

Chapter 5 Community Facilities

Introduction

Community Facilities are the institutions, services, and land intended for general use, for the benefit of the community as a whole. Ensuring that community services and facilities are phased with the demand or need is a major growth management component. Community facilities and public services are those minimum facilities and services the county provides for the common good. The quality of public facilities contributes to the County's quality of life.

Section 1: Historic Preservation

Background

In 1990, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources awarded a \$28,250.00 grant to Warren County to conduct a study of the County's historic sites and structures. The Warren County Board of Supervisors, with a matching grant, hired an Architectural Historian to complete this project in conjunction with the Warren County Heritage Society. This survey was the Warren County government's first comprehensive attempt to catalog its historical sites and structures. This survey is on file in the Warren County Planning Department. There are currently six historical buildings listed on state and national registers.

Goals and Objectives

Goal I: To mitigate the impact on historic structures and properties imposed by new development.

Goal II: To maintain the Warren County historical assets that preserve the County's character.

Objectives:

- A. Maintain an inventory of historical sites and structures. Seek state and federal funds to update this study.
- B. Request input from the Warren County Heritage Society on development proposals presented to the County Planning Commission.
- C. Preserve the heritage, contributions, and interests manifested by the Native American Cultures.
- D. Provide opportunities for County residents and visitors to interact with historic and cultural influences that would enhance their appreciation of these County life qualities.

Implementation

Awareness of Existing Tools - Support educational efforts by promoting awareness of existing tools as is done in *A Property Owner's Guide to Resource Protection*, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources publication.

Citizen Participation - Include County residents on committees and advisory boards that provide additional input and comment to the Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors.

Education - Encourage school system and community wide participation in a historical resources management program through education and public awareness.

Ensure Compatibility - Provide architectural guidelines for new development in historic zones, thereby ensuring compatibility with existing historic structures.

Historically Significant Open Spaces - Encourage and assist property owners to voluntarily place scenic easements on lands associated with historic buildings, sites, and archaeological resources representing all of the County's historical time periods and cultures.

Local Historic Districts - Establish historic overlay districts, located throughout the County, as part of the County's zoning ordinance. These districts would provide protection over and above the regular zoning regulations for such areas. Local historic overlay districts are established by the Board of Supervisors after required public hearings and may be proposed by any property owner, neighborhood organization, or by any County Board or Commission.

Review Development Proposals - Review development proposals which might adversely affect historic resources when granting permits for development or other forms of land alteration, such as grading and mining. Negotiate mitigation measures where possible.

Rural Historic Resources Survey - Continue to follow the policies and recommendations set forth by the 1991 Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County. Regulate and control development activities to prevent impairment to historical sites.

State and Federal Programs - Support state and federal programs, such as the National Register of Historic Places, which fosters incentives for structures' protection or restoration.

Support Archaeological Research - Support archaeological research through preservation and through encouraging developers to allow archaeologists a limited time to excavate the proposed site before development begins.

Support Organizations - Support the efforts of the County's preservation and cultural organizations and encourage open communications between these organizations.

Support Owners - Encourage and assist property owners to pursue state and national register designation. Include tax incentives for major structural or exterior renovation, or for the donation of protective historic easements.

Tourism - Promote the County's historic sites through tourism, via such items as pamphlets distributed by the Chamber of Commerce and by other organizations.

Summary

Warren County has a rich local history, including pre-colonial, colonial, and civil war periods. Supporting preservation of these assets, educating residents, and expanding rehabilitation and preservation efforts, will enable County residents to pass on this heritage to their children and to tourists.

Section 2: Parks and Recreation

Background

Outdoor recreation contributes to both the physical fitness and mental well-being of County residents and visitors. Recreation sites, facilities, and open space are important components of Warren County's quality of life. The acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, in line with the County's growing population, is necessary to meet future demands.

In planning for Warren County's recreation and open space, an important distinction must be kept in mind. Recreation areas, such as community parks and boat landings, are used actively for recreation, while open space areas are managed for natural resources protection. These two uses are often compatible. Combined with creative land planning and management programs these uses could strengthen their respective objectives.

In 2000, Warren County assumed the operation of all park facilities and recreational programs from the Town of Front Royal. Map 5.1, shows existing park facilities in the County. Most of the current park facilities are located within the limits of the Town.

The Comprehensive Plan Survey reveals that County residents would like parks established in other areas of the County in the future, instead of only in and around the Town. The Town had an outdoor recreation plan, entitled, *Where the Mountains Meet the River*. The recommendations and facilities as outlined therein must be expanded to include the areas outside the Town's corporate limits. This concern was also previously identified in Warren County's Strategic Plan, which states, "There are numerous community neighborhoods without public recreation facilities. Recreational facilities provide a constructive outlet for accumulated energies and means of releasing stress."

The Mission of the Warren County Parks and Recreation Department is to acquire, develop, operate and maintain a park and recreation system which will improve the quality of life for all residents of Warren County.

Map 5.1: Parks and Recreation Facilities

In some County areas, small scale recreational facilities were built for residents' use. These small recreational areas, scattered throughout the County, are inadequate for the current population and they are not equipped for the residents' diverse needs. It is important to look at the feasibility of establishing parks in outlying areas in the county, i.e. Linden, Browntown, Reliance, Rivermont, Rockland, etc. Several homeowners' associations have contacted the Parks and Recreation Department about partnering/managing/recommending recreational areas in their subdivisions. The associations are requesting assistance due to the lack of funding, maintenance issues, updating existing facilities or expanding facilities.

A 1992 survey conducted by the Town of Front Royal reveals the desires of area school children from third grade to high school. (Appendix B; *Where The Mountains Meet The River 1994*). The desired activities are football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, and track. Also cited were video games, swimming, and bicycling.

A 2002 survey conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department reveals the desires of Middle School, Junior and Senior High School students. Seventeen students (67% of the respondents) prefer a community center, fourteen students (55 % of the respondents) prefer a skate park and nineteen students (69 % of the respondents) prefer an indoor pool.

It is important that additional facilities, such as basketball, volleyball, and baseball courts, as well as soccer and track areas be a recreational budget priority. It is also important to locate these new facilities in County areas where the largest number of children live. **Map 5.1**, shows the existing parks and recreational facilities in the Town of Front Royal.

Many children cannot take part in the Warren County Parks and Recreation Department programs due to a lack of transportation. Bus and shuttle service from specified County locations would provide many children the opportunity to participate in the Warren County Recreation Department sponsored programs. By increasing the Parks and Recreation Department's staff and by providing transportation services, the needs of the community's children can be met. Additional funding could be obtained from church and civic organizations' sponsorship of child/children in recreation activities.

