

## VI. PUBLIC FACILITIES

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## INTRODUCTION –

### CREATING COMMUNITY WITH PUBLIC FACILITIES

Creating a sense of community through the principles of Neighborhood Design is supported through the policies contained within the Urban Area Study completed in 2006. These policies will help transform areas within the Urban Development Area (UDA) into walkable, mixed-used, interconnected focal points.

By directing growth to the Urban Areas, through the UDA, the County can better direct services and community facilities to the citizens providing efficiency in community facilities including schools, parks, libraries and emergency services. At the same time, the County can better protect its Rural Areas and natural and cultural resources.

To facilitate the growth and development in the UDA, and to ensure that the right kind of development is occurring in the appropriate places, the placement of future community services should be based on the following principles:

- Mixing of various uses including schools, parks, and other county services.
- Locating community facilities to serve as community focal points
- Traditional development patterns.
- High quality architecture and design, especially in public buildings and spaces.
- Integrated community facilities that serve as community focal points.
- Respect for and incorporation of natural and historic resources.
- Providing linkages between trails, parks, open spaces and public facilities to create connectivity a more walkable community.

Public facilities, especially schools, parks and libraries, can provide focal points for walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods, intertwined with variety of housing, retail, and employment opportunities. Focusing development around walkable centers allows people to work, go to school, live, shop, and play in locations that are near each other. The location of public facilities and infrastructure and the thoughtful provisions for public spaces, recreational areas, and open spaces are essential to the creation of more walkable, livable communities.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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This Chapter addresses the following County public facility providers and their focus and direction for the future.

- **FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
- **FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**
- **HANDLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY**
- **FREDERICK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**
- **WINCHESTER REGIONAL AIRPORT**

Collaboration between County agencies should continue to be a priority goal in order to ensure that the investment made in the County's community facilities will continue to provide the best possible environment for positive and vibrant community growth.

Public facilities, in particular schools, parks and libraries have a tremendous effect on how our community grows. There is an opportunity to improve the quality of the community by applying contemporary planning principles to public facility planning. In general, public facilities should serve as a focal point for the County's Neighborhood Villages, Urban Centers and Rural Communities. These facilities are aimed at promoting more livable places and improving overall quality of life by building on and enhancing a sense of community.

### **FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The establishment of new community facilities creates opportunities to improve the quality of the surrounding community. Schools in particular through the incorporation of Neighborhood Design can serve as the focal point for Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers within the UDA and Rural Community Centers in the Rural Areas. Neighborhood Design promotes neighborhood-centered schools as an element of a fully integrated community and as a resource and enhancement for the locality as a whole.

Schools should be located in existing or future neighborhoods, within walking distance and be accessible to residents. Community centered school planning makes good use of existing resources, while ensuring that schools are located within neighborhoods and fit into the scale and design of the area. They act as neighborhood anchors and community centers. Well planned school sites, by encouraging walking and bicycling, can improve student health and academic performance and reduce traffic around schools. A good example of community centered school planning can be found in Greenwood Mill Elementary School, the county's 11<sup>th</sup> Elementary and newest school.

### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

FCPS is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest of 134 school systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with just over 13,000 students in the 2010-11 school year. With over 2,000 full time employees Frederick County Public Schools is the second largest employer in the Frederick-Winchester County area. The school district has 11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 1 alternative education/career & technical school. The school division also owns and operates a regional special education facility that provides special education services to students from Frederick and Clarke Counties and the City of Winchester. Support facilities include the administration building, the maintenance/warehouse facility, and the transportation facility. There are a total of 24 schools and support facilities operated by FCPS. Five new schools were constructed over the past 10 years.

Residential growth continues to impact the school system as additional homes are built throughout the County. During the past several decades, the student enrollment in the school division has increased steadily. Student enrollment has grown by 2,360 students in the past ten years alone, an increase of 22%. Recently, student membership growth has been flat, a reflection of the real estate market slump and the broader economic crisis.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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As the local real estate market recovers, school growth will regain momentum.

As growth occurs, it is important that new and refurbished schools serve as a focal point for Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers. When located in the Rural Areas, new and existing schools should be located in or near Rural Community Centers when possible.

### **FUTURE FOCUS**

As Frederick County looks toward the future, it will plan for new school facilities that are strategically located where students live to optimize individual schools' population levels. Where possible, schools should be located to provide a focal point for community life and where students can walk or ride their bicycles to school. Opportunities to co-locate schools with other community facilities should be sought. Fire & Rescue stations co-located with schools provides a specific benefit to FCPS, as schools are identified by the Fire and Rescue Department as a "target hazard" (a land use having a higher risk of injury due to the demographics of the users). To meet the continuing challenge of student population growth, more new schools will be needed.

FCPS also has the responsibility of providing instruction that prepares students to work and live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The use of technology as a tool in nearly every facet of education has dramatically changed the way in which instructional services are provided to students. Renovation, expansion, or outright replacement of certain schools will be needed to meet needs created by technological advancement, evolving educational practices, implementation of full-day kindergarten, building safety and security, aging facilities, and a desire to implement green building practices. These same circumstances plus an increasingly rigorous regulatory environment drive the need for larger, technologically modern support facilities.

Detailed descriptions of the school division's capital needs are included in the Frederick County Capital Improvements Plan, which is updated annually. The anticipated location of the proposed facilities is shown on the Potential New School Locations map.

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### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The mission of Frederick County Public Schools' (FCPS) is to ensure all students an excellent education. The school system works hard to meet the needs of all students, from those who will go to college to those who are challenged to master the most basic of life skills. FCPS fosters a culture of success and collaboration as well as a desire to constantly improve. All Frederick County schools are fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. Over the past ten years, the student dropout rate has decreased dramatically from just over 3% to 1.34%. Eighty-seven percent of the class of 2010 planned to pursue continuing education.

There are specific programs offered by FCPS to meet the varying needs of special groups of students. In collaboration with the City of Winchester and Clarke County, FCPS provides an education for children who are emotionally disturbed or who have multiple disabilities. FCPS helps adults with limited educational opportunities reach their individual goals and potential as workers, citizens, and family members by providing quality adult education services through the GED program. GEDs are also offered to students 16 and 17 years old through the ISAEP (Individual Student Alternative Education Plan) Program. FCPS offers a variety of trade and industrial programs and health occupations programs designed to meet the needs of students who wish to improve their employability skills and explore different career possibilities. FCPS also provides enriched and expanded instruction for students who qualify for Gifted Education.

