

CHAPTER 8: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Goals

- Continue to provide adequate land for future school facilities based upon projected needs
- Ensure that library facilities in Westminster have adequate resources to service the existing and future population
- Provide facilities and services appropriate for serving the growing numbers and changing needs of the senior population
- Create a range of recreational opportunities accessible to residents of all ages
- Foster a safe environment that encourages crime prevention and meets the needs for criminal prosecution and correction
- Ensure that new development occurs concurrent with the provision of public facilities - including schools, roads, fire/EMS, police, and water and sewer - and pays a fair share of the costs to expand capacities where needed

Current Conditions

1 Public Schools

The public school system is operated by the Carroll County Board of Education and funded by Carroll County and the State of Maryland. The schools that serve the residents of the study area are located within the City of Westminster, the study area, and outside the study area.

The majority of the study area is served by five elementary schools: Cranberry Station, Friendship Valley, Robert Moton, Westminster, and William Winchester. All are located within the study area except for Westminster Elementary School and a portion of William Winchester Elementary School, which are located within the City of Westminster. Small portions of the study area are served by four additional elementary schools located outside the study area. These schools are: Charles Carroll, Elmer Wolfe, Runnymede, and Winfield.

Two middle schools serve the majority of the study area: Westminster East Middle and Westminster West Middle. Small portions of the study area's periphery are served by two middle schools located beyond the study area: Northwest Middle and New Windsor Middle.

Westminster and Winters Mill High Schools are located within, and serve most of, the study area. Winters Mill High School opened in 2002. The school was constructed to provide additional student capacity in the Westminster area and relieve overcrowding at Westminster High School. Francis Scott Key High School serves a small portion of the western periphery of the study area.

Three school facilities serve the entire County and provide educational programs not offered by the schools mentioned above. These schools are: Carroll County Career and Technology Center, Gateway School, and Carroll Springs School.

The Carroll County Career and Technology Center (formerly known as the Vocational-Technical Center) offers a wide variety of career and technology training to high school students throughout the County.

WESTMINSTER ENVIRONS COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Carroll Springs School is a special-education facility dedicated to children with special needs. The school offers specialized instruction for students with multiple, severe, or profound disabilities whose special education needs cannot be met in the traditional educational setting of their home school. Much of the curriculum focuses on self-care and vocational/functional living skills.

The Gateway School is an alternative-education school designed for middle and high school students who have demonstrated difficulties in areas of behavioral and emotional adjustment in the traditional school setting of their home schools. The school’s mission is to give its students an opportunity to succeed academically, socially, and behaviorally so that they can transition back to their home schools.

In most cases, the school attendance areas (school districts) serve areas outside the study area. Consequently, the following data, which represent all of the students that attend these public schools, include students that live outside the study area limits.

Westminster Environs Public Schools 2003 Enrollment and Capacities						
School	Grades	Enrollment (FTE)	Local-Rated Capacity	% of Capacity	State-Rated Capacity	% of Capacity
Cranberry Station Elem.	K – 5	518	614	84.4	614	84.4
Friendship Valley Elem.	K – 5	486	569	85.4	569	85.4
Robert Moton Elem.	Pre-K - 5 & Special Ed.	376	624	60.3	624	60.3
Westminster Elem.	K – 5	526	594	88.6	594	88.6
William Winchester Elem.	Pre-K – 5	410	564	72.7	564	72.7
Westminster East Middle	6 – 8	761	775	98.2	879	86.6
Westminster West Middle	6 - 8 & Special Ed.	1,146	1,045	109.6	1,189	96.4
Westminster High	9 – 12 & Special Ed.	1,974	1,921	102.7	1,921	102.7
Winters Mill High **	9 – 12 & Special Ed.	879	1,240	70.8	1,240	70.8
Carroll County Career & Technology Center *	10 – 12	N/A	N/A	N/A	380 (per half day)	N/A
Carroll Springs	(Ages 2-21)	42	80	52.5	80	52.5
Gateway	6 – 12	81	150	54	150	54

Enrollment data as of September 30, 2003, FTE – Full-Time Equivalent, N/A – Not Applicable

* These students are counted with their home schools

** Winters Mill High School has grades 9 thru 11 in school year 2003-04. Grade 12 to be added in school year 2004-05.

Source: *Carroll County Public Schools Enrollment Projections 2004-05 to 2013-14*

Several school facility projects are planned for the Westminster environs. William Winchester Elementary School will be modernized. While school capacity will not be expanded, building systems and components will be renewed. The project is included in the *Carroll County Public School Educational Facilities Master Plan (2003-2012)* and will be completed during the 2010-11 school year.

A site has been reserved for a new Westminster area middle school, with a special education component, on county-owned property located south of Friendship Valley Elementary School. Middle school student enrollment growth does not provide justification for inclusion of this middle school project in the Educational Facilities Master Plan or Community Investment Plan at this time.

The Gateway School moved from leased space into a new facility on Kate Wagner Road east of MD 32 in the fall of 2003. The facility has a capacity of 150 students (grades 6 through 12).

The following table presents data on current school size and projected school enrollments for the 2009/2010 school year. The projections are based on current trends.

Westminster Environs Public Schools Current Size and Projected Enrollment			
School	Square Footage	Acreage	Enrollment Projections (FTE) for 2009/2010
Cranberry Station Elementary	61,346	25.0	639
Friendship Valley Elementary	57,200	49.2	511
Robert Moton Elementary	75,200	21.6	422
Westminster Elementary	64,800	20.0	669
William Winchester Elementary	54,947	7.4	457
Westminster East Middle	120,400	21.0	817
Westminster West Middle	135,733	21.5	1,218
Westminster High	337,050	72.7	1,856
Winters Mill High	213,650	31	981
Carroll County Career & Technology Center	112,190	16.3	Not Projected
Carroll Springs School	31,420	6.0	Not Projected
Gateway School	27,048	9	Not Projected

Source: Carroll County Board of Education, *Carroll County Public School Educational Facilities Master Plan (2003-2012)*

Current elementary schools are expected to serve the projected student population adequately through the 2009/2010 school year. The state-rated capacities for current middle schools are anticipated to serve the projected student population adequately through the 2009/2010 school year, but local-rated capacities are not. With the opening of Winters Mill High School, projected high school populations will be served adequately.

Carroll Community College is an independent, public, two-year, co-educational, and non-residential institution of higher education that is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The college, which is owned and maintained by the County, is the newest of Maryland’s eighteen community colleges. The main campus is located south of Westminster on MD 32. Serving the entire county, Carroll Community College offers credit and non-credit courses in transfer, career, and technical programs. During the 2002 academic year, the college served 3,747 credit students, up 6.6% from the previous year. During the same academic year, the college served 7,226 non-credit students.

2 Public Library

The Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library is located at 50 East Main Street in downtown Westminster. The current structure opened in 1980 and was the County’s first modern library facility. The library contains 40,000 square feet of building space, 13,000 square feet of which is unfinished basement space. The structure occupies a 1.25-acre site.

The facility serves the entire 7th Election District, along with portions of Election Districts 2, 4, 9, and 11. It is estimated that 41,528 people resided within this service area in January 2000. Based on population projections calculated in November 1999 by election district, it is estimated that the service area will contain 46,898 people by 2010.

In 1980, the library had a capacity of 101,000 volumes of book stock. The collection grew to 136,548 volumes (June 2000). At the end of fiscal year 2003, the library had a circulation of 954,615 items. Given the 22,000 square feet devoted to library functions, the library can accommodate a population of approximately 36,300 with relative ease (i.e., based on a ratio of 1.65 persons served per square foot of library area). This full-service branch library is heavily used and is considered overcrowded under current conditions. However, plans to increase stack space by finishing the basement were put on hold in favor of constructing a new branch library in Finksburg that also would contain the new library headquarters.

