

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Community services enrich the standard of living for citizens and provide convenience that people need to conduct a rich life style for themselves and their families. In addition to providing safety, convenience, education, entertainment and health benefits, these services can help to shape the character of a community. This chapter will discuss the following public services and provide goals, polices and implementation strategies for those services, as well as, providing the direction for good community design and strategies for sustainability and regulations that are conducive for good design and are developer friendly.

- Fire, Rescue, and Police Emergency Services
- Public Schools
- Senior Services
- County Library
- Parks and Recreational
- Solid Waste Management
- Community Design

Box CF-1

Public Safety should be an effective coordination of efforts and services between state and local government and a means to protect the health, safety, and welfare of that community.

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Established in 1926, the Town's fire, emergency, and rescue services are provided by the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Services located at 8536 Bayside Road in northern Chesapeake Beach. The service area covers approximately twenty square miles which includes both Chesapeake Beach and North Beach. The service area extends north to the Anne Arundel County line, west to Maryland Route 2, and south to Plum Point Road. The company assists Calvert and southern Anne Arundel County.

The Fire Department provides their services utilizing Engine 11 and 12; Tower1: a 95 foot platform ladder truck; and Rescue 1: a pump truck. Two ambulances and assorted utility vehicles are used to help to conduct all rescue operations.

Funding for the fire department is received from State, County, grants, fund raising and local donations. Revenue sources are becoming harder to find and without more governmental intervention, service may be compromised in the future.

The community based Fire Department provides recreational opportunities at the station. The active responders participate in company drills, state training, and specialized training.

Many communities request review from fire and rescues service providers in the development review process. In order to have efficiency and quick turn around times during an emergency, participation in the Planning Process during subdivision or final site plan review could prevent design issues that may impede rescue services. Fire company review concerns generally develop in several areas: accessibility, proper turn around radius, water supply, building construction/fire spread, education, and funding.

- Accessibility: Electric wires prevent safe deployment of ladders for rescue and fire suppression. Radius should be wide enough to respond quickly. Alleys should be wide enough if access is impeded in the front of the site. Dangerous sidewalks add additional hazards to responders in emergencies.
- Water supply: Adequate flows and pressure are necessary and hydrant testing and maintenance needs to be done periodically.
- Building construction/fire spread: Older structures in town have little or no separation between structures. Early detection, fire control, and quick response are imperative to catching incidents while they are still manageable and not out of control. A resident sprinkler ordinance may help protect properties and lives.
- Open burning is responsible for a number of fires: regulate open burning.
- Public education of the residents in regards to safety would help save lives. Signage, website posting, and community events can go a long way to improve safety, especially in a bedroom community like North Beach.

POLICE SERVICES

Law enforcement for the County is provided by the Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police whose main facilities are in Prince Frederick. A Resident Trooper is assigned to the Board of Education to work with the school system on a daily basis. The County Sheriff's Department is under contract to provide protection for North Beach. Although service is not full time and there isn't a station in Town, it is important to have a police presence in the community part time. As population increases, the Town and County should provide a location for a full time police officer. In addition, it would be beneficial to have new development projects reviewed by the police since proper placement of lighting and the location of landscaping, pedestrian walkways, and bicycle paths can provide a greater degree of safety to the residents.

The Beach Patrol surveys the beach on a regular basis to help provide a safe environment.

The 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan has stated some of the issues that the County faces in law enforcement as follows:

- Law enforcement officials are observing that too many parents are failing to spend enough time with their children and they are unsupervised too often.
- Too many children are left alone after school.
- New residents move to the community and they do not know their neighbors which doesn't give the community the opportunity to help deter crime.
- Law enforcement officials found that most crimes are associated with alcohol and drugs which seems to be increasing.

PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS

1. Support any plans for expansion of public safety services and facilities to coincide with projected population growth. Assist with funding, if at all possible.
2. Promote a public awareness program relative to fire, police, and other safety issues that are occurring in town and prevention plans for certain types of crime.
3. Prepare and routinely update any Town emergency disaster plans.

