

## Education and Community Facilities

### Recreation and Parks

The Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area is served by four local parks owned and maintained by the County’s Department of Recreation and Parks. These community parks are shown on Map 15 and listed below along with their approximate size and the types of facilities found in each.

**Table 16. County Park Facilities Serving the Jessup/Maryland City Small Area**

Park	Location	Acreage	Facilities and Services
Bacontown Park	Whiskey Bottom Road	7	baseball field, tennis courts, playground, basketball court
Jessup/Dorsey Park	Race Road	21	baseball field, tennis courts, playground, picnic area, pavilion
Jessup Park	Montevideo Road	6	baseball field, multi-purpose field
Maryland City Park	Brockbridge Road	188	baseball field, tennis courts, multi-purpose field, playground, picnic area, basketball court, exercise course

In addition to these facilities, 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. Scheduling is maintained by the Recreation and Parks staff.

The Oxbow Natural Area is a large preservation area of over 200 acres on the Little Patuxent River in Maryland City. Approximately 50 acres are owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the remainder owned by the County. This park is essentially managed as a nature preserve and has only limited access and no active use facilities. The County’s Department of Recreation and Parks has long range plans to construct a visitor and nature center here in the future when funds become available. East of the BW Parkway, the extensive Patuxent Research Refuge borders the Planning Area and is also managed as a nature preserve, although it contains some walking and equestrian trails.

In order to meet the large increase in population that is projected over the next twenty years in western Anne Arundel County, funds have been approved for a study to identify available sites to establish a regional park to provide day use recreational facilities for the West County area.

Map 15

## Public Education

The Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area is located entirely within the Meade High School feeder system and is served by two middle schools and six elementary schools. The boundaries of the elementary and middle school feeder systems covering the Planning Area are shown on Maps 16 and 17. The senior high school serves grades 9 through 12, the middle schools serve grades 6 through 8, and the elementary schools serve grades K through 5. Jessup and Maryland City elementary schools also have pre-kindergarten programs. The Board of Education is currently working on a plan to provide full day kindergarten in all County elementary schools by 2007.

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, projected 2003 and 2012 enrollments, and utilization percentages at each school are shown in Table 17. The majority of the schools are currently and projected to be below capacity. However, these projections do not account for land use changes proposed in this Plan which may affect development densities in the area. Manor View, Pershing Hill, and West Meade elementary schools are projected to exceed their capacities during the projection period. This information is based on the July 2003 *Educational Facilities Master Plan*.

**Table 17. School Enrollments and Capacities**

School	State Rated Capacity (2003)	2003 Estimated Enrollment	2003 % Utilization	2012 Projected Enrollment	2012 % Utilization
Brock Bridge Elementary	564	475	84%	487	86%
Jessup Elementary	649	562	87%	552	85%
Maryland City Elementary	476	313	66%	404	85%
Manor View Elementary	636	567	89%	710	112%
Pershing Hill Elementary	394	332	84%	455	115%
West Meade Elementary	334	244	73%	427	128%
MacArthur Middle	1,726	1,127	65%	1,108	64%
Meade Middle	1,144	907	79%	899	78%
Meade Senior High	2,208	1,872	85%	1,723	78%

Map 16

Map 17

The majority of the Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area is served by Brock Bridge, Maryland City, and Jessup elementary schools. A very small portion of the Planning Area is served by Manor View Elementary School. This area is a portion of the Blob's Park parcel that is designated for future Residential Mixed-Use development. The impact that this development would have on this school would depend on the development plan. For example, the concept plan for Blob's Park that was used as a guide for what could potentially happen at this site if developed under a Mixed Use scenario shows this area as Office Use and would therefore have no impact on Manor View Elementary. The portion of the Planning Area served by Pershing Hill and West Meade elementary schools is owned by the federal government and is that area located between the BW Parkway and Fort Meade.

The opening of the new Meade Middle School in 1998 helped to relieve overcrowding in some of the feeder system schools. In addition, the County has allocated funds for a new Seven Oaks Elementary School in Odenton which would add capacity to the County's school system and may affect enrollment capacities at schools within the Jessup/Maryland City Small Area.

