

Public Needs/Community Facilities

Existing Conditions

Public Schools

There are nine public elementary schools that serve the Odenton Area. Four of these elementary schools are located on Fort Meade property. They include Manor View, Meade Heights, Pershing Hill and West Meade. There are four elementary schools located off post within the Odenton Small Planning Area boundary. They are Four Seasons, Odenton, Waugh Chapel, and Piney Orchard. The ninth elementary school that serves the Odenton residents is Ridgeway Elementary and is actually located within the Severn Small Area boundary.

Several public middle and high schools serve this rapidly growing area. The Arundel Middle and High School campus is located just south of MD 175, west of the USNA Dairy Farm and draws students from nearby Crofton, Gambrills and greater Odenton. The MacArthur Middle, Meade Middle and Meade High Schools are located on Fort Meade property and they draw their students from Jessup, Severn, Maryland City and parts of Odenton. Old Mill Middle and High School is located within the Glen Burnie Small Area boundary but draws some students from Odenton.

Police and Fire Service

County Police service is provided by the West County Police Station on MD 170, just north of its intersection with MD 175. The Anne Arundel County Police Headquarters lies just outside of the Odenton Small Area boundary in Millersville but provides coverage to a portion of the area. The West County Police Station, in particular, is an integral part of the Odenton community. The Station allows community groups to use its meeting space and their community crime watch program (West County Police-Community Relations Council) is well utilized.

Fire service is provided by the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, which is the largest and most active volunteer fire company in the County. Service is also provided by the County-owned Waugh Chapel Fire Station and the Fort Meade Fire Station.

Library

A 9,000 square foot branch library is currently located on Odenton Road across from the O'Malley Senior Center. It is highly utilized for meeting space as well as its book, video and computer resources. However, this facility is inadequate. Construction has begun for the County's first regional library at the intersection of Piney Orchard Parkway and Annapolis Road. When completed, this will be a 40,000 square-foot facility and will provide extensive reading and research materials as well as provide computers and community meeting space for the public's use.

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Postal Service

Postal service in greater Odenton is provided by four post offices located within the Small Area boundary. The Odenton Post Office is located in the Odenton Shopping Center block on MD 175, just west of Sappington Station. The Gambrills Post Office is located at the intersection of Gambrills Road and MD 175. The Millersville Post Office is located just north of Benfield Boulevard, on the west side of I-97. The Fort Meade Post Office is located within the Fort’s property. There are two post offices located outside the Odenton Small Planning Area but serve a portion of its residents. The Crofton Post Office is located on the west side of MD 3, across from the Crofton triangle and the Severn Post Office is located at the intersection of MD 170 and MD 174.

Parks and Recreation

The Odenton Small Planning Area has several County park facilities that serve both active and passive recreational needs. Active recreation opportunities are provided at GORC Park , Piney Orchard Park , and the Piney Orchard Ice Rink . Passive recreation opportunities are provided at the Odenton Natural Area, Patuxent Ponds Park, the Patuxent River Greenway (including Kelly Ponds, the Riden Property and the Ruppert Property), and Towsers Branch Park.

Table 13. County Park Facilities in the Odenton Small Area

Park	Location	Acreage	Facilities and Services
GORC Park	Francis Station Road and Strawberry Lake Way	47.7	Baseball, softball fields, multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, trails for hiking, jogging or biking, concessions and restroom facilities.
Piney Orchard Park	Strawberry Lake Way and Stream Valley Drive-adjacent to the Piney Orchard Elementary School	3.1	One multi-purpose field and two baseball/softball diamonds.
Piney Orchard Ice Rink	Piney Orchard Parkway	9	Indoor ice rink.
Odenton Nature Area	Behind the Arundel Middle and High School campus	122.1	Passive trails.
Patuxent Ponds Park	Patuxent Road	9.8	Passive uses including fishing ponds and soft surface trails.
Patuxent River Park	Patuxent Road	171.4	Undeveloped natural area.
Towsers Branch Park	Evergreen Road and Jackson Road	8	Facilities for tennis, basketball, playground, picnic and a pavilion.