The Comprehensive Plan Survey reveals that an expansion of recreational facilities is desired. 34% of the respondents prefer nature trails facilitating activities such as hiking, cross country skiing and biking; 29% of the respondents prefer traditional parks consisting of ball parks and playground facilities. 19% of the respondents prefer a community center; and 12% of the respondents would like other recreational facilities, such as a skateboard park.

Projected development in Front Royal and Warren County indicates a growing need for parks and sports related facilities as future decade's progress. Recreation demand is at such a level that revenue-producing activities and facilities should be considered to help support future development and maintenance of a sophisticated park system.

Bikepaths

Bikepaths are areas either adjacent to, or very close to, the highway. There are an increasing number of people riding bicycles for long distances. For cyclists' safety, as well as that of the motorists, it is important to develop bikepaths along existing major roads. Additionally, providing bikepaths on future road widening, or rebuilding projects, must be a County commitment.

Consideration should be given to the most reasonably accessible sides of highways or roads. Whenever possible, all planned bikepaths should be constructed on state rights-of-way, thereby avoiding purchasing land. Signs reminding motorists that a bikepath is present and warning signs where the bikepath must cross the road by necessity would be part of the path construction. Signs alerting bicyclists to road crossings also would be necessary.

Many cyclists are seen each week along U.S. Route 55; therefore it would appear that this is the logical place to start. The first bikepath should be from the Warren County line at Linden, to Front Royal's town limits. The second phase of this path would be from the Warren/Shenandoah County line to Front Royal's town limits.

Outlined below are suggestions for Warren County bikepaths:

- Town/County line along Route 55 East to Linden.
- Town/County line along Route 55 West to Shenandoah County.
- Town Limits on Route 522 South to 4-H Educational Center.
- Town Limits on Route 522 North to Fairground Road.
- Town/County line on Happy Creek Road to Dismal Hollow Road, along Dismal Hollow Road to Route 55 East.
- Junction of Happy Creek Road and Dismal Hollow Road, to Morgans Ford Road, to Milldale Road, to Fairgrounds Road, to Bowling Green and Shenandoah Golf Course.
- Route 340 South to the Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Shenandoah River State Park.

Several of these paths would connect with proposed paths within the Town of Front Royal. Completion of some paths would make loops or circles for local residents' pleasure. Additionally, where feasible, these paths would provide connections to the Appalachian Trail, the Big Blue Trail, and other established trails associated with the federal park land located within Warren County.

These paths also could serve double-duty as walking paths. Where feasible, the paths could be landscaped and also could be used as nature trails. Where feasible, the walking and biking paths should connect to future residential and commercial growth.

Greenways

Greenways are corridors of protected open space managed for conservation and recreation purposes. Greenways often follow natural land or water features, linking nature preserves, parks, cultural features, and historical sites with each other and with populated areas. Greenways preserve natural habitats and provide wildlife migration routes. Greenways provide a vast network linking our Nation's special places, from the hills and mountains, to the beaches and barrier islands.

Greenways' benefits:

- Preserve biological diversity of plant and animal species by maintaining the connections between natural communities.
- Soften urban and suburban landscapes with ribbons of green that improve the quality of life and enhance property values.
- Help protect the quantity and quality of water, a natural resource vital to people, plants, and wildlife.
- Direct development and growth away from important natural resource areas.
- Provide alternative transportation routes that connect people, communities, and the countryside.
- Greenways are often major tourist attractions which generate expenditures on lodging, food, and recreational facilities. Greenways also improve a community's overall appeal to perceptive tourists.
- Greenways often provide business opportunities: locations and resources for commercial activities such as recreation equipment rentals and sales, lessons, and other related businesses.
- Money spent by users of Greenway related activities can help support recreation oriented businesses and employment, as well as other businesses patronized by Greenway and trail users.
- Greenways and trails increase property values. In turn, increased property values can increase local tax revenues and help offset acquisition and maintenance costs.
- The conservation of rivers, trails, and Greenways can help local governments and other public agencies reduce costs resulting from flooding and other natural hazards.

The Greenway (proposed for the South Fork area) specified in *Where The Mountains Meet The River*, could be accessed from the Town of Front Royal through River View Subdivision, from the County through Kendrick Ford Road, and through Rivermont Acres Road (if this road were to be improved). The greenways proposed in the Town's plan should be extended into the County. Fitness and rest areas, nature trails, and small playgrounds can be integrated into this plan.

Landscaping & Signs

The Comprehensive Plan Survey indicated that 8% of the respondents favored sign control and 12% favored landscaping requirements. In the broad sense, signs are part of landscaping, so both issues will be dealt with as one.

Landscaping is extremely important for the following factors:

- Pleasant introduction to the area.
- Helps with cleaning air along vehicular corridors.
- Helps with soil conservation and erosion.

One of our major industries in Warren County is tourism; therefore, we must enhance Warren County's natural beauty. This means maintaining roadsides and entrances to Warren County and the development of an entrances' beautification plan. This beautification plan must be developed in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The establishment of a beautification/landscaping committee should be explored.

The purpose of the sign ordinance is to regulate the size, location, height, construction, and maintenance of all exterior signs so as to protect the public's health, safety, convenience, and general welfare and to enhance the community's attractiveness.

A joint corridor planning effort including Warren County, the Town of Front Royal, and VDOT, could address the signage and landscaping issues for Route 340/522 North, Route 55, Shenandoah Avenue, and South Street. This joint effort also could study the possibility of burying utility lines. The beautification of our entrances would not only be for our own enjoyment, but would leave an indelible imprint upon tourists, as a beautiful area in which to return.

Buffer Zones

The County amended the zoning ordinance in 1998 to create buffer zones between industrial and commercial areas and individual industrial and commercial sites as well as adjoining land which is not industrial or commercial. The ordinance requires both distance separation and landscaping/screening to ensure separation between dissimilar uses. The combination of these requirements and the County's landscaping requirements serve to enhance the attractiveness and property values of commercial and industrial property.

Parks

When planning recreational facilities to reduce existing deficiencies and to meet future demands, the County must look at total acreage requirements and ensure that a variety of park types are distributed equitably throughout the County.

In planning for parks and recreation areas, it is crucial that new facilities serve the highest population concentrations. Selecting future sites for recreational facilities requires careful evaluation of population trends and characteristics. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) specifies that the highest concentration of children under the age of 18 is located in the Fork District (census tract 203-5) and in the Shenandoah District (census tract 201-1 and 201-3). Portions of census tract 203-5, extend into the Happy Creek District. These portions are identified as Shenandoah Farms, Apple Mountain, and Linden.

Each of the Warren County Public Elementary Schools has a children's play/exercise area. These schools are all located within the town limits of Front Royal and are therefore somewhat accessible to residents in the town limits. Consideration must be given to the fact that all public schools are inside the Town Limits, which limits the available expandable acreage.

