

Community Facilities

Existing Conditions

Public Education

There are five public schools located in the Severn Small Area. There are four elementary schools, and these include Harman, Quarterfield, Ridgeway, Severn, and Van Bokkelen. The Center of Applied Technology North is also located within the Small Area Boundary. This school offers high school students from Arundel, Chesapeake, Glen Burnie, Meade, North County, Northeast, and Old Mill High Schools specialized training for fields such as construction, automotive technology, and computer technology.

There is the possibility of a sixth elementary school site in the future in the western portion of the planning area (between MD 713 and the BW Parkway). The majority of Severn students feed into the Meade Middle and High Schools, which are located just outside the small area boundary on Fort Meade property. A portion of Severn students feed into the Old Mill Middle and High School and Corkran Middle and Glen Burnie High School.

Police and Fire Services

Police service for the Severn area is provided by the Western District Police Station located on MD 170, within the Odenton Small Area boundary. Fire service for Severn is provided by several fire stations. The only station that actually falls within the small area boundary is the Harmans/Dorsey Station. The South Glen Burnie, Odenton and Jessup Fire Stations also handle responses to fires/emergencies.

Library

The Provinces Library, located at the intersection of MD 713 and MD 175, was built in 1986. It is an 11,500 square-foot facility, which serves residents of Severn, Jessup and Odenton.

Postal Service

Postal service for the vast majority of Severn Small Area residents is provided by the Severn Post Office located near the intersection of MD 170 and MD 174. There is a portion of the area served by the Jessup or the Hanover Post Office.

Parks and Recreation

There are numerous County owned recreational parks, totaling more than 180 acres of land, in the Severn Small Area which provide athletic facilities for the residents. The parks include: Harmans Park, Meade Village Park, Provinces Park, Queenstown Park, Randazzo Softball Park, and Severn Danza Park.

State-owned facilities serving the Severn residents are the BWI Loop Hiker/Biker Trail and the Severn Run Natural Environmental 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.

Assets and Issues

Public Education

Residential growth has outpaced expansion and improvement of schools making it increasingly important that future residential development occur concurrently with school expansion, renovation and/or construction. There are currently several overcrowded schools for Severn students and expected growth could lead to more overcrowding.

In addition, Harman Elementary School within the Severn Small Area is desperately in need of renovation and upgrade. The facility was built in 1955 with an addition added in 1969. The existing structure is not configured to support the current and future education program. A feasibility study is currently budgeted (Project No. E498700). The results of this study will determine the final scope and budget needed for renovations to the school, as determined by the Board of Education. The Committee wants to stress the importance of providing equal opportunity for a superior level of education for all students in the County. This includes the school facility as well as the instruction provided.

In part, through a state grant program entitled Look to the Future – Maryland High School Science, the County has plans to renovate and upgrade the Old Mill High School science facility. This project will upgrade the current science facility to improve the learning environment for students to tackle real world problems in the field of science and mathematics. It is partially funded by the County's budget (Project No. E486800).

Rated capacities and current enrollments at each of the public schools the children in the Severn Small Planning Area attend are listed in Table 8. At the elementary school level, Meade Heights and Ridgeway are currently over capacity and projected to remain over capacity in 2010. Jessup Elementary and Severn Elementary are each above 90 percent of capacity and projected to remain so in 2010.

A new Seven Oaks Elementary School is currently in the Capital Improvement Program Budget for planning and engineering funding in FY 2002 (Project No. E511800). Construction is budgeted in FY 2003 and FY 2004. This additional school is projected to have a 614-seat capacity and would add much needed elementary seats to West County. This facility will relieve overcrowding at Meade Heights Elementary and provide capacity for the early phases of the Fort Meade Residential Community Initiative.

Increased use of school facilities after school hours, for other community purposes, ought to take top priority. The poor public perception of the Meade Schools was an issue brought up time and time again by residents. Fostering a strong relationship between communities and their

schools is paramount to a community's and their students' success. Providing continuing education and job training opportunities for the residents of Severn is another top priority.

Table 8. School Capacities and Enrollments¹

School	2001 Projected Enrollment	State Rated Capacity (2001)	2001 % Utilization	2010 Projected Enrollment	State Rated Capacity (2010)	2010 % Utilization
Harman Elementary	426	499	85%	410	499	82%
Jessup Elementary	602	649	93%	597	649	92%
Meade Heights Elementary	606	559	108%	604	559	108%
Quarterfield Elementary	392	504	78%	382	504	76%
Ridgeway Elementary	577	554	104%	570	554	103%
Severn Elementary	405	429	94%	401	429	93%
Van Bokkelen Elementary	418	574	73%	415	574	72%
Corkran Middle	740	1,220	61%	710	1,220	58%
MacArthur Middle	1,102	1,822	60%	1,059	1,822	58%
Meade Middle	853	1,207	71%	901	1,207	75%
Old Mill Middle, North	974	1,132	86%	919	1,132	81%
Old Mill Middle, South	951	1,169	81%	894	1,169	76%
Glen Burnie High	2,143	2,292	93%	2,076	2,292	91%
Meade High	1,778	2,335	76%	1,989	2,335	85%
Old Mill High	2,419	2,326	104%	2,251	2,326	97%

Anne Arundel Community College has recently made an agreement to locate a West County Campus in the vicinity of the Arundel Mills Mall.

