

CHAPTER 7

Goal 3: To Provide Adequate Public Facilities and Services

Providing public facilities and services for the safety, health, and welfare of its citizens is a primary function of local government. Public roads, schools, parks, libraries, and public buildings are all facilities provided by government. Police protection, emergency response, and snow removal are some of the services provided. Providing and maintaining these facilities and services is essential to a healthy community and a high quality of life.

This chapter reviews existing facilities that are already in place, analyzes whether these facilities have adequate capacity to meet future community needs, and recommends the provision of additional facilities and services where indicated. Maps included at the end of this chapter provide information related to various community facilities in the Freedom community.

A. Public Water Services

Existing Water Supply Facilities

Carroll County owns and operates the water supply system serving the Freedom community. The Planned Water Service area is located in southeastern Carroll County and covers about 9,862 acres, which includes the Town of Sykesville.

The Carroll County Commissioners have an agreement with the City of Baltimore to purchase water for the Freedom community from the Liberty Reservoir. The agreement with the city expires July 1, 2018. The county receives water by way of a floating intake on Liberty Lake and may, according to the agreement, draw an average of 2.4 million gallons per day (mgd), with a maximum of 90 million gallons over a 30-day period (3.0 mgd). This water is treated at the county's water treatment plant (WTP) located off of Oakland Road. The WTP has a capacity of 3.0 mgd.

Current Water Use

Current water use in the Freedom area is tracked in terms of residential and non-residential users served. In 1998, 6,211 housing units consumed 1.45 mgd of water, and numerous non-residential users (that included multi-family housing and Springfield) consumed 0.8 mgd of water. The total water usage amounted to 2.26 mgd, which is representative of the average daily usage of water within the Freedom Water Service area. The peak use occurs between the months of June through September. Some of the days during these months have a maximum use, which is above the plant's production capacity of 3.0 mgd of water.



Future Water Demand

The following tables provide an analysis of the demand for public water in the Freedom planning area. The 1.95 mgd projected to serve areas currently planned for public water service includes an allocation of .65 mgd of additional water use for the Springfield State Hospital Complex. The actual amount of additional water required to service an expansion at Springfield is unknown and awaiting a master plan for the state facility. The proposed change to the planned service area for existing zoning is for the remainder of the existing industrially-zoned land at Klees Mill Road. The proposed expansion of this industrial area to include seventy additional acres to the north makes it advisable to service the entire area. Under the state's Smart Growth legislation, areas of industrial zoning should be provided public services, and residential areas should be at higher densities to be eligible for state grants, loans, and other assistance.

Future Water Supply

An analysis of information contained in the tables below indicates that the future water demand exceeds the current water supply available in the Freedom area. Changes to the Planned Water Service area increased demand over existing zoning by 0.14 mgd of water, which brings the total projected average daily demand not met by existing capacity to 1.15 mgd. The facility also needs to have the capacity to treat additional water to accommodate peak-day water demands.

Various Options to Meet Projected Need

A total of four alternatives to meet future water requirements were analyzed and are described below. These options could be implemented independently or in combination to meet the projected water demands of the Freedom Water Service area.

Option #1 - Build Piney Run Water Treatment Plant ☆ In the early 1990's, the county planned to utilize the Piney Run Reservoir as an additional surface water supply to serve the Freedom area. Subsequently, the Piney Run Water Treatment Plant was designed in February of 1993. Construction of the treatment plant was deferred until the results from this comprehensive planning process and ground water exploration are complete. If the decision is made to construct the plant, it will be sited at the south end of Piney Run Lake. The reservoir has a capacity to supply 3.5 mgd of potable water to the Freedom area.

Option #2 - Drill Additional Wells at Springfield and Other Locations ☆ In addition to the 0.5 mgd of water currently available from numerous wells drilled on the Springfield State Hospital Complex, the county is exploring the possibility of obtaining an additional 0.6 mgd of groundwater from numerous other wells drilled throughout the Water Service Area. This would increase the total quantity of groundwater production to 1.1 mgd.

Option #3 - Increase Freedom Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Capacity ☆ The Freedom WTP can be upgraded to increase its current production from 3.0 mgd to meet the projected demand. This would involve either the purchase of raw water from Baltimore and/or obtaining water from the Piney Run Reservoir by laying down pipes for a length of seven miles from the reservoir to the WTP. In either case, major costs in terms of infrastructure upgrades to the WTP would be incurred.



Option #4 - Purchase Finished Water from Baltimore City ☆ In the event that the Freedom WTP is found to be non-expandable, it is possible to negotiate with the City of Baltimore to obtain purified water from the city. This would involve paying for infrastructure costs related to connecting to the city's water supply system.