Some schools' play/exercise areas could be enhanced by updating the equipment and by installation of tennis/basketball courts, ball parks, and outdoor fitness equipment in the appropriate sizes for children (rather than adult size fitness equipment). It is imperative that, where feasible, renovation of County Public School recreation areas be completed before beginning long-range plans for future expansion or installation of park/recreation centers in other areas of the County.

Issues:

The following were identified as park planning issues:

- Plans for a conservancy park along the Shenandoah River at the Avtex site, including the portion of the "Eastham" property located between the railroad and the river.
- Adequate acreage necessary for future expansion if adequate programs are provided.
- For a viable recreational system, a parks and recreation department consisting of a Coordinator/Planner, maintenance staff, support personnel and funds for upkeep and expansion must be maintained. Greenways, bikeways, playgrounds, or other recreational areas must be maintained. Staff, renovation, and repair budgets must be established.
- Parks must be consistently maintained and updated in order to attract visitors - be these visitors, tourists, or the residents of Warren County who will pay for these facilities.
- Non-resident users of the facilities could be charged a nominal fee for using recreational areas, but staff to collect these fees must be hired.
- A recreational facility's ecological impact must be considered and the population served.
- County residents should be served with recreational facilities before tourist attractions are made.

The Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation (VDPR) established local recreational and park site standards of at least 10 acres of recreational land for each 1,000 persons in a community. One-quarter of this acreage should be for active recreation (**Table 5.1**). These standards do not include large regional Federal and State Parks, golf courses, or other special recreation areas. In counties like Warren where the population density is not always large enough to meet state standards, a more detailed geographic analysis is needed. The County can obtain general guidelines and begin to prioritize park needs by using state park standards.

Table 5.1 Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation Park Standards

Park Type	Urban or Suburban	Rural	Minimum Size (acres)	Acres Per 1000 of Population
Neighborhood	0.5 mile	1-1.5 mile	5	3
Playground	0.5 mile	-	0.25	-
Community	1 mile	3-7 miles	20	3
District	5 miles	10-15 miles	50	4
Regional	25 miles	25 miles	100	*
State	1 hour	50 miles	400	10
Total				20
* Variable				

Note: Definitions of Park types can be found in The 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan.
 Source: Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation, 2002.

**Table 5.2 National Recreation and Park Standards
 (guidelines may be adjusted at local level)**

Activity	Units/People	1990		Current 2003 FR/WC	2010	
		Front Royal (12,000)	Warren County (26,142)		Front Royal (14,400)	Warren County (36,010)
Baseball	1/6000	2	4	7	2.4	6
Basketball	1/500	26		26	27	27*
Bike Trail	1mi./1000	12		n/a	14	
Fishing	1mi. shore/1000	14		n/a	3	5
Football	1/10,000	1	2	2	1	3*
Hiking/ Jogging	2mi./1000	24		n/a	28	
Pools	1/20,000	1	1	2	2	2*
Soccer	1/5000	3	5	10	3	7*
Softball	1/2000	6	13	7	7	18
Tennis	1/2000	6	13	11	7	18
Volleyball	1/1000	12		12	14	
Handball		1	1	0	1	2
Archery	1/50,000	1	1	1	1	1
Skate Park	1/50,000			0		1*
Community Center	1/35,000			0		1*

*Future Development

Table 5.3 Recreational Standards Met by the Private Sector

Activity	Facilities
Golf Courses	Country Clubs (5)
Swimming	Dominion Health and Fitness, NoVa 4-H Center
Archery	NoVa 4-H Center
Tennis	Dominion Health and Fitness, NoVa 4-H Center
Basketball	Residential and Community Facilities

Goals and Objectives

Goal I: To provide a variety of quality recreational opportunities in Warren County.

Goal II: Warren County must provide recreational facilities and programs in cooperation with the Warren County Public School System expansion plans.

Goal III: Expand recreation activities and sites to all areas of the County.

Objectives:

- A. Coordinate recreational facility development with the County Comprehensive Plan, thereby ensuring that facilities and residential development occur simultaneously.
- B. Plan community facilities with the capability of having multi-functional uses by two or more organizations (public or private). Recreational facilities must be included in new school construction planning.
- C. Coordinate facilities with schools planning where possible.
- D. Ensure that additional public recreational facility costs and recommended programs (due to new development) are equitably borne by those benefiting.
- E. Coordinate natural resource protection efforts with future County park, open space, and recreational land use opportunities.
- F. Provide adequate waterfront recreation access to County residents.
- G. Work with state to improve existing river access points.
- H. Provide adequate law enforcement at public river access points.
- I. Ensure that existing residents' needs are a first priority.
- J. Take advantage of what County-wide areas offer for park space and incorporate as time and funding permits.
- K. Coordinate a Parks and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee to assist with future development (similar to the Town of Front Royal's 1992 Where the Mountains meet the River Comprehensive Park Plan).
- L. Encourage private sector partnerships in the provision of recreation facilities and services to augment the County's basic facilities and services.
- M. Provide for the preservation of open and wooded space, and selected flood plain areas, as greenways.

Implementation

A Community Center - The current community center, Raymond E. Santmyers Youth Center, is located within town limits. The facility is relatively small and is highly utilized by the community. The Park and Recreation Department had previously identified the need for a larger Community Center to serve the community.

The proposed Community Center calls for 25,000 to 40,000 square feet. Recommendations for possible use include multipurpose rooms, an auditorium, indoor track, gymnasium, sauna, specialized activity areas (such as racquetball or basketball), game room, arts and crafts areas, kitchen, lobby, and rest rooms. An indoor pool facility also is recommended. A daycare activity room may potentially increase facility usage and revenue. User fees would recoup some construction and maintenance costs. The County and Town currently lack space for large group meetings, seminars; as well as large scale business and job fairs needed to secure adequate results.

Beautification Committee - Establish a beautification committee to assist the Planning Commission with landscaping and corridor standards for new development proposals.

Capital Improvements Program – Maintaining a CIP is important to meet future needs.

Cluster Development - Encourage developers to utilize cluster development by reducing lot size and/or consolidating lot layout in order to provide compensating amounts of open space within the subdivision. Although no increase in the number of lots is allowed, consolidation of layout would save the developer infrastructure costs and the County would acquire significant cost-free open space.

Consulting the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Take advantage of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's recreational consultation and workshops to become better informed about streamlining local departmental operations and developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreation programs.

Evaluation - Periodically evaluate recreational facilities and programs to determine if the community's needs are being met. This can be accomplished through surveys of residents and facilities' users.

Inventory - Establish an inventory of all parks and recreation facilities, private and public, throughout the Town and the County. By maintaining an overview of all the facilities, the County and Town can ensure that recreational needs are met in a timely and cost effective manner.