The Residential Community Initiative Project on Fort Meade will rebuild housing on the military base and add additional, larger housing units. This project is projected to be built out by 2008 and may yield over 700 new elementary students, 250 middle students, and 80 senior high students, according to the *Educational Facilities Master Plan*. This major initiative will impact the middle and senior high schools in the Meade feeder system as well as Manor View, Pershing Hill, and West Meade elementary schools. In addition, the Arundel Preserve planned mixed use development as well as potential future mixed use developments discussed in this Plan will all impact Jessup Elementary School and Meade Middle School. Adequacy of school facilities will have to be demonstrated for all of these planned developments prior to approval of the projects.

The Center for Applied Technology North is located outside the Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area in Severn and serves all of northern Anne Arundel County. This County vocational school offers high school students from Arundel, Chesapeake, Glen Burnie, Meade, North County, and Old Mill High Schools specialized training in fields such as construction, automotive technology, and computer technology. Also nearby to the Planning Area, the Anne Arundel Community College opened a new satellite campus at the Arundel Mills Mall complex in the fall of 2003.

## **Police Service**

The Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area falls within the County's Western Police District. The Western District police station is located on Telegraph Road (MD 170) in Odenton. The Western District currently staffs 11 beats and four overlap beats, which includes a new daytime overlap beat in the Maryland City area. A beat is a particular area covered by an officer and usually has 24-hour coverage. Four officers are assigned to beats in the Jessup/Maryland City planning area. The Western District Police Station is in good condition but its current size

is not suitable to handle future demands, according to a background study conducted for the *FY2002 Capital Budget and Program (CIP)*. The CIP has a project for the Western District Police Station that consists of a 1,800 square-foot addition to the existing station. This project is budgeted to begin construction in FY2007.

The Anne Arundel County Police Department has been evaluating the need for adding a fifth police district in the County. Due to current fiscal budgetary constraints, it is unlikely that the Police Department will be able to implement a fifth police patrol district before the year 2010. However, an interim realignment of the four existing police districts will be considered for FY2005.

### **Fire/EMS/Rescue Services**

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department is a combination career and volunteer 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 Department recently became the first fire department in the State to receive accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

The Jessup/Maryland City area is served by two fire stations: Maryland City Station 27 on MD 198, and Jessup Station 29 on MD 175. 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. All response certified members of the Fire Department are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). In addition, every station has at least one Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to provide life saving treatment to victims of heart attacks.

The County recently completed a replacement of the fire station at Maryland City. The Jessup Fire Station has been targeted for needed expansion and improvements, although this project has not been programmed for funding at this time.

### **Libraries**

The Maryland City/Russett Branch Library at 3501 Russett Common serves the Jessup/Maryland City Small Area. Opened in 1998, this branch has 15,214 square feet and a materials collection of 70,000 items. Monthly circulation averages 22,700 which is 5.2% of the entire system circulation. This branch is open Monday through Sunday. As the newest County library, the Maryland City/Russett Branch has been a model for architectural planning and design. Other nearby libraries outside of the planning area include the Provinces Branch Library on MD 175 at Ridge Road.

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 Facilities Master Plan outlines repair and renovation projects for all 15 library branches. Projects are prioritized by need and requested through the budget process each year. Currently a new 40,000 square foot West County Regional Library is under construction in the Odenton Town Center.

## **Assets and Issues**

Community members have generally expressed satisfaction with most of the community services and facilities in the area, and both the new branch library and fire station in Maryland City have been a boost to the community. However, there are some areas where community members feel they are lacking in services. These are listed below.

*Shortage of active recreational facilities:* Although there are some local park facilities in the area, some residents feel park services are inadequate. Most of the area parks are small and are widely scattered, and there is no regional park in the area. Maintenance at some of the local parks (i.e. tennis courts, ballfields, etc.) has been an issue with residents of the area. Community members also feel there is a shortage of recreational programs available for adults and for children.

*Quality of public school facilities:* Public schools in the planning area are currently under capacity. However, community members are concerned that future projected enrollments may not be accounting for all planned and/or approved development in the area. Also, although schools may be under capacity in terms of actual square footage, number of classrooms, or number of students, capacity ratings do not necessarily account for physical problems or constraints in the facilities that have an impact on their adequacy (i.e. there may be a discrepancy between the rated capacity and "real" capacity). For example, some schools have classrooms separated by partitions instead of actual walls, others have inadequate air conditioning, and Meade High School has known discipline problems. All of these factors are detrimental to provision of a high quality learning environment, regardless of the number of students enrolled.

*Limited educational opportunities for adults:* With no community colleges or vocational schools in the area, some adults feel that opportunities for continuing education and training are lacking.