Analysis of Water Demand in the Freedom Area

Type of Use	Currently Served		Projected for Existing Zoning		Additional Demand: Proposed Land Use Changes* + Changes to Planned Service Area	
	Population	Demand (in mgd)	Population	Demand (in mgd)	Population	Demand (in mgd)
Residential	18,384	1.45	Existing = 2,338 Future = 6,967	0.23 0.70	2,388	N/A
Non-Residential**	N/A	0.45	N/A	0.37	N/A	Land Use = 0.06 Svc Area = 0.08
State Springfield Complex	N/A	0.35	N/A	0.65	N/A	N/A
Total	18,384	2.25***	9,305	1.95	2,388	0.14

Note: Water demand numbers are generated with the following assumption: Residential = 100 gallons per person per day; Commercial = 700 gallons per day per acre; and Industrial = 800 gallons per day per acre

*Actual demand from proposed land use changes less existing demand if in planned service area

**Includes schools and multi-family homes

***Data obtained from the Bureau of Utilities, January 1998

Additional Capacity Needed to Meet Demand in Freedom Area

Total Demand (in mgd)	Existing Capacity* (in mgd)	Additional Demand (in mgd)
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4.34 3.2 1.14

* Plant Capacity includes 2.7 mgd from Liberty Reservoir and 0.5 mgd from wells at Springfield



Recommendations

Provide additional water capacity for the Freedom Service Area

The existing appropriation of 3.2 mgd from the Liberty Reservoir and the Springfield wells should provide sufficient capacity to serve planned development over the next two to three years while the county decides the most efficient and economical method to supply the projected water demands. Once drilling is complete, the total quantity of groundwater production is expected to reach 1.1 mgd. With concurrency management expected to slow growth in the area until school facilities are adequate, enough time will be provided for a thorough evaluation of alternatives for supplying water to the community. An additional 1.14 mgd is needed to satisfy the projected demand.

Determine the future water supply needs of the Springfield State Hospital Complex

An additional .65 mgd of water demand was included in the future capacity requirements for Springfield. This reflects a total projected usage for the Complex of 1.0 mgd. In 1998, .35 mgd of water was required to serve the existing uses. If the state's future plans do not include uses which will require this amount of additional water, the county can reduce the amount of additional capacity that will be needed for future use.

Amend the Water and Sewer Master Plan

Under the State Environmental Article, before an area can be served by a community water supply system, it must be included on the service area map and any new facility must be included in the plan. The Water and Sewer Master Plan should be amended to reflect the new boundary of the service area and the increased demand for public water.

Fiscal Impacts

The financing of a public water system is through the county's enterprise fund. This means that the users of the system are responsible to pay for the system, rather than the general taxpayer. The expansion of the water system in Freedom will be financed by new users connecting to the system who pay the area connection charge (\$3,888 in 1998). This amount was calculated using a 6-year Capital Improvement Program. In the near future, the county plans to base the area connection charge on a 10-year plan which has been developed by a consultant. The operation of the system is paid for through a user fee (water rate) paid quarterly by the system "customers".

B. Public Sewer Services

Existing Sewer System Facilities

The Freedom planned sewer service area is located in southeastern Carroll County and covers 8,590 acres, which includes the Town of Sykesville. The Freedom wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located off Arrington Road, approximately 2,000 feet east of the Town of Sykesville. The wastewater treatment system is comprised of a collection system and wastewater treatment plant. The WWTP is co-owned by the county and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES)





and is operated by MES. The county owns and maintains the sewage collection and conveyance system, including gravity sewers, force mains, and ten pumping stations.

The wastewater treatment plant is permitted to treat an average daily demand of 3.5 mgd. Of this amount, 0.9 mgd is reserved for use by the Springfield State Hospital Complex, and the county has the remaining 2.6 mgd. The County Commissioners are authorized to reserve up to 15 percent of treatment plant capacity for industrial use.

Public Sewer Needs

The following tables provide information on the existing sewer service supplied to the Freedom area and a projection of the needs for additional treatment capacity. From January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, the system collected and treated an estimated 701.4 million gallons of sewage, for a daily average of 1.92 mgd. It is estimated that the Springfield State Hospital Complex portion of the flow was approximately 0.35 mgd. The difference between system capacity (3.5 mgd) and actual demand (1.92 mgd) indicated an available capacity of 1.6 mgd for both the county and state. (This calculation does not take into account any sewer flows that may have been allocated by the county to developments that are in the process of review and approval.)

With the changes recommended by this plan, an additional sewer treatment capacity of .23 mgd is needed. This number includes a reserve of .55 mgd for the Springfield State Hospital Complex, which could be modified depending on decisions made by the state as to how the facility will be utilized in the future. Proposed changes to the existing Planned Service Area reduce the service requirements for existing residential development by .06 mgd. Evaluation of these areas of existing homes has shown that they are functioning well with on-site systems and do not need to be connected to the public system. Non-residential usage is increased to provide service to the industrially-zoned area at Klees Mill Road in response to the state's Smart Growth funding requirements.