Police and Fire Services

The Police Department increased the number of beats (a beat is an area patrolled by an officer, usually staffed 24 hours a day) serving the West County Police District from ten to eleven in July 1999. This was due to the increase in population in the area—specifically Piney Orchard, Seven Oaks and Russet. The Community has raised concerns about the Arundel Mills development adding a substantial number of calls for police services to the West County Police Station. The final agreement has not been worked out yet, but the current proposal is for the Mills Corporation to fund a two-officer substation at the mall (one day and one evening).

¹ Information is taken from the *Anne Arundel County Public Schools July 2001 Educational Facilities Master Plan*.

The County has purchased property south of the intersection of Donaldson Avenue and Telegraph Road for the purpose of building a three bay Severn Fire Station there. The project has completed the planning and design stage. Construction funding is included in the County's FY 2002 budget (Project No. F416700). With the rapid growth in population in West County, this fire station is needed in the near term in order to meet the growing demands on the fire/emergency services in the area.

Library

The Plan supports the design and construction of a West County Regional Library on the property purchased by the County for this purpose at the southwest corner of the intersection of MD 175 and Piney Orchard Parkway. This 40,000 square-foot library, located in the Odenton Town Center, will be the first regional library in the County. The project is currently in final planning and engineering phase with construction money budgeted in FY 2002 and FY 2003 (Project No. L475600). The Plan advocates for library services being extended to everyone in the community by establishing library drop-off sites and library programs for children at proposed Community Service Center locations. This would especially help seniors and families with children. The collaboration between the public libraries and public school media centers should be enhanced to better serve the children in the Severn Small Area.

Postal Service

Although there are no immediate plans to relocate the existing Severn Post Office, with the population growth occurring in West County, it may be inevitable. If the Severn Post Office needs a new location for a larger facility, the Plan advocates for them to relocate within the vicinity of Donaldson Avenue and Telegraph Road to best serve the Severn residents.

Parks and Recreation

The Department of Parks and Recreation has stated that there is preliminary funding for a new park in Harmans. There is land acquisition money budgeted in FY 2002 with additional planning and engineering money budgeted in FY 2004 and FY 2005 (Project No. P490000). In addition, Severn Danza is slated to receive funding over the next two years for an expansion of parking, additional baseball diamonds, a multi-purpose field, and a bicycle area (Project No. P462400).

Inclusion of passive recreation needs (walking, picnicking, wildlife observation, etc.) into some of the existing parks in Severn or for an additional park property to be acquired for this purpose is desired. Equestrian uses should also be preserved and enhanced wherever possible.

The Plan strongly supports the County's efforts to develop a regional park (300 or more acres) in West County.

Senior Services

The national trend of people living longer is resulting in the immediate need to provide more senior services. The Committee is very concerned about this issue and strongly encourages cost-effective senior day care facilities, assisted facilities, senior housing, and a senior community center to locate in the Severn Small Area.

Table 9. Capital Improvement Program Projects in the Severn Small Area

Project	Description	Status
Harman Elementary School Feasibility Study	Provide a feasibility study for Harman ES. The existing building was built in 1955 with an addition in 1969 and is not configured to support the current and future educational program.	Feasibility study money funded in FY 02 budget. Additional planning and engineering money funded in FY 05 and construction and other expenses funded in FY 06 and FY 07. Project No. E498700
Severn Fire Station	Design and construct a three bay fire station on MD 170 between MD 175 and MD 174.	Design and land acquisition already completed. Funded for construction in FY 02 under Project No. F416700.
Severn Danza Park Expansion	Acquisition of property adjacent to existing Severn Danza Park and to design and construct additional athletic fields, parking and amenities.	Funded under Project No. P462400.
Harmans Park Expansion	Provide additional areas for community-oriented recreation in the Harmans Community.	Planning, engineering and land acquisition funded in FY 02 with additional funding in FY 04 and FY 05. Project No. P490000

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Goals and Recommendations

Goal 1: Increase the amount and quality of parkland and other publicly accessible open space, providing not only playgrounds and facilities for competitive athletics, but also safe areas for picnicking, hiking, biking, swimming, wildlife observation, quiet reflection and separate equestrian trails.