ISTEA - Apply for ISTEA program grants for the acquisition and development of trails and greenways.

Nature Trails (hiking, cross country skiing and biking) - These needs can be met through Warren County's and Front Royal's joining adjacent counties to produce Greenways and Trails. These trails would link park lands, conservation areas, scenic landscapes, and historic/cultural sites. Initial projects would extend the Town's proposed trails' plan into the County to link State and Federal Parks with the Town's existing facilities. Such a project could use existing rights-of-way (i.e. road shoulders).

Neighborhood Parks - Encourage developers to design subdivisions with a central theme of a neighborhood park that would include playground apparatus, open space, and a hard-surfaced activity area. In addition to providing recreational areas in the County, residents would have the enjoyment of having a park within walking distance of their home which could provide recreation for the entire family.

Ordinance Revision - Provide open space and recreational facilities requirements in the County's zoning and subdivision ordinance.

Parks and Facilities Distribution - Parks and similar facilities must be located in the County where users live. Explore using school sites for additional facilities.

Residential Institutions - Require that nursing homes and similar institutions provide passive open space and on-site outdoor activity facilities.

Scenic Byways - Support the Virginia Scenic Byways and Scenic Rivers programs.

Special User Groups and Facility Accessibility - Ensure the availability of a variety of programs for people of all ages and for special user groups, such as the physically disabled. Also, when planning new facilities or upgrading existing ones, design the facility to be completely accessible to the physically disabled.

Traditional Parks (ball parks and playground facilities) - Facilities should be established near population centers at each side of the County (north, south, east and west). Acquire tracts of land in each County area to provide fully developed park sites and to allow for future expansion.

Tourism - Capitalize on the area's tourism through publication of recreational site locations and activities, public waterfront access locations, and Community programs and events.

User Fees - Develop and expand a user fees system which would generate revenues for park maintenance, operational costs, and facility improvements.

Virginia Outdoors Fund - Apply for Virginia Outdoors Fund money to assist in acquiring and developing recreational lands.

Voluntary Proffers - Maintain a proffer system associated with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Volunteer Programs - Establish a Park and Recreational Department volunteer program, thereby increasing manpower at a minimum cost.

Waterfront Access - Acquire land along both forks of the Shenandoah River to ensure public access to the river.

Summary

By knowing what facilities, programs, and park types are available, versus what is needed, Warren County will be able to establish priorities that would ensure that this section's goals could be reached in a timely and cost-effective manner. As the County grows, the need for facilities will change and periodic re-evaluation will be needed to ensure that facilities and programs continue to meet the residents' needs.

Section 3: Education

Background

The Warren County Public School System offers a comprehensive program for grades K-12. There are special programs for gifted students and for handicapped students. In addition, there are programs for remedial instruction in basic skills, advanced placement classes, alternative education, and vocational education. The school system offers many extracurricular activities which attract students with a wide variety of interests and abilities. There are evening adult classes to meet the academic, vocational, social, and recreational needs of many people in the community.

Warren County has eight schools: A. S. Rhodes Elementary, E. Wilson Morrison Elementary, Leslie Fox Keyser Elementary, Ressie Jefferies Elementary, Hilda J. Barbour Elementary, Warren County Middle School, Warren County Junior High School, and Warren County High School. The schools' locations are shown on **Map 5.2**. The five elementary schools house students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The middle school has grades six and seventh. The junior high school has grades eighth and ninth; and tenth through twelfth grade students attend the high school. The official enrollment report sent to the Virginia Department of Education as of September 30, 1996-97 was 4,685 (Tables 5.4-5.5).

Table 5.4 Total Warren County School September Membership (1982 to 2003)

Year	Membership	Year	Membership
1982-1983	3,833	1993-1994	4,557
1983-1984	3,893	1994-1995	4,599
1984-1985	3,857	1995-1996	4,606
1985-1986	3,804	1996-1997	4,685
1986-1987	3,902	1997-1998	4,689
1987-1988	3,996	1998-1999	4,745
1988-1989	4,063	1999-2000	4,828
1989-1990	4,061	2000-2001	4,935
1990-1991	4,216	2001-2002	5,011
1991-1992	4,344	2002-2003	5,104
1992-1993	4,414	2003-2004	

Table 5.5 Elementary and Secondary September Membership (2002-2003)

School Division	Membership
Elementary (Grades K-5)	2,332
Secondary (Grades 6-12)	2,782
Total	5,104

Tables 5.4 and 5.5 show the historical and recent trends in Warren County Public Schools' enrollments. The growth rate from 1982 to 2003 is 33.15% (1.57% per year). Table 5.6 indicates the estimated population from 2005-2008 as determined by the Center for Public Service. They predict an increase of 86 students over the current enrollment. The Planning Department has reviewed the historical growth in the Warren County School System and has projected a much higher estimated student membership (Table 5.7). They estimate that the student membership will exceed 5,500 students by 2010. The school system should keep a close eye on the growth in student membership and its relationship to the proposed 20-Year facilities plan.

Table 5.6 Projected Warren County Public School Membership (2005-2008)

Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total
2005-2006	2,877*	2,063*	5,149*
2006-2007	2,470*	2,673*	5,166*
2007-2008	2,576*	2,844*	5,190*

Source: Center for Public Service, University of Virginia. *Estimates prepared on 3/14/95.

Table 5.7 Projected Warren County Public School Membership¹ (2005-2020)

Year	Total
2005-2006	5,268
2010-2011	5,542
2015-2016	5,815

Source: Warren County Planning Department.

¹Estimates prepared on 4/1/2003.

Table 5.8 Warren County Public School Capacity and Membership

School	Physical Capacity	Educational Capacity	Membership 2000-2001	Membership 2001-2002	Membership 2002-2003
A. S. Rhodes Elementary	283	270	240	252	228
E. Wilson Morrison Elementary	645	555	474	486	461
Leslie Fox Keyser Elementary	542	540	471	461	452
Ressie Jeffries Elementary	905	873	618	576	637
Hilda J. Barbour*	650	650	562	545	544
Total Elementary	3,025	2,888	2,365	2,320	2,322
Warren County Middle School	1,214	1,139	769	823	847
Warren County Junior High School	840	750	785	826	810
Warren County High School	1,146	1,028	1,016	1,042	1,125
Total Secondary	3,200	2,917	2,570	2,691	2,782
Total All Schools	6,225	5,805	4,935	5,011	5,104

Source: Warren County School Board Office.

The opening of the Hilda J. Barbour Elementary School in the Fall of 1997 and Warren County Junior High School in the Fall of 1999 eased overcrowding and provided additional capacity at the elementary and secondary levels (Table 5.8). The enrollment at both levels continues to increase.