Analysis of Sewage Treatment Need in the Freedom Area**

Type of Use	Currently Served		Projected for Existing Zoning		Changes to the Planned Service Area (existing zoning)		Additional Need From Proposed Land Use Changes*	
	Population	Demand (in mgd)	Population	Demand (in mgd)	Population	Demand (in mgd)	Population	Demand (in mgd)
Residential	15,236	1.05	8,912	0.80	-663	-0.06	N/A	N/A
Non-Residential	N/A	0.52	N/A	0.37	N/A	0.08	N/A	0.07
State Springfield Complex	N/A	0.35	N/A	0.55	-	-	-	-
Total	15,236	1.92***	8,912	1.72	-663	0.02	2,338	0.07

Note: Sewer demand numbers are generated with the following assumption: Residential = 90 gallons per person per day; Commercial = 700 gallons per day per acre; and Industrial = 800 gallons per day per acre

*Actual demand from proposed land use changes less existing demand if in planned service area

**These numbers are being upgraded by using the Maryland Property View from the State Department of Assessment and Taxation

***Data obtained from the Bureau of Utilities, January 1998

**Sewage Treatment Capacity vs. Projected Need
Freedom Area**

Total Need for Treatment Capacity (in mgd)	Existing Capacity (in mgd)	Additional Need for Treatment Capacity (in mgd)
3.73	3.5	0.23

Future Sewer System Facilities

The sewage treatment needs for the existing capacity in the Freedom area exceeds the capacity of the treatment facility. The State of Maryland's reserve of .9 mgd for the Springfield State Hospital Complex is significantly more than the current usage (.35 mgd). The size of a future plant expansion is dependent on the state's future plans and needs.

In discussions with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), it appears that the treatment capacity of the existing WWTP facility could be increased to provide treatment for the projected additional .23 mgd with minimal modifications to the plant. Increases to the state water quality



discharge permits would have to be applied for and obtained before the increased treatment capacity would be available.

Recommendations

Provide additional sewage treatment capacity for the Freedom Service Area

The existing permitted discharge from the WWTP is insufficient to provide for the estimated need in the planning area. If the treatment plant is capable of handling the projected sewer need with minimal modifications, it could be only a matter of obtaining a new permit for the additional sewage treatment from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The county should work with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and MDE to determine the best way to provide the treatment needs of the community.

Determine the future sewage treatment needs of the Springfield State Hospital Complex

An additional .55 mgd of treatment capacity has been included in the future sewage treatment capacity requirements for Springfield. This reflects a total projected usage for the Complex of .9 mgd. In 1998, only .35 mgd of treatment capacity was needed to serve the existing uses. If the state's future plans do not include uses which will require this amount of additional sewage treatment capacity, the expansion of the discharge permit for the WWTP may be less than currently projected.

Amend the Water and Sewer Master Plan

Under the State Environmental Article, before an area can be served by a community sewage treatment system, it must be included on the service area map, and any new facility must be included in the plan. The Water and Sewer Master Plan should be amended to reflect the new boundary of the service area and the increased treatment capacity.

Fiscal Impacts

The water quality loan debt service for the existing Freedom WWTP is \$11,506,456, and the average debt service per year is \$767,097. The debt is recovered by charging an area connection charge for new residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses of \$5,816 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). Over the remaining fifteen years of the loan, 1,044 EDU-s would be needed to retire the debt. Costs of expanding the capacity of the plant would also be repaid by area connection charges.

C. Emergency Medical and Fire Protection Facilities

Existing Fire and Ambulance Service Facilities

The neighborhoods of Freedom depend on a volunteer-based fire and emergency services company for fire, rescue, and ambulance service. Built in 1972, the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department, located at the intersection of MD 32 and Freedom Avenue, houses 62 volunteers and 25 part-time paid personnel.





FREEDOM COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:
A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS



Firefighting and emergency response/rescue equipment utilized by the Freedom Fire Department included a 1998 duty vehicle, a 1988 squad vehicle, a utility vehicle, two engines, a brush vehicle, and two medic units.

The current area of “first due” response (areas to which the fire company is expected to be the first to respond in an emergency) comprises an area of about 27,600 citizens. The areas of “second due” response (areas to which other fire companies may require back-up assistance or mutual aid from the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department) include Gamber, Winfield, and parts of Howard and Baltimore Counties. The following tables indicate the response rates for fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) in 1998.

**First Due Fire Services - Late and No Response
Freedom Area, FY 1999 and 2000**

Department	4 th Qtr FY 99		1 st Qtr FY 00		2 nd Qtr FY 00		3 rd Qtr FY 00	
	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only
Sykesville	6.75	2.70	1.14	-	8.04	2.29	4.76	-
Gamber	10.52	5.26	3.57	-	3.44	-	-	-
Winfield	3.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countywide	5.38	1.15	4.48	1.30	4.87	0.84	5.75	1.23

Source: Carroll County Office of Public Safety, 1998

**First Due Emergency Medical Services - Late and No Response
Freedom Area, FY 1999 and 2000**

Department	4 th Qtr FY 99		1 st Qtr FY 00		2 nd Qtr FY 00		3 rd Qtr FY 00	
	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only	% Late & No	% No Only
Sykesville	6.83	1.91	3.50	1.00	8.61	3.05	10.75	5.10
Gamber	1.40	0	10.14	-	11.53	1.28	3.12	-
Winfield	2.89	0.57	7.64	0.63	4.45	0.63	5.00	0.50
Countywide	6.21	2.13	6.40	1.99	7.45	2.57	7.83	2.88