In addition to the County facilities, the State owned Severn Run Natural Environmental Area lies partly in the Odenton Small Planning Area. The State of Maryland has recognized the portion of Severn Run upstream of MD 3 as a State Designated Use IV stream. Use IV waters are defined as Recreational Trout Waters and include cold or warm waters particularly managed for fishing by periodic stocking and seasonal catching of adult trout.

The Patuxent Research Refuge encompasses 12,750 acres in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel County combined. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns the facility. It offers passive trails, two visitors' centers (the main visitor's center lies in Prince Georges County [central tract], the one on the Anne Arundel side [north tract] is near MD 198 and Ft. Meade) and research and classroom facilities. The refuge hosts safety classes on hunting and allows controlled hunting on the north tract and limited hunting on the central and south tracts at several times throughout the year.

Senior Services

The O'Malley Senior Center is located on Odenton Road and provides meeting rooms, community programs and a cafeteria for the senior residents of the Odenton community. It is always active and very well utilized. Colonial Manor and Heart Homes provides assisted living facilities for seniors. Senior apartments are provided by Stoney Hill Apartments and the soon to open complex, across from the O'Malley Senior Center, being built by Catholic Charities.

Assets and Issues

Public Schools

Residential growth has outpaced expansion and improvement of public schools, making it increasingly important that future residential development occur concurrently with school expansion, renovation and/or construction. The opening of the Piney Orchard Elementary School in the fall of 2000 helped to alleviate overcrowding at the elementary level; however, problems still remain at the middle and high school level. Overcrowding in the Arundel Feeder System is the worst in the County, and immediate action needs to be taken. It is imperative to construct the Seven Oaks Elementary School and to continue to evaluate the need for an additional high school in the County.

Finding ways to foster the relationship between the Odenton Community and its schools should be a priority. The level of excellence in the school system is directly tied to the people who choose to live and locate their businesses in the Odenton Small Planning Area. One way to do this is to create better utilization of the school buildings, after school hours, for community functions.

Providing continuing educational and job training opportunities for people who live and/or work in the Odenton Small Planning Area is another top priority. An adult learning facility should be provided in the Odenton Town Center in the near term. In addition, local school buildings should be utilized in the evenings for job training.

Table 14. School Enrollment and Capacities

School	State Rated Capacity (2002/2011)	2002 Projected Enrollment	2002 % Utilization	2011 Projected Enrollment	2011 % Utilization
Arundel Feeder System					
Arundel High	1,804	1,931	107%	1,800	99%
Arundel Middle	1,039	991	95%	910	88%
Four Seasons Elementary	651	569	87%	462	71%
Odenton Elementary	482	405	84%	370	77%
Piney Orchard Elementary	611	530	87%	710	116%
Waugh Chapel Elementary	499	354	71%	305	61%
Meade Feeder System					
Meade High	2,208	1,824	83%	1,732	78%
Meade Middle	1,144	897	78%	841	74%
MacArthur Middle	1,726	1,203	70%	1,160	67%
Manor View Elementary	636	544	86%	611	96%
Meade Heights Elementary	559	640	115%	582	104%
Pershing Hill Elementary	394	330	84%	541	137%
West Meade Elementary	334	280	84%	568	170%
Old Mill Feeder System					
Old Mill High	2,363	2,317	98%	2,228	94%
Old Mill Middle North	1,071	1,010	94%	917	86%
Old Mill Middle South	1,100	960	87%	919	84%
Ridgeway Elementary	554	571	103%	455	82%

Information is taken from the *Anne Arundel County Public Schools July 2002 Educational Facilities Master Plan*.

Police and Fire Service

There are currently four police districts in Anne Arundel County. The County has been evaluating the need for redistricting to add a fifth police district. 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. Concerns have been raised that dividing the Odenton community into two different districts would be detrimental to the safety of Odenton residents. These concerns should be considered when any redistricting plans are being discussed. With the increase of hiker/biker trail connections being proposed countywide, the need for police bike patrol units is increasing as well.