In addition to the above, FCPS provides a number of additional benefits to the community

- Varsity and junior varsity athletics help provide each community an identity and give participating students competitive skills that can be used throughout their lives.
- School buildings serve as a center where various community activities can take place.
- The cafeteria offers two nutritious meals a day to all students. This is particularly important for students who qualify for free or reduced cost meals.

# PUBLIC FACILITIES

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## **POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION**

Each local school board in Virginia is required by State Code to adopt a division wide comprehensive plan. Accordingly, the Frederick County Public Schools Division Comprehensive Plan is the document that governs the future direction of FCPS. Long-range school planning documents that are developed under the umbrella of the Division Comprehensive Plan include curriculum improvement plans, school improvement plans, a technology plan, enrollment projections, a capital improvement plan, and a staffing projection plan. The following policies are mostly excerpts from the FCPS 2007-2013 Division Comprehensive Plan. Please refer to that plan for the official version of these policies:

**POLICY:            CONSIDER THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGES, URBAN CENTERS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES; SITE LOCATION, SITE SUITABILITY, PROGRAM DESIGN, AND THE NEEDS OF OTHER AGENCIES IN LOCATING NEW FACILITIES.**

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- In evaluating potential school facility locations, consider the role of the site in building diverse, walkable communities in the UDA.
- In evaluating potential school facility locations, consider each location relative to arterial roads, planned roadways, the SWSA, the UDA, surrounding neighborhoods, floodplains, Civil War battlefields, and Agricultural and Forestal Districts. Also consider surrounding land uses, nearby petroleum releases, and other potential environmental hazards.
- In evaluating individual candidate sites, consider each site's zoning, planned land use, topography relative to program requirements, historical features, water features, wetlands, petroleum releases and other potential environmental hazards, geology, soil suitability, and tree cover. Also consider constraints contained in the site's deed and plat and the potential for the presence of rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Purchase sites that are suitable for co-locating school facilities with facilities other agencies have identified in their CIP or other studies if doing so does not interfere with FCPS' educational mission and is a responsible use of public funds. Future school sites have the potential to be colocated with future fire and rescue stations, parks, community centers, libraries, convenience sites, and satellite offices for several County Departments. Additionally, future school sites could become part of the network of properties needed to execute the Eastern Road Plan.

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**POLICY:** FCPS WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WILL PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETING STUDENTS' NEEDS.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Students in all population groups will demonstrate high levels of achievement in the core academics and the fine arts as evidenced by increased levels of proficiency on standards of learning assessments, on advanced placement tests, and by grades in dual enrollment courses.
- Students will enroll in coursework that provides opportunities to earn college credit or industry certifications while enrolled in secondary school.
- Students will be prepared for continued learning and application of learning to the workforce.
- Students' academic success, core character traits, and citizenship will be enhanced by parental involvement.
- Student achievement and progress will be reported efficiently to parents.
- Students will benefit from collaborative teacher planning and problem solving.
- Students and staff will learn and work in buildings that are conducive to learning, cost-effective, energy-efficient, at or below program capacity, attractive, and well-maintained.
- Students who are highly talented academically and in the arts will have access to multiple learning opportunities grades 2–12.
- Students will be able to make choices that lead to a healthy and productive lifestyle such as walking or bicycling to school when feasible and safe to do so.

**POLICY:** FCPS WILL PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Students will have access to high quality guidance and academic counseling services.
- Students will learn in a safe and orderly environment.



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- Students will have access to nutritious and healthy meals that meet RDA guidelines.
- Students will be encouraged to participate in school-sponsored extra- and co-curricular activities.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Frederick County School Board is the elected body which governs the school division. The School Board adopts broad goals and objectives for the school system's operation, sets and enforces school policy, prepares and adopts annual budgets, oversees student instruction and division administration, and manages school division property. In performing this work, the School Board coordinates effort with numerous agencies:

- Northwest Regional Education Program, or NREP.
- Frederick County Educational Foundation.
- Frederick County Parks and Recreation.
- Frederick County Sheriff's Office.
- Mountain Vista Governor's School, or MVGS.
- Performing and Visual Arts Northwest, or PAVAN.
- Blue Ridge Environmental Studies Regional Summer Governor's School.
- Access Independence.
- The ARC of Northern Shenandoah Valley.
- Child Development Clinic of Northwestern Virginia.
- Child Parent Center.
- Frederick County Parent Resource Center.
- Northwestern Community Services.
- Parent to Parent.
- Shenandoah University.
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.
- Youth Development Center.
- Winchester Area Autism Spectrum Disorder Family Support Group.
- Virginia Autism Resource Center.

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### **SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

- Frederick County Public School Division Comprehensive Plan – Charting Progress 2007 – 2013
- Frederick County Public Schools School Board Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2010
- Frederick County Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan 2009 – 2014
- Frederick County Public Schools September 15, 2009 Enrollment History and Projections
- Frederick County Public Schools Character Education Core Traits
- Frederick County Public Schools 2009 – 2010 High School Program of Studies
- Frederick County Public Schools 2009 – 2010 Middle School Program of Studies
- Frederick County Public Schools 2006 – 2011 Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted
- Frederick County Public Schools Six-Year Technology Plan 2003-2009
- Commonwealth of Virginia 2008 Standards of Quality
- Commonwealth of Virginia Standards of Accreditation
- Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2003-2009