*Need to improve communication with State and Federal officials regarding facilities located in the area:* Coordination and communication between Federal, State, and County planning officials and local communities needs to be improved with regard to the House of Corrections, the Oak Hill Detention Center, Fort Meade, and other facilities located in the area that are not under the County's jurisdiction, since these facilities have an impact on neighboring communities.

## **Goals and Recommendations**

**Goal 1: Provide high quality recreational and community facilities for residents and employees in the Jessup/Maryland City area.**

**Recommendations**

1. Explore opportunities both to expand existing local parks (Jessup Park, Bacontown Park, etc.) by acquiring adjoining acreage where feasible, and to locate new active use parks and public open spaces in the area by acquiring additional acreage (Oak Hill Detention Center site) and/or by incorporating recreational areas into new mixed use developments.
2. Increase the level of maintenance at Bacontown Park as well as other area parks.
3. Acquire use of the open space behind Jessup Elementary School to be used as nature trails or other outdoor classroom facilities.
4. Upgrade Jessup Park on Montevideo Road to include running water, restroom facilities, benches, and playground equipment.
5. Encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide equestrian facilities at the northern entrance of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge on MD 198.
6. Encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to clean up and resurface the entrance road (Bald Eagle Drive) and ballfields adjacent to the northern entrance of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.
7. Establish fishing and observation sites along the Little Patuxent River at feasible locations on Brock Bridge Road.
8. Encourage the County or State to acquire acreage within the Oak Hill Detention Center site for use as a regional park or for other community facilities or uses.
9. Continue the current expanded hours of operation at the Russett and Provinces Libraries that include evening and Sunday hours.

**Goal 2: Improve educational opportunities for residents and employees in the Jessup and Maryland City areas.**

**Recommendation**

1. Increase educational opportunities for the residents of the western part of the County. Jessup/Maryland City and Odenton have large increases in population projected over the next twenty years relative to other areas in the County and yet have been relatively under-served in terms of proximity to higher education. The new Anne Arundel Community College satellite campus at Arundel Mills Mall will help to meet this need.

Additional opportunities should be pursued to benefit the existing residential and business community, including National Business Park employees, and to attract new businesses by providing access to continuing education courses. As previously discussed, the County is encouraged to explore the possibility of acquiring acreage on the Oak Hill Detention Center site for this purpose should opportunities for acquisition arise.

A suggestion to immediately improve community college opportunities for the Small Area is to establish a reciprocity agreement between counties that would create an “*Inter-County Residency Zone*.” This would allow people who live in defined boundaries of different counties the benefit of paying “residency” rates for courses at each other’s community colleges. (i.e. Maryland City residents could attend nearby Howard Community College which is a 15-minute commute.)

**Goal 3: Improve the quality of education for all students in the Jessup/Maryland City area.**

**Recommendations**

1. Increase the number of partnerships between the business community and the schools.
2. Establish a Countywide appreciation and recognition program for the business partners.
3. Encourage the schools to invite greater parental involvement and participation at the local school level.
4. Increase participation in national science and math programs and competitions.
5. Establish a vocational school in the area.

**Goal 4: Improve the learning environment in the local schools.**

**Recommendations**

1. Reward local school teachers and staff members for identifying and effectively dealing with discipline problems.
2. Form an alliance between the schools, the police department, the court system, and parents to explore solutions and monitor progress toward increasing security and discipline in the schools.

**Goal 5: Provide a high level of public safety for residents and business owners in the Jessup/Maryland City area**

**Recommendations**

1. Authorize the establishment of a multi-county police facility in the area to serve as a temporary holding and booking facility.
2. Provide for replacement of the fire equipment that has exceeded its 20-year useful life at the Maryland City Fire Station.
3. Complete the expansion of the Jessup Fire Station as currently planned in the County's Capital Budget.
4. Prohibit roadside activities, such as, but not limited to, fundraising and sales.

**Goal 6: Maintain and improve coordination and communication between Federal, State and neighboring County planning officials and local communities with regard to major government facilities in the area in order to minimize the impacts of these facilities on the surrounding communities.**

**Recommendation**

1. Develop a process or mechanisms to ensure that the public is informed of plans related to the operation, maintenance, and/or expansion of government facilities in the planning area, and is given opportunity to provide input during the planning phases, so that adverse impacts on neighboring communities will be minimized.