4. Support and assist police, fire, and emergency crews that service the Town's existing and growing population.
5. Ensure coordination of services between state and local government and between individual jurisdictions in developing effective public safety programs.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Policy CF.1: Work with the Fire Department to determine what types of obstacles impede their service within the Town.

Implementation:

1. Encourage the fire and rescue service providers to review development plans during an early stage in the development process.
2. Support any efforts to have electric lines put underground.
3. Continue to prohibit open burning in Town.
4. Continue to test fire hydrants on a regular basis, especially when new construction that may affect pressure in water lines is being reviewed during the development process.

Policy CF.2: Encourage fire related public awareness to the citizens by providing education programs for children and the community.

Policy CF.3: Consider adopting an ordinance to require having fire suppression on all new or redeveloped properties.

Policy CF.4: Support your local public safety organizations.

Policy CS.5: Provide statistics of crimes that are occurring in Town and report any sex offenders to the public periodically. Make public awareness a priority.

Policy CS.6: Continue to support the Beach Patrol.

Policy CS.7: Establish a neighborhood watch program and fund signage and publications necessary to publish it.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The planning process for public schools is a function of the Board of Education which has its own School Facilities Master Plan. As a result, this comprehensive plan does not address specific facility needs other than reporting that major improvements for any of the three schools has not been cited in the 2010 Master Plan. According to the Calvert County 2010 School Facilities Master Plan, student growth, generally, will have started to decline. Seven years ago the school system experienced a three to four percent growth rate, or approximately 500 new pupils per year. Over the past four planning periods the growth rate has been 1.0 percent or less. State projections are based on birth and death rates and county job opportunities as a factor of immigration. However, North Beach's residential development is expected to grow at a moderate rate.

Students from North Beach attend elementary school at Windy Hill Elementary, middle school at Windy Hill Middle School and high school at Northern High. Windy Hill Elementary and Windy Hill Middle were constructed in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

Northern High School was finished construction in 1972. These facilities serve the northeast sector of the county. This area is projected to experience a moderate growth rate. The availability of sewer and water and the close proximity to transportation routes to Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, make this area very desirable.

In May, 2008 it was reported that Northern High School was deemed inadequate with an Adequate Public Facilities rated capacity of 109.9 percent and Windy Hill Middle school was over 90 percent capacity. If the enrollment exceeds 100 percent of rated capacity, the schools may still be deemed adequate if an adopted redistricting plan results in less than 100 percent capacity for the upcoming school year. The County considers a school over capacity when all public elementary and secondary schools which will serve a proposed residential subdivision or residential development will accommodate the pupil yield from that residential subdivision or residential development without exceeding 100 percent or the rated capacity of a particular school.

Calvert County Enrollment Projections for Schools ¹
 Years 2007- 2017
 Table CF-1

Schools	Actual 2007	Year 1 2008	Year 2 2009	Year 3 2010	Year 4 2011	Year 5 2012	Year 10 2017
Windy Hill Elementary Hill School	659	640	673	690	720	760	867
Windy Hill Middle School	760	748	713	717	714	712	807
Northern High School	1570	1524	1541	1529	1502	1495	1506

¹ Calvert County Public School Facilities Master Plan FY 2010; Prepared 4/10/2008

As North Beach continues to grow and new residential units are constructed, the school populations will increase. Although North Beach does not have an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, Calvert County does keep track of the number of students that are associated with each additional dwelling unit that is occupied over and above the existing number of households. Values are assigned for each type of housing as shown in Table CF-2 below that provides the pupil yield values by household type. Schools that become overcrowded would be considered for redistricting. The information below will be utilized in the Municipal Growth Element to forecast the number of school children that may attend Calvert County Public Schools in future years.

