a West County Regional Library that will replace the Odenton Library.

Other Community Services

The former Brooklyn Park Junior and Senior High School was recently converted to accommodate a new middle school program and community facility. In addition to the middle

school, the newly renovated building houses many community services. These include the Department of Aging Senior Center which offers nutrition, health screening, exercise, and community college class programs; police youth programs including the D.A.R.E. drug program; and Department of Recreation and Parks programs among others. Most notably, the auditorium and other space that was originally designated for demolition is now run by a new nonprofit organization called the Chesapeake Arts Center and is used for artist studios, dance studios, a musical practice area and other artistically-related activities. The multi-use center has created a new focus for renewed community interest, and it serves as a cultural center for all of Northern Anne Arundel County.

The Lloyd Keaser Community Center in the Pumphrey community was rehabilitated using CDBG funds and is now leased by the County to the active Taxpayers Improvement Association of Patapsco Park. The center is operated and maintained by local community volunteers and serves as the location for numerous services for nearby residents. The federally-funded Head Start program operates from the center and provides pre-school educational services for children from local low income households. In addition, a child care program was recently instituted at the community center to complement the Head Start program by providing children with full day, full year care. The County's Meals on Wheels program offers nutritional lunches from the center for area senior citizens. The center also provides a variety of recreational activities and programs for neighborhood youths and has become an important community meeting and gathering place. Space is currently being set up in the facility to provide computer classes for area residents.

Assets and Issues

The public facilities in the Brooklyn Park Planning Area – parks, library, schools, etc. – are in reasonably good condition and most are generally well-utilized, although some facilities are aging and will need to be renovated or replaced over the next several years. The County continually assesses the need to improve public facilities as part of its annual review and adoption of the Capital Budget and Program. The Chesapeake Arts Center is considered to be a major asset in the community, and its presence will be used to help stimulate redevelopment in the area. The Brooklyn Park Middle School and Park Elementary School were both renovated recently and are in excellent condition. The new Senior Center and the Brooklyn Park Library are both well used by local area residents.

Most of the future needs identified by area residents are related to providing additional recreational opportunities, improving facilities in some existing parks, increasing performance ratings in the local schools, enhancing public safety services, and improving the maintenance of area parks and other public facilities. The relatively high crime rate and relatively low levels of educational attainment are social problems that have persisted in the Brooklyn Park area for several years, and the improvement of educational and public safety facilities and services has been and continues to be a high priority among Brooklyn Park residents.

Goals and Recommendations

Goal: Provide a wide variety of recreational activities and facilities for local residents of all ages.

Recommendations

1. Encourage full utilization of all park facilities. In particular, take actions to address the issue of over-use of the ball fields in Brooklyn Park #1 (10th Avenue Park) and under-use of Brooklyn Park #2.
2. Provide restroom facilities, concession facilities, and lighting for the ball fields and courts in Brooklyn Park #2.
3. Provide drainage improvements in Brooklyn Park #1 (10th Avenue Park) to prevent ponding of stormwater runoff on the ballfields.
4. Provide another site for playground equipment in the Planning Area, either in an existing park or by acquiring additional space. Consider provision of playground equipment in Brooklyn Park #2. Replace the playground equipment in Brooklyn Park #1 that was destroyed.
5. Determine whether one of the softball fields at the Brooklyn Park Middle School could be better used for an alternative use that would fill a need in the community.
6. Assess alternative uses for Arundel Village Park, much of which is undeveloped, and program funds for planning. Possible uses which should be given consideration include a recreation center, a community garden, a skating rink, and/or volleyball courts.
7. Continue planning and design efforts for provision of a bike trail along Belle Grove Road which would connect to the BWI Trail in Linthicum.
8. Work with MD Department of Natural Resources planners to initiate a feasibility study and planning efforts to provide some passive recreational use in Patapsco Valley State Park. Uses that should be considered include scenic viewpoints, a boardwalk and walking trail, a canoe-launching site, fishing sites, a picnic area, and an interpretive nature trail.
9. Seek opportunities for more passive park uses in the Planning Area, including picnic areas and benches placed in attractive landscaped settings.
10. Determine the feasibility of acquiring the currently vacant building at Ritchie Highway

and East 11th Avenue (former E.J. Roberts site) for conversion into a public community center. If not available, seek other opportunities and sites to provide a community center.

