

## Chapter 11

### Community Facilities

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#### SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Severna Park is a composite of many community associations whose civic and community programs are fostered by the umbrella organization, the Greater Severna Park Council and by the 501 (c)3 Association of Severna Park Improvement Renewal and Enhancement (ASPIRE ) and the Severna Park Chamber of Commerce. Local places of worship also offer community support. This section examines the Greater Severna Park assets and outlines some of the needs within community facilities and recreation and parks.

**Goal:** Develop programs that promote community wide events to improve a sense of "Severna Park community", such programs to have a sense of history and roots and community activity that draws on the backgrounds, interests, and skills of a diverse population.

#### Recommendations:

- Use the village center plan, layout and decor including distinctive and compatible landmarks, building, community street designs, landscaping and signs to create an appearance that is distinctive and attractive as one visits or travels through Severna Park.
- Promote activities and events that emphasize the interests, backgrounds, skills and history of the residents of Severna Park, e.g. Severna Park Day (an event that is family oriented, has residents exhibit arts and crafts and ethnic skills, children's games and activities), local shows/concerts using local talent, high school band, local and Navy musical groups, etc., a Library/Reading/Communications Day, etc.)
- Develop a future community center in the vicinity of the village center that is compatible and complementary with the function and plans of the existing The Community Center. The overall community center facilities will be consistent with the activities and needs of the various other organizations, e.g. community, civic, cultural arts, church sponsored, Department of Aging, Department of Recreation, etc., that provide and/or support programs that are of service to all or significant segments of the community.
- Promote youth support programs, e.g. after school activities, recreational and entertainment activities for middle and high ages, in conjunction with the churches, civic groups and The Community Center.
- Investigate and evaluate the current organizations that provide "community center" functions/services including their future expected needs and contributions. Determine the practical needs for community organization that would not be met by current "community

center” organizations and define an overall community center entity that will supplement these organizations and meet the future community center objectives with minimum additional cost and facilities. Evaluate the possible sources of resources and support.

## **POLICE**

Anne Arundel County provides low major crime rate; drug problem not high profile; continual problems with vandalism, graffiti, break-ins, and speeding in neighborhoods. Special officers are detailed to schools and to the elderly with emphasis on education and prevention.

**Goals :** Improve an effective crime prevention and enforcement program in Severna Park that emphasizes building on the experience in current programs and promoting more community and citizen involvement in supporting and supplementing police department and drug intervention programs and actions.

### **Recommendations:**

- Support the ongoing and complementary police department's and schools' activities in the high schools and the middle school that support school discipline, control of drugs and prevention of crimes and promote mutual respect and cooperation of students, staff, police and community. Promote appropriate extension of these activities into the elementary schools. Encourage residents, particularly parents, to be aware of and involved in these programs.
- Maintain and/or initiate community security patrols as a vehicle to discourage neighborhood crimes, e.g. vandalism, breaking and entering, and auto and property damage.
- Develop a program using citizen volunteers, police auxiliary and police to reduce speeding in neighborhoods. This should include ANNE ARUNDEL County support in the use of speed humps and simple traffic circles.
- Develop and implement a program to enlist and educate Severna Park residents in actions that can assist in reducing the drug activities in Severna Park.

## **EMS AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Anne Arundel County provides fine emergency medical and fire protection services, but there is a greater need for funds to improve prevention programs.

**Goals:** Support the addition of an Anne Arundel Fire Department station in the western area and the continued good services and goals including expanding the prevention programs.

### **Recommendations:**

- Support the addition of an EMS/fire station in the Benfield Road and Veterans Highway vicinity to provide more balanced support for the western Severna Park area.
- Encourage transport rules that allow emergency units to transport patients to either North Arundel or Anne Arundel Medical Center, where compatible with system operations.
- Support Anne Arundel County Fire Department goal to improve and expand prevention aspects of their service including more citizen volunteers.

## **HEALTH**

There are no hospitals in the Severna Park Small Planning Area. Medical needs are met by private practice doctors and the Shipley's Choice Care Center, affiliated with the University of Maryland Medical Center and Anne Arundel Medical Center. The Hospice of the Chesapeake and a nursing home provide necessary services to terminal patients. Ongoing needs for residents living in poverty include aid from SPAN, the Anne Arundel Food Bank, the Women, Infants and Children Program and the Arundel County Health Department.

**Goals:** Provide adequate and convenient medical services to the population of Severna Park.

### **Recommendations:**

- Encourage the use of excess retail space for clinics, doctors' offices, diagnostic labs, after-hours care and support groups.
- Implement prevention education programs for such concerns as cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, Alzheimer's, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse, etc.
- Support the existing County Health Department counseling services, prevention and intervention programs and use volunteers to support the programs.
- Promote the continuation and/or expansion of existing programs, e.g., Meals on Wheels for

needy residents, nutrition programs through senior citizen groups and schools, preventive programs for cancer, heart disease and diabetes, immunization programs for children and senior citizens, assistance for those living in poverty, drug and alcohol prevention and treatment, Harundale Youth and Family Center and other facilities benefiting mental health.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Senior citizen support is provided through the Arnold, Pascal and Pasadena Senior Center and The Community Center and many other pertinent programs in the Department of Aging. Assisted living support is provided through private for profit facilities, two large, one medium and two small facilities, and one nursing home. In home assistance is coordinated by the Department of Aging. There are some private funds available to assist persons with limited or low incomes that need assisted living.