There is concern that fire and emergency medical service needs to keep ahead of the growing population they serve. Equipment acquisition, facility upgrades, and staffing will need to be provided to keep pace with the projected growth.

Library

With the rapid population growth in West County, and specifically in the Odenton Small Planning Area, the need to expand the community's access to technology, an up-to-date and expanded collection of library materials, and to provide a suitable location for special events, should be a top priority. Completion of the new Odenton Library is a top priority.

Postal Service

The Odenton Post Office is in need of a larger facility. The new facility should be located within the Odenton Town Center Core area to best serve the residents.

Parks and Recreation

The population in West County is growing rapidly and in all age groups. The demand for both active (athletic fields) and passive (hiking/walking trails) recreation facilities is growing as well. Odenton is unique in that it has two major hiker/biker trails proposed to intersect within its borders, the WB & A Trail and the South Shore Trail. These trails are discussed in more detail in the Transportation Chapter of this Plan, and shown on Map 10.

The County adopted its first *Greenways Master Plan* in 2002. The goal of the plan is to create an interconnected network of greenways in the County that protects ecologically valuable lands for present and future generations and provide open space, recreational and transportation benefits and opportunities for people. The County used five criteria in assessing land as potential greenways: habitat value; size; connections to other land with ecological value; future potential (that is the potential to create greenways where they do not currently exist); and national and countywide trails. The greenway network is a system of connected hubs and corridors. The plan defines a "hub" as an ecologically significant natural area of at least 250 acres with a high ratio of interior versus edge habitat. A "corridor" is a natural area at least 200 feet wide.

The Greenways Master Plan has two major segments located in the Odenton Small Area. The Dairy Farm segment, located around the Naval Academy Dairy Farm (MD 3 and MD 175), comprises about 1,533 acres of land. The majority of the land in the Dairy Farm segment is already protected, 1,041 acres or 68%. There are approximately 492 acres which are currently unprotected. The other major greenway segment consists of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge and the Patuxent to US 50 segment. The Patuxent Wildlife Refuge segment is mostly protected as well, with 10,457 of its 13,502 acres under protection. The Patuxent to US 50 segment consists of 2,670 acres, 1,879 or 70% of which is protected. The County will continue to work with other public agencies, land trusts and private owners to preserve the remaining segments.

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Senior Services

The national trend of people living longer is resulting in the immediate need to provide more senior services. Cost-effective senior day care facilities, assisted living facilities, senior housing, and inter-generational centers are strongly encouraged to locate in the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Goals and Recommendations

Goal 1: Provide “state of the art” emergency services.

Fire stations that serve the Odenton Small Area should continue to provide the highest level of service to the growing population they serve. Equipment acquisition, facility upgrades, and staffing needs should be addressed as soon as possible.

Objective 1: Secure adequate funding for fire and emergency medical services.

Recommendations

- 1: Support the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company’s plan to renovate and add a 6,000 square-foot addition, including a sprinkler system and upgrades to the restroom and shower facilities. In order for this expansion to take place, an extension of water and sewer service to the fire station is needed.
- 2: Ensure that the apparatus replacement program in the Fire Department’s Operating Budget be implemented.
- 3: Support the Fire Department’s request for funding for construction of the Severn Fire Station at the property owned by the County for that purpose on Telegraph Road (south of intersection of Telegraph and Reece Roads). The Severn Fire Station is a necessity in order to continue providing adequate service to the residents in West County.

Objective 2: Provide superior police protection so that the residents of Odenton feel safe in their community.

Recommendations

- 1: Support the increase of bicycle patrol units, especially in the vicinity of the hiker/biker trails and residential neighborhoods, to increase the visibility of police in the community.
- 2: Support the efforts of the Police Department’s community crime watch programs.
- 3: Provide the opportunity for residents of Odenton to participate in any future process of redistricting the County’s Police Department. Community policing is important to the residents of Odenton, and there is concern that any redistricting which divides the Odenton Small Planning Area will be detrimental to the safety of the Odenton residents.