## **Public Utilities**

### **Water and Sewer Service**

The County's *Master Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Systems* is the policy document for the provision and timing of public water and sewer service. This policy is based largely on the *General Development Plan* and Small Area Plans. Maps 18 and 19 show public sewer and water service areas in the Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area in accordance with the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan adopted in 2003. The master plan is updated approximately every three years.

The areas served by both public water and sewer include Russett, Maryland City, a portion of the National Business Park, and some areas near MD 100. The majority of the area not served by existing water and sewer is in the Planned Service Category. Planned Service Areas are programmed for growth in accordance with the *General Development Plan*. Water and sewer facilities are provided by both the private sector and the County in these areas designated for service. In most cases, private developers or property owners are required to cover the cost of extending water and sewer facilities to their property.

The 2003 Master Plan changed the service category from Planned Service to Future Service for a large portion of the Jessup area north of MD 175 and west of the BW Parkway. This is consistent with the current zoning in the area and the Low Density Residential land use category proposed in this Small Area Plan. Future Service areas are not planned for public service but may be programmed for future growth. An amendment to the Water and Sewer Master Plan would be required before public utilities could be extended to this area.

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. The Maryland House of Corrections and the Oak Hill Detention Center have their own sewer facilities and are not part of the County's service area.

### ***Sewer Service***

The Jessup/Maryland City planning area is located within portions of three sewer service areas (SSA): the Baltimore City SSA, the Maryland City SSA and the Patuxent SSA. Limits of the Baltimore City service area are generally established by the Patapsco River drainage area, which includes Jessup north of MD 175. The Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant, located on Wagner's Point in Baltimore City, provides treatment for the majority of sewage in the service area. The plant is owned and operated by Baltimore City. Anne Arundel County purchases an allocated amount of operating capacity at the treatment plant from Baltimore City. The County has entered into several agreements with both Howard and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City regarding jointly utilizing sewerage facilities.

Map 18

Map 19

More detail regarding strategic planning efforts to date that identify future system capacity needs can be found in the recently adopted 2003 *Water and Sewer Master Plan*. As described in the Plan, one option under consideration is the design and construction of a “potential” new Water Reclamation Facility within either the Baltimore City or adjacent Cox Creek sewer service area in order to provide capacity for future anticipated flows.

The Maryland City SSA includes the portion of the Patuxent River drainage basin west of Fort Meade and south of MD 175. Maryland City, Russett and the National Business Park are located within this service area. The Maryland City Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), located west of Maryland City, treats sewerage from the service area and discharges to the Patuxent River. This WRF was constructed in 1990 by the Russett developer and was designed to serve the capacity requirements of the Russett development as well as estimated flows for the existing and planned service categories within the service area. This facility will meet the current projected capacity requirements contained in the Master Plan.

The portion of the Small Area to the east of the BW Parkway and north of Fort Meade (Blob’s Park vicinity) is in the Patuxent Sewer Service Area. Although this area is not currently served by public sewer, it lies within the a Planned service area of the Master Plan. Wastewater collected from this area would be conveyed to the Patuxent Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) for treatment. The Patuxent WRF, located west of MD 3 just north of Crofton, was recently re-rated to 7.5 MGD. Current planning estimates contained in the *Water and Sewer Master Plan* indicate that the Patuxent WRF will require further expansion to 9.0 MGD by the year 2020.

The State prison is served by an on-site facility owned by the House of Corrections and operated and maintained by Maryland Environmental Services.

### ***Water Service***

The Jessup/Maryland City Planning Area is located within portions of the Fort Meade West (Jessup) 400, the Fort Meade West (Maryland City) 369, and the Airport Square 350 Water Pressure Zones (WPZ).

Existing water service within the Jessup WPZ is generally bounded by MD 295 (BW Parkway), Howard County, Montevideo Road and MD 32. It is anticipated that the eastern boundary of the Jessup WPZ will be extended east across the BW Parkway beyond Ridge Road to serve new development in that area. Water servicing the zone is received from the adjacent Airport Square WPZ via the Montevideo Water Booster Pumping Station.