The Warren County School Board is currently completing a 20-Year school building and renovation plan. The school population projections along with the projected classroom needs, reveals that additional classroom space is currently needed. The plan includes the renovation of existing facilities to include upgrading of electrical and mechanical systems in the older facilities (Table 5.9).

**Table 5.9 Warren County Public School System
20-Year Facilities Plan**

Map 5.2 Educational Facilities

The following private schools (**Map 5.2**) provide services to County residents and to a larger region:

Randolph-Macon Academy - (located in Front Royal)

- 438 Students – Spring 2003
- Co-educational boarding school
- 111th academic session (2002-2003)
- Air Force Junior ROTC
- Grades 6-12

Royal Christian Academy - (located in Front Royal)

- 137 Students – Spring 2003
- Affiliated with the First Assembly of God Church
- Grades K-9

Academy of Innisfree - (located in Limeton)

- 40 Students – Spring 2003
- Affiliated with the Valley Road Baptist Church
- Nursery through 12th grade

Wakefield Country Day School - (located in Rappahannock County)

- 193 Students – Spring 2003
- Private
- Pre-K through grade 12

Mountain Laurel Montessori - (located in Front Royal)

- 50 Elementary/15K – Spring 2003
- Private
- Ages 2 1/2 to 6

Other alternative educational opportunities available in Warren County are:

Literacy Education

- Volunteers/non-profit
- Service is free
- Reading for adults
- English as a Second Language
- After school peer-tutoring
- Variety of pre-schools in local churches

Home Schooling

- Home Educators Association of Virginia
- Non-profit organization

There are several colleges and universities within easy commuting distance of the County. These higher education centers are:

Christendom College - (located in Warren County)

- Four (4) year liberal arts
- 342 Students – Spring 2003
- Roman Catholic

James Madison University - (located in the City of Harrisonburg)

- Four (4) year college with a range of post graduate opportunities

Lord Fairfax Community College - (located in Middletown)

- Two (2) year degree/certificate programs, open enrollment policy

Shenandoah University - (located in the City of Winchester)

- Four (4) year college with some graduate programs

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Development of new school facilities and renovation of existing facilities for the Warren County Public School System which would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives:

- A. Develop, adapt, and maintain a 20-Year capital facilities plan.
- B. Review the performance and effectiveness of existing facilities and proceed with changes or expansion as necessary.
- C. Meet community educational service/facility needs as a priority.
- D. Ensure that additional school facilities' and services' costs resulting from new development are equitably borne by those benefiting.
- E. Coordinate and locate school facilities' expansion with the County Comprehensive Plan and with future development ensuring school accessibility to County residents.
- F. Coordinate athletic facilities with County Parks and Recreation plans where possible.

Implementation

Alternative Funding - Support development of the Warren County School private endowment fund.

Capital Improvement Planning - Maintain a capital improvements plan that meets the County Comprehensive Plan's criteria and goals. This program would assist the County in setting priorities and in efficiently using available funds.

Develop a School Plan - This plan would identify the school division's educational instruction and physical facilities needs.

Educational Opportunities - Periodically review and evaluate current programs and ensure that expanded educational programs are provided in a cost efficient manner. Additionally, ensure that the programs use a child/student centered approach.

New Facilities - When new facilities are constructed, plan and provide for instruction materials, transportation needs, and renovations to existing school buildings and administrative offices, as well as for the building of a new school(s).

Voluntary Proffers - Voluntary proffers provide a direct means of obtaining the needed capital improvements to service new developments. Continue using proffers to help defray expanding school facilities' costs.

Summary

Capital improvements, in the form of future school renovation and construction, should be based on a school evaluation and a re-evaluation of pupil enrollment projections. This would assure that facilities are located and designed to meet the needs for which they are intended.

Section 4: Fire and Rescue

Background

In January 1996, the Warren County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance establishing the Warren County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. The ordinance outlines the department, including the Chief and his/her responsibilities and authority, both administrative and operational. The ordinance brings together all fire and rescue companies that serve the County under one department head, operating by the same rules and regulations, and all serving the County's citizens with the same department goals and objectives. The mission of the department includes improving department efficiency in such areas as response times, manpower per call, countywide training, public education, and services provided to our citizens.

All fire and rescue companies must attain certification to meet the insurance underwriters' standards. The certification rating a fire department receives, directly affects the insurance rates paid by Warren County and Front Royal residents. All fire departments serving Warren County and Front Royal should be certified. The American Insurance Association's desirable level of service is a three to four-mile radius in urban and semi-urban areas and up to a 10-mile radius in rural areas. The ten-mile radius approximates a 7.5-minute response time. In

Warren County other factors play a part in response time, such as weather, poor roads, railroad crossings, traffic, and low water bridges. Fire and rescue response policies are in place to address these issues.

The Warren County Fire and Rescue Services companies deliver fire suppression and emergency medical services response using ten (10) companies from eleven (11) stations. These companies' locations are illustrated on **Map 5.3**.

- Company 1 - Front Royal Volunteer Fire and Rescue is staffed with career personnel 7 days a week, including a 24 hour position.
- Company 2 - Rivermont Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Station is staffed with career personnel on weekdays during daytime hours.
- Company 3 - South Warren Volunteer Fire and Rescue.
- Company 4 - Linden Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station is staffed with career personnel on weekdays during daytime hours.
- Company 5 - Shenandoah Shores Volunteer Fire and Rescue.
- Company 6 - Shenandoah Farms Volunteer Fire and Rescue, (in Clark County) serves the northeastern portion of Warren County. It is partially funded by Warren County and it is on the Warren County radio system.
- Company 7 - Conservation and Research Center Fire Brigade is a U.S. Government controlled fire department. Under a mutual aid pact it will respond when called upon to assist Warren County.
- Company 8 - Fortsmouth Volunteer Fire and Rescue.
- Company 9 - Chester Gap Volunteer Fire and Rescue (in Rappahannock County) is partially funded by Warren County and is on the Warren County radio system.
- Company 10 – North Warren Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Station is staffed with career personnel on weekdays during daytime hours.
- Company 12 - Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue (in Frederick County) serves the northwestern portion of Warren County. Middletown is partially funded by Warren County and it is on the Warren County radio system.

Warren County also has mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions, including Frederick County and the City of Winchester for hazardous materials response, as well as fire and rescue from Frederick County, Fauquier County, Clarke County, Shenandoah County, Page County, and Rappahannock County. As the needs of the citizens and business/industry continue to increase, it is important for the Department and County to be proactive in addressing these needs.

Map 5.3: Fire and Rescue Service Areas

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Provide responsive fire and rescue coverage for the entire community.