Source: Carroll County Office of Public Safety, 1998





Adequacy of Public Facilities

In accordance with the Emergency Services Master Plan, the nearest (local) fire department's late and no response (combined) and no response (separate) percentages for both fire and EMS are calculated and reported individually by the Carroll County Office of Public Safety on a monthly basis. If the company is late or fails to respond to 15 percent of the calls, with outright failures to respond accounting for at least 4 percent of this figure, the fire protection facilities are considered inadequate. The table above indicates that the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department continues to meet the Late/No Response adequacy criteria. These figures help to monitor the response profile of each fire department. To avoid substantial fluctuations in these percentages, current quarterly response percentages are used. As the majority of staffing is provided by volunteers, it is often difficult for fire companies to obtain the full manpower necessary for each piece of equipment needed, especially during the day when many of the volunteers are working at their regular jobs. If the number of available volunteers is insufficient to operate the equipment effectively, the result may be an increased number of late responses and failures to respond.

Another measure of adequacy is "travel distance". For a fire department to be able to respond within a sufficient time frame, proposed development should be located within five miles of the station. If new development is located at a greater distance, the probability of late response increases. Even small increments of time are crucial when responding to fire and medical emergencies. "Response time" is defined as the elapsed time between the initial dispatch of the fire department by Fire Headquarters (Emergency Operations Center) and the fire department's arrival at the scene of the emergency. Response time from first alert to arrival should be 10 minutes or less. Again, as the response time increases, the chances of being "too late" to remedy an incident increase.

Once the fire company arrives on the scene of a fire, a fire protection water supply must be available. The fire company may have a pump truck. However, should the capacity of the pump truck be insufficient for the size or duration of the fire, an additional source must be used.

Future Facilities

The Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department Incorporated has concerns about the current location of the fire station and its lack of easy accessibility to the growing neighborhoods in Freedom. Although alternative sites for a "satellite" station have been reviewed in the past, an ideal location has not been identified. A site in close proximity to the more populated area of Freedom with quick access to the arterial roadways would be ideal. Special consideration should be given to the fact that 75 percent of the emergency responses in the area are medical in nature. This fact lends support to the location of a satellite medic unit closer to the neighborhoods of Freedom.





Recommendations

Require the private provision of ambulatory care for any new or expanding nursing home facility in Freedom

The level of emergency medical service provided by the volunteer fire company can be enhanced by ensuring that all calls to dispatch are emergencies. Often, nursing home calls can be more appropriately responded to in a non-emergency manner. Providing a private ambulance carrier helps reduce the amount of time public ambulances are out on non-emergency calls and increases the likelihood they will be available for true emergency calls.

Hire additional emergency medical staff at the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department

Statistics indicate that emergency medical calls are received more often than fire calls. The Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department Incorporated recognized that trend and began operating two ambulance units. The county should ensure that sufficient EMS personnel are hired to staff both ambulances and to provide continuous emergency medical services.

Fiscal Impacts

While the cost for requiring nursing homes and similar types of development to provide their own private ambulatory care in non-emergency situations is minimal to the county, there is a cost to continuing to fund the 24-hour ambulatory care at the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department fire house. Recent policy decisions regarding the charging of insurance companies for ambulance services creates an excellent source of funds for this expense. Therefore, no additional outlay by the county will be required to accommodate this fiscal impact.

D. Police Protection Services and Facilities

Existing Police Protection Services

Police protection and facilities serving the Freedom community are provided primarily by the Maryland State Police. A police sub-station, located behind the Eldersburg Library on Hemlock Drive, is not open to the public but is open 24 hours every day for use by the police officers who respond to calls in Freedom. The officers are based at the Westminster Police Barrack on MD 140, east of Leidy Road.

The State Police divide the county into nine sectors and the Freedom community is contained in sector nine. Four day-shift officers, three evening-shift officers, and three night-shift officers are assigned to sector nine. Additional State Troopers can be detailed to Freedom as needed. In addition to the State Police, the Town of Sykesville provides municipal police services to its residents through a local police department located adjacent to the Town House. The Sykesville Police Department has seven officers that provide 24-hour coverage within the town. While the Department's primary area of responsibility is the Town of Sykesville, officers do respond beyond town limits when requested by State Police.





In 2000, it was the policy of the State Police to assign 10 troopers to the Freedom community daily. The availability of up to fifty troopers from the Westminster Barrack provides a level of adequacy typical of a local police department. Furthermore, the availability of a crime lab, trained officers, and current crime fighting equipment provides crime prevention and investigation facilities. The Sheriff also assigns 1 to 2 sheriff-s officers per day and evening shift.

Future Facilities

As a result of the expansion of the Eldersburg Library, a new sub-station for State Troopers working in the area will be necessary. Potential locations for the new satellite station include the Police Training Facility on the grounds of the Springfield State Hospital Complex.

Recommendations

Maintain and expand a branch office of the Maryland State Police in Freedom

As one of the county's largest growth areas with a population of roughly 28,000 citizens, it is important that a police presence be visible in Freedom. Other incorporated jurisdictions of this size typically maintain a local police department. Although Freedom is unincorporated, the population concentration requires law enforcement in a manner typical of a growing town.