Goal 2: Provide a superior educational and business training system for students of all ages, interests and education levels.

Objective 1: Maximize the after hours utilization of public school facilities to meet the needs of the students and communities they serve.

Recommendations

- 1: Foster community “ownership” of neighborhood schools by using existing school buildings for community functions when possible.

- 2: Encourage the Board of Education to work out an agreement with local businesses allowing them to use school classrooms and computer learning centers in the evenings to provide job training for their employees. (An example could be the employer pays the costs of the janitorial staff for the evenings used.)

Objective 2: Enforce adequate public facility laws and support the construction of new schools to accommodate additional growth to avoid the current overcrowding of existing schools.

Recommendations

- 1: Design and construct new schools that will accommodate multiple uses in the future.

- 2: Support the future design and construction of a West County High School and a Seven Oaks Elementary School if there is a demonstrated need.

Objective 3: Explore ways to increase adult learning opportunities.

Recommendations

- 1: Establish an adult learning facility with access to the Odenton MARC Station to provide skill-based training to residents and area business employees.

- 2: Attract a college annex in the heart of the Odenton Town Center to provide continuing educational opportunities for the people who live and/or work in West County.

Goal 3: Provide adequate library facilities and community services.

Objective 1: Provide West County residents with up to date access to technology, research and reading materials, access to government resources, and community space for meetings or special events.

Recommendations

- 1: Construct the West County Library.

- 2: Encourage public and/or private development of a significant public space and/or building which could provide access to government forms and procedures.

Goal 4: Encourage additional adult day care, senior assisted living services, childcare services, and inter-generational centers to locate in the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Objective 1: Promote cost-effective community services for seniors.

Recommendation

1: Establish a community service use in the existing Odenton Library building when the new West County Regional Library is built. Due to its proximity to the O'Malley Senior Center, either an adult day care or an inter-generational center may be an ideal use.

Objective 2: Promote cost-effective public and private childcare services.

Recommendations

1: Develop interagency programs to address the shortage of licensed child care centers, pre-schools, Head Start programs, all-day kindergarten, and before and after school latchkey programs available to residents of West County.

2: Encourage the Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), Department of Social Services, and the West County Chamber of Commerce to create a program assisting local businesses to provide childcare services for their employees. The services could either be provided at the place of employment, or a network of providers could be established in the Odenton Small Planning Area for employees to utilize.

Goal 5: Ensure that public facilities are sufficient for the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Objective 1: Ensure the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) meets public needs.

Recommendations

1: Ensure the APFO includes acknowledgement of the County's responsibility to provide adequate facilities consistent with the GDP.

2: Ensure that the APFO is enforced.

3: Ensure that the planning models used for APFO enforcement are accurate, and validate their results.

4: Pursue all possible public and private funding for public facilities.

Goal 6: Provide abundant open space and recreational land to accommodate existing and planned population growth and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.

Objective 1: Plan and develop areas suitable for passive and active recreation areas.

Recommendations

- 1: Strategically locate and coordinate public facilities and open space.
- 2: Identify and evaluate possible sites for a West County Regional Park, including the Conway Road/Meyer Station Road area (reclamation planning required) in a study by the County's Department of Recreation and Parks.
- 3: Support the development of the hiker/biker trails in the Odenton Small Planning Area while minimizing and mitigating any adverse environmental impacts.

Goal 7: Ensure that the Odenton Small Planning Area has the best possible electronic infrastructure so as to attract economic development and facilitate the electronic interconnection of the area's residents and businesses.

Recommendations

- 1: Work with the federal, state and local authorities to eliminate any conflicts with cell towers.
- 2: Develop a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure in business parks and the Town Center.
- 3: Encourage developers to build appropriate communication infrastructure into new construction.