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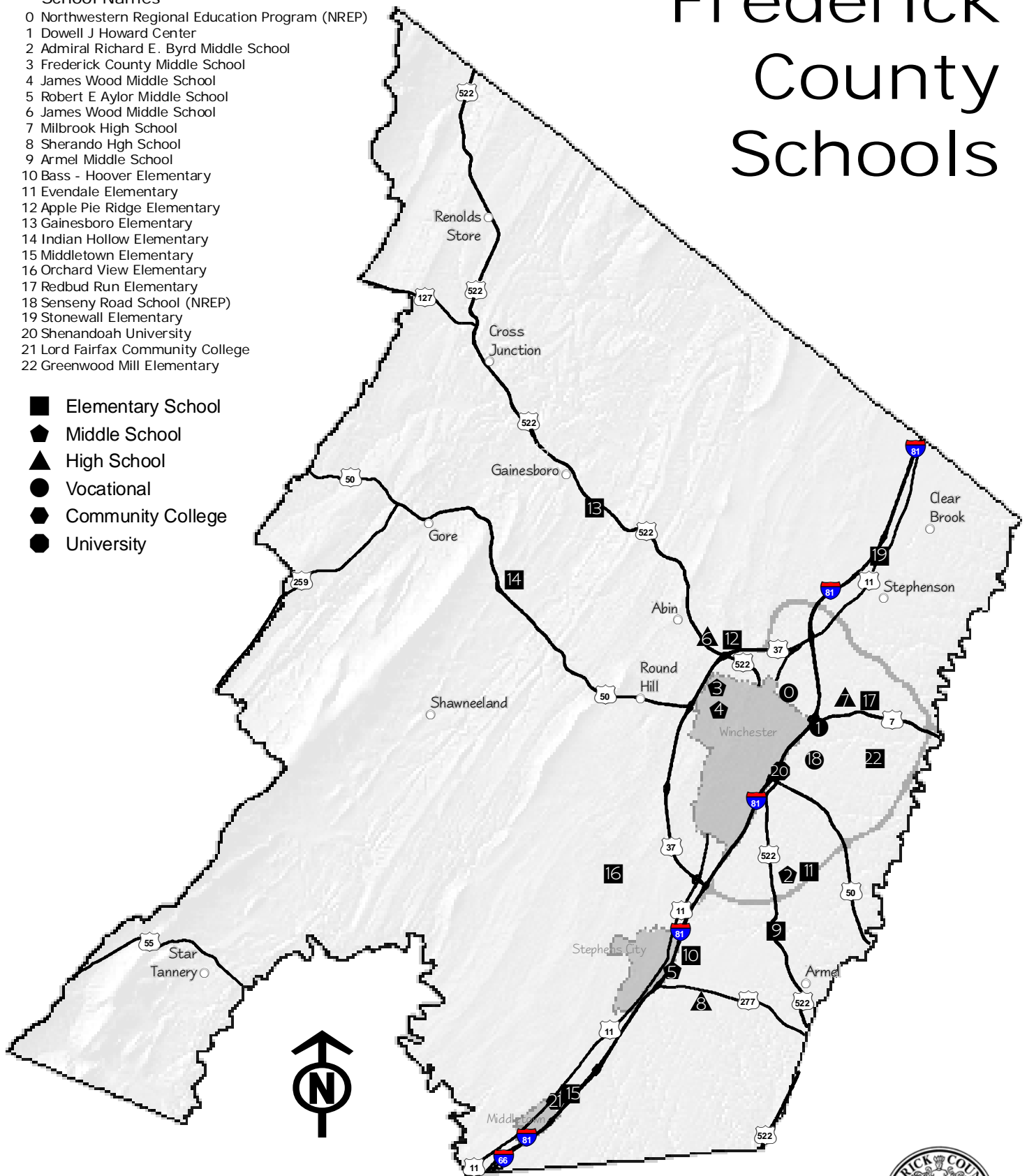
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# Frederick County Schools

## School Names

- 0 Northwestern Regional Education Program (NREP)
- 1 Dowell J Howard Center
- 2 Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School
- 3 Frederick County Middle School
- 4 James Wood Middle School
- 5 Robert E Aylor Middle School
- 6 James Wood Middle School
- 7 Millbrook High School
- 8 Sherando High School
- 9 Armel Middle School
- 10 Bass - Hoover Elementary
- 11 Evendale Elementary
- 12 Apple Pie Ridge Elementary
- 13 Gainesboro Elementary
- 14 Indian Hollow Elementary
- 15 Middletown Elementary
- 16 Orchard View Elementary
- 17 Redbud Run Elementary
- 18 Senseny Road School (NREP)
- 19 Stonewall Elementary
- 20 Shenandoah University
- 21 Lord Fairfax Community College
- 22 Greenwood Mill Elementary

- Elementary School
- ◆ Middle School
- ▲ High School
- Vocational
- ◆ Community College
- University



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2030 Comprehensive Plan  
Adopted April \_\_, 2011