Recommendation 1: The County should evaluate each existing park; fund and expand the purpose and ability of each park where space allows so that residents can enjoy a more diverse park atmosphere with more than sports.

Recommendation 2: The County should explore the acquisition of land north of Queenstown Park and south of MD 100, and any available woodland to the east or south of Friendship Park, to form a larger contiguous park.

Recommendation 3: Support the County's (Department of Recreation and Parks) efforts to acquire, as soon as possible, suitable land for a West County Regional Park (300+ acres) to support the area's growing population.

Recommendation 4: The County should explore the acquisition of land in Hanover near MD175 and MD 713 (Ridge Road) for the creation of an area park.

Recommendation 5: The County should pursue the addition of a public swimming pool facility in the West County area—preferably in the Severn Small Area, and consider the possibility of integrating the pool with the area park scenario.

Recommendation 6: The County should assume more responsibility to properly maintain the appearance and condition of the parks and property.

Recommendation 7: The County should study the needs for parking spaces at or near each park facility and seek to establish the best balance of park space and parking spaces.

Recommendation 8: Support the efforts of organized groups to preserve and advance the availability of trails for the many horses that are kept in the Severn Area. Specifically, preserve the miles of blazed trails currently in use in the Severn Run Natural Environmental Area and the connecting greenway between Delmont and Quarterfield Road. Encourage agreements with developers of subdivisions in the vicinity to provide access, such as the 10-foot equestrian easement provided at the northern edge of the planned Severn Pines.

Goal 2: Provide police, fire and emergency services that ensure the safest possible living environment.

Recommendation 1: Support the construction of a Severn Fire Station at the property owned by the County for that purpose on MD 170 (south of intersection of MD 170 and

MD 174). The addition of a Severn Fire Station is a necessity in order to continue providing adequate service to the residents in West County.

Recommendation 2: The County should continue to work diligently with the Mills Corporation and the proposed Dorchester community to maintain an adequate law enforcement presence at those locations. Anne Arundel County should provide appropriate manpower for support of this effort in such a fashion as to place no significant burden on the daily activities of the Western District Facility.

Goal 3: Provide the best possible educational opportunities for all residents.

Recommendation 1: Maintain all public school facilities in Severn to current Anne Arundel County Public School specifications for health, safety and delivery of the instructional program. Initially, renovate/modernize Harman, Quarterfield and Van Bokkelen Elementary Schools, MacArthur Middle School and Meade High School.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the Adequacy of Facilities Ordinance and its enforcement to ensure that additional school capacity is brought on-line as the residential growth occurs in Severn and as students arrive for school. Increase, collect and apply Impact Fees sufficient enough to ensure that school capacity does not lag behind residential growth in this designated growth area. Begin contingency planning and site acquisition for a future high school and middle school(s) central to the designated growth area.

Recommendation 3: Maximize the after-hours utilization of public school facilities to meet the needs of the students and communities they serve. Collaborate with county and non-profit agencies to expand the hours and types of service provided. Establish a Multi-Agency School and Community Needs Assessment to be administered periodically in each individual school community. Utilize the results to prioritize active engagement of service providers and to replace the current first-come-first-serve approach used by the Department of Recreation and Parks to administer after-hours use of school facilities.

Recommendation 4: Develop interagency strategies to address the shortage of licensed childcare centers, pre-schools, Head Start programs, all-day kindergarten, and before and after school latchkey programs. Large segments of the Severn population remain underserved by these programs because they are either not offered or are not available at affordable rates.

Recommendation 5: Accelerate academic success, reduce dropout rates and enhance transition to work and higher education. Provide instructional programs and resources to meet the needs of all students, including, but not limited to (a) high standards and expectations of achievement and conduct for all students in all schools; (b) enrichment activities for all students and advanced course work for high achievers; (c) academic and behavioral intervention supports before failure; (d) extended school day and extended school year when and where needed; (e) enhanced collaboration among agencies to address student and family needs in support of educational and life goals; (f) expanded partnerships with business community through Advisory Boards, Career Connections,

Academies, Internships and Technology Education in high schools and broadened opportunities through the Center of Applied Technology North and the Anne Arundel Community College; (g) improved access to summer school, evening high school, external high school degree and GED programs, through the establishment of sites in Severn.

Recommendation 6: Strongly support the planned establishment of a West County Campus of Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) and particularly recommend selection of the proposed site adjoining the Anne Arundel County Public School secondary school complex in the northwest corner of Fort Meade. This expansion is needed to address the high demand, which is only partly met by the extensive evening use of Meade High School for AACC classes. Only this site combines the synergies of providing (1) co-located administrative and daytime instructional space for college programs to augment what is already AACC's largest off-campus program; (2) expanded opportunities for secondary school enrichment programs, concurrent high school-college enrollments and greater emphasis on post-secondary education goals for families in all the communities served by the Meade Feeder System; and (3) a central location, easily accessible to the Jessup/Maryland City, Severn and Odenton areas.