Ensure that the number of police officers assigned to Freedom increases as residential, commercial, and industrial properties develop

Work closely with the Maryland State Police to ensure adequate police protection is provided to the citizens and merchants of the Freedom community. As new neighborhoods develop and the evolution of the commercial corridor along MD 26 continues to evolve, the State Police must increase its physical presence in the community accordingly.

Investigate the availability of facilities to house full-time police in existing commercial and institutional centers

In 1998, there was only one police sub-station on Hemlock Drive which was not open to the public. The county should explore the availability of facilities to house full-time police in existing commercial and institutional centers that will be accessible to the public.

Fiscal Impacts

Depending on the pace and type of development that occurs in Freedom between now the next update of the Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan, additional police protection may be needed to maintain an adequate police presence in the community. The cost of the state "Resident Trooper Program" is fully covered by Carroll County and amounts to \$90,000 per trooper in start up cost and \$70,000 annually thereafter.



E. Recreation and Parks

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Freedom community contains a variety of state, county, and locally-owned parks and recreational facilities for the enjoyment of residents. The 1999 Carroll County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan provides quantified recreation demands for various types of facilities, future needs, and means of implementing the plan. Also, the proposed Greenways, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Facilities Technical Report identifies a comprehensive network of trails located throughout the county, including the Freedom area. Both of these documents can be referred to for information on recreational facilities located in the Freedom area. For more detailed information on the names, acreages, ownership, and type of recreational opportunities available in each park facility in the Freedom community, refer to the table at Appendix E. This table also includes the schools in the area that contain a variety of recreational opportunities.

In 1998, there were 5,448 acres of land with different recreational opportunities available in the Freedom area. This acreage does not include additional land that the state plans to add to its existing state parks such as the Patapsco Park and the Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area. With the exception of schools, the majority of the parks provide a greater percentage of passive-type recreational uses such as trails, pavilions, picnic areas, and tot lots. Information gathered from workshops and a survey of Freedom area residents indicated a general demand for ballfields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and golf courses. This demand reflects a need for increasing the number of active recreational opportunities in the area. A brief summary of information on some of the larger recreational facilities is provided below.

Piney Run Park ☆ The Piney Run Park opened in August of 1976 and is located in the southwestern section of the CPA. The park contains 838 acres of land that is county-owned and is operated as a recreation and nature appreciation facility with programs for children and adults, trails, boating, fishing, and other nature appreciation activities. The park contains a 298-acre lake that was constructed in 1974 for water supply, flood control, and recreational purposes.

Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area ☆ Located at the northwestern fringe of the CPA is the state-owned Morgan Run “regional park reserve”, which is an undeveloped facility that provides opportunities for hiking and fishing. A third of the acreage (1,327 acres) of Morgan Run is located within the CPA. The state plans to expand Morgan Run over a period of years to include a total of 4,500 acres of land, with three land acquisition deals (that will add another 100 acres) underway. Program Open Space funds cover both land acquisition and development costs. The master plan for Morgan Run states that the major goals of the state are to preserve Morgan Run’s water quality, maintain the diversity of flora and fauna, and develop managed passive and active recreation. Although the majority of uses within Morgan Run are currently passive in nature, future plans include active uses such as equestrian trails, hunting, bicycling, and walking trails.

Liberty Lake Reservoir and Adjoining Buffer Areas ☆ The Liberty Reservoir and its buffer areas provide additional opportunities for recreational activity. Located along the northern and eastern edge of the CPA, the reservoir is a major water supply source for the Freedom area. The City of



Baltimore owns 17,000 acres around the reservoir, a third of which is located in the CPA. Boating, picnic areas, and fishing are some of the recreational uses available.

Patapsco State Park ☆ The Patapsco State Park is located in Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Carroll Counties. It extends for 27 miles along the Patapsco River from the Baltimore Harbor to Sykesville. A total of 1,123 acres are located at the southern end of the CPA. Both active and passive recreational opportunities are available in the park. The McKeldin Area, contained within the Patapsco State Park, is developed for active uses that include ball fields, hiking, horseback riding, picnic areas, playgrounds, and restrooms. Part of the Hugg Thomas Wildlife Refuge is located adjacent to the Town of Sykesville.

Other Recreational Facilities ☆ The remaining park and recreational facilities, including the newly-built Freedom Park, provide additional nature appreciation activities as well as ballfields, pavilions, tot lots, and picnic areas. All recreational programs in the county are organized through 19 local recreational councils located throughout the county. The Carroll County Department of Enterprise and Recreation Services provides support services to these councils, administers countywide adult sports leagues, and schedules picnic pavilion rentals and park sites and a number of programs and special events.

Needed Park and Recreational Facilities

With nearly 5,000 acres of public space in the Freedom area, the state goal of providing 30 acres of recreational area per 1,000 persons in a community can easily be met. It must be noted that the Freedom area recreational facilities provide a greater amount of passive recreational opportunities than active uses such as ballfields, swimming pools, and golf courses. As stated earlier, survey results revealed the citizens of Freedom would like to see a greater number of active uses. Also, it must be remembered that the parks in the area are regional in nature and serve all of Carroll County and residents of adjacent jurisdictions. In addition to a community swimming pool, an increasing demand exists for ballfields and a golf course in the area.