3 *Senior Center*

The Westminster Senior Activities Center, located at 125 Stoner Avenue south of Westminster and within the study area, opened as a modern, state-of-the-art facility in 1997. The building also houses the Carroll County Bureau of Aging, under the Carroll County Department of Citizen Services. The center is a focal point for a broad range of programs, services, and information that are targeted to citizens over sixty years of age and their spouses. The center provides meals (lunch and dinner), activities, recreation, education, health screenings, financial advice, legal aid, and health insurance counseling to the study area's seniors. The building is available for public and community meetings. Adult day care for the developmentally disabled is also available.

The building contains 28,000 square feet, of which 18,000 square feet is devoted to the senior center. The remaining 10,000 square feet is used for administrative and office use by the Bureau of Aging. Located on 9.6 acres, the site provides additional space for expansion of the building.

The Senior Center is used heavily. It can accommodate 700 seniors per day. In FY03, the center served 23,790 seniors (unduplicated count), an average of 1,982 seniors per month. An average of 2,150 people per month used the facility in the evening. In the same year, 8,715 lunches and 3,419 dinners were served at the Westminster center.

In 2001, the Maryland Department of Planning projected that the senior population (60+) in Carroll County will increase by 171 percent between 2000 and 2030 (from 21,770 to 59,032 people).

4 *Public Parks and Recreation*

Residents and employees in the Westminster environs are fortunate to have access to a number of county, municipal, and school parks and recreational facilities. The Land Preservation and Recreation Plan details the features of each facility, but they are summarized below as well.

Public Parks and Recreational Facilities - County Parks

Name and Address	Acreage	Amenities
Bennett Cerf Park 544 Manchester Road	8	Concession stand, 2 tennis courts, 1 lighted ball diamond, fishing stream (400-foot length), 30 parking spaces, picnic pavilion, 16 picnic tables
Carroll Community College 1601 Washington Road	33	Arts Center, volleyball court, physical fitness trail, 3 ball diamonds, 2 overlay fields, stadium field, 1,000-seat outdoor theater, 600 parking spaces, 10 picnic tables, 2 tot lots
Carroll County Farm Museum 500 South Center Street	141	Administration building, 110-seat outdoor theater, 1,000 parking spaces, 2 picnic pavilions, 50 picnic tables, 22-toilet restroom, tot lot, 1.2 miles of trails, reception barn (seats 100)
Crowltowne Open Space North of 225 North Center Street	2	2 picnic tables, 0.3 mile of greenway/hiking trail
Kate Wagner Park South of Friendship Valley Elementary School	18	6 ball diamonds, 4 multi-purpose fields, 200 parking spaces, 4 picnic tables
Landon C. Burns Park Gist Road at South Center Street	8	2 ball diamonds, 4-acre fishing pond/lake, 100 parking spaces, picnic pavilion, 10 picnic tables, tot lot
Westminster Community Pond 30 College View Boulevard	34	2-acre fishing pond/lake, 10-acre greenway area, 40 parking spaces, picnic pavilion, 16 picnic tables, 2-toilet restroom, tot lot

Source: 1999 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

Additionally, the Westminster environs is served by several County facilities of a more regional nature that are located outside of the study area. Bear Branch Nature Center and Hashawha Environmental Center are located just north of the study area. Hashawha Environmental Center is located on 340 acres and contains facilities oriented towards groups, including group campsites, an environmental education facility, and outdoor theater, picnic pavilions and tables, a swimming pool, restrooms, hiking trails, and several ball fields and courts. Bear Branch Nature Center is a somewhat smaller facility that contains an environmental education building, picnic tables, and hiking trails. Also just north of the study area is the Carroll County Sports Complex. Located on 77 acres, it contains 2 ball diamonds, 3 lighted ball diamonds, 2 multi-purpose fields, and 2 overlay fields, as well as a concession stand, picnic pavilions and tables, and a tot lot.

In Silver Run, about four miles outside of the study area, the Union Mills Homestead and Shriver Grist Mill contain a collection of historic buildings as well as picnic facilities, hiking trails, and fishing. Adjacent to the Homestead is the Union Mills Reservoir site, a 1,320-acre area reserved for a future reservoir that currently is open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The Hap Baker Firearms Facility, which contains 10 targets on the property of the Northern Landfill, and the Westminster Aero-Modelers Park, which offers a few picnic tables and 5 acres of space for flying model airplanes, round out the recreational areas available to people with a variety of interests.

Piney Run Park, located well outside the study area in the southeastern area of the county, is designed to serve the entire county. The park, located at 30 Martz Road, was opened in 1976 and contains 838 acres of County-owned land. It is a recreation and nature-appreciation facility with programs for children and adults. Facilities include a 298-acre lake, boating, fishing, trails,

WESTMINSTER ENVIRONS COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

tennis courts, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a concession stand, an outdoor theater, picnic facilities, tot lots, restrooms, a nature (environmental education) center, a visitor center, and a group camping area.

In addition to the recreational facilities offered to area residents, the Westminster Area Recreation Council offers a number of organized activities for youth and adults. These include youth and adult aerobics, baseball, youth basketball, clogging, football, gymnastics, horseback riding, karate, majorettes, running, soccer, softball, square dancing, volleyball, walking, wrestling, and yoga. In 2002, 8,144 people registered for these activities and attended 93,026 sessions. The County’s recreation councils are volunteer organizations. In 2002, the Westminster Area Recreation Council had 2,194 volunteers who donated 43,477 hours of their time.

Several parks and recreational facilities are located within the City of Westminster and are operated by the City. Residents of the study area frequent these facilities as well.

Public Parks and Recreational Facilities - Westminster Parks		
Name	Acreage	Amenities
Belle Grove Square	0.7	6 benches, 0.5-acre open space
Bishop’s Garth Park	2.1	Tot lot, gazebo, park bench
Charles Street Playground	0.5	Basketball court, tot lot
Dutterer Family Park	6.5	Ball diamond, multi-purpose field, outdoor skating rink (seasonal), pavilion, restrooms, playground, 0.6 mile of trails
Family Recreation Center (in the Longwell Municipal Center)	0.6	Indoor recreation center (includes cardiovascular area, gymnasium, teen center, and locker rooms with showers)
Fenby Farm Quarry & Lime Kiln Park	1.6	Ball diamond, trails, park benches, interpretive displays
Jaycee Park	8.1	Concession stand, basketball court, 2 tennis courts, ball diamond, 2 lighted ball diamonds, parking spaces, toilet restroom, tot lot
King’s Park	6.5	Basketball court, tennis court, fitness course, parking spaces, picnic pavilion, 10 picnic tables, toilet restroom, tot lot, 5 acres of open space
Schoolhouse Avenue Park	0.3	Tot lot
Uniontown Road Field	3.6	Multi-purpose field
Wakefield Valley Community Trail	2 miles	Walking trail
Westminster City Playground	5.0	Concession stand, 2 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts, volleyball court, 2 lighted ball diamonds, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, park benches, 2 tot lots
Westminster Municipal Pool & Tot Lot	1.9	Concession stand, sand volleyball court, parking spaces, picnic pavilion, toilet restroom, 3,500-square-foot outdoor Olympic-size swimming pool, 100-square-foot wading pool, tot lot
Westminster Skate Park	0.1	Ramps for skateboarding & in-line skating

Source: 1999 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan

Public school grounds and recreational facilities are available for public use during non-school hours. In addition, the schools contain gyms or multi-purpose rooms, and the high school has several auditoriums. As with the County parks, ball fields at the schools are at capacity.