Objectives:

- A. To maintain the volunteer system of the individual departments, to preserve their autonomy while encouraging centralized coordination, communication, and supervision and to supplement with paid staff where justified.
- B. To define, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning adequate and appropriate level of fire and rescue protection and to evaluate and improve Warren County's existing fire and rescue services.
- C. To make additional evaluations and recommendations regarding fire and rescue services in Warren County and to implement these policies in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- D. To continue implementation of countywide policies and procedures.
- E. Continue to implement plan for standardization of equipment.
- F. Continue to improve the level of training.

Implementation

Additional Facilities - Warren County and the County's Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department previously identified a void in the level of fire and rescue protection in the northern end of the County, the Reliance and Rockland areas. This area includes the County's commercial and industrial growth area. The Department implemented a plan with local industry and the community to build and staff a fire and rescue station on Rockland Road. The station is staffed with career personnel during the week days. The County currently has one A.L.S. unit staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chase Vehicles - There should be three chase vehicles strategically placed in Warren County, with three full-time paid paramedics staffing these units during the day and staffed by volunteers at night. This concept would give County citizens the best medical coverage possible with limited funds. This type of program is working well in neighboring counties.

Communication Center - While the current communications center is operating well under the management of law enforcement, a joint operated communications center should be established and maintained with the appropriate policies and procedures in place, as well as appropriate fire and rescue training for the communications officers.

E-911 Management - The County should fund a person to maintain the E-911 System, maps, road names, house numbering, and equipment list. Additionally,

this person would provide other logistical support to the Joint Communications Center necessary to provide the highest quality of service to County citizens.

Equipment & Training - Support the funding of special equipment as well as regular and specialized training to ensure quality service to Warren County citizens.

Fire Chief's Advisory Committee - Utilize the Fire Chief's Advisory Committee to set into motion the County's goals and objectives for fire and rescue protection utilizing a participatory management system so that all of member have a voice in the direction and future of the County's emergency response system. This committee would also help to identify and address future areas of concern.

Implement The 1994 Fire & Rescue Study - Implement the report's recommendations as soon as possible with special funding if necessary (i.e. Fire Tax).

Insurance - Warren County should develop and fund a comprehensive County-wide insurance plan for volunteer fire and rescue companies.

Recruitment and Retention Committee - Establish a recruitment and retention committee to examine volunteer response needs and address with methods to encourage volunteerism through such methods as incentives and other ideas used by other agencies to attract volunteers.

Training Committee - Maintain a training committee to identify future needs of the fire and rescue department in the area of training. The committee should look at service delivery needs and address mandatory training standards as needed or required.

Summary

In examining the County's Fire and Rescue services, it is evident that continued improvement of these services is necessary as development continues. It will be important to monitor future growth patterns in determining the County's additional residential, commercial and industrial fire and rescue protection needs.

Section 5: Police Protection

Background

Warren County is served by two major law enforcement agencies: the Virginia State Police and the Sheriff's Department. These two agencies work together to provide comprehensive police protection to County residents. The Town of Front Royal also has a local police department which serves town residents. The Virginia State Police's primary function is highway safety, not criminal law enforcement.

There are currently 54 sworn officers working with the Sheriff's Department. This makes it the County's major law enforcement agency. The remaining staff serves as dispatchers, Dare Officers, investigators, and jailers. Seven State Police officers are assigned, or have a shared capacity to Warren County. The Sheriff's Department, located at 23 E. Jackson Street, was purchased and renovated in 1990 and is used as office space (**Map 5.4**).

The Jail, located at 8 E. Jackson Street, has been undergoing renovations since 1989 with the latest renovations occurring in 1995/96. This project included a new kitchen and exercise yard.

Public Safety Issues

As Warren County's population increases, citizen's needs will also increase. Adequate police protection must be provided in close proximity to the residents. The State of Virginia Compensation Board standards recommend two law enforcement police personnel for every thousand people. As new development is located further from existing facilities, it will cost the County more to provide these services. If new development can be directed near existing facilities, cost can be absorbed in phased increments to match the development growth rate. Proposed facility expansion should coincide with areas identified for new development.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: To provide police protection for all areas of Warren County that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and in a cost-efficient manner.

Objectives:

- A. Meet service needs of existing development as a first priority.
- B. Examine the potential of satellite offices where cost effective.
- C. Develop a central emergency dispatch system.
- D. Ensure that the costs of additional services are borne by those benefiting.
- E. Coordinate law enforcement activities with the Town of Front Royal.

Implementation

Adequate Public Service Standards - Establish adequate public service standards which would help to control the development process by showing that sufficient services are in place or will be provided as development occurs. This standard can ensure that service expansion coincides with new development.

Capital Programming - Develop a capital improvements program.

E-911 - Continue implementing the E-911 system, with a dispatch and communications center for joint use of fire, rescue, and police protection.

Review and Evaluation - Conduct yearly reviews and evaluations of the Sheriff's Department services to ensure that resources are effectively used before proceeding with service expansion.

Voluntary Proffers – Maintain a proffer system that provides a direct means of obtaining needed capital improvements funds.

Summary

This element of the Comprehensive Plan's Community Facilities Section has focused on identifying existing and projected community facility capacity. These implementation strategies were designed to ensure that provisions for police protection service is phased with new development demands.

Map 5.4 Other Community Facilities

Section 6: Library Services

Background

According to the *1993 Warren County Strategic Plan*, the availability of library services is still lower than demanded by the population. The Plan states that inadequate literacy skills continue to plague our nation and our community. To improve reading skills requires frequent reading and accessibility to books. As of July 2003, library hours have been scheduled to meet patrons' needs. They are as follows: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Samuels Public Library is open a total of 58 hours weekly.

Circulation figures for FY 2003 show 210,386 items checked out by 19,307 patrons. This includes 80,707 adult volumes and 81,983 young adults and children's volumes were in this circulation, along with 17,414 paperbacks, 28,595 videocassettes, 1,579 Compact Discs, and 108 Books by Mail. There were 13,675 adults, 2,164 young adults, and 3,468 juveniles holding library cards.

In 1997, Samuels Public Library had a collection of 71,600 volumes. In July 2003, the library had 81,310 volumes of books and other library material in its collections. One goal of the library is to have a collection level equal to three items per person in the service area. The current library facility allows for a collection of 90,000 volumes. Using the latest population estimate of 31,584 (2000), the collection should be 94,752 items, or an additional 16,151 more volumes than the current collection. A collection of this size could not be housed in the current library building.

During Fiscal Year 2002-2003, there were 19,307 patrons of the library. This is a 20% patron increase over ten years ago. Circulation has grown from 194,657 in FY 1993 to 210,386 in FY 2003. In FY 1993, there were 64,344 volumes in the collection. There are currently 81,985, which represents a 27% increase in ten years.