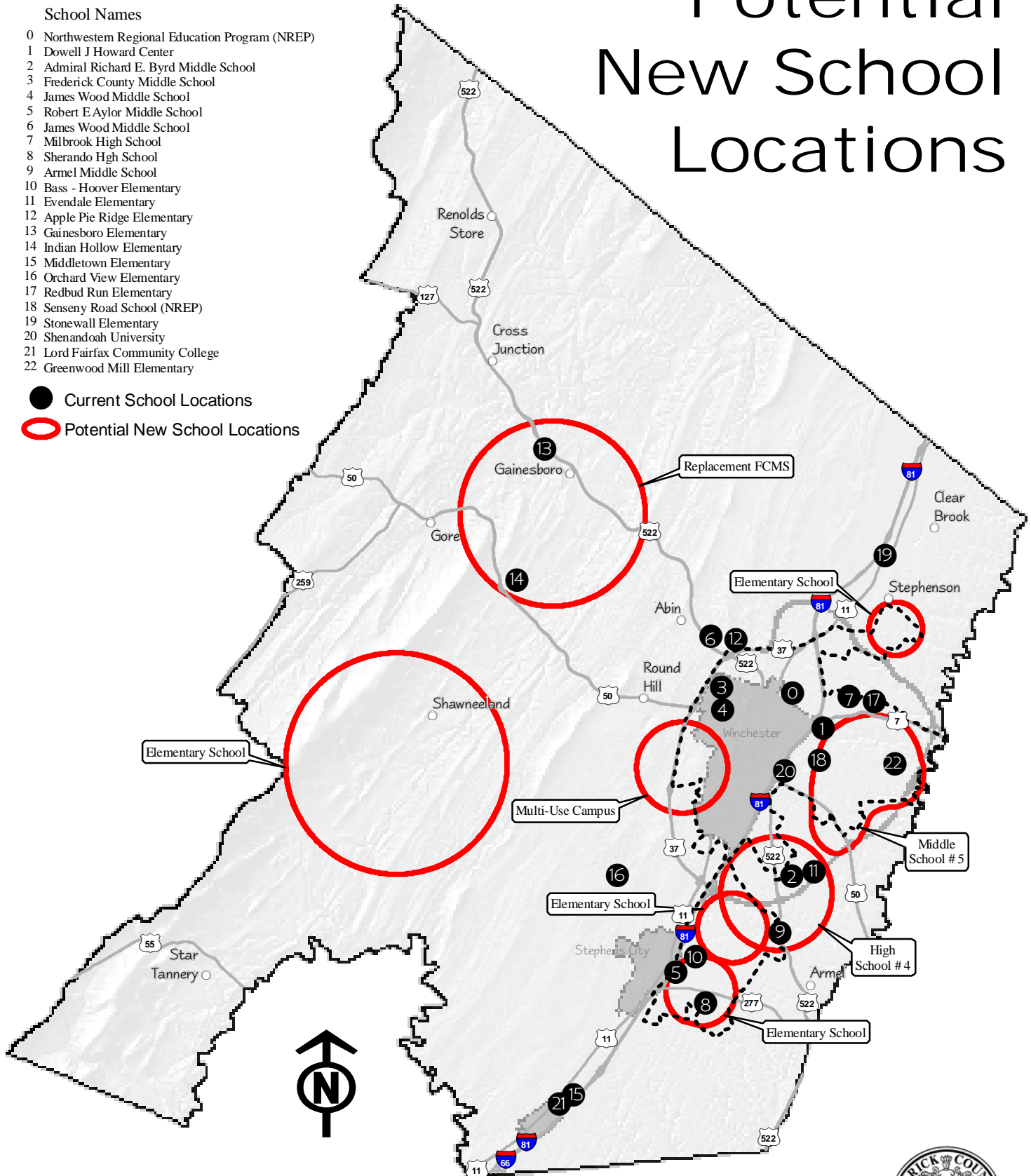


# Potential New School Locations

## School Names

- 0 Northwestem Regional Education Program (NREP)
- 1 Dowell J Howard Center
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- 14 Indian Hollow Elementary
- 15 Middletown Elementary
- 16 Orchard View Elementary
- 17 Redbud Run Elementary
- 18 Senseny Road School (NREP)
- 19 Stonewall Elementary
- 20 Shenandoah University
- 21 Lord Fairfax Community College
- 22 Greenwood Mill Elementary

- Current School Locations
- Potential New School Locations



### **FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**

"The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department is committed to promoting and providing quality parks and recreational facilities, programs, and leisure opportunities for our community" (Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement). Parks and other public places can provide focal points for walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods that are vibrant and community centered. Focusing development around walkable centers allows people to work, go to school, live, shop, and play in locations that are near each other.

As discussed in the Introduction to the Public Facilities section of the Comprehensive Policy Plan, through use of the principles of Neighborhood Design, provisions for new community facilities including parks, greenways, and other recreational facilities, can create opportunities to improve the quality of the community.

The location of public facilities and infrastructure and well planned provisions for public spaces, recreational areas, and open spaces are essential. Parks should be carefully planned to respect and take advantage of natural and historic resources as well as to enhance the natural, scenic, and cultural value of the Urban Areas of the County.

It is also important to promote the importance of small playgrounds and open spaces being near every dwelling. Accordingly, parks and recreation facilities are a critical component of building community with community facilities.

### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

#### **Facilities**

There are five classifications of parks including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and District Parks and Greenways. The classification depends on the size, service area, purpose, character, and location. The County currently owns and operates two district and four neighborhood parks. Both district parks currently serve the County's population with active and passive recreational programs and facilities. Clearbrook Park, located five miles north of Winchester on Route 11, consisting of approximately 55 acres (44 which are owned by the County) and Sherando Park, located two miles east of Stephens City on Route 277, consisting of approximately 334 acres. The four County neighborhood parks are located at the Reynolds Store Fire Company

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and Gainesboro Fire Company in the Gainesboro District, the Round Hill Fire Company in the Back Creek District, and the Frederick Heights subdivision in the Red Bud District. These neighborhood parks consist primarily of playground equipment for young children.

Master development plans were adopted for both Clearbrook and Sherando Parks which established development goals for each park, identified unmet recreational needs, provided unified facility plans, and proposed a development program for each park. The Master Plans for these parks reflect the recommendations of the County residents and national standards as outlined in the Virginia Outdoor Plan. These plans emphasize the development of a swimming pool complex, additional sports venues, picnic areas, and maintenance support facilities. Since the adoption of the Master Plans, the County has completed the construction of: two outdoor swimming pool complexes, four irrigated soccer fields, a maintenance building, three shelters, a gazebo, two playground areas, two sand volleyball courts and two fields of a four field softball complex. The County has also purchased an area to house the maintenance operations for Clearbrook Park. Additional recreational facilities currently provided are athletic fields, playground, and picnic areas with a variety of recreational opportunities such as horseshoes, fishing, paddleboats, volleyball, open space areas, and support facilities. Clearbrook Park, Sherando Park, neighborhood parks and all public schools are maintained by the Parks Division of the County Parks and Recreation Department.

In addition to the improvements completed at the park sites, the County has also constructed a 3mile bicycle/pedestrian trail that serves several residential areas east of Stephens City.

### **Programs**

The Recreation Division of the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department was created to provide a comprehensive and accessible program of recreational services and activities for the residents of Frederick County. A diverse range of recreational and enrichment programs is provided for all age groups. This broad base of activities includes, but is not limited to, instructional classes, outdoor adventure programs, sports and athletics, lifetime leisure and fitness programs, cultural and community events, as well as, trips and excursions.

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Programming responsibilities are assigned within the Division's four interest sections:

1. Community Events
2. Before and After School Programs
3. Sports and Athletics
4. Lifetime Leisure and Fitness

Staff members work together to identify, develop, and implement those activities which most closely meet the interests and desires of the community. The Division typically implements programs within age categories such as preschool, youth, teen, adult and senior adult.

The majority of recreation programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are held within the Parks and Recreation Department's Community Centers, District Parks and the Frederick County Public Schools. The joint efforts of the Frederick County Public Schools and the Parks and Recreation Commission/Department resulted in the inclusion of recreational facilities within Sherando High School, Orchard View Elementary, Evendale Elementary, Gainesboro Elementary, and Greenwood Mill Elementary.

### **FUTURE FOCUS**

In order to meet the future service demands on the County's two district parks, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to continue implementing the improvements adopted on the Master Plans. Additionally, in support of Neighborhood Design, new parks and usable open spaces should be located within the UDA, near or at the center of Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers or in Rural Community Centers in the Rural Area to help create more walkable, livable communities. The construction of additional trails throughout the community is also important. Additional trails would provide residents the ability to travel safely from their homes to schools, stores, work or recreation areas without having to share the overcrowded arterial and collector roads with automobiles.

As suggested by the 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan, the area standard for local recreation and park sites in Virginia is ten acres of developed park land per thousand populations. Frederick County has a population of approximately 77,864 (based on 2010 estimates provided by the Planning Department) and currently manages 401 acres of park land. Of the 401 acres assigned to the parks, about 220 acres are developed for both active and passive uses.



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Using the population projections provided by the Frederick County Planning Department, an additional 559 acres of developed park land are needed to meet the current demand; another 178 acres by 2020, and a further 189 acres by 2030 will be required if we are to keep pace with the recommended standards of the ten acres per thousand population. It is estimated by the Parks and Recreation Department that by the year 2030, Frederick County will need approximately 1,145 acres of developed park land to adequately serve the County's projected population of 114,539.