Public Parks and Recreational Facilities - Public Schools	
School	Amenities
Carroll Springs	Grass play area, 50 parking spaces, tot lot
Cranberry Station Elementary	Ball diamond, multi-purpose field, multi-purpose court, 120 parking spaces
East Middle	2 ball diamonds, 3 multi-purpose fields, outdoor stadium, 120 parking spaces, 4 picnic tables, 0.5 mile of trails
Friendship Valley Elementary	5 ball diamonds, 4 multi-purpose fields, overlay field, 300 parking spaces, 2 tot lots
Robert Moton Elementary	Ball diamond, multi-purpose field, 130 parking spaces, 3 picnic tables, 2 tot lots
West Middle	2 ball diamonds, 3 multi-purpose fields, 70 parking spaces, tot lot
Westminster Elementary	Ball diamond, multi-purpose field, 65 parking spaces, 2 tot lots
Westminster High	4 tennis courts, 3 ball diamonds, multi-purpose field, maintenance building, outdoor stadium, 1,000 parking spaces, 10 picnic tables, 2 tot lots
William Winchester Elementary	Basketball court, 2 ball diamonds, multi-purpose field, 36 parking spaces, 2 tot lots
Winters Mill High	2 multi-purpose soccer/football fields, 1 baseball field, 1 softball field (overlays one of the multi-purpose fields), 1 football/soccer/lacrosse stadium, 6 tennis courts, 2 outdoor basketball courts

Source: 1999 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, Department of Recreation and Parks

Recreational facilities also are available for public use at McDaniel College when not being used for college-related activities. Located at 28 Union Street in Westminster, the private institution offers tennis courts, playing fields, racquetball courts, track, golf course, swimming pool, ballfields, multi-purpose fields, and gymnasium.

The Carroll Indoor Sports Center, located at 515 Old Westminster Pike just outside Westminster, is a privately-owned business that hosts public indoor recreational programs for the County’s Recreation Councils. The facility offers indoor soccer from ages 5 to over 40. Youth soccer leagues use the indoor fields from November through the end of March. Other public sports programs include indoor adult softball and middle-school girls field hockey (instruction and league games). Over 300 soccer teams play each week from November to March; 50 to 60 teams play adult soccer each week. The soccer fields are used to full capacity during these months. An estimated 50 to 60 percent of the soccer teams are from Carroll County; teams are drawn to this facility from the entire County and well beyond.

5 *Public Safety: Police Services*

Police protection to the residents and businesses of the study area is provided by two separate government agencies: the Maryland State Police and the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office. The Westminster Police Department provides police protection within the city limits.

A ⇔ Maryland State Police

The Maryland State Police, Barrack “G,” Westminster, are charged with providing full police services to the citizens of Carroll County. Coverage is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is the primary law enforcement agency for the County, which also provides crime-

prevention services. The agency offers several educational programs, including DARE (Drug Awareness, Resistance, Education program), numerous community crime-prevention programs, REALITY (an anti-drug program), and various elementary school safety programs.

The State Police barrack is located at 1100 Baltimore Boulevard (MD 140), east of Westminster and within the study area. The barrack is a new building (opened in 1999) that was constructed on the same site as the previous facility (opened in 1961). The new facility contains 12,100 square feet and is situated on a 2.5-acre site. An estimated 30 to 40 additional staff could be accommodated within the new building; however, there is no additional room on the site to accommodate an expansion of the building. The current facility is expected to meet the agency's needs for the next 20 years.

On January 1, 1974, the Carroll County Commissioners and the Maryland State Police instituted the Resident Trooper Program. The program is designed to provide additional police protection on an ongoing basis as an area increases in population and non-residential development. Resident troopers are hired on the basis of increased population and calls for emergency assistance. Resident troopers and barrack troopers perform the same functions; the main difference is that barrack troopers are paid by the State and the County pays resident troopers. Resident and barrack troopers have jurisdiction in both the county and city, but their primary area of responsibility is outside the city limits. When necessary, the State Police assist the Westminster police as backup, but do not provide services or facilities to the city on a regular basis.

In 2003, the Maryland State Police had 96 sworn police officers assigned to the Westminster barrack. Resident and barrack troopers consist of: 51 uniformed patrol troopers, 3 K-9 troopers, 1 trooper in Crime Prevention, 1 trooper in the Warrant Unit, 5 troopers assigned to the Town of Mount Airy, 1 trooper assigned to the Towns of New Windsor and Union Bridge, 3 troopers on the Speed Enforcement Team, 14 uniformed supervisors, and 3 uniformed administrators. The criminal investigation division includes 14 criminal investigators, consisting of: 6 in General Assignment, 3 assigned to the Child Abuse Sexual Assault Unit, 2 assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit, 2 assigned to the Carroll County Drug Task Force, and 1 Criminal Investigator administrator.

Between 1997 and 2001, the total number of calls countywide requesting a response from the Maryland State Police were: 31,434 calls in 1997, 33,048 calls in 1998, 35,267 calls in 1999, 34,717 in 2000, and 41,165 in 2001.

Maryland State Police coverage for the county is divided into nine patrol sectors. Most of the study area is located within Patrol Sector 5, which extends from Westminster to New Windsor. A smaller but significant portion of the study area is located within Sector 4, which extends from Westminster to Finksburg and the county line. Minute areas around the periphery of the study area are located in Sectors 1 (Taneytown to the Pennsylvania line), 2 (Manchester), 3 (Hampstead), and 8 (from south of New Windsor to north and east of Mount Airy). For an average shift, two state troopers are assigned to patrol the combined area for Sectors 4 and 5.

B ⇨ Carroll County Sheriff's Office

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office provides supplemental law enforcement to the Maryland State Police and is generally responsible for the operation of the Carroll County Detention Center, courtroom security, and civil process services. More specifically, duties and

responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office include, but are not limited to: preserving the peace and maintaining public safety, enforcing laws, arresting and committing to jail felons and other violators of statutory or common law, executing legal process as directed, attending trial courts of record and preserving the peace within the courthouse and courtrooms, providing custody to and transportation of prisoners, and executing and carrying out the mandates, orders, and directions of the courts.

The Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction throughout the county, including within the municipalities. Coverage is provided 24 hours per day and 7 days per week.

The County Sheriff is elected at large for a four-year term. As of July 2001, the Sheriff's Office comprised 64 full-time employees; 51 sworn police officers (i.e., Sheriff and Sheriff's Deputies) and 13 civilian employees. Of the 51 deputies, 8 are assigned to court security, 17 are assigned to patrol, one is assigned to the Civilian Process Section (evictions and attachments), 12 are assigned to Special Operations, and 5 are in Administration.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office and County Detention Center share the same building located at 100 North Court Street within the City of Westminster. Opened in 1971, the building was expanded in 1984 and 1999. With the completion of the 1999 expansion, the building has probably reached its limit for enlargement on this site. The Sheriff's Office component of the building is severely overcrowded.

The county is divided into five patrol areas called bailiwicks. The Westminster study area is located in a portion of three bailiwicks (1, 2, and 3).

The recent expansion of the Detention Center expanded the facility to accommodate 244 beds. The population of the Detention Center is comprised of three main groups; those who are awaiting trial because they were not released on bail, those who have been convicted of committing a crime and are serving their sentences of generally up to eighteen months, and Immigration and Naturalization Services detainees. Sentences longer than eighteen months are served in the state system and pretrial inmates are detained for about six months prior to the trial; if convicted, inmates are held for about three months while awaiting sentencing. Convicted inmates serving their sentences serve an average of a year in the Detention Center. The Detention Center serves the entire county, including the municipalities. Eighty-four sworn correctional officers and 11 civilians operate the center. Like the Sheriff's Office, it is a 24 hours per day, 7 days per week facility.

The Detention Center averages over 200 inmates per day. The inmate population grows 3 to 5 percent each year. At this growth rate, and with a 244-bed capacity, the current facility is expected to continue serving the county's needs for the next 4 to 6 years.

C ⇨ Westminster Police Department

The City of Westminster, exercising its home rule powers, has established its own police department with jurisdiction inside the city's corporate limits. The Westminster Police Department provides police protection to properties located within the City of Westminster 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Supplemental police protection is provided by the Maryland State Police when requested by the city as back up. Forty-five full-time sworn police officers staff the department, which serves an estimated population of 16,731 (as of 2000) within the City of Westminster.

The Westminster Police Department opened in 1993 at its current location (36 Locust Street) within the city. The two-story building contains nearly 12,000 square feet and rests on half an acre of land. There is room on the site for an outward expansion of the building.

The Department anticipates that the current facility will meet the City's needs for the next 8 to 10 years.

6 *Public Safety: Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS)*

Fourteen fire companies protect life and property during fires, natural disasters, auto accidents, home accidents, or illnesses within Carroll County. The companies also promote fire prevention and educate the community about fire and emergency practices.