Libraries have become much more dynamic over the past ten years. The number of formats offered has increased dramatically. At one time, the library offered only books and magazines. Today, the library offers books, periodicals, large-print books, microfilm, video, music CDs, books-on-tape, access to the Internet and the special databases provided in Find It Virginia. A collection of Books on CD was initiated in July 2003, and there are plans to add a collection of DVDs in FY 2004. Additionally, the library provides word processing and other office software on its public access computers along with a whole collection of educational software games for children.

In Spring of 1996, Samuels Public Library developed a Home Page and began offering public access to the Internet. In FY 1997, the library had 604 registered users of the Internet. In July 2003, the library had 4,007 Internet customers. In FY 2003, usage of the four computers in the adult area of the library averaged 752 uses a month. The two computers in the children's area had an average use of 227 per month. These computers are often all in use, and it is not uncommon that individuals have to wait for computer time. Most libraries in Virginia offer access to their catalog on their Home Page. In order for Samuels Public Library to do this, it will require migrating to a web-based automation system.

In FY 2003, the library received \$297,962 from the County and \$40,631 from the Town of Front Royal. The library received an allocation in State Aid of \$115,309. However, state

funding was reduced in the year 15%, leaving a total of \$98,012 that the library actually received. This cut was continued into FY 2004.

Based on *Planning for Library Excellence: Standards and Guidelines for Virginia Public Libraries*, Samuels Public Library circulation trends, and Warren County population projections, the following service levels are recommended in order to serve the current population:

- 12,767 additional books.
- 7,950 additional square feet of library space.
- 20 additional seats.

Currently, the capacity for additional books, seats or computers is very limited. Therefore, additional library space will be needed. State standards specify that a library facility should be provided for every 10,000 people and that a branch library should not be less than 4,500 square feet. Many community residents have little access to the Public Library, which is located within the limits of the Town of Front Royal (**Map 5.4**) due to the distance from their homes. A branch library should be more accessible to County residents.

Goals and Objectives

Goal I: To provide access to public library resources to all residents and areas of the County.

Goal II: Investigate expansion to better serve needs of the County by locating future facilities in areas that are consistent with the County residents' needs.

Goal III: Provide up-to-date technological equipment to meet current and future County residents' needs.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage and support the "Friends of Samuels Public Library" organization.
- B. Encourage the adaptive reuse/shared use of existing facilities in providing expanded service to County residents.
- C. Review the conditions and performance of existing facilities in planning new or expanded facilities and services.

Implementation

Additional Facility Planning - Explore the possibility of locating branch libraries in conjunction with new County park sites in different sections of the County. Each new branch should have a complete reference collection. Future branch libraries should have staggered hours of operation to meet residents' needs.

Capital Programming - Maintain a capital improvements program to fund expansion of library resources and facilities. Such resources would include additional books, seating facilities, typewriters, and word processors, or

computers for patrons' use. Additionally, develop branch libraries in County locations where population concentrations are sufficient to support such facilities.

Endowment Fund - Support and encourage the creation of an endowment fund to provide additional library services such as: computers, typewriters, and other related equipment and services.

Public Facility Standards - Develop a system of standards that would ensure that sufficient infrastructure and services are present or would be provided in conjunction with development proposals.

Voluntary Proffers - Maintain a voluntary proffer system in association with existing development which would ensure that additional services would be funded equitably by those benefiting from such expanded services.

Summary

The identification of existing and future library facilities was developed in this section of the Community Facilities plan. The implementation of these recommendations will aid in providing library services to County residents. While it is important that the provision for new services and facilities be phased as development and new demands arise, it is imperative that current residents' needs be addressed immediately.

Section 7: Waste Transfer Station

Background

The Warren County Waste Transfer Station, located in Bentonville, Virginia, off of State Route 613, opened April 6, 1994 and coincided with the closing of the Warren County Landfill. The Transfer Station takes only waste from Warren County and is open to all Warren County residents and commercial customers (including the Town of Front Royal). The Transfer Station was planned and built to last 20 years (**Map 5.4**). Currently, there are five part-time and two full-time employees working at the County Transfer Station.

All commercial trucks are weighed by scale at the Transfer Station and pay a per-ton fee. Currently, the waste is being trucked in tractor trailers to the Page County Landfill, on State Route 615. Warren County's 10-year contract with Page County runs through June 30, 2004. While the contract has an extension clause, the County may wish to put the contract out to bid. Warren County pays Page County by the ton, based on 50 tons per day, on a 6-day per week basis. The County has contracted with Browning Ferris Industries to haul the waste.

Recycling Efforts

Recyclable materials can substantially reduce the required capacity of landfills by 30 to 40%. Building and construction waste, typically comprising 10% of the waste stream, can be recycled or disposed of by alternative methods. Continued examination of the County's recycling operations and opportunities must be monitored for future expanded recycling possibilities.

Recycling opportunities at the Transfer Station include: stumps, glass (green, clear, amber), aluminum, newspapers, plastics and white goods (refrigerators, stoves, hot water heaters, etc.). Tires are accepted at the Transfer Station on a fee basis for each automobile tire and truck tire. These tires are chipped and used as cover material in the Frederick County Landfill. Tree

limbs are mulched at the Transfer Station and the mulch is sold to citizens at \$10.00 per pick-up truck load.

Warren County Compactor Sites

Currently there are four compactor sites in Warren County (**Map 5.4**). They are at the 340/522 park-n-ride lot, 340 South, Route 55 Linden next to the Apple House, and in the Shenandoah Farms area next to the Shenandoah Farms Grocery Store. There are recycling containers at the compactor sites for aluminum, glass (green, clear, and amber), oil, plastics, newspapers, magazines and batteries. The compactors are only for the household trash of Warren County residents. The sites are open on Mondays from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays - Sundays from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The County compactor sites have had numerous management problems. The areas around the dumpsters are often sites of indiscriminate dumping. To counteract these problems and to keep the area more attractive there are two full-time and fourteen part-time employees to help maintain the County's compactor sites.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Provide waste management services consistent with the residents' needs, in a cost-efficient manner, which would encourage development consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives:

- A. Continue to maximize recycling efforts.
- B. Evaluate existing compactor sites for adequacy and replacement/expansion if necessary.
- C. Meet existing waste management service needs as a first priority.
- D. Coordinate service expansion with the County's Comprehensive Plan so that development and expansion of services coincide.
- E. Plan and cooperate with regional waste management solutions.

Implementation

Capital Programming - Establish a Capital Improvements Program to assist in the costs associated with additional public facilities and programs.

Meet Existing Needs First – Evaluate replacement sites for the all of the existing compactor sites prior to looking at additional sites.

Pilot Recycling Program - Encourage and support a private street side recyclable pick-up pilot program in one of the County's larger neighborhoods. If this program is successful it could be expanded into other areas.

Voluntary Proffers – Maintain a proffer program as a direct means of obtaining the needed capital improvements to service new developments.