Recommendations

Pursue the construction of a public swimming facility

A public swimming facility was among the top needs identified in the citizen survey completed prior to the drafting of the plan. The benefit of the public swimming facility is that it serves all ages and serves as a gathering place for the community.

Pursue federal, state, county, and other funds to develop a greenway system that ties into the Town of Sykesville

Traditionally, the state has funded greenway projects through state funding programs such as Program Open Space. The county should explore the availability of county and federal funds besides using state monies for completing greenways that tie into existing greenways located in the Town of Sykesville.





Encourage private development and management of commercial recreational centers including swimming centers

To keep the operating costs at an affordable level, the county should try to meet the need for swimming pools and multi-use community recreational centers through encouraging developers to set aside land for such uses.

Prioritize parkland acquisition to complete existing greenways

To maintain a sense of continuity and public interest in the greenways program, the county should aim to purchase land through the state's Program Open Space and complete the greenway system that has been recommended in the Greenways, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Facilities Technical Report.

Pursue the development of a public golf course and community park on the grounds of the Springfield State Hospital Complex

Another means of providing an active recreational opportunity for citizens of all ages would be to construct a public golf course on state property in a centralized location. Recreational opportunities, in addition to the ball parks which are typically used for younger citizens in the area, were a concern voiced by citizens during the work sessions held prior to the drafting of the plan.

Conduct a detailed evaluation of recreational opportunities in the Freedom area and prepare a prioritized listing of needed facilities

Every five years, the county is required to prepare a Land Preservation and Recreation Plan to remain qualified to receive Program Open Space funds. The Freedom area should receive a comprehensive review of existing facilities to determine future parks and recreation needs during the next update of that plan.

Identify and acquire available parcels of land for the future expansion of existing recreational and environmental facilities

The Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area, located on the northern fringe of the planning area, is a valuable asset in the community. Where possible and as necessary, the county should form a partnership with the state to acquire properties adjacent to sensitive areas to ensure no competing land uses are put in place that may jeopardize the long-term viability of these environmental and recreational areas.

Fiscal Impacts

While the cost of implementing the recommendations contained herein may be considerable, it is important to note the availability of Program Open Space (POS) funds to acquire land, purchase equipment, and other applications. For example, while the construction of the area-wide trail system may cost roughly \$4.6 million, POS funds could reduce the county's expenditures significantly. This would be true for other recommendations as well, such as the swimming pool facility, public golf course, and land acquisition for the expansion of existing recreational facilities in the community.



F. Schools and Associated Facilities

Existing School Facilities

The quality of schools and the education provided therein shapes the future of citizens in any given community. The table below provides the breakdown of schools by elementary, middle, and high schools in the Freedom area. The Freedom CPA is served by five elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. In addition, the Century High School (adjacent to Linton Springs Elementary School) is under construction and planned to open in 2001.

In September 2000, 1 of the 35 schools in the county exceeded the Concurrency threshold for enrollment of 120 percent of the school's state-rated capacity. Liberty High School was at 138.7 percent of its capacity in September 2000. Century High School will open in September 2001 and provide relief to both Liberty and South Carroll High Schools, as shown in the following table.

Existing Schools and Enrollment Data Freedom Area, September 2000								
School	Acres	# of Students: State-Rated Capacity	2000 Actual Enrollment (FTE)	Projected September Enrollment				
				2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<u>Elementary</u>								
Carrolltowne	8.0	569	635	620	601	581	579	569
Eldersburg	30.0	544	592	635	681	717	766	791
Freedom	9.6	569	484	478	468	451	454	461
Piney Ridge	13.9	569	614	624	628	641	639	651
Linton Springs	116.0	739	742	763	786	790	791	795
Total	177.5	2,990	3,067	3,120	3,164	3,180	3,229	3,267
<u>Middle</u>								
Oklahoma Road	32.9	973	790	850	856	876	855	834
Sykesville	8.5	888	910	943	960	958	993	1014
Total	41.4	1,861	1,700	1,793	1,816	1,834	1,848	1,848
<u>High</u>								
Liberty	51.0	1,170	1,623	1,396	1,331	1,292	1,319	1,388
South Carroll	29.7	1,305	1,555	1,316	1,198	1,128	1,132	1,157
Century		1,250	0	556	837	1,135	1,166	1,189
Total	80.7	3,725	3,178	3,268	3,366	3,555	3,617	3,734

Source: Carroll County Board of Education



One of the goals of the Carroll County Master Plan is to locate new schools where they can connect to public water and sewer systems. Therefore, identifying appropriate sites that can be served with public water and sewer now will ensure that the county will have the required land to build schools in the future.