The majority of the Westminster study area is located within the Westminster fire district (also known as the first-due area), though a significant portion of the study area is located within the Pleasant Valley fire district. In both cases, the fire district extends beyond the limits of the study area. Additionally, small areas at the periphery of the study area fall within the New Windsor, Winfield, Gamber, and Reese fire districts.

The Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company No.1 and the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company provide fire, ambulance, and rescue services within their districts. Both fire departments are predominantly volunteer organizations with some paid personnel to ensure daytime coverage. While the Westminster and Pleasant Valley fire departments are the primary service providers for most of the study area, several other departments provide mutual aid; i.e., they provide supplemental or back-up services to the primary service provider when necessary. Within the study area, these fire companies include Reese, New Windsor, Gamber, and Manchester.

According to the Carroll County Office of Public Safety, the study area presents no obvious limitations or impediments to responding apparatus, other than normal situations such as traffic volumes and weather conditions. The County's Concurrency Management Ordinance addresses issues of adequate service by tracking the number of late and no responses and making annual recommendations for the appropriate adjustments to correct inadequate service levels. The *Emergency Services Master Plan*, developed by the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association, addresses specific recommendations for improvements to the service of equipment of fire companies in Carroll County. Please refer to this plan for fire and EMS recommendations related to these services.

A ⇔ Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1

The Westminster fire district, which extends slightly beyond the study area limits, is the most populated of the county's 14 fire districts. With an estimated population of 34,307 (as of January 1, 2000), the district serves 20.8 percent of the county's population. Comprising 45 square miles, the district serves the second highest density of population per square mile (762 persons) of the county's fourteen fire districts (only the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department serves a higher population density at 957 persons per square mile).

The fire district also contains a high concentration of commercial buildings. As a result, the Westminster fire station receives more emergency calls than any other county fire station. In

2000, the department responded to 1,162 fire and rescue calls (19.3 percent of the county’s total calls) and 3,111 EMS calls (24.5 percent of total calls countywide). Fire and rescue and EMS calls to the department increased by 46.3 and 64.6 percent respectively between 1990 and 2000.

Westminster Fire Department - Emergency Services Responses			
Year	Fire/Rescue Responses	Ambulance Responses	Total Responses
1990	794	1,890	2,684
1991	871	1,996	2,867
1992	862	2,062	2,924
1993	1,027	2,272	3,299
1994	1,060	2,309	3,369
1995	1,075	2,489	3,564
1996	1,240	2,623	3,863
1997	1,043	2,565	3,608
1998	1,149	2,534	3,683
1999	1,173	2,787	3,960
2000	1,162	3,111	4,273
1990-2000 % Increase	46.3	64.6	59.2

Source: Carroll County Office of Public Safety, 2001

The Westminster fire department’s firehouse is located at 28 John Street in Westminster. The new, state-of-the-art facility, which moved from its East Main Street location in 1998, contains 35,280 square feet of building space. It contains 7 drive-through bays that can house approximately 14 vehicles. The station also includes housing, offices, and facilities for station personnel, as well as a museum and a large social hall used for fundraising, company and community events, and private functions.

B ⇔ Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company

The Pleasant Valley fire district covers the northwest portion of the study area; the majority of the district extends beyond and to the north of the study area. At 52.6 square miles, the Pleasant Valley district is the second largest fire district in the county (only the Taneytown fire district, with 60 square miles, surpasses it). The district is predominantly rural in character, with a population as of January 1, 2000 of 8,246, which is only 5 percent of the county’s total population. Population density is about 157 persons per square mile.

Pleasant Valley Fire Department - Emergency Services Responses			
Year	Fire/Rescue Responses	Ambulance Responses	Total Responses
1990	277	329	606
1991	319	340	659
1992	315	397	712
1993	346	413	759
1994	338	443	781
1995	346	452	798
1996	356	499	855
1997	277	519	796
1998	264	490	754
1999	268	421	689
2000	290	485	775
1990-2000 % Increase	4.7	47.4	27.9

Source: Carroll County Office of Public Safety

In 2000, the department responded to 290 fire and rescue calls (4.8 percent of the County’s total calls) and 485 EMS calls (3.8 percent of total calls countywide). Between 1990 and 2000, the number of fire and rescue and EMS calls to Pleasant Valley increased by 4.7 and 47.4 percent, respectively.

The Pleasant Valley fire station is located at 2030 South Pleasant Valley Road. The site is situated within the Pleasant Valley Rural Village, a short distance west of the study area boundary. Opened in 1983, the facility occupies approximately 21,330 square feet and sits on a 20.7-acre site. The building contains 4 drive-through bays that can house approximately eight vehicles. The station also includes housing, offices, and facilities for station personnel. A large social hall is available for fundraising functions, company events, and meetings and events attended by the general community.

The property has adequate room to accommodate an enlargement of the building should the community’s growth increase the demand for emergency services enough to require expansion of equipment and services that exceed the building’s current capacity. There are plans to expand the facility to provide additional classroom and meeting/office space in the future. With this expansion, the County anticipates that the fire station will be able to meet the community’s emergency needs indefinitely. There are no plans to construct additional fire stations in the area.

C ⇨ The Carroll County Emergency Operations Center

The Carroll County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in the basement of the County Office Building, located at 225 North Center Street in Westminster. The EOC, which is reached by dialing “911”, is responsible for alerting the appropriate fire company or police agency to any given emergency situation on a 24-hour basis. The 9-1-1 system is a computerized system that provides an efficient method for dispatching emergency personnel throughout the county.

D ⇨ Carroll Hospital Center

A fully staffed emergency room is located in the Carroll Hospital Center (200 Memorial Avenue), which is situated just outside of Westminster in the southern portion of the study area. Ambulances from the Westminster and Pleasant Valley fire departments, among others, transport their emergency-medical passengers to the hospital’s emergency room.

7 Public Water Service

The City of Westminster owns and operates the community water supply system serving the City and areas beyond the corporate limits. The existing and planned service area is located in central Carroll County and covers approximately 7,704 acres.

The system, which dates back to 1898, was purchased by the City of Westminster in 1964 from the Maryland Water Works Company.

A major source of water is Cranberry Branch, a tributary of the West Branch of the Patapsco River. A small reservoir is located north of Lucabaugh Mill Road. From that point, a

30-inch transmission line runs for approximately 7,500 feet along Cranberry Branch to the water treatment plant in Cranberry.

In the same vicinity, the City also extracts surface water from the West Branch of the Patapsco, also known as Hull Creek. A small impoundment and an infiltration gallery are located in Bennett Cerf Park and a 14 to 16-inch transmission line allows for gravity flow to the water treatment plant at Cranberry. The City has an appropriations permit to withdraw 2.0 mgd from these two sources combined.

Because these streams eventually supply Liberty Reservoir, low stream flow below 0.85 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 0.56 mgd at the gauging station, requires augmentation. This is accomplished by pumping water from the Koontz Creamery well into a third tributary until the gauge exceeds 1.62 cfs (1.05 mgd). The City purchased the Koontz Creamery well in 1974 in order to meet increasing demands on the City's water supply sources. However, the Koontz Creamery well is not connected directly into the City's potable water system due to the presence of hydrocarbons. Since the City was approaching the maximum withdrawals possible from Cranberry and Hull Creek, and in order to maintain a stipulated minimum streamflow, the State agreed to the supplementation procedure noted above. This pumping has been permitted under a State-approved discharge permit. The mixing, dilution, and aeration of the Koontz Creamery well water enables dissipation of the pollutants.

A portion of the groundwater supply located in the Westminster area has become contaminated. The areas occupied by the Koontz Creamery well, the Old Westminster Sewage Treatment Plant, and the old City landfill have known pollutants which prohibit the use of the groundwater for potable water supply.