**Goals:** Provide a support structure, services, facilities and resources consistent with the needs of the rapidly growing senior citizen population in Severna Park.

### **Recommendations:**

- Provide in Severna Park assistance for senior citizens to understand and use the wide range of information, services, resources, and support programs available through the Department of Aging and private organizations including those at the senior centers, Arnold, Pasadena, and Pascal and The Community Center.
- Work with Anne Arundel County to provide a facility for the senior citizens in Severna Park that is a focal point to provide assistance for them to utilize available Department of Aging services as well as provide senior programs to a segment of the community that is increasing significantly.
- Work with Anne Arundel County officials to develop the requirements and procedures to permit mother-in-law apartments in a manner that limits this application to use by family members. Such use must be compatible with single family housing with no rental or non family use at any time.
- Work with the County Department of Aging to develop and monitor assistance programs to make available quality personal and medical support services provided by private organizations.
- Promote public and/or private financial programs that support persons that have limited funds and income and need assisted living support.
- Establish an ongoing assessment of needs for additional senior facilities.

- Encourage the development of a trolley-type bus proposed in the Transportation Section that will supply transportation for a route for regular daily transportation needs and a supplemental route that will provide a limited but scheduled service to meet the special transportation needs for senior citizens. This route would cater to those needs by including transportation to shopping centers, medical facilities, and senior centers.

## **LIBRARY**

Activities and distribution at the Severna Park Library is among the top three busiest in Anne Arundel County, distributing 60,000 books/periodicals per month and space utilization density is high.

- Eighty percent of the volunteers, 23 of 27, are senior citizens, and there were 17 teen volunteers for the summer of 1998.
- There is an active program, Library by Mail, to circulate books by mail to persons who lack ready access to the library. Books can be ordered by e-mail, telephone, or letter.
- There are adequate computer facilities for access to a wide range of information and equipment where books can be checked out automatically. This method processes a significant portion of the take outs.

**Goals:** Maintain, expand and supplement the very fine services and programs currently available from the Severna Park library and upgrade the facility, staff and equipment to use the changing technology and meet the needs of a diverse growing population whose age mix is changing significantly.

### **Recommendations:**

Expand the library building while preserving the natural landscaping and greenery, and expanding staff to accommodate increasing needs in a very highly used library. Promote the addition of the Severna Park expansion immediately following currently approved expansions.

- Through local civic groups promote programs to encourage increased reading and improved reading skills, and to provide additional computer facilities and greater access to information and services. Expand community support of the current effort to enlist residents as volunteers to work with the library professional staff to broaden and increase the programs, particularly for children and teens. Emphasize continued participation of senior citizens to utilize their skills and experience.
- Expand programs such as Library by Mail that will respond to the expected significant increase in the size of the senior citizens group, particularly the increase in shut-ins and persons with limited transportation and mobility.

- Encourage greater involvement of the high school service projects as a source of assistance to implement children's and seniors' oriented library projects.

## **SCHOOLS/EDUCATION**

Nine public schools participate in the Severna Park Small Area Feeder system; Severna Park Senior, Severna Park Middle School, Severn River Middle, Arnold Elementary, Benfield Elementary, Folger McKinsey Elementary, Jones Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Severna Park Elementary and Shipley's Choice Elementary. Severna Park is also home to a number of excellent private schools that reduce school enrollment at the public schools.

**Table 3**  
**State Capacity by Severna Park Primary Feeder System**

| <b>School</b>               | <b>2000 State Rated Capacity</b> | <b>2002 Projected Enrollment</b> | <b>2010 Projected State Rated Enrollment</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Severna Park Senior         | 1,967                            | 1,688                            | 1,609  |
| Severna Park Middle         | 1,437                            | 1,385                            | 1,275  |
| Benfield Elementary         | 354                              | 344                              | 346  |
| Folger McKinsey Elementary  | 554                              | 532                              | 535  |
| Jones Elementary            | 307                              | 250                              | 252  |
| Oak Hill Elementary         | 619                              | 405                              | 409  |
| Severna Park Elementary     | 292                              | 285                              | 286  |
| Shipley's Choice Elementary | 459                              | 397                              | 400  |

**Numbers in Table are taken from the July 2001 Anne Arundel County Educational Facilities Master Plan**

Other Feeder Systems serving the Severna Park Small Area Plan are included in Table 3.