Summary

The identification and provision of a cost-efficient method to manage waste and recycling is the focus of this section. The above recommendations are designed to ensure that the provision of public services and facilities are coordinated with new development.

Section 8: Government Offices

Courthouse

The Warren County Courthouse, located in Front Royal (Map 5.4) was completed in 1936 and has twice been expanded. In 1980, a two-story wing that connected the Courthouse and the jail was completed. A major addition and renovation was completed in 2000, adding 15,185 square feet to the existing structure. The facility now totals 29,351 square feet. The addition was completed using field stone from Augusta County that closely matches the stone of the original building stone that was mined from Fort Valley. The renovation and addition were completed under the review of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources per an agreement that allowed the County to receive \$169,000 in state grants.

The Courthouse includes two Circuit Courtrooms, one General District Courtroom and a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In addition, the Courthouse provides chambers for each of the judges, office space in the Circuit Clerk's Office, the General District Clerk's Office, Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations Clerk's Office, Juvenile Probation and Parole and a Law Library.

The Warren County Courthouse, completed in 1936, has been included on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Unique in its design, the courthouse serves as the center of government to the County's residents as well as a landmark to all who visit Front Royal. In addition to regular court activities, the courthouse hosts many functions for the community.

Warren County Government Center

Over the years there were numerous studies stating the need for additional office space for all County departments and agencies. As County services increased with the growing population, office space became more confined each year. In addition, the County was spending over \$30,000 per year in rent for various facilities to house the various departments including: Health Department, Social Services and the Extension Office. The need to centralize County governmental functions into a single complex was made a top priority by the Board of Supervisors during the 1990's. Centralizing these facilities would provide needed space where residents could assemble and participate in civic functions. The Board commissioned a facility needs study in 1996-97 that looked at the needs of the County for the next 10-20 years.

The facilities study led to the County purchase of the Social Services Building on Warren Avenue and the Constitution Oak Shopping Center on Commerce Avenue. The Social Services

building, with minor renovations, meets the current needs of that department. The shopping center, with only two remaining tenants (Rite Aid and Sherwin Williams) was originally constructed in the late 1950's as the County's first shopping center. It had deteriorated over the years and the vacancy of the anchor store (IGA) further led to the rundown appearance of the facility. The County purchased the facility in 1998 for \$1.3 million and, in April 2000, completed renovations to the facility to house most of the County offices. The renovated facility totals 37,153 square feet of office space.

Today, the Warren County Government Center houses offices for County Administration, Fire and Rescue, Building Inspections, Planning and Zoning, Registrar, the Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Revenue and Extension. The Sherwin Williams building offers the future capability of relocating the Warren County Health Department, which would then consolidate most County governmental functions.

Other Government Facilities

Other County government facilities include the Sheriff's Department, Warren County Jail, Raid Building and the Social Services building. The Sheriff's Department is located at 23 E. Jackson Street in a building that was purchased in 1990 for \$500,000. The building was initially renovated using inmate labor. The building has since been renovated in 2002 to allow for more office space. The building also houses the County E-911 Dispatch Center.

The Jail is attached to the Courthouse and faces Jackson Street. The building received over \$600,000 in improvements since 1995 including the installation of an exercise yard and classroom, security camera system, HVAC system and an EFIS exterior to blend with the Courthouse. The facility totals 12,924 square feet and has been approved by the State of Virginia to provide beds for 67 inmates. The Jail was tied into the Courthouse to allow for the exchange of prisoners to the various courtrooms without going outside the building. These improvements have improved the appearance, functionality and security of the facility. A companion facility, the Raid Building, is located at 30 East Jackson Street and was purchased in 2002 by the County and has a rated bed capacity of 30. This facility handles work release inmates who are allowed to work jobs in the community during the day, but must return to the facility in the evening. The advantage to the County is that the inmate has to pay their own way, including medical costs.

The Warren County Department of Social Services is located in a county owned building at 912 Warren Avenue. The building was purchased in 1997 and has been received minor renovations to provide efficient and functional space for the Department. The County leases the building to the Department.

The Warren County Health Department is located in rented space at 134 Peyton Street. The employees of the facility are cramped for space. While adding a number of employees over the past 10 years, the Department has remained in the same office space. The Environmental Section of the Health Department works very closely with the Building Inspections and Planning Department on building permit and subdivision approval. At some point the County may want to consider relocating this department closer to the Warren County Government Center to provide more convenient location to its customers.

Issues

- Lack of expansion space at the Government Center.

- Separation of the Health Department from the rest of the County offices.
- Need for additional parking at the Courthouse.

Goals and Objectives

Goal I: Maintain existing, efficient, equipment and facilities for County Government and residents.

Goal II: Provide residents with needed facility space in which to assemble and to participate in civic functions.

Objectives:

- A. Give priority to expanding existing facilities rather than to creating new facilities.
- B. Deliver necessary County services in a convenient, cost effective manner.
- C. Develop County facilities in locations that are actual or potential focal points for citizens' activities.

Implementation

Adequate Public Facilities Standards - From the County's Comprehensive Plan a Level of Service policies (LOS) must be developed. LOS policies provide the basis and criteria on which to evaluate alternatives and to determine capital requirements. With the establishment of LOS policies, the County would make a clear statement to developers which would reflect the public's expectations for County services. Establishing LOS policies and standards for public services, would ensure that sufficient services are in place or will be provided as development occurs. LOS standards can ensure that service expansion coincides with new development. This implementation strategy applies to all types of County facilities and services.

Government Center Future Expansion- Purchase additional building next to the Government Center to allow for expansion in the future.

Parking Facilities - Provide adequate parking for citizens as well as for employees.

Summary

The renovation and addition to the Courthouse and the purchase and renovation of the Warren County Government Center have provided a centralized location for County government and related civic activities for the County's residents. The County has the space to allow for orderly growth and expansion of facilities for government services for the next 10-20 years. The County needs to continue to look at ways to enhance the functionality, access and convenience of these facilities in the future.

Chapter Summary

The Community Facilities section represents the County's attempt to identify its resources and additional facilities' needs as the County grows and develops. Community Facilities have a major impact on County growth and development. The presence or absence of such items as adequate schools, parks, hospitals, libraries, police, fire and rescue services, as well as refuse collection and disposal, is a major local concern and decisions concerning such facilities are a vital part of local government. The furnishing of facilities to meet Warren County residents' needs requires a substantial capital investment. Therefore it is important to study existing local facilities, identify deficiencies, and propose solutions to how the County can provide necessary services for its present and future residents. It is imperative that new development pay its fair share of the associated capital costs. This chapter has outlined the improvements needed for the future. It is important to remember that the County has limited financial resources and that many of the needed facilities must be phased in over the 20 year planning period that this plan represents.