Although public schools are controlled by the State and County, the Town does not have the responsibility of providing schools, the Comprehensive Plan needs to look at the amount of growth in the Town in the years up to 2030. It has been determined that population in 2030 is expected to be

approximately 2,295 if the Town continues to grow at the historic rates. Table MG-2 shows that there will be approximately 981 households and each household is estimated to have 3.4 persons in single family dwellings and 3.17 persons in an apartment. Generally, apartments in this community would have less school age children since there is a fairly high percentage of older population who would be living in apartments; it is expected that this trend will continue. However, based on the pupil yield for single family detached, single family attached, and low rise apartments, and the fact that single family dwelling units hold the highest percentage of existing structures, an assumption will be made to use an average of single family attached and detached pupil yields per dwelling unit and compare the results to the projections that the Calvert County Public Schools have made.

Pupil Yields by Household Type
Table CF-2

Household Type	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Single-family detached	.291	.130	.176
Single-family attached	.194	.084	.118
Low-rise apartments	.097	.043	.059
Manufactured Homes	.145	.065	.088

Data from Calvert County Adequate Facilities Ordinance.

SENIOR SERVICES

The North Beach Senior Center located on Chesapeake Avenue provides a full range of services and programs to the growing population of older citizens that reside in the Town. Calvert County's Office of Aging provides assistance at this facility by providing many essential and recreational services and activities. Events that are conducted on a daily basis consists of providing informational programs, physical and social activities, and serving meals. This facility provides support and empowers seniors to enjoy their community while taking care of their daily needs.

TWIN BEACHES PUBLIC LIBRARY

The first branch of Calvert County's Library opened in North Beach in 1981. It was located in the Twin Beaches Community Center at Dayton and Fourth Avenue. In 1991, the Twin Beaches Branch was moved to the Town of Chesapeake Beach due to a greater need for space. It has remained on the Captain's Quarter's property where it was renovated in 1996. The branch library is funded by Calvert County.

The collection in Twin Beaches' Branch includes 42,000 items consisting of books, reading material, CDs, videos, and digital books. There are approximately 9,614 registered borrowers, and the branch had 70,000 customer visits in FY 2007. The computer section of the library had 15,000 computer users. Summer programs are held for children in the community; and, some times programs expecting a larger group are held off site.

The Library is open six days a week with fairly generous hours. Since the Branch shares an on-line catalog with the Calvert County system and any other libraries statewide, Twin Beaches' customers may order items from other libraries that are delivered to this Branch.

The current 4,240 square foot library in Chesapeake Beach is heavily used and extremely crowded and under-sized to serve the current population of the Twin Beaches area. The staff does an excellent job with their current resources and serving their patrons; however, more space is needed. Using a service ratio of 1.65 persons per square foot, the Twin Beaches Branch library should serve about 2,650 people. However, just considering the population of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach which had a combined total population of 5,263 in 2007, indicates that the library needs to be expanded or relocated. Although at one time the County had budgeted for a new library that would range in size from approximately 10 to 12 thousand square feet, funds have not been available for the project due to budgetary problems; therefore, the expansion or location of a new branch library was removed from the County's budget.

The citizen survey that was conducted with this Comprehensive Plan indicated that the Town would like to see a branch library return to North Beach; however, if the County were to construct a new branch library containing 10 to 12 thousand square feet, one branch library site would be able to serve the population of both North Beach and Chesapeake Beach until the end of the twenty year planning period. If a site were to become available in North Beach it is likely that the Town should interact with the County to be sure that the site would be large enough for the size library that the County plans to construct.

LIBRARY GOALS

1. Support the Twin Beaches Branch of the Calvert County Library.
2. As North Beach's population increase, identify sites in Town that could accommodate a new branch library.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Policy CF.8: Identify sites and developers who may partner with the Town to designate a new library site.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The objective of solid waste management is to provide a safe and environmentally healthy way to remove household trash and putridables from citizens' homes and to reduce the amount of solid waste that goes into the landfill. Since land filling is increasingly becoming more expansive and construction of new landfills are costly, environmentally unsound, and opposed by most citizens that are located near a proposed site, it is prudent and economical to landfill less and recycle more.