There are five classifications of parks including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and District Parks and Greenways. The classification depends on the size, service area, purpose, character, and location. Maps illustrating potential park locations based on population estimates and tables illustrating the current and existing facility standards and shortfalls are included within Appendix II of this Plan.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department is building a sense of community through people, parks, and recreational opportunities. Families and organizations alike look to Frederick County Parks and Recreation to meet their leisure needs. Over 1.1 million recreational contact hours to youth, senior, and family programs are provided through programs offered by or facilitated through Frederick County Parks and Recreation in 2010. An estimated 430,000 people visited the two District Parks in that same year.

### POLICIES /IMPLEMENTATION

**POLICY:** CONTRIBUTE TO THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY; ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING, AND ITS SENSE OF CIVIC PRIDE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND PARK FACILITIES.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Continue to solicit public opinion in planning parks and recreation.
- Promote the completion of a County-wide recreation plan which identifies recreational, park, and open space needs.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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- Use a County-wide recreation plan to develop standards for open space and recreational facilities in new urban development.
- Identify recreation needs associated with the Rural Community Centers.
- Continue to encourage the participation and financial support of civic groups businesses, and other organizations and individuals for recreational needs.
- Continue to utilize State and Federal grants and loans for financing and programming County recreational needs and especially for major capital projects.
- Continue to expand our cooperative relationship with the Frederick County School Board in jointly meeting identified County recreational needs.
- Continue to cooperate with the private sector, the semi-public sector and other public providers of recreation in meeting identified recreational needs.
- Promote the development of a comprehensive trail system and bikeway plan.
- Review land development regulations to ensure that appropriate standards are provided for open space recreational facilities in new developments.

**POLICY:** CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE COUNTY'S DISTRICT PARKS AS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Use the capital improvements planning process to provide improvements to the district parks.
- Seek alternative sources of funding for park improvements.

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**POLICY:** TO HAVE EVERY RESIDENT OF FREDERICK COUNTY'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREA WITHIN WALKING OR BIKING DISTANCE OF A RECREATION AREA.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Inventory the County's Green Infrastructure resources to identify appropriate locations for greenways, Community, Neighborhood and Mini Parks including connectivity consistent with the 2007 MPO Bike and Pedestrian Plan.
- Strategically locate parks in or near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers to meet population based needs

**POLICY:** PROVIDE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES BASED ON IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND AVAILABLE FUNDING.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Prepare a County-wide recreation plan identifying program needs.
- Develop and maintain citizen participation in the identification of recreational program and program facility needs.
- Actively solicit contributions for the provision of recreational programs and program facility needs, from all segments of the community, both private and public.
- Structure the provision of all program facilities, such as indoor community centers, to recognize land use decisions and policies.
- Actively utilize public, semi-public, and private facilities for the provision of recreational programs.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

### The Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen advisory board recommending the development of the countywide recreation plan. Recommendations are either implemented or approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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### **Cosponsored Youth Recreation Providers.**

These organizations provide recreation to county youth and are provided field space and other services.

- National Little League Baseball and Softball
- American Little League Baseball and Softball
- American Legion Baseball
- AAU Rising Stars Basketball
- AAU Mavericks Softball
- Blue Ridge Youth Soccer Association.

### **Frederick County Public Schools**

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) locations provide recreation areas for recreation programming and general public use. Under a cooperative use agreement with FCPS, Frederick County Parks and Recreation operates five community centers at FCPS sites and maintains a large percentage of FCPS open space and athletic fields.

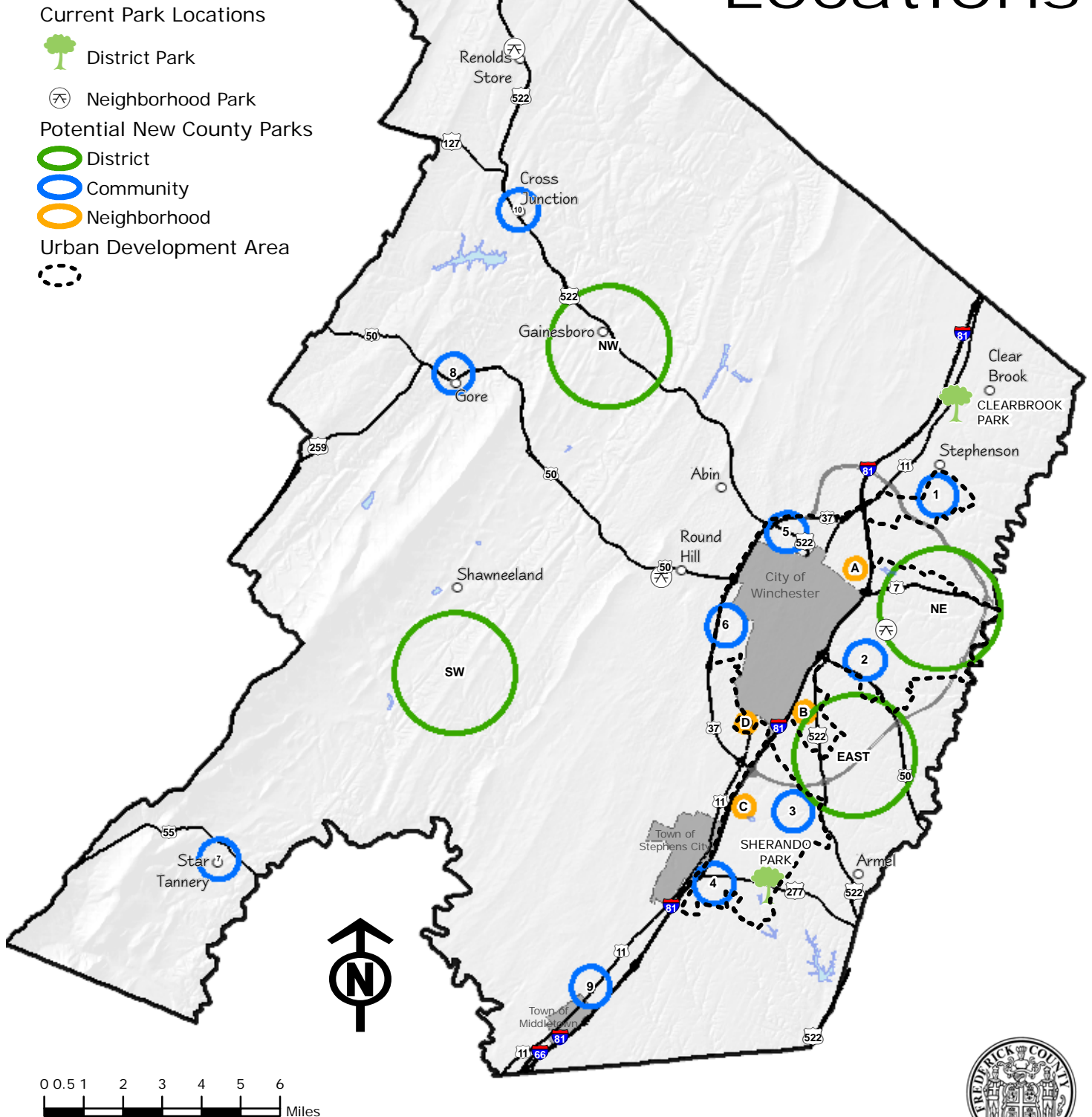
### **SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