Goal: Ensure that Brooklyn Park residents have access to high-quality, attractive, and state-of-the art educational facilities.

Recommendations

1. Program capital funds for the renovation of Belle Grove Elementary School.
2. Take actions to improve local school performance ratings by increasing the quality of education and raising educational attainment levels in the area.
 - Establish volunteer literacy programs in the local schools to assist struggling students.
 - Provide funding for after-school programs for local youth.
 - Reduce student-teacher ratios in area elementary schools in the early grades (K-3) to help improve student performance.
3. Expand the continuing adult education opportunities offered at the Brooklyn Park Middle School. Local residents are interested in more accredited college courses and prerequisite classes, vocational training, and GED certificate programs.

Goal: Provide adequate and responsive public safety services to all local communities at all times.

Recommendations

1. Allocate resources to establish an additional police beat to cover the Brooklyn Heights and Belle Grove communities.
2. Study the feasibility of offering a homeowner's tax incentive program, or other financial incentives, for public safety officials to encourage them to purchase homes in targeted areas where their presence would provide a community benefit. Increase public awareness of programs already in place such as the HUD Officer Next Door program.
3. Request that the Police Department initiate the development of improved strategies and/or processes to follow up crimes of theft.
4. Conduct an inventory of local streets and alleys to determine where additional lighting is needed for public safety purposes, and provide funding for this infrastructure.

Goal: Improve the utilization and maintenance of existing public facilities to address current

deficiencies.

Recommendations

1. Identify opportunities for multiple uses or consolidation of uses in public facilities to maximize their use.
2. Establish a public/private program using volunteer community groups and County agencies to provide better maintenance of local parks, school grounds, and other community facilities.
3. Promote increased patronage for the Chesapeake Arts Center through increased advertising.

Public Utilities

Water and Sewer Service

Public sewer and water service areas in the Brooklyn Park Planning Area are shown on Maps 12 and 13. As can be seen, the majority of the planning area is served by both public water and sewer. Existing sewer service extends to all residential neighborhoods and excludes only the sand and gravel operation and some industrial areas west of the Harbor Tunnel Thruway; the Holy Cross, Cedar Hill, and Mt. Calvary cemeteries; and the area south of Cedar Hill Lane. Existing water service covers the entire planning area with the exception of the Cedar Hill and Mt. Calvary cemeteries and the undeveloped land south of Cedar Hill Lane.

The majority of the area not served by public water and sewer is in the Planned Service category. Planned service areas are programmed for growth in accordance with the County's *General Development Plan* and Small Area Plans, and water and sewer facilities are provided by both the private sector and the County, although in most cases private developers or property owners are required to cover the cost of extending water and sewer facilities to their property.

The County's adopted *Master Plan for Water and Sewer Systems* is the policy document for the provision and timing of public sewer and water. The document incorporates the strategic planning of public utility infrastructure, the policies of environmental and public health, and the management of development to meet the long range goals of the County. The master plan is updated approximately every three years, and was most recently updated in 2003.

A small portion of the planning area, just north of the Baltimore Beltway and east of Ritchie Highway, is designated in the No Public Service sewer category. Generally, a service category change request, which involves an amendment to the Master Plan for Water and Sewer, is required to extend sewer to areas designated for No Public Service. In areas where public sewer and water are not provided, private wells and septic systems provide these services. These systems are maintained privately by homeowners and businesses.

Sewer Service

The Brooklyn Park Planning Area is located within portions of two sewer service areas (SSAs): the Baltimore City SSA and the Cox Creek SSA. The majority of the planning area falls within the Baltimore City SSA and conveys sewage flows to the Pataspc Wastewater Treatment Plant, located on Wagner's Point in Baltimore City. The plant, owned and operated by BaltimoreCity, has an allowable operating capacity of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) and is undergoing an expansion up to 87.5 MGD. Anne Arundel County's existing flows to this plant are approximately 3.4 MGD out of a purchased capacity of 6.39 MGD, which is based on the existing allowable operating capacity of the plant. This purchased capacity should be adequate to service flows projected from the Baltimore SSA through 2020.

