

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Existing community facilities in the Edgewater/Mayo planning area such as parks, schools, police and fire stations, and libraries, are shown on Map 16.

Recreation and Parks

Within the Edgewater/Mayo Small Planning Area, major public park sites are located adjacent to Edgewater Elementary School, at the Londontown Public House and Gardens at the end of Londontown Road, Loch Haven Park on Loch Haven Road, South River Farms Park at the end of Loch Haven Road, Mayo Beach Park at the end of Honeysuckle Drive and Beverly Triton Beach Park at the end of the Mayo peninsula.

Edgewater Park and Loch Haven Park are active, accessible recreation areas, Mayo Beach Park is an active recreation area accessible by permit only and Beverly Triton Beach Park and South River Farms Park are passive areas where access is allowed only by permit. The South River School complex also provides active recreation areas. Future plans for the Londontown Public House and Gardens include a Visitor Center and Archaeological Center. A master plan was recently completed for the Beverly Triton Beach Park. The master plan calls for shoreline restoration and installation of offshore breakwaters, some of which have been completed. The park will be used for passive and active recreation uses, including canoeing and fishing along the water and ballfields and bike trails further to the west of the park. Improvements also include a nature center and picnic areas.

Initiation of a master plan has begun for a 30-acre parcel located on MD 214 that will provide the Edgewater community with additional recreational resources such as ballfields. The project is known as Central Avenue Park. The first phase of the master plan will consist of the development of a master plan to define the scope of the project and its costs.

Immediately adjacent to the Planning Area is the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). SERC provides a large area of forested open space used by the Smithsonian for environmental research. SERC also provides environmental education programs available to the community. Also, adjacent to the Planning Area is the Riva Area Park located on Riva Road near its intersection with MD 214. The Riva Area Park is currently under construction and is planned for active recreational uses, including ballfields. The park is expected to open in Fall 2002.

Issues Related to Parks and Recreation

One of the greatest assets this area has to offer is the water. There are miles of shoreline with waterfront homes, marinas, recreation and open space areas, all accessing tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Access, however, is limited. With such a wonderful natural resource, public access is almost nonexistent. The area has several public parks and many marinas, however, the parks are closed except for private parties and the marinas only permit slip renters the use of the

Map 16

facility. Additionally, most communities are private and the use of the beaches and facilities are for residents only. With the abundance of public land, residents and committee members felt there should be more public access.

Other issues identified at forums included the poor condition of the tennis courts at the MCA hall and Edgewater Park. Residents expressed the need for a pool for the area. They also would like to see nature trails put in for use by the public. Ballfields are a major need for the area. Some expressed that pedestrian and bikeway links to parks are needed. Another concern was the lack of youth programs and a lack of adequate playgrounds.

Recommendations:

1. Design and construct a bikeway linking communities within the Edgewater and Mayo areas to parklands on the peninsula.
2. Provide off-road bikeways and pedestrian trails to popular destinations on the peninsula and vicinity, such as Beverly Triton Beach Park, South River Farms Park, Loch Haven Park, and Annapolis.
3. Identify suitable locations for ball fields and other active and passive recreation facilities in the area.
4. Reinvest and maintain existing tennis courts and ball fields for use by the public.

Public Education

The entire Edgewater/Mayo Small Area is served by the South River Senior High feeder system. The schools within this feeder system include South River Senior, Central Middle, Central Elementary, Davidsonville Elementary and Edgewater Elementary. The table below shows the current and ten-year projected enrollments and the utilization percentages for each of the affected schools. This information is based on the July 2001 *Educational Facilities Master Plan*. The South River Senior projected enrollment includes the students from Crofton Meadows and Crofton Woods Elementary Schools.

There is a "baby boom bubble" currently going through the school system. Most students who are a part of the bubble are in elementary schools now, but will move on to the middle schools, then high schools. There will be a leveling off in about 10 to 15 years.

The Board of Education does not count the relocatables in the total enrollment capacity numbers. The State Capacity numbers used are for the school structure alone. If a new development would put more students in the school than capacity allows, the BOE recommends denial of the subdivision. The BOE is currently recommending denial of new subdivisions in the Mayo Elementary School district. Previously approved subdivisions are included in the projected numbers. New schools and/or school additions are programmed into the County's Capital Improvement (CIP) program based

on need. Davidsonville Elementary and Mayo Elementary are in the FY2002 CIP as replacement schools that will increase capacity. The new Davidsonville Elementary replacement school is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in September 2002. The new Mayo Elementary school site is currently being examined. After selection of a location, completion of construction documents, preparation of bid documents, bidding, awarding of bid and construction of the school will need to be completed.

Table 6. School Enrollments and Capacities

School	State Rated Capacity 2000	Actual Enrollment 2000	% Utilization 2000	State Rated Capacity 2010	Projected Enrollment 2010	% Utilization 2010
South River Senior	2278	1754	77%	2278	1687	74%
Central Middle	1245	1050	84%	1245	997	80%
Central Elementary	544	508	93%	544	492	90%
Davidsonville Elementary	394	558	142%	614	540	88%
Edgewater	476	411	86%	476	399	84%
Mayo Elementary	267	278	104%	414	269	65%

Issues Related to Public Education

The following education issues were identified at public forums and by committee members. It is felt that the local communities should do more to support public schools. Although many local residents feel that schools are relatively good, there is still a perception that the quality of public education in some of the schools is not adequate. Pedestrian safety is a concern related to students. Students should be able to walk safely to the Central School Complex.. Some felt that school athletic fields should be made more available to the community. While overcrowding in area elementary schools has been an often voiced concern, the new Davidsonville and Mayo Elementary replacement schools will alleviate overcrowding.