- 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan
- National Parks and Recreation Association, "Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway Guidelines"
- 2007 Frederick County Planning Department Planning Area Analysis
- Geographic Information System

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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# Potential New County Park Locations



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### **HANDLEY LIBRARY**

#### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

Frederick County participates in the Handley Regional Library with Winchester and Clarke County. Handley Regional Library currently supplies library services through three libraries: the Mary Jane & James L. Bowman Library in Stephens City (35,000 sq. ft.), Handley Library in Winchester (34,000 sq. ft.), and the Clarke County Library in Berryville (5,000 sq. ft.). Frederick County residents borrow about 60% of their materials from the Bowman Library and 39% from the Handley Library. Frederick County residents account for 85% of all the items loaned at Bowman Library and 55% at Handley Library (June 2008-May 2009).

Currently, library services include the selection and checkout of materials (books, magazines, audio books, DVDs and videos, and music CDs) to children and adults. Library staff provides assistance to users to find answers to questions, to locate library materials, and to use library computers and software. Children's Services staff provides activities that encourage reading and learning in children from preschool through high school. Through the library's webpage, users with library cards have access to databases that provide newspaper articles, magazine and journal articles, books, and downloadable audio books. The Stewart Bell Jr. Archives collects materials relating to the history of the northern Shenandoah Valley and helps local residents and visitor from all over the world locate the documents and information they seek. Library staff members also teach basic introductory courses in computer use and software.

The Handley Regional Library Board's Long-Range Plan directs the planning and decision making of the regional system. It is revised annually and fully updated every five years.

#### **FUTURE FOCUS**

Currently the Library System has one library in each jurisdiction served. As population grows in Frederick County, the demand for library services also continues to grow. Frederick County's larger population and land area mean that there are Frederick County locations not well served by the Winchester or Stephens City libraries. Additionally, new residents from Northern Virginia and from areas outside Virginia have higher expectations for library services.



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Each library in the Handley Regional Library system functions as a community center, a search engine, and a place that welcomes everyone to lifelong learning. Ideally, a new library can best serve as community centers when they are located within a walkable community, near schools, parks and retail establishments.

Additionally, in response to the 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Policy Plan and in support of Neighborhood Design, new and existing libraries should be co-located with schools and parks in or near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers in the UDA or in Rural Community Centers in the Rural Area.

As the residential population in Frederick County continues to grow the Library System has plans for opening new facilities. Within the next five years the Library Board plans for a library to open in the Gainesboro district and new libraries at Senseny and Greenwood and at 522 and Justice Drive are planned for the next ten years. The inclusion of small library branches that can offer delivery of materials from anywhere in the system as well as providing information and training to customers about new online services is also being considered.

Also part of the Long-Range Plan is an examination of alternative delivery mediums. The library plans to offer citizens access to more formats that are downloadable.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The mission of Handley Regional Library is to provide our community access to the best resources that educate, inform, entertain, and inspire. Handley Regional Library serves those in the population who cannot afford to purchase books as well as those that lack computers and Internet access. Through the pooling of funds, the library makes available to the public at large expensive printed works, audio books, downloadable books, and computer databases that an individual or most companies cannot afford. In addition, the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives maintains a large collection of historic documents and media for public consultation.

The Library serves all age groups from very young children to senior citizens providing both recreational and education materials. The libraries in the system are favorite locations for families to visit together and serve many children and adults when they are working on school assignments or for self-improvement.

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Through its participation in the Regional Library system, Frederick County receives the benefit of the Commonwealth's contribution to the library system, the contributions of other two jurisdictions, the revenue from the library's endowments (that were provided by donations from residents of all jurisdictions), and the use of the Clarke County and Handley Library. All these provide a much richer library environment than any single jurisdiction can provide.

### **POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION**

**POLICY:**            **IMPROVE SERVICES TO PATRONS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF THREE BOOKS PER CAPITA.**

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Handley Regional Library will continue to review and revise marketing procedures to make citizens aware of our services.
- The Library will update its collection development policies and procedures to make certain the materials purchased meets current needs.
- The Board and staff will review procedures to make certain services offered are needed and meet a high standard of service.
- The Board and staff will investigating and adopt new media and technology when such adoption meets current and users' needs and is cost effective.

**POLICY:**            **STUDY AND PLAN FOR GROWTH WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE LIBRARY SPACE FOR LIBRARY USERS IN THE FUTURE.**

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- The Handley Regional Library Board will review and update its long-range plan for facilities growth, using the criteria of cost, need, safety, and proximity to the greatest number of residents.
- Continue to monitor the growth throughout the County to determine where new library facilities are needed.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The Handley Regional Library Board is the governing board for the regional library system and acts as its own fiscal agent. The Code of Virginia, §42.1-37 to §42.1-42, treats the powers and duties of regional library boards.

Frederick County appoints five members to the 10-member Library Board. A member of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors also serves as a non-voting liaison to the Library Board.

Handley Regional Library works with the following to promote reading and literacy and in some purchasing decisions:

- Frederick County schools,
- Lord Fairfax Community College
- Shenandoah University

### **SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

- Handley Regional Library Joint Operating Agreement, 1995.
- Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries, Library of Virginia, 2009.
- Requirements which must be met in order to receive [state] Grants-in-Aid. Library of Virginia, 1991.

### **FREDERICK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

#### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department was established in 1990 to provide support and guidance for the eleven volunteer fire and rescue companies that provide fire suppression and emergency medical services to the citizens of Frederick County. Each of the volunteer fire and rescue company provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical transport services, nine provide advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical service, and two provide basic life support emergency medical service.

Most of the apparatus operated by the volunteer fire and rescue companies are owned by and have been purchased through the fund raising efforts of each individual company. In addition, the County owns and operates two ALS first response vehicles, which are stationed at Company 16, Gainesboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company and Company 18, Greenwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company. In 2007, the Training Division acquired a used pumper from Fairfax City to be used for training volunteer and career personnel. The pumper has been fully equipped and been used by the volunteer fire and rescue companies when they have apparatus out of service.