Goal 4: Promote local access for all residents to health care, training, child daycare, social services and recreation in the neighborhoods where it is needed.

Recommendation 1: Establish Community Service Centers where space is County owned and/or leased to these types of organizations: (a) County Departments, for example: Aging, Health, Social Services, Juvenile Justice, and Library (drop-off sites for books ordered in advance). Some offices could be shared, with different work days; (b) Non-profit organizations, for example: family counseling, training for disabled, reading tutors; (c) Daycare for children and adults, to operate 5 days per week. Promote cooperation between daycare groups, and senior volunteers; (d) Community organizations, to share office space and equipment (copy machines, meeting rooms, lockers for storage of equipment).

Recommendation 2: Locate Community Service Centers in or near community schools where feasible, making use of the existing school building, buildings adjacent to the school, or new additions to the school. The centers must also be near parks and on transportation routes. Pilot Community Service Centers could be either at Severn Elementary or Van Bokkelen, both of which are central to the Severn Small Area. The Severn Elementary site provides the advantage of being in the planned Severn Village, while the Van Bokkelen Elementary site has less traffic congestion and an existing traffic signal providing direct access to existing Board of Education property adjoining the school site.

Recommendation 3: Acquiring an appropriate location for a Severn Senior Center should be a priority of the County Government. Due to the rapidly growing senior population in the Severn Small Area, and the reality that the proposed Community Service Center

concept would not meet all of the needs of senior citizens, the need for a center geared specifically for seniors is imperative.

Goal 5: Provide a broad range of housing types and prices and special residential facilities that meet the needs of people in different conditions and in different stages of life.

Recommendation 1: Promote assisted-living facilities for seniors, physically and mentally challenged adults and children, to be located in new and existing communities near Community Service Centers, employment opportunities, shopping, entertainment, recreation (trails, for example), schools and transportation. Possible locations include: proposed Dorchester community near Arundel Mills, Quarterfield Center, intersection of MD 170 and MD 174, the Church of the Nazarene property near Watts Road and Clark Road.

Recommendation 2: Collaborate among County, State, Federal agencies and property owners to revitalize Pioneer Drive communities by (a) renewing and expanding efforts to reduce the number of absentee landlord homes and increase the number of owner occupied homes; (b) assisting owners in establishing an on-site community/recreation center; (c) expanding the small commercial strip at the front of the community to include more retail and services outlets; (d) establishing affordable, on-site child care service; (e) establishing an on-site health clinic and human services center; (f) ensuring that Pioneer Drive communities are served by regularly scheduled, day and evening bus/van transportation routes to give them access to education, training, work force development, employment, health and human services programs and centers not located on-site.

Goal 6: Improve access to highest quality library services to all residents.

Recommendation 1: Support the design and construction of a West County Regional Library on the property purchased by the County for this purpose at the southwest corner of the intersection of MD 175 and Piney Orchard Parkway.

Recommendation 2: Establish library drop-off sites at Community Service Centers. This would especially help seniors and families with children.

Recommendation 3: Run library programs for children at Community Service Centers (one afternoon a month, for example, to tie into on-site childcare or family counseling days).

Recommendation 4: Enhance the collaboration between our public libraries and public school media centers to instill in our youth the joy of reading, to provide access to public library resources from within public schools, and to more thoroughly orient young children to the use of public libraries.

Goal 7: Promote diverse opportunities for cultural activities, entertainment, and dining.

Recommendation 1: That the County seek the opportunity to provide a permanent West County outreach center for Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts or similar entities.

Suggested Source: Gain commitment from Arundel Mills to provide permanent space suitable for daytime and evening classes and a small exhibition/performance area. It is recommended that the County encourage developers to design and integrate public performance areas (where it is appropriate), either indoor or outdoor, in their site planning for any other major new commercial development.

Recommendation 2: With respect to entertainment and dining, Severn lacks both. There is definitely a need for “quality” family dining in the Severn Small Area. An example of such a place would be an “Old Farm Inn” (that was replaced by Denny’s) or “Kaufmann’s Restaurant” in Gambrills. The restaurant should be able to cater to the family and provide evening entertainment. The Severn Village around the intersection of MD 170 and MD 174 is recommended as an ideal site to encourage such full service family restaurants.

Recommendation 3: Design for the establishment of a coffee shop, deli, or bistro, with some outdoor seating, in each of several key locations along pedestrian/bicycle pathways adjacent to commercial areas, such as Quarterfield Center, the Severn Village, and Arundel Mills.