Future Facilities

Annually, the Carroll County Board of Education adopts a Facilities Master Plan for Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS). This plan has a 10-year horizon, and pupil projections by school are based on the previous September enrollments. Pupil projections are developed using a cohort survival methodology. The Board of Education's 2000-2009 Facilities Master Plan calls for occupancy of a new South Carroll area middle school in August 2004, an addition of Carrolltowne Elementary School in August 2003, and a modernization to Freedom Elementary School in August 2007. A new southeast area elementary school is recognized as a future project beyond the 10 years covered by that plan.

Based on the land use plan contained within this plan and the inventory of vacant land remaining to be developed within the CPA, projections of additional students were developed using pupil generation rates. The following table indicates the pupil generation rates used in projecting additional pupils.

Pupil Generation Rates by Housing Type Carroll County, Maryland			
Housing Type	Elementary	Middle	High
Single-family	0.25	0.14	0.17
Townhouse	0.25	0.11	0.14
Multi-family	0.11	0.05	0.057
ALL TYPES	0.23	0.12	0.15

Source: Carroll County Department of Planning in cooperation with Carroll County Public Schools, May 1999

The above pupil generation rates are based on a survey conducted by the Carroll County Department of Planning in cooperation with CCPS in September 1998. As the population of the county ages, fewer students per household are expected.

The following table projects the additional students in the Freedom CPA based on proposed land use contained in this plan.





**Projected Student Population Based on Land Use
Freedom CPA**

School Type	Estimated Number of Additional Students Based on Existing Zoning
Elementary	2,791* x 0.23 = 642
Middle	2,791 x 0.12 = 335
High	2,791 x 0.15 = 419
Total	1,396

*Total number of housing units (including the Town of Sykesville) available in the Freedom CPA

Note: The estimations and projections of future student capacities were calculated using pupil generation rates developed by Carroll County Department of Planning in cooperation with Carroll County Public Schools, May 1999

Based on these projections, the Freedom CPA will generate the need for one additional elementary school. The additional students at the middle and high school levels are not great enough to require an additional school. However, when continued growth in southwestern Carroll County is added to that in the Freedom CPA, an additional middle school will be needed. It is likely that a new middle school will be located within the Freedom CPA in order to connect to public water and sewer facilities.

Recommendations

Acquire school sites and develop criteria to evaluate future school sites

- The county has a land banking program to purchase land for locating public facilities and improvements. Through this program, it is possible for the county to purchase land for the required elementary and middle school.
- Criteria for the selection of new school sites needs to be developed to ensure that location, topography, soils, and access-related issues are suitable.
- Purchase a middle school site with access to the public water and sewer facilities.

Coordinate with the state to identify and reserve a site for an elementary school on the Springfield State Hospital Property

The State Department of General Services stated in their letter releasing the Warfield Complex for annexation into Sykesville that study and consideration be given to the Carroll County Public School's request for an appropriate-sized site for a new Southeast Area Elementary School. It is possible that sufficient land for an elementary school will be available somewhere on the Springfield State Hospital Complex.





Continue to work with the Board of Education (BOE) to coordinate future schools and their location

The Planning Department and the BOE will work cooperatively to determine where and when schools should be constructed to serve development in southern Carroll County.

Continue to work with the BOE to time school construction with need

The method used in student population projections and the timing of these construction projects needs to be planned such that future school construction is included in the Capital Improvement Program and schools are constructed when required.

Fiscal Impacts

The county budgeted \$37.97 million for the new Century High School, which was slated for construction in FY 2000. The projected number of additional high school students in the CPA can be absorbed by this school, which is planned to open in 2001. The projected number of middle school students can be accommodated by the Oklahoma Middle School and the new middle school proposed by the BOE. The estimated cost of construction of one middle school is \$17.0 million.

This plan indicates a possible need for construction of one new elementary school. The estimated cost of construction of the elementary school (at 1997 - 1998 rates) is \$9.0 million. Land acquisition will add an additional \$10,000 to \$20,000 per acre in southern Carroll County. For 23 acres per school (minimum land required), it will cost between \$0.25 to \$0.5 million dollars. This brings the total cost for an elementary school to \$9.25 to \$9.5 million.

In 1998, the county collected impact fees for residential units at the following rates per unit (not including parks fees): single-family (\$4,197), townhouse (\$3,097), and apartments (\$1,543). Zoning allowed for an additional 2,229 single-family homes that would generate approximately \$9.36 million in revenues. Since the elementary school will possibly serve a larger population that includes areas outside of the CPA, part of the funds for the elementary school will be available from outside of the Freedom CPA. Similarly, the middle school will be built with funds generated from the CPA as well as other areas in southern Carroll, with only a small percentage of the students attending this school coming from within the CPA.

G. Public Library Facilities

Existing Facilities

The existing library serving the citizens of the Freedom community consists of over 20,000 square feet, making it the largest library in Carroll County in terms of space for the public. The addition of 5,000 square feet to the original facility was completed in the spring of 1998 at a cost of approximately \$100,000 in furnishings and renovations (the library expanded into space vacated by the Maryland State Police). The library building is located at the intersection of Hemlock Drive and St. Andrews Way, adjacent to the Carrolltowne Mall.





As of July 1, 2000, 25,038 patrons utilized the library and its resources. With its inventory of 111,893 items, library officials projected that the Freedom facility would be the busiest branch in Carroll County in FY 2000.