The City has been continually working to develop groundwater supplies. Consultants have been hired to conduct hydrogeologic evaluations for the purposes of selecting test sites for high-yield wells. To date, there are eight wells which have been developed and are in service. The well located within the County Air Business Center (Well 4) is permitted at 0.17 mgd. Well 6 is located on South Center Street, and is permitted at 0.10 mgd. The third well (Well 3) is permitted at 0.10 mgd and is located at the County maintenance facility on Old Meadow Branch Road. The well on Krider's Church Road (Well 5) is permitted at 0.230 mgd and is on property formerly owned by the State Highway Administration. The Carfaro well (Well 7) is located near the intersection of MD 31 and Windsor Drive next to the Furnace Hills development and is permitted at 0.300 mgd. The two companion wells, Wells 9 and 10, are located on what is known as the Koontz property, which is located along the north side of MD 140, in the vicinity of its intersection with MD 31 and is permitted at 0.125 mgd. The Vo-Tech well (Well 8) is located on the site of Westminster High School on Washington Road, adjacent to the County's Career and Technology Center, which is part of the County's high school system, and is permitted at 0.119 mgd.

The City also has water sources within the Wakefield Valley, an area southwest of central Westminster. The entire valley is underlain with Wakefield Marble, which is the most prolific groundwater aquifer in the County. The Wakefield wells (Wells 1 and 2) are permitted at 0.197 mgd combined. Once a satellite system, this system has been tied into the central system. With both systems now connected, the Wakefield Valley can be served by the central system in the event of any problems with Wells 1 and 2 or the Wakefield Water Storage Tank.

The average day permitted use of all sources currently in use is 3.841 mgd. However, recent

history indicates that these resources have not been able to sustain this yield under drought conditions. The City of Westminster is currently preparing a Water Capacity Management Plan, as required by Maryland Department of the Environment, to address this supply issue in greater detail. Preliminary results of that Plan indicate the total system's capacity during a severe drought is 2.2 mgd.

Treatment Facilities

The Water Treatment Plant is located on Old Manchester Road in Cranberry. This facility treats water from two surface sources and has a capacity of 2.75 mgd. Treatment consists of an uplift sand filter system, and additions of lime and the coagulant Ultrion, with chlorination and fluoridation. In early 1992, improvements to the facility, including construction of a new clearwell, were completed. Sludge that is generated at the water treatment plant is conveyed into the sewerage system and ultimately treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In 1996, the City installed a mechanical mixer in the Cranberry Branch Reservoir which keeps the water in the reservoir from stratifying, preventing odor and taste problems with the City's water. Additionally, two compressors and a piping network, which provide fine-bubble aeration, also operate as a backup system.

In 2004, the City commissioned the Design Report for Membrane Filtration at the Cranberry Water Treatment Plant. The submerged membrane upgrade at the Cranberry Water Treatment Plant will enhance the City's ability to provide quality drinking water and to comply with new regulations, known as the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 Rule). The major objective of this rule is to increase protection against microbial pathogens in drinking water, including Cryptosporidium. The LT2 Rule will supplement existing regulations by targeting additional Cryptosporidium treatment requirements and disinfection benchmarks. This approximately \$5.5 million upgrade should help the City meet and exceed current and future regulations as adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is anticipated that the City of Westminster will secure funding through the Maryland Department of Environment's Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. Final approval of the bid for equipment is currently pending from MDE, and design work is nearing completion. The City anticipates that construction will begin during Fiscal Year 2006.

Fluoridation is provided directly at all City wells.

Storage

A raw water reservoir having a capacity of 121.8 mgd is located along Cranberry Branch north of Lucabaugh Mill Road. All water in the impoundment is pumped from the raw water intake on Cranberry Branch. The 30-inch transmission line from the intake to the treatment plant also connects the reservoir to the treatment plant. The water in the reservoir is used either when conditions prevent direct withdrawal from the stream or to supplement low stream flow.

Treated water is pumped to, and stored in, four locations:

- clearwater reservoir off Gorsuch Road, with a capacity of 1.0 mg
- 1.5-mg water tank off Hook Road

- 0.5-mg elevated water tank on the McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College) campus
- 2.0-mg high zone water tank located off Gorsuch Road
- 2.0-mg storage tank on Sawgrass Court in Wakefield Valley

More detailed information on the public water system in the Westminster environs can be found in the *Carroll County Master Plan for Water & Sewerage*.

8 *Public Sewerage Service*

The community sewerage system serving the Westminster area is owned and operated by the City of Westminster. Some of the sewer lines and pumping stations located in the unincorporated area were planned, designed, and installed by the Carroll County Department of Public Works and then turned over to the City for operation and maintenance. The existing and planned service area is located centrally in Carroll County and contains approximately 7,341 acres. The original system has been in existence since 1935. In 1973 a new plant was constructed along Little Pipe Creek, about three miles downstream from the old plant, which is no longer operational. The old plant is now utilized to store yard waste while being converted to mulch. Between 1991 and 1993, the new Wastewater Treatment Plant was upgraded and its capacity expanded to 5.0 mgd. In 1999, the Wastewater Treatment Plant was upgraded to include biological nutrient removal. Most recently, the plant was improved with liquid chlorination/dechlorination capability. The City is currently working with MDE to complete a project to install an Enhance Nutrient Removal system at the plant.

The sewage treatment plant is located on Little Pipe Creek near the intersection of Old New Windsor Road and MD 31. The plant provides secondary treatment through an activated sludge process and advanced treatment with the addition of biological nutrient removal. Treatment capacity was increased from 3.0 to 5.0 mgd in 1993.

The sewage collection system includes 11 pumping stations and approximately 65 miles of sewer mains. Infiltration and inflow problems have been evaluated through a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES). Correction of these problems has reduced or stabilized (or both) the average daily flow at the plant. Additional work is anticipated to further reduce infiltration and inflow into the City sewerage system.

Sludge from the treatment plant is presently hauled from the plant by the City and applied to farmland or transported to the County landfill. As part of the upgrade of the plant, the volume of sludge is now reduced by a dewatering process. Options for disposal of the dewatered sludge include land application at specific times of the year or landfilling.

More detailed information on the public sewer system in the Westminster environs can be found in the *Carroll County Master Plan for Water & Sewerage*.

9 *Solid Waste*

Carroll County's public solid-waste disposal system consists of one sanitary landfill, the Northern Landfill, which is designed to accommodate the entire county's waste stream except for hazardous waste. All types of residential and commercial solid wastes generated within the

county are accepted, including white goods, tires, construction and demolition rubble, and yard waste. Scrap metal is contracted for removal by a scrap dealer and wood and yard waste are mulched or composted. Only waste generated within the county is accepted at the landfill.

Owned and operated by the County, the Northern Landfill is located at 1400 Baltimore Boulevard (MD 140), which is southeast of Westminster. Comprising 220 acres (of which 65 acres are permitted as sanitary landfill space for existing and future use), the facility opened in 1988 as a state-of-the-art secured sanitary landfill. The landfill is divided into four cells. Once these cells are filled, a fifth capping cell will be filled on top of the four cells. In all, the site contains a sanitary and rubble landfill, recycling center drop off, mulch/composting facility for yard waste, MRF operations, and a transfer station. Current projections that assume a population growth rate of 2 percent per year and the continuation of waste transference indicate that the facility will be at capacity in 2064.

Northern Landfill - Municipal Solid Waste Actual (1998-2002) and Projected (2003-2012)*					
Year	County Population	Waste Land Filled (Tons)	Waste Recycled (Tons)	Waste Transferred (Tons)**	Total Waste Generated (Tons)
1998	150,640	14,635	66,713	102,677	184,025
1999	153,000	12,000	74,665	99,995	186,660
2000	156,000	12,235	76,128	101,957	190,320
2001	159,000	12,415	77,592	103,973	193,980
2002	162,000	12,649	79,056	105,935	197,640
2003	165,000	12,883	80,520	107,897	201,300
2004	168,000	13,117	81,984	109,859	204,960
2005	171,000	13,352	83,448	111,820	208,620
2006	174,000	13,586	84,912	113,782	212,280
2007	177,000	13,820	86,376	115,744	215,940
2008	180,000	14,054	87,840	117,706	219,600
2009	183,000	14,287	89,304	119,669	223,260
2010	186,000	14,523	90,768	121,629	226,920
2011	192,077	17,772	125,628	96,946	240,346
2012	195,919	18,077	128,141	98,935	245,153

* For projected years, assumes land filled waste is 6.4 percent and recycled waste is 40.0 percent of total waste generated
 ** Waste transferred out-of-county
 Note: To convert to volume (cubic yards), multiply weight (number of tons) by 2.
 Source: Carroll County Department of Enterprise and Recreation Services, 2003

Based on the county’s population, State law dictates that the County reduce its solid waste stream by 20 percent through recycling. The County requires that licensed trash haulers provide to all their customers, both residential and commercial, voluntary recycling. The County’s Recycling Center, located at the Northern Landfill, provides recycling of tires, glass jars and bottles, aluminum and tin, mixed paper, cardboard, rigid plastic bottles and jugs, car batteries, textiles, and white goods. The County has set a goal to recycle 40 percent of the total solid waste that is generated in the county. In 2002, the County recycled 48 percent of the total waste stream. County residents are responsible for hiring a trash hauler to pick up their trash and recyclables, or they can self-haul to the landfill and recycling center.