In 1988, the Maryland Recycling Act authorized Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to reduce the solid waste in Maryland through management, education and regulation. Although the Town has programs for picking up yard wastes, recyclables, and house hold trash, it is taken to Calvert County facilities to be disposed of in the proper manner. Much of the solid waste stream is not landfilled; but is instead collected and taken to the appropriate markets where it is recycled.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. Encourage citizens to dispose of solid waste, wastewater, and hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally sound manner.
2. Promote conservation of energy, water, and materials that can be reused or recycled.
3. Shred yard waste to provide less yard debris in the waste stream.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Policy CF.9: Continue to encourage residents to recycle, and reuse household items. Shred yard waste to reduce the waste stream and provide mulch for yards.

Policy CF10: Continue to dispose of yard waste if not mulched, save water by using soaker hoses for gardens, and rain barrels to collect rain water to water yards.

Policy CF11: Promote conservation of energy by planting deciduous trees to block sun in the summer and loose their leaves in the fall to take advantage of heating and cooling elements of trees.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

One of the repetitive comments that were prevalent in the Comprehensive Plan Citizen Survey was that citizens of the Town wanted to see a more desirable street scape. An attractive environment for residents and tourists is an important element of community. The aesthetics and design of the buildings makes the difference between just developing land or designing it to replicate the historic fabric and charm of the Town. Good site design attracts businesses to locate to a place, attracts tourists, and is visually pleasing to residents. Compatibility of new structures with the surrounding structures as far as scale, massing, setbacks, and character is important to development of North Beach. The Waterfront Revitalization Plan was adopted in 1986. One of the major goals endorsed was to promote controlled and attractive change to improve the waterfront commercial area so that it serves the needs of the Town and the broader community. The adoption of a Waterfront Renaissance Zoning district, which is a mixed use district that provides for commercial retail, service, and residential uses that are oriented to serve waterfront activities, was approved to further these objectives. In addition, design guidelines were approved so the Planning Commission could review final site plans for new structures or redevelopment.

COMMUNITY DESIGN GOALS

1. Encourage development that is compatible with height, scale, massing, setbacks, and the character of neighborhoods where it is proposed.
2. Encourage development to occur on vacant and under utilized properties before annexing additional land.
3. Provide a "sense of community" by continuing festivals and Town functions; expanding pedestrian walkways, bicycle paths, increased recreational opportunities; providing education programs that help homeowners with such functions as conservation of energy, resource recovery, on site storm water control and water saving methods.

4. Expand the Waterfront Renaissance district and commercial districts to provide additional mixed use business opportunities, and retail services to increase job opportunities and higher density residential development.
5. Explore the benefits of Green Building and revise the Zoning Ordinance to include appropriate regulations to achieve this goal.
6. Improve the streetscape and the ambiance of the Waterfront Renaissance zoning district and other areas in the Town.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Policy CF12: Identify the physical characteristics and qualities that need to be strengthened to revise and/or expand the existing Zoning Ordinance with design guidelines relative to proper height, scale, articulation, massing, setbacks, and elements of design that the Town is trying to achieve.

Policy CF13: Increase the Tree Canopy and landscaping in the Town with appropriate species that will uptake water, will not raise sidewalks, and will provide shade but not block the view shed of the Bay.

Policy CF14: Continue the community activities and festivals, yard sales, and the like. Partner with other adjacent communities in the area to hold events on the same days to increase attendance.

Policy CF15: Encourage Green Building.

Policy CF16: Encourage public art reminiscent of North Beach when developing a site.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The availability of land reserved by the public for recreational use, relaxation, and enjoyment of the outdoors will become increasingly important over the twenty year planning period. As the population of the Town grows and housing costs rise and land is developed more densely, the proportion of Town residents who have any or enough space in their yards for recreation will decline. The importance of pocket parks and green space will be at a premium and appreciation for the recreational area that the Town possesses will increase in public value.

Recreational facilities of a local nature should be planned, to the greatest extent possible, in conjunction with existing and planned school facilities so that they may complement each other in function, thus avoiding costly and wasteful duplication of facilities. All facilities must be accessible to the handicapped and senior citizens.

The growth in interest relative to developing the North Beach waterfront as a site for community recreational activities reflects an appreciation of this valuable and scarce community resource. Besides serving the needs of Town citizens and landowners, the waterfront is an attractive recreational destination for visitors from nearby areas.