Capital projects planned for the Jessup WPZ include the Fort Meade Water Booster Pump Station (Project #W7934) and a planned 24-inch transmission main along MD-175 that will cross MD-295 (Project #W7932) to provide redundant supply to the Jessup Elevated Tank using the Crofton Meadows Water Treatment Plant for its source. This is contingent upon completion of the 36-inch transmission main (Project #W7784) from Chapelgate Road to the

proposed water booster station at the intersection of MD 175 and MD 713. A primary factor impacting completion of the pump station and the transmission main is the timing of the potential Fort Meade water system take-over. By completing the Ft. Meade BPS and associated projects, the County will be in a better position to serve the 400 and 369 zones and potentially the Fort Meade water system by utilizing water from Crofton Meadows WTP, thereby reducing reliance on the City of Baltimore which is consistent with the *Water Strategic Plan*. In addition to the planned 24-inch transmission main along MD 175 (Project #W7932), a 16-inch loop main is proposed north of MD 175 along Ridge Road and Clark Road, which will effectively expand the 400 zone east of BW Parkway to Ridge Road. Currently, it is anticipated that the development community will construct the 16-inch loop main along Ridge Road and Clark Road. After completion of the 16-inch main, the County will incorporate the Ridge Forest subdivision into the 400 zone. Currently, this subdivision is served by the County by boosting water from the Airport Square 350 WPZ to a 360-ft gradient. Some of the proposed developments and existing subdivisions that could potentially be served by these improvements include Blob's Park, Arundel Preserve (Kirk Property), the Dorchester development, the St. Clair Property, and the Ridgefield Water Petition project. As well, the planned 16-inch main along Ridge Road will pass through the Provinces private water system, but currently there are no plans to connect to the private system. However, if the Provinces community petitions for public water service in the future, the County would have infrastructure in place to easily connect to the private system.

The Maryland City 369 WPZ is generally bounded by MD 295 to the east; Howard County to the west; MD 32 to the north and the Patuxent River to the south. It is anticipated sometime in the future that the eastern boundary will be extended east crossing MD 295 to serve the MD 198 corridor. Water servicing the zone is received from the adjacent 400 pressure zone via a control valve along Brock Bridge Road at MD 32. Therefore, two main supply sources provide water to the 369 pressure zone: (1) Baltimore City at the County's connection at Nursery Road, and (2) the Dorsey Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

A new 2-MG elevated storage tank is planned for the Maryland City WPZ as capital project #W7996. This project will increase storage capacity in the area for emergency and fire flow conditions. In addition, a redundant supply to the Maryland City WPZ from the Crofton Meadows WTP is planned by constructing an east-west transmission main through Fort Meade along MD 198. This is contingent upon partial completion of the 36-inch transmission main (Project #W7784) from Chapelgate Road to MD 198. As part of the east-west transmission main, a 330 to 369 water booster station would be required along MD 198. Due to the uncertainty of the Fort Meade water system take-over, funding for these projects have not been approved at this time.

The north portion of the Planning Area is within a small portion of the Airport Square 350 WPZ. This part of the 350 zone is generally bounded by Forest Avenue, BW Parkway, and Dorsey Road. The 350 zone is supplied by Baltimore City at the County's Nursery Road Water

Booster Station and from the Dorsey Road WTP via the Harmans water booster station which is located at the intersection of Dorsey and Ridge Road. These booster stations supply the 350 zone Arundel Mills ET, which supplies the Montevideo water booster station which supplies the Jessup 400 zone ET. Currently, there are no capital projects planned in this portion of the Airport Square 350 WPZ.

### **Community Issues**

The primary issue of concern related to public utilities that has been heard in the community concerns ongoing problems with failing septic systems in Jessup north of MD 175, and particularly in the Forest Avenue and Reavis Road vicinity. Several property owners have had to install alternative septic systems, such as mound systems, to correct the problems. Although this area is in the County's Planned Service Category, sewer extensions would need to be provided by private development or by property owners who have petitioned for service. Residents interested in obtaining public sewer service have been unable to obtain consent from the majority of property owners needed to submit a petition.

Another concern relates to utility poles located along local roads in the planning area. Along sections of Brock Bridge and Whiskey Bottom Roads, some poles are located dangerously close to the edge of the road and/or have been damaged.

### **Goals and Recommendations**

#### **Goal 1: Upgrade public utilities in the Jessup/Maryland City area.**

#### **Recommendations**

1. Staff of the Department of Public Works, the Health Department and/or OPZ need to work with residents of the Reavis Road area with regard to the ongoing problem of failing septic systems and develop viable solutions to this problem.
2. Relocate/repair utility poles along all of Brock Bridge and Whiskey Bottom Roads.
3. Place utility cables/connections underground, where practical, on MD 175, MD 198, and along the Camden train line between the Jessup and Savage stations.