**Table 4  
State Capacity by Feeder System\***

| <b>School</b>                  | <b>2000 State Rated Capacity</b> | <b>2002 Projected Enrollment</b> | <b>2010 Projected State Rated Enrollment</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| *Old Mill High School          | 2,326                            | 2,343                            | 2,251  |
| Old Mill South                 | 1,132                            | 1,001                            | 919  |
| Old Mill North                 | 1,132                            | 979                              | 894  |
| Glen Burnie Elementary         | 389                              | 416                              | 403  |
| *Chesapeake Senior High School | 2,267                            | 1,897                            | 1,805  |
| Chesapeake Bay Middle          | 1,930                            | 1,793                            | 1,643  |
| Pasadena Elementary            | 414                              | 377                              | 379  |
| *Broadneck High School         | 2,200                            | 2,230                            | 2,124  |
| Severn River Middle            | 1,142                            | 891                              | 814  |
| Belvedere Elementary           | 606                              | 454                              | 456  |

**Numbers in Table are taken from the July 2001 Anne Arundel County Educational Facilities Master Plan**

Each Elementary School classroom counts as 25 seats (grade 1-5). Art music, physical education, reading and speech do not count toward school capacity. Kindergarten capacity is 22 students per classroom. Special education levels 4 and 5 count as 10 per room, while levels 1-3 are mainstreamed into regular classrooms. State and County capacities are now the same, whereas they used to be different. Projections of expected capacities are done over a 10 year period. Projections beyond 10 years are less reliable.

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.

**Goals:** Establish a cap on schools' enrollment at 100% of capacity and a prerequisite that the expected increase in student population resulting from new developments will be consistent with the capacities of available schools. Students living in and starting their education in a feeder system, i.e. Severna Park, Old Mill or Chesapeake, within the greater Severna Park area will be educated within that feeder system.

Maintain a quality education to meet diverse needs for all students in the Severna Park Small Area Plan vicinity.

**Recommendations:**

- Establish a prerequisite for new development that the resulting increase in student population will be consistent with the capacities of the available schools.
- Establish a cap on schools' enrollment at 100% of capacity.
- Severna Park Small Area Planning Committee does not support redistricting.

**RECREATION**

A wide range of activities are provided through active volunteer operated and county supported youth athletic programs as well as various community center programs for ages ranging from children to senior citizens. There are some after school activities for students and some teen programs sponsored by community organizations. Anne Arundel County provides classes for all age groups that covers a variety of subjects and skills for personal improvement and recreation. The County provides and maintains the B&A Trail, Kinder Farm Park and Waterford Parks plus five other parks with a variety of facilities and sizes, as well as basketball and tennis courts on the grounds of four schools.

The rapid growth of youth athletic programs has outgrown the available fields. A list of County operated fields is shown in Table 4, additional athletic fields are available at the local public schools.

**Table 5  
Baseball Diamonds and Parks in the Severna Park Small Area**

| <b>Park</b>                                     | <b>Baseball Diamonds</b> | <b>Multipurpose</b>   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Cypress Creek</b>                            | 3                        | 2   |
| <b>Elvaton</b>                                  | 5                        | 1   |
| <b>Garcelon Athletic Complex at Kinder Park</b> | 4                        | 5 (1 additional proposed to be constructed in the Spring of 2002) |
| <b>Shipley's Choice (including School)</b>      | 2                        | 1   |
| <b>Waterford Park</b>                           | 1                        | 1   |

**Goals:** Provide facilities and programs for a broad range of volunteer and/or government sponsored activities, e.g. sports, arts and crafts, social gatherings, youth non-school hours programs, cultural, community, concerts, shows/fairs, etc. Provide one or more public water access recreation parks for the residents of Severna Park.

**Recommendations:**

- In addition to the extension of the B&A Trail Park to Kinder Farm Park, develop other extensions to establish a coordinated system of Severna Park hiking/biking trails integrated into the B&A Trail Park system to provide community access for recreation and pedestrian traffic.
- Encourage designation of unused land for use as small neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Plan and build these neighborhood recreational facilities to make them more accessible at the neighborhood level.
- Provide recreational and cultural programs and activities in existing facilities, school, park, and the Community Center at Woods, in the near term with expansion into a Severna Park community center in the future.
- Complete the Kinder Park Farm Recreation Complex as outlined in the Master Plan.
- Provide small park areas on the Severn and the Magothy Rivers.
- Playground equipment that meets federal safety standards and has appropriate ground surfaces that meet standards for usage by handicapped students should be included through the county education or recreation and parks budgets with assistance for PTA organizations and other community groups.

**HOUSING**

Housing supply is adequate, but an evaluation of current inventory and a determination of actions in the future is needed as a basis of maintaining the quality and of adapting to the changing needs expected from significant changes in the population mix, particularly in the proportion of senior citizens.

**Goals:** Continue to provide high quality housing for all residents with emphasis on re-use and upgrading existing structures on housing adaptations with possible future use of mixed use zoning.

**Recommendations:**

- Revise and Enforce the zoning code and housing regulations that permit mother-in-law apartments or additions for family relatives and ensure that they are compatible with single family residential neighborhoods.
- Establish guidelines and support programs to encourage the re-use and upgrading of existing housing in a manner compatible with the existing neighborhood and find sources of funding, public or private for profit, to sustain a program that restores and/or repairs existing housing to support the housing supply.
- Provide support programs to assist the elderly and disabled that have low or moderate incomes to maintain the quality of their housing and continue to function in their homes.
- Consider the incorporation of a housing element in the proposed Village Center that would foster the concept of walkable communities.