North Beach has a long history of being oriented to waterfront recreation: having a popular swimming beach, pier, and dance pavilion. The pier at the end of Fifth Street has played an

important role in the history of North Beach. One of the richest resources in North Beach is the panoramic view of the Bay from Bay Avenue to Atlantic Avenues. The Town has been successful in receiving grants to finance improvements to the pier and the boardwalk.

Today, the pier is one of the key components of the waterfront revitalization program, both because of its location and symbolism. The Town has done a good job in recreating the swimming beach, pier, and boardwalk. It has enhanced the area with small trees that provide a certain ambiance in the area but does not block the view of the Bay. Activities that have been enjoyed by citizens and tourists are abundant and occur throughout the year. The Mayor and Council have approached many new recreational activities with enthusiasm.

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL GOALS

1. A major goal of the Waterfront Renaissance zoning district should be to continue to maintain and provide additional recreational venues along the shoreline and the boardwalk that appeal to all citizens, property owners, and tourists.
2. All planning reviews and efforts to attract Commercial activity along Bay, Chesapeake, Fifth, and Seventh Avenues should encourage businesses that would complement the Chesapeake Bay's recreational activities and make the Waterfront Renaissance zoning district a more vibrant section of Town.
3. Town officials should work with the State, Calvert and Anne Arundel Counties, to identify additional park sites and recreational facilities.
4. New medium to high density residential developments should include pocket parks and other recreation amenities for their residents. Proffers may include contributions to the Town's planned or existing public parks system or by constructing streetscape improvements which include such items as, benches, landscaping, a bus shelter and other amenities that are compatible with the design of the project proposed.
5. Town officials should work cooperatively with adjacent Counties and the Town of Chesapeake Beach to establish a connected network of hiking and bicycle routes or public transportation so that recreational features of each jurisdiction can be shared.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Policy CF.17: Continue to increase and enhance public access to the beach, shoreline and wetland's open space.

Implementation Strategies

1. Continue to support a beach nourishment program which would add more sand along the shoreline during an erosion event or expand recreational beach activities.
2. Identify areas along the shore line where recreational activities could be established.

Policy CF18: Continue to provide public facilities along the waterfront to increase the waterfront's recreational facilities and add to the ambience and excitement of this district.

Implementation Strategies

1. Redevelopment of the Bay-front area should include restaurants with tables outside or other public places for all citizens and tourists in Town to enjoy the Bay view.
2. Identify space for public parking convenient to the waterfront.
3. Identify species of trees compatible with preserving a view shed in the waterfront area.
4. Support additional trolleys to transport citizens and tourists in a shorter time period.
5. Continue to apply for State grants to provide public improvements in the water front area.
6. Encourage developers to provide area plans when developing several properties in a unified manner.

Policy CF19: Ensure that there are multiple activities and programs for all residents and tourists that visit the Town.

Implementation Strategies

1. Study the feasibility of constructing a canoe or small boat docking area.
2. Develop a unified signage plan in the Zoning Ordinance for business and way-finding in the waterfront area.

Policy CF20: Update architectural standards for the Waterfront Renaissance Zoning District to include Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, and implementation strategies. Provide criteria for some standards so that they can be applied objectively and consistently.

Policy CF21: Continue to support multi-modal transportation to serve the waterfront area.

Policy CF22: Require street improvements; curb, gutter, street lights, street trees; and sidewalk in new development and redevelopments. This requirement should apply to repair or replacement of infrastructure that may be in place but in poor condition.

Policy CF23: Increase the amount of active open space and public recreation amenities by requiring developers' contribution or construction of public park facilities as part of the impact of adding new residences to the Town.

Implementation Strategies

1. During the update of the Zoning Ordinance incorporate the National Recreation and Park Association's standards and create requirements for new or redevelopment of residential site to provide parkland based on the number of units in the development.
2. Identify sites for small pocket parks.
3. Develop passive park amenities or features in lieu landscaping or part of the landscaping requirement in downtown developments. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to add this provision.