Refuse is delivered to the Northern Landfill by county residents and licensed haulers. On average, 6.4 percent of the waste is landfilled; 40 percent is recycled (sorted and transferred from the landfill); and the remaining 53.6 percent is dumped, reloaded, and transferred by truck to another disposal facility. Almost 90 percent of the waste needing disposal will be transferred to

another landfill in Virginia or Pennsylvania.

The Northern Landfill serves an estimated county population of nearly 161,778 (December 2002). The four cells have a total capacity of 2,082,020 cubic yards (or 1,041,010 tons). With the addition of the fifth capping cell, the total capacity will be 3,504,187 cubic yards (or 1,752,094 tons). At the end of 2002, the landfill contained 947,989 cubic yards of waste, leaving a remaining capacity of 2,556,198 cubic yards for the four existing cells. Projections for 2002 to 2012 indicate that 14,800 to 18,000 tons (or 29,000 to 35,300 cubic yards) of waste will be land filled at the Northern Landfill and 87,600 to 98,000 tons of waste will be recycled, ultimately serving a county population of approximately 195,919.

The County has no plans to change the operations of the landfill or expand its capacity beyond the five cells currently anticipated.

Analysis of Community Needs

1 Public Schools

The Board of Education uses multipliers to calculate expected numbers of students per household unit: 0.25 elementary school students per household, 0.15 middle school students per household, and 0.18 high school students per household. These multipliers can be applied to the projected residential unit increases indicated in Chapter 2, which are based on the Buildable Land Inventory, to calculate the potential impact of future growth on the need for school facilities. Using the medium-end estimate for additional unit increases, and assuming that all schools within the study area currently are at 100% capacity, 2 additional elementary schools, 1 additional middle school, and 1 additional high school would be needed to serve the projected future school-age population. The Board of Education looks for the following numbers of usable acreage for each school facility: 21+ acres for elementary schools, 28 acres for middle schools, and 52 acres for high schools. Given environmental and topographic constraints, sites may need to be somewhat larger to accommodate the facilities adequately.

It is preferable to locate school facilities in close proximity to the populations they will serve and where public water and sewer service is available or easily obtained. Given these criteria and the relatively large amount of land needed for each facility, it is going to be increasingly difficult to site school facilities in the community planning area if potential locations are not identified and secured well in advance of their necessity. Taking into consideration these factors, this plan evaluated potential future school sites to correspond with the concentrations of projected development that are envisioned by the land use plan. Clusters of projected development exist in the southeast quadrant of the planning area and in the northeast quadrant of the planning area. The Existing and Potential Future School Facilities Map identifies existing facilities and potential future school site locations that should be explored further for their suitability for any one of the three school types that might be needed. Beyond identifying potential future school sites to be explored further, this comprehensive plan does not address specific school facility needs. The planning process for public schools is a function of the Board of Education, which has its own Facilities Master Plan.

State- and local-rated capacity projections for the public schools through the 2009/2010 school year indicate that elementary and high schools will be adequate. Middle schools are projected to meet state-rated capacities but not local-rated capacities. However, there are no plans

to construct Friendship Valley Middle School. The land for the school already exists as part of the Friendship Valley Elementary School campus.

2 *Public Library*

The Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library is heavily used and considered overcrowded. Using a service ratio of 1.65 persons per square foot, the 22,000 square foot library should serve about 36,300 people. However, its current service area already has a population of over 40,000 and is projected to have a population of close to 47,000 by 2010. Site conditions place some constraints on the potential for expansion but several options for increasing stack space still exist. The planned renovation of the basement would have increased stack space but this project was put on hold in favor of pursuing the construction of a branch library in Finksburg. It is believed that construction of the Finksburg branch will relieve some of the pressures on the Westminster branch. Renovation of the Westminster branch basement could still be pursued at a later date, as could a more ambitious expansion that might include adding a second story to the single-story building or expanding the existing building out towards Main Street. Any new construction should, however, be sympathetic to the character of Main Street. The library is a pivotal civic presence along Main Street and serves as a significant anchor to the downtown. Its continued presence there should be encouraged in all possible ways.

3 *Senior Center*

The Westminster Senior Center is a popular facility, as evidenced by the numbers of participants and meals served on a monthly basis. Despite this, the facility has ample capacity to serve the senior population in the near future. However, projections for the senior population over the next 25+ years show a dramatic increase in numbers for Carroll County. If a close watch on the programmatic needs of Westminster's senior population is not kept, there could be a risk that facilities and program offerings will become inadequate in the face of a growing senior population.

4 *Parks and Recreation*

Although it is the county seat and the largest municipality in the county, Westminster and its environs have a significant amount of recreational areas and open space. Despite this though, the area falls below the threshold set in the County Master Plan of 30 acres per 1,000 people. Based upon the 2000 population estimates for the City of Westminster and election district 7 (16,731 in the City and 16,524 in the election district, for a total of 33,255), the entire study area had an average of 29.31 acres of parks and recreation land per 1,000 residents. This number was derived from acreage totals that included county parks and recreational facilities, city parks and recreational facilities, and school sites. It does not include any acreage from the Union Mills Reservoir site, which could potentially be included since the regional nature of this open space means that it serves the Westminster area. Accounting for one third of the 1,320 acres of land at Union Mills (the State methodology for attributing reservoir acreage to recreational supplies), the average amount of parks and recreation land per 1,000 residents jumps from 29.31 to 61.66 acres. However, these numbers start to change dramatically according to future population projections. If no additional parks or school sites were added, by 2010 the ratio would fall to 24.97 acres per 1,000 people (or 52.51 acres per 1,000 people including the reservoir) based upon a projected population in the City and election district 7 of 39,048. Projected populations for 2020 and 2030 are 42,330 and 43,198 respectively, creating ratios of 23 acres per 1,000 people and 22.57 acres per 1,000 people (or 48.44 acres per 1,000 people and 47.47 acres per 1,000 people including the

reservoir).

Even though, statistically, the area does not seem as though it is dramatically underserved, the current system of parks and recreational facilities is heavily used and in need of relief. In particular, ball fields are at capacity throughout these parks. The Hap Baker Firearms Facility is at capacity and is being considered for future expansion. Usage at the Westminster Community Pond is at or over capacity; permits are not issued for reserved use due to the high level of unscheduled use. The facilities at the Hashawha Environmental Center are rented year round and are at or near capacity. The County plans to construct additional office space and meeting rooms as well as to enlarge the dining area in the Algonquin building and to enlarge the Iroquois building at Hashawha. The Carroll County Farm Museum has hosted more than 10,000 people in a single day. For most events, parking at the site and on the outer grounds adjacent to the Agricultural Center is ample. Large events have necessitated bussing from the Carroll Community College.