Staffing of the fire and rescue stations is accomplished by a combination of volunteers from each community and is supplemented by career fire and rescue personnel employed by Frederick County. The volunteers provide 24 hour a day, seven day a-week coverage in all of the fire and rescue stations. The career fire and rescue personnel staff ten of the eleven stations, three stations with daytime staffing only five days a week and the remaining seven with a combination of daytime staffing of two persons providing 24 hour coverage seven days a week.

The Fire and Rescue Department office is divided into four divisions. These divisions are Operations, Training, Life Safety and Emergency Management. The office is headed by a full-time Chief who is employed by the County. The Chief is responsible for the supervision of all of the Departments operations. This includes the supervision of all career personnel, coordinating the service delivery of the volunteer fire and rescue companies, overseeing emergency services planning, providing volunteer and career training programs, disaster and hazardous material coordination, and managing Department resources.

### **FUTURE FOCUS**

As residential and commercial developments continue to locate and expand in Frederick County, there will be an increased need for fire and rescue stations to provide services to protect the citizens and transient population. The ultimate goal of the fire and rescue system is to provide the most efficient fire and rescue services countywide. Responses include, but are not limited to, emergency medical services, fire suppression, hazardous materials, swift water rescue, technical rescues, and natural disasters. Timely responses by emergency services personnel and equipment enable resuscitation efforts to begin in the critical minutes immediately following a cardiac related incident and also minimize fire related deaths.

Future challenges for the Fire and Rescue Department include meeting training and certification requirements, increasing emergency medical service capabilities, improving radio communications, developing additional fire and rescue stations to meet future growth within the county and keeping up with the staffing needs to continue to provide quality timely service to the citizens.

Planning for future fire and rescue station locations and equipment needs must be accomplished by developing a five year strategic plan. This plan will identify future fire and rescue station sites and equipment needs based on projected service demands and response times. The plan will encourage the dedication of sites for new fire and rescue stations within the identified areas during the rezoning process.

A response study was conducted in 1999 and concluded the need for five additional fire and rescue stations. These stations are to cover the areas of:

- *Green Springs / White Hall*
- *Route 522 South / Route 277 East*
- *Middle Road / Cedar Creek Grade*
- *Apple Pie Ridge / Route 522*
- *Route 7 / Redbud Road*

The study indicated that in many areas a ten minute total response time was not being met. Redistribution of current Volunteer apparatus to these stations can enhance response performance. Non-residential areas such as retail, office, and industrial areas require increased fire protection because specialized equipment is necessary to ensure safety for these land uses. Other land uses identified as target hazards continue to grow. These include land uses such as schools, nursing homes, daycare centers, and industrial facilities. These land uses have a higher risk of injury due to the specific demographics of person utilizing these facilities.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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In using the mentioned criteria above, the proposed development of Crosspointe Center near the Route 37 South area at Tasker Road presents an opportunity to expand services. This development is expected to have over 1,500 residential units with commercial properties as well. The impact will be tremendous on existing services and a new fire and rescue station is needed to cope with these needs and increase the service delivery in existing areas around this development.

Existing road conditions, primarily those with gravel or dirt surfaces and horizontal and vertical curvatures, located outside of the county's Urban Development Area (UDA) create longer response times. The greatest factor contributing to the need for new fire and rescue stations is the rapid population growth and increases in dwelling units within the County.

The development of new fire and rescue stations could provide an opportunity to extend satellite services provided by other County Departments and agencies. Allocation of space could be created within new fire and rescue stations for community services provided by the Sheriff's Office, the Treasurer's Office, the Voter Registrar's Office, and the Commission of the Revenue's Office. Also, in support of Neighborhood Design, it is encouraged that the location of future facilities be located within the UDA, near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers or in Rural Community Centers.

Another project to be considered is the replacement of aging fire and rescue training facilities currently being used by Winchester, Frederick County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, and several businesses with fire brigades and emergency responders. Constructing a Regional Public Safety Training Center potentially consisting of an administrative building, burn building, training tower, vehicle driving range, shooting range and numerous other facilities and props outside of the City of Winchester would incorporate fire, rescue, law enforcement, industrial and educational institutions located in Clarke County, Frederick County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, Winchester, State Agencies, Federal Agencies and potentially jurisdictions within the State of West Virginia.

### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Over the years, the County Fire and Rescue Companies have provided much more than fire and rescue services. The Stations or "fire halls," as commonly referred to, evolved out of necessity. They have become the social hub for the community in which they serve. Small groups of forward thinking citizens, realizing the need for fire and rescue services, chartered many of the companies. As the community has changed, the fire companies have adapted. In many cases, the firehouse has always been the community meeting place. Many of the companies hold fundraisers such as bingo, dinners, and yard parties to support their needs and the civic commitment.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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Civic organizations, homeowners associations, and businesses utilize the social halls for meetings, training, and seasonal gatherings. The community firehouse is viewed as a “safe haven” during any large emergency incident, natural or manmade. The companies offer important community information and training classes of various topics, including proper child safety seat installation to first aid and C.P.R. instruction. The potential for community outreach is endless. Community based service delivery is more economical and convenient to the citizens and business partners of the county.

Primarily the companies are self supporting through fundraising, donations, and contributions from the County government. Satellite services provide social character in common demographical areas in the community.

### **POLICIES / IMPLEMENTATION**

**POLICY:**        **WHEN PLANNING NEW FACILITIES, CONSIDER SITE LOCATION, SITE SUITABILITY, BUILDING DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION TIMING.**

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Co-locate fire and rescue stations with other County facilities and agencies for maximum efficiency.
- Locate fire and rescue stations with easy access to a major arterial or at an intersection of two major arteries to gain both east-west and north-south access.
- Encourage sites to be large enough to accommodate equipment storage and facilitate maneuverability, allowing equipment to either pull-through or be backed into garage bays without hindering traffic flows in the public right-of-way.
- Locate fire and rescue stations on sites of between two and five acres to allow for future expansion. Sites may be smaller when developed as part of a Neighborhood Design in an Urban Center or Neighborhood Village.
- Select and design sites to minimize the adverse impact of sirens and other noise on residential areas.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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**POLICY:** INVESTIGATE THE NEED FOR A REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER AS THE DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED TRAINING INCREASE AND EXISTING FACILITIES AGE.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Co-locate a regional public safety training center with other County agencies, outside municipal agencies, and private entities to maximum the efficiency of the facility.
- Locate a regional public safety training center with easy access for participants and general population while maintaining capabilities for municipal services.
- Encourage sites to be large enough to accommodate all of the buildings, facilities, and props as well as facilitate maneuverability in a safe manner. A site between 60-80 acres should be planned for to allow for future expansion.