Future Facilities

The recent expansion of the library is expected to adequately accommodate current and future patronage for a very short time. Library officials are projecting a need for an additional 5,000 square feet in 2001. Based on the library's own growth trends, the proposed addition will satisfy demand at this location through 2020.

Recommendations

Secure adequate building space and budget appropriate funding levels in the annual CIP for future expansion plans at the public library

The recent expansion by the library into 5,000 square feet of space vacated by the State Police, combined with the recommended construction of a 5,000 square feet addition at the library's current location, is projected to adequately serve current and future patrons of the library through 2020. Available space at its current location can be utilized for additional parking space needs and the building addition. Engineering and construction funds should be budgeted to ensure adequate library facilities are in place in a timely manner to serve the citizens of Freedom.

Fiscal Impacts

The cost for building an addition to the existing library is estimated at \$400,000, based on a figure of \$80 per square foot. Additional funding is required for parking lot improvements, furnishings, new resources, and other renovations. Assuming these and other possible costs, total budgeting for the expansion should be in the \$700,000 range.

H. Senior Center

Existing Facilities

The structure housing the South Carroll Senior Center in the Freedom community, historically known as the Johnsville School, is a one-story ranch-style building and is located on Bartholow Road north of the Hodges Road intersection. The last major renovation at the site occurred in the late 1980's as a two-part modernization project. State funding was secured to upgrade the facility and to improve insulation in the aging structure. County funding was budgeted to renovate the lower level of the old school, thereby accommodating the first adult day-care facility in the county.

After many years in operation on the lower level of the South Carroll Senior Center, the "Family and Children's Day Care" operation recently vacated the premises and relocated to the West End School in Westminster.





Future Facilities

The vacancy in the lower level of the senior center, created by the relocation of the Adult and Children's Day Care operation, offers opportunities for expansion at the existing facility. No new land would need to be acquired for this improvement. Officials at the senior center suggest a need for exercise classes for seniors which could be conducted in the lower level of the building. With an ADA-approved elevator already in place and an existing rear entrance also ADA approved, minor upgrades and furnishings would accommodate the center's expansion needs for several years. New meeting space for the Freedom community could also be considered for inclusion in the expansion of the facility into the lower level.

A brand new facility may be necessary between 2015 and 2020 based on elderly population projections in Carroll County. An increase of 134 percent is expected within the age group of 64+ years by that time. Therefore, a new building, designed to accommodate the growing population of senior citizens in the southeastern section of the county, is recommended. A review of the proper location for a new senior center should be conducted in the future to ensure that seniors from the Freedom community and beyond can easily access the facility.

Recommendations

Accommodate existing patrons of the senior center by expanding into the lower level of the existing facility

Create opportunities for the creation of new programs, or expansion of existing ones, by facilitating the use of the lower level of the building. The immediate availability of the space, the public ownership of the space, and the ADA accessibility of the space makes this an excellent opportunity for a low-cost improvement of the services offered to senior citizens in the community.

Budget adequate funding in the CIP to provide for the construction of a new Senior Center by 2020

A new Senior Center is projected to be necessary to accommodate a growing number of elderly citizens by around 2020. If possible, the county should consider locating the new building on county-owned property. If not, property that could also serve elderly citizens from beyond the CPA (Finksburg orientation) may be wise to acquire.

Fiscal Impacts

The projected need for a new senior center in the Freedom community, based on increasing numbers of senior citizens in the area, will involve the allocation of engineering, land acquisition, and construction capital funding. Assuming an \$80 per square foot cost for new construction, and estimating the new building size at 25,000 square feet, the approximate construction cost could equal \$2.0 million. Additional costs may be incurred for property acquisition.



I. Technology Infrastructure

Background

In the fall of 1995, the Carroll County Commissioners formed the Carroll County Technology Advisory Board (TAB) to provide a panel of experts in various facets of technology and telecommunications that can advise the Commissioners and their affiliated agencies on technology issues, trends, applications, and initiatives that may impact and/or benefit the citizens of Carroll County.

The TAB is charged to perform the following tasks:

- Evaluate existing telecommunications services and develop recommendations for a telecommunications plan for Carroll County government, human services, education, and business.
- Serve in an advisory capacity to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on telecommunications/information infrastructure initiatives from the County Technology Consortium members (education, library, government, agriculture, business, health, human services, and towns) as requested.
- Monitor telecommunications legislation and advise County Commissioners on issues pertinent to Carroll County.
- Make recommendations to the Carroll County Commissioners and county government agencies on technology applications that would foster an improved business climate, support effective and efficient government operations, enhance education and workforce training, and provide information opportunities for Carroll County citizens and businesses.

Recommendations

Continue to coordinate with the Technology Advisory Board (TAB) and other technology stakeholders to ensure that adequate technology infrastructure is available

To ensure that adequate infrastructure for technology-based industries and businesses is available, it is essential that Planning Commission members are involved in the decision making by TAB and the County Commissioners with regards to technology-based policy within the county that could affect planning and land use decisions in the Freedom area.