Recommendations:

1. Install a pedestrian bridge over MD 214 at the South River School site, or implement other solutions to increase the safety for pedestrian crossings.
2. Provide a new Mayo Elementary School.

Public Safety

There are four police districts that serve the needs of Anne Arundel County. The Southern District Police Station serves the Edgewater/Mayo Small Area Planning area and is located on MD 2 South just over the South River Bridge. The facility is 48 years old and there are plans to relocate this facility to Stepneys Lane. Design of this facility is completed and funds are programmed for construction. There is a proposal to redraw the police district lines and create a Central Police District in the future. Edgewater would then become the uppermost northern end of the Southern District.

The Southern District has eight beats that provide coverage 24 hours per day all year round. There are three overlap beats. A beat consists of five officers. Most of the patrolling is done by vehicle, however, in some areas the officers are on bicycles. Bicycle patrols are new to the Southern District and plans to expand are being considered. The bicycle program gives the officers an opportunity to get into the communities and communicate and interact with more citizens.

The police department maintains a helicopter program at Lee Airport. The helicopters are used for surveillance, tactical purposes, and for use with sobriety checkpoints. The use of these helicopters allows for quicker response.

The County has a memorandum of understanding with the State that identifies areas of responsibility for the major thoroughfares. The County defers calls to the State Police for these routes, however, the County can also respond to these calls for service. In general, the State has full reign of coverage. In South County there are two State troopers assigned to cover the entire area and can respond to any call. If a caller to 911 specifically requests, a state trooper be dispatched it will be done.

Issues Related to Public Safety

The following public safety issues relative to police service were identified at public forums and by committee members. There was the feeling that crime was increasing (or that there was an increased need for police assistance), and there was the perception that crime is high in areas where it was previously low.

Recommendations:

1. Maintain a police presence in the area through the use of vehicle and bicycle patrols.

Fire/EMS/Rescue Services

The Woodland Beach Volunteer Fire Station (WBVFS) is the area's major fire rescue service. This station has a very active volunteer group for nights and weekends. The 1991 Fire Station Location Study identified the need for more fire stations in the County. The study recommended that the WBVFS be relocated to an area near the intersection of MD 2 and MD 214. This was based on population projections and an average 2.5 mile response distance. The study recommended that a new station be built at the intersection of MD 214 and Maryland Route 468. Neither of these

recommendations is approved as capital projects at this time. The Riva Fire Station, on Riva Road, is the immediate back-up for WBVFS.

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department *Water Supply Master Planning Project*, February 1995 concluded that Fire Station Number 2 (Woodland Beach VFS) can deliver only 52% of the “required fire flow” to extinguish a fire for structures, requiring the 5th largest fire flow in the Edgewater/Mayo area.

Water storage tanks are used in this area for fire suppression. The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining the tanks that exist now. The APF Ordinance requires them for new subdivisions. With the amount of water in and around the planning area, the fire department has been working on a legal agreement that homeowners can enter into which would allow a fire truck access to their property to drop a hose in the water.

Issues Related to Fire and Rescue Service

The following public safety issues relative to fire services were identified at public forums and by committee members. An improved water system is needed for fire suppression. In addition, there is a concern that police and fire department response times are being impeded by traffic congestion, particularly along MD 2. There is a perception that more fire protection is needed. Some local roads where on-street parking is allowed become impassable for rescue vehicles such as fire trucks.

Goal: Adequate water supply should be available at all times for response to fire emergencies.

Recommendations:

1. Expedite completion of all recommendations in the *Fire Department Water Supply Master Plan* pertaining to Edgewater/Mayo.
2. Expedite execution of Fire Department master plan recommendations that require little capital expenditure, such as posting signs and adopting agreements.
3. Actively assist community associations in identifying and assessing specific community water supply issues.
4. Actively assist in the acquisition and installation of underground draft tanks for those communities so desiring.
5. Provide capital funding for the installation of community draft tanks.
6. Provide community assistance/funding for the installation of draft pipes at class A open water sources.
7. Construct shoulders on MD 214 southeast of Route 468 to allow for emergency vehicles.

Libraries

There are 15 branches in the County library system. The Edgewater branch is used as a showcase library due to its architectural design. In order to comply with requirements handed down by the Fire Marshall's Office, a shed was installed to house heavy duty equipment. Recently an ADA station was installed in the library. Also, a new surveillance system and an upgrade to the security system were recently installed. This station has a large print monitor, is wheel chair accessible, and has a powerball (as opposed to a mouse) for greater ease of use by a physically challenged patron. In addition, a flower beautification project was completed by the girl scouts.

Some local residents feel that the library hours of operation are limited. The Edgewater branch is closed on Friday evening and on Sunday. Many people feel that the hours should be expanded.

Recommendations:

1. Expand the hours of operation of the Edgewater branch library.