According to both the surveys and the usage patterns, recreational playing fields and facilities are most needed. Additionally, other features that are attractive to the adult, senior, and special needs populations are needed to serve these growing segments of the residential base. Facilities that are lacking include greenways, bike paths, hiking trails, and passive recreation areas for activities such as bird watching or picnicking. Many of these activities could be accommodated in a regional park setting, which was another need identified in the survey. The County has few parks of a regional nature that are developed. Piney Run serves the southern portion of the County but is a long drive for people in the Westminster area. The Union Mills Reservoir site has been identified as a potential location for a regional park but no planning or funding has been directed towards this effort to make it a reality. In the meantime, the growing population of Westminster and its environs lacks a regional park that provides active recreational facilities as well as greenways, bike paths, and hiking trails linking different areas of the CPA together. In determining the location for such a facility, proximity and links to schools, community centers, special facilities, residential neighborhoods, and downtown Westminster are particularly important to consider. This will enable the park and its circulation system to be used as a place to relax and have fun as well as a means of traveling throughout the area.

5 *Public Safety: Police Services*

The Sheriff's Office and Detention Center share a facility and accommodations for both are overcrowded. Due to a number of factors, including better policing, longer pretrial times, longer sentences, and sentencing to the County Detention Center rather than the State Division of Correction more frequently, the Detention Center has expanded twice since its opening in 1971 and is in need of another expansion to meet the projected demand for beds in the next few years. A work group of County staff and Sheriff's Office representatives has been convened to begin identifying the need for and possible locations of a new Detention Center.

6 *Public Safety: Fire and EMS*

Both the Westminster and Pleasant Valley fire departments have experienced an increase in demand for services since 1990. The Westminster fire department experienced a 60 percent increase in demand for fire/rescue and ambulance services between 1990 and 2000. The Pleasant Valley fire department had less than a 5 percent increase in demand for fire/rescue services during that same time period, but experienced a 47 percent increase in demand for ambulance services. Much of this increase most likely is attributable to increasing population in the

Westminster vicinity. However, both companies have facilities that adequately meet the needs of their service districts. The Westminster firehouse was designed and constructed so that it easily can be expanded to accommodate additional equipment and personnel. It can accommodate almost twice the amount of equipment it currently houses. The County anticipates that the current facility will continue to meet the fire district's needs for the next 30 to 50 years. There are no plans to construct additional fire stations in the area. The Pleasant Valley fire department would like to expand their facility for additional classrooms and meeting/office space, but this does not affect the company's ability to provide service.

Changes to area population or service areas could affect the levels of service provided by the Westminster and Pleasant Valley fire companies. However, yearly examinations of the service data as a requirement of the Concurrency Management Ordinance are designed to respond to these changes.

7 *Public Water and Sewer Service*

The specific needs and planning issues related to the provision of public water and sewer in the Westminster area are discussed in detail in the *Carroll County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage*. In general, it is important to recognize that the growth of the CPA and, therefore, the degree to which Smart Growth can occur, depends upon the provision of water and sewer. If public water and sewer are not provided, land will be developed at densities far less than what could be accommodated with water and sewer, thus precipitating sprawl patterns of development. Currently, the *Master Plan for Water and Sewerage* has defined a future planned service area for water that, based upon population estimates, would consume the entire capacity of the existing water supply system. Because of the current water supply deficit, the City is deferring all applications for water service. Once plans are in place to address the deficit, and new supplies are developed and connected to the system, the City will adopt a policy explaining how it will allocate that supply to new users.

In the short term, the City of Westminster will continue its program of developing new wells to keep pace with the demands of new growth. Additional sources not currently programmed will need to be developed to accommodate the growth that is planned for the planned water service area. Westminster has scheduled several planning or capital improvement projects that will improve or expand the City's water supply system. For instance,:

- The City has drilled test wells in several areas. The City is also considering a potential drill site on the Frock property located on Bond Street.
- The City is pursuing a permanent emergency connection of the Medford (Genstar) Quarry. In that regard, the City has water rights assigned to it by the County resulting from an older agreement with the Quarry's predecessor. This connection would be a twelve inch water pipe that would be buried along MD 31. The total length of the pipe is approximately 7 miles and will discharge the water into the raw water reservoir on Lucabaugh Mill Road. This connection will be used for emergency purposes only, and the City denied access to all properties adjacent to this pipe that are outside the City of Westminster's Priority Funding Area.
- The City has an application pending to extend a raw water line from Hyde's Quarry to connect into the City's system for additional supply during emergency situations.

- The City has received an appropriation permit for the Roop's Mill Well. The well has been permitted at 135,000 gpd and 187,000 gpd during the month of maximum use. Development of this well will be completed with the residential development of the adjacent Roop property.
- Furthermore, the City acquired the Dutterer property for development into a public park. The site is located on Winter's Alley, east of Pennsylvania Avenue, and was formerly part of the Dutterer's Florist operation. The former greenhouses on the property were supplied by a high yield well on the site. The City will be investigating the production of this well and the possibility of developing it into a public water supply.
- The City plans to raise the water elevation of the Cranberry Reservoir to increase storage capacity of that source.

Given the current water supply deficit, the City is exploring several options to develop new sources of water supply. Ultimately, the existing sources will be supplemented with water from the planned Union Mills Reservoir. This facility will be located on Big Pipe Creek north of the service area. Carroll County has been acquiring land for this facility as it becomes available. In the interim, the City is working with the County to develop an agreement allowing the City to develop wells and/or a surface intake from Big Pipe Creek in the Union Mills area. These interim water sources, however, cannot threaten the eventual construction of the reservoir.

The City is also investigating the use of Hyde's Quarry for use as a raw water reservoir, converting the Koontz Creamery well to a potable source, and use of a surface water intake on Little Pipe Creek.

The City system produces considerably less water compared to the average sewage flows at the WWTP. Much of the excess sewage flow can be attributed to infiltration and inflow. The City intends to further investigate and correct this problem. With average sewage flows of 4.249 mgd in 2004, the City anticipates that the capacity of the WWTP will have to be expanded again within the next six years by at least 0.6 mgd. Westminster has scheduled several planning or capital improvement projects that will improve or expand the city's sewerage system. These primarily relate to system rehabilitation and pump upgrades, as well as the installation of new treatment technology to enhance nutrient removal.

This plan attempts to reconcile the need for directing growth to existing population centers with the demands and limits of the public water and sewer system. The Water & Sewerage Master Plan uses the comprehensive plan as the basis for the demand projections and needed capacity upgrades that it contains. The Buildable Land Inventory, which projects potential future lots based on zoning, is used to calculate future population for both this plan and the Water & Sewer Master Plan. For this reason, it is important that the comprehensive plan be realistic in its estimation of land needed to fulfill the vision for future growth in the area. The process of identifying the true extent of water resources in the Westminster area, which could affect the appropriateness of the land use designations, will be addressed in the near future with the Water Resources Element. This element will amend this plan when it is adopted.

Water and Sewer Demand				
Based on Currently Defined Existing, Priority and Future Service Areas				
February 2007				
	Existing Demand (mgd)	Priority Demand (mgd)	Future Demand (mgd)	Future Planned Capacity
Water Demand				
Residential	1.842 mgd	3.174 mgd	3.509 mgd	
Non-residential	1.059 mgd	1.247 mgd	1.426 mgd	5.429 mgd
Total	2.901 mgd	4.421 mgd	4.935 mgd	
Sewer Demand				
Residential	2.826 mgd	4.258 mgd	4.499 mgd	
Non-residential	1.423 mgd	1.353 mgd	1.408 mgd	6.0 mgd
Total	4.249 mgd	5.611 mgd	5.907 mgd	

Source: *Carroll County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage, 2007*

	Existing and Potential Units or Acres in “No Planned Service” Areas within GAB	Gallons per Day per Household or per Acre	Projected New Demand in GAB
Water Demand			
Residential	1,220 units	250	.31 mgd
Industrial and Mixed-Use	305 ac.	800	.24 mgd
Commercial	8 ac.	700	.01 mgd
Employment Campus	362 ac.	750	.27 mgd
Total			
Sewer Demand			
Residential	1,612 units	250	.40 mgd
Industrial and Mixed-Use	409 ac.	800	.33 mgd
Commercial	12 ac.	700	.01 mgd
Employment Campus	362 ac.	750	.27 mgd
Total			

When comparing projected water and sewer demand from the most recent *Carroll County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage* to the potential new demand from the proposed growth area boundary and land use recommendations, an estimated range of additional capacity is calculated. It is estimated that an additional 0.83 mgd of water and 1.0 mgd of sewer will be needed to meet future demand.