Map 12

Map 13

Anne Arundel County has entered into several agreements with both Howard and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City regarding jointly utilizing sewerage facilities. These agreements stipulate capacity allocations to Anne Arundel County as well as capital and operating cost allocations.

Recently completed capital projects in the Baltimore City SSA included a sewer line project along Cedar Hill Lane that eliminated two County-maintained sewer pumping stations and alleviated capacity problems in the area. Currently, the County is conducting on-going sewer main rehabilitation projects in this area.

A small portion of the planning area falls within the Cox Creek SSA and conveys sewage flows south to the Cox Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), located off Wagner Road in the Brandon Shores area. The 15 MGD rated facility provides activated sludge secondary treatment and phosphorus reduction facilities with an annual average daily flow of approximately 11.5 MGD. The treated effluent is discharged to the Patapsco River. The facility was recently upgraded to provide Biological Nutrient Removal treatment.

The site (acreage) housing the Cox Creek WRF is fully used and not able to support additional capacity expansion. Current projections indicate ultimate capacity required to serve the entire SSA is 16.62 MGD. To address the problem of capacity limitations, some existing and future sewage flows are being redirected to other sewer service areas whose treatment facilities have additional capacity. The 2003 *Master Plan for Water and Sewer Systems* transferred the land between Cedar Hill Lane and the Baltimore Beltway into the Baltimore City Sewer Service Area, so that when that land is developed and sewer service is extended to it, flows will be directed to the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ongoing studies are also investigating the potential for redirecting other existing and future flow from areas on the southern border of the Cox Creek SSA to the Broadneck SSA and WRF which is capable of continued expansion.

Additional areas of the Cox Creek SSA could be redirected to the Baltimore SSA. This will be determined in the second phase of the Comprehensive Strategic Sewer Plan currently underway. Two potential sites have been identified for a possible future Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) to assist with the Cox Creek WRF limitations. One site is near the Hammonds Ferry Road and I-695 interchange in North Linthicum, and the other is along Stahl Point Road near Baltimore City. At this time, other solutions such as redirecting flows are considered preferable to construction of a new treatment facility; however, a new facility could provide a significant improvement to the overall system of operations.

Water Service

The Brooklyn Park Planning Area is served with public water from both the County's Glen Burnie High 295 Water Pressure Zone and from Baltimore City. The Brooklyn Park 350/190 Water Pressure Zone, which receives water from Baltimore City, covers portions of Olde Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Heights. The system was previously owned and operated by

Baltimore City. Recently the County signed an agreement to take over the ownership and operation of the water lines in the Brooklyn Park system, but the water supply will continue to be provided by Baltimore City for the present time. It is in the strategic goals of the Water Master Plan to optimize the use of existing and potential County supply wells in order to minimize reliance on the Baltimore City Central Water System to serve Anne Arundel County's water demands.

The Dorsey Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP) provides water to the 295 pressure zone in the County and is located along Dorsey Road adjacent to I-97. Currently five wells provide raw water to the plant for treatment capacity totaling 3.5 MGD. The plant also receives 2.5 MGD from the Glen Burnie Low Zone (220 zone) for re-distribution into the 295 zone. This is received in the plant's clear well and is, therefore, mixed with the treated raw water supply. Treatment provided includes aeration, prechlorination, chemical addition, coagulation, sedimentation, fluoridation, disinfection and filtration.

There are two self-contained wells (SCW's) that serve the 295 zone: (1) the Stevenson Road SCW and (2) the Telegraph Road SCW. Both SCW's provide chemical addition, disinfection and fluoridation. Rated capacities of the Stevenson Road SCW and Telegraph Road SCW are 0.64 MGD and 0.96 MGD, respectively. A third SCW, Quarterfield Road, is currently out of service due to the detection of radium that exceeds the maximum contaminant level (MCL). There is a capital project to remove the excessive levels of radium.

There is a small area in the southeast corner of the Brooklyn Small Area Plan that is not currently served with public water. The *Master Plan for Water Supply and Sewer Systems* outlines the installation of a few water mains in the future to serve this area. As it is with the extension of public sewer service, the extensions of water service are done so by petition request of those wishing to be served or through the guidelines of subdivision development. The County will be conducting water main rehabilitation projects in this area in the next few years.