**POLICY:** ACHIEVE STAFFING OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE COMPANIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERS FROM EACH OF THE COMPANIES SUPPLEMENTED BY AUTHORIZED AND CERTIFIED UNIFORM OPERATIONAL FULL TIME CAREER FIRE AND RESCUE STAFF AND PART-TIME STAFF WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN THE FIRE AND RESCUE STATIONS.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Propose staffing increases over an eight (8) year period using the National Volunteer Fire Council's "On-line Calculator" at a 45% reduced rate.
- Stations located in the Western portions of the County could be reduced between 55% and 82% from the NVFC Calculator based on lower call volumes, slower growth in their respective response areas and volunteer participation on emergency responses in the respective companies.
- Allow Volunteer Companies to achieve their requested additional staffing over a manageable period without a significant burden to the County. It also allows those stations that have an increase in volunteer participation to forfeit their staffing request and allow another Station to receive their request earlier.



## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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**POLICY:** TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS OF FREDERICK COUNTY WITH THE BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE AVAILABLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO BOTH VOLUNTEER AND CAREER PERSONNEL. AN INCREASE IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CAPABILITIES IS ALSO NEEDED.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Provide opportunities for Volunteer and Career personnel to attend Advanced Life Support training classes.
- Increase station staffing to provide more Emergency Medical Service Providers.
- Provide incentives to volunteer/career personnel for performing at a higher certification level.
- Continue to work with the Frederick County Public Schools EMT program.
- Continue to work with the Lord Fairfax Community College EMT-Enhanced and EMT-Intermediate Programs.
- Assist the Lord Fairfax Community College with the implementation of an EMT-Paramedic Program.

**POLICY:** UPDATE AND CONSTRUCT COMMUNICATIONS INFRA-STRUCTURE AS DEFICIENT COVERAGE AREAS IN THE SYSTEM ARE IDENTIFIED AS FUTURE CALL VOLUME INCREASES.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Replace mobile, portable, and base transmitters with narrow band compliant equipment. Non-compliant older equipment shall be taken out of service.
- Convert the primary transmitters to a satellite receiver voting comparator system. Convert primary communications channel and the county wide channel to a repeater configuration.
- Add additional transmitter sites to increase specific zone coverage problems and countywide unit to unit coverage.
- Install UHF interoperability equipment and updated antennas at the site to enable inter-connection with adjacent counties.
- Install simulcast transmission capabilities at select transmitter sites.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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### COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue Companies:
  - *Company 11 – Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 12 – Middletown Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 13 – Clear Brook Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 14 – Gore Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 15 – Round Hill Community Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 16 – Gainesboro Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 17 – Star Tannery Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 18 – Greenwood Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 19 – North Mountain Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 20 – Reynolds Store Fire and Rescue Company*
  - *Company 21 – Millwood Station Fire and Rescue Company*
- Frederick County Sheriff's Office
- Frederick County Treasurer's Office
- Frederick County Commissioner of Revenue's Office

### SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720, Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations by Volunteer Fire Departments.
- Frederick County Capital Improvements Plan 2009-2010.
- Government Service Learning Project 1999.
- Frederick County Fire and Rescue Proposed Fiscal 2008-2009 Budget.
- Federal Communications Commission Second Report and Order, February 20, 1997
- Federal Communications Commission Third Report and Order, March 22, 2007

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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### **WINCHESTER REGIONAL AIRPORT**

#### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

The Winchester Regional Airport is a 375-acre, all weather, 24-hour general aviation airport with a 5,500 foot runway located southeast of Interstate 81, Exit 313A. The facility currently has 75 tie down spaces, two 12,000 square foot public common hangars, 52 T-hangars, and three private corporate hangars. Based aircraft total 80, and range in size from single engine to large cabin class business aircraft. Services available include 24-hour U.S. Customs and Immigration, 24-hour on call line service, automated weather observation system, computerized weather and flight planning equipment, full instrument landing system, and rental car service.

The Winchester Regional Airport Authority (WRAA) was formed by the Virginia General Assembly on July 1, 1987. The Authority consists of representatives from the City of Winchester and Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties. Since its formation, the WRAA has embarked on an extensive airport improvement program. Major capital improvements have been accomplished in order to comply with Federal safety and design standards.

Collaborating with Frederick County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Authority has also made improvements to primary access roads for the Airport. To date, more than \$19 million dollars has been invested in the Winchester Regional Airport's capital improvements, equipment, and promotions through funding received from the Federal Aviation Administration, Virginia Department of Aviation, and the local jurisdictions.

#### **Airport Support Area**

The Winchester Regional Airport is recognized as an important component of the County's Economic Development efforts. Therefore, the Winchester Regional Airport Authority has developed an airport support area for inclusion in the plan. Business and industrial uses should be the primary land uses in the airport support area and will be supported. The airport support area is an area in which further residential rezonings will be prohibited in order to protect fly-over areas and noise sensitive areas. Conflicts between airports and residential development can be significant in growing communities. Residents of areas in the vicinity of the airport tend to oppose airport activities and the expansion of such activities because of concern for noise and fly-overs. The airport support area was also established to ensure the feasibility of continued airport use and future airport expansion and the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **FUTURE FOCUS**

There is a need to continue to implement the airport support area expectations. Business and industrial uses should be the primary uses in the airport support area; residential rezonings will be prohibited.

The Capital Improvement Plan will continue to be a key tool that will facilitate the growth and development of the airport. Remaining capital projects include the acquisition of land along Bufflick Road for noise abatement, development of the northern side of the runway, renovation of the 17 year old terminal building and construction of an aircraft wash rack.

Through the support of the member jurisdictions, the Airport will continue to evolve into a modern, first class air transportation facility which will assist economic development endeavors in the attraction of new industrial and commercial businesses to the region, furthering the business development goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

# Airport Support Area

The map displays the Winchester area with the airport support area highlighted in yellow. The support area is bounded by Costello Dr to the north, Victory Dr to the east, and a line of roads including Independence Dr, Carpers Valley Rd, Airport Rd, W. Parkins Mill Rd, Armel Rd, and Tasker Rd to the south. The airport tarmac and runway are shown as a black rectangle within the support area. Major roads like I-81, I-77, and US-52 are also visible. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the black line as the 'Airport Tarmac & Runway' and the yellow area as the 'Airport Support Area'. A scale bar and north arrow are located at the bottom center, and the Frederick County seal is in the bottom right corner.

Winchester

Legend:

- Airport Tarmac & Runway
- Airport Support Area

2030 Comprehensive Plan  
Adopted April \_\_, 2011

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Frederick County





# Community Facilities & Services