8 Solid Waste

Currently, the landfill is considered adequate for projected needs. The County is meeting and/or exceeding its goal for recycling.

Recommended Actions

- *Coordinate with the Board of Education to evaluate the suitability of potential future school site locations for needed facilities and secure the land necessary for them*

As new development occurs and new school facilities are needed, the potential future school sites identified in this plan should be evaluated for their suitability as elementary, middle, and/or high school locations. Included in the identified sites is the planned Friendship Valley Middle School, which is not programmed for construction at this time. Land for this school currently is being used for ballfields, so any school construction planning should take this into account and look for ways to replace the ballfields elsewhere.

- *Maintain the library's planned basement renovation project and/or an alternative enlargement option in the CIP to continue quality service and access for the residents of Westminster.*

The main branch of the library, in downtown Westminster, serves as an important anchor for Main Street. However, the site on which it is situated is somewhat constrained. Consistent with the objective for this plan to support the City's efforts to keep Main Street a viable place for residents from around the area to shop and do business, the recommendation to encourage the library to remain downtown and expand on its existing site will benefit both the City and the environs.

- *Create a regional park in the Westminster area by developing the proposed Union Mills Reservoir park site, enhancing the facilities at the Carroll County Sports Complex/Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center, or creating a new park in the vicinity of the Agricultural Center*

There is an identified need to provide a regional park facility for the residents of Westminster, its environs and beyond. This could be accomplished by expanding existing facilities and parks or by purchasing or accepting a gift of land for the creation of a new park. Several potential park sites in the vicinity have been identified in this plan, though consideration should be given to any potential site that might become available. Ideally, the park should be located close to the largest number of people, so a site closer to the city would be preferable. It is recognized, however, that large undeveloped tracts of land in this vicinity are difficult to find. At a minimum, a regional park facility should be 100 acres in size and incorporate the types of activities most needed in the area: playing fields and trails.

- *Implement the trail recommendations contained in this plan through subdivision, donations and easements, and capital projects*

This plan contains recommendations for trails that will serve established populations and destinations as well as those that are anticipated to develop in the future in accordance with the plan's land use, transportation, and other recommendations. This can be accomplished through a combination of techniques that would minimize the capital investment required of the County while still resulting in the creation of needed trails and trail connections.

- *Establish a network of neighborhood parks, and pedestrian links between them, as part of the subdivision and development processes*

Neighborhood parks become gathering places for community residents and enhance the quality of life at a small but dramatic scale. By developing these parks as part of the subdivision and development processes, the County both can achieve a higher quality of life for the residents of the environs and meet its goals of providing recreational opportunities for

its citizens. Establishing links between these parks may require additional capital outlays since the links may need to be made after the parks have been established, though careful forethought during the development review process could minimize the likelihood of having to do this.

- *Ensure that the new Detention Center facility, wherever it may be located, is within a CPA, has access to public water and sewer service, and has good transportation access. The site and/or building that houses the existing facility should remain a public/civic use to maintain the civic complex that has developed around Court and Center streets.*

It is highly likely that a new site for the Detention Center will need to be found outside of the City due to site requirements. Because such a facility will require certain urban services, however, it most probably will be located in the environs of one of the County's community planning areas. It is important that the new site conform to the land use plan of whatever area in which it is located. Furthermore, the site of the existing Detention Center, which contributes to a governmental campus along Center and Court streets, should be retained for public use to reinforce this campus area and the convenience it provides the citizens of the county. Consideration should be given to utilizing the building to relocate services that currently are removed from this campus or to expand services that already are located in this vicinity.

- *Continue to acquire and protect land for the planned Union Mills Reservoir as a future community water supply source for the City of Westminster and the Towns of Hampstead and Manchester*

The County has made a substantial investment in the planned Union Mills Reservoir by acquiring nearly all of the acreage necessary for it. As water supplies become increasingly difficult to secure, it will become more and more important for the County to work with the local governments of Westminster, Hampstead, and Manchester to explore development of this planned facility both for growth and for emergency water supply.

- *Continue to work closely with the City of Westminster to explore and locate additional groundwater sources to supplement existing water capacity*

The current capacity of the public water system for the City of Westminster falls short of the projections for future demand. As additional development is put on line and new proposals are received, it will be necessary to supplement the groundwater capacity of the current system. The City and County may consider working with developers of new projects and seeking additional water sources on public property.

Fiscal Implications

The recommendations contained in this plan may be policy-oriented or action-oriented, and their implementation may be the responsibility of the County, other public agencies, private landowners and developers, or a combination of these. This section is designed to identify the potential fiscal impacts to the County of each of the recommendations. There could be "No Fiscal Impact," meaning the County would not incur direct or predictable expenses as a result of implementing the recommendation, an "Undetermined Impact," meaning there likely would be a cost associated with implementing the recommendation but that cost can not be determined at this time for various reasons, or a "Fiscal Impact," which likely would be incurred by the County if the recommendation

were implemented. For recommendations that have an identified fiscal impact, the cost of implementing that recommendation is estimated to the best degree possible.

- Coordinate with the Board of Education to evaluate the suitability of potential future school site locations for needed facilities and secure the land necessary for them
Fiscal Note: Approximately 125 usable acres would be required for the four school facilities that are projected to be needed in the future. Using a high-end estimate that assumes that land needed for schools would be acquired in-fee at \$15,000 per acre, the cost of acquiring enough land for two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school would be approximately \$1.875 million.
- Maintain the library’s planned basement renovation project and/or an alternative enlargement option in the CIP to continue quality service and access for the residents of Westminster
Fiscal Note: In the FY 01 CIP, the expansion of the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library was proposed for construction in FY 04 at a cost of \$1,440,440.
- Create a regional park in the Westminster area by developing the proposed Union Mills Reservoir park site, enhancing the facilities at the Carroll County Sports Complex/Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawha Environmental Center, or creating a new park in the vicinity of the Agricultural Center
Fiscal Note: Because a site has not been selected for this project, it is difficult to attach an accurate cost estimate to it. Expanding an existing park likely would require less money for land acquisition and development. Using a high-end estimate that assumes new land would need to be acquired in-fee and new facilities would need to be constructed, a regional park in Westminster could cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars for the acquisition of 100 acres and another \$4 million for park construction.
- Implement the trail recommendations contained in this plan through subdivision, donations and easements, and capital projects
Fiscal Note: Refer to the Transportation chapter for more information.
- Establish a network of neighborhood parks and open spaces, and pedestrian links between them, as part of the subdivision and development processes and capital planning
No Fiscal Impact
- Ensure that the new Detention Center facility, wherever it may be located, is within a CPA, has access to public water and sewer service, and has good transportation access. The site and/or building that houses the existing facility should remain a public/civic use to maintain the civic complex that has developed around Court and Center streets.
Undetermined Impact: This project is under study currently. Until it has been more completely discussed and decisions have been made about the type of facility to be constructed, its location, and the improvements that would need to be made to infrastructure and existing buildings a reasonable cost estimate for the project cannot be determined.
- Continue to acquire and protect land for the planned Union Mills Reservoir as a future community water supply source for the City of Westminster and the Towns of Hampstead and Manchester
Fiscal Note: Approximately 320 acres remain to be acquired for the Union Mills Reservoir. At an average land acquisition cost of \$32,750 per acre for Conservation zoned land, this amounts to \$10,480,000 to purchase the remaining land.

- Continue to work closely with the City of Westminster to explore and locate additional groundwater sources to supplement existing water capacity
No Fiscal Impact

Maps

- 1 *Existing Facilities: Public Schools, Public Safety, Libraries, Parks, Senior Centers*
- 2 *Existing and Potential Future School Facilities*
- 3 *Existing, Priority and Future Water Service Area*
- 4 *Existing, Priority and Future Sewer Service Area*
- 5 *Existing & Planned Parks and Recreational Areas*