

Chapter 6 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The planning for future community facilities is a major part of the Comprehensive Plan. Future land use proposals will create a need for expanded public facilities. The growth projected in the Plan must be accompanied by a provision of adequate public facilities. In the case where public facilities are already inadequate, then the Community Facilities Chapter must identify potential solutions to the problems.

In this chapter, there will be background information on the existing facilities and services and policy recommendations for the provision of public facilities. Where appropriate, there will be a recommendation for future actions to provide adequate public facilities. See Figure 6-1, Public Facilities Map.

Schools

Existing Conditions: The Town of Middletown and the nearby area is served by four schools; Middletown Primary, Middletown Elementary, Middletown Middle and Middletown High. All pupils within the corporate limits currently are within the Middletown School District. The Middletown Elementary, Middle and High schools are located in one large campus location north of Green Street on the north side of Town. The new Middletown Primary School, which serves pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade, is located on the south side of Town on Franklin Street. Some of the students from developments near Middletown attend the Myersville Elementary School in Myersville, which is a feeder school for Middletown Middle School. While the Town does not provide school services, Town growth will impact school capacities and the need for additional schools.

In 2009, the Middletown High School is the only area school that exceeds capacity. In addition, portable classrooms are presently being utilized at Middletown Middle (2 portables), Middletown High (5 portables) and Myersville Elementary (1 portable). Portable classrooms allow class sizes to be maintained at 25 students per class.

Planned BOE Improvements: There is one BOE future project in the Middletown area which will increase school capacity when completed. The addition to Middletown High School (August 2014) will add 300 seats. A previously planned Myersville Middle School to have been constructed in 2008 is no longer being planned. The school enrollment projections shown in the following table are based on percent capacities and do not consider planned additions or new construction.

TABLE 6-1
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS*

	Capacity	2007*	2008*	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Middletown Primary	482	401	452	444	444	445	452	462	472	483	494	505
Middletown Elem.	629	430	407	455	489	543	548	550	549	559	570	583
Middletown Middle	914	869	871	836	825	877	893	953	975	1023	1008	1018
Middletown High	1169	1346	1311	1282	1228	1195	1189	1146	1175	1210	1252	1339

*2007 figures are August 2007 actual enrollment percentage; 2008 figures are from December 2008 quarterly enrollment report

Source: BOE Educational Facilities Master Plan Annual Update, September 2008

Parkland

Developed parkland resources available to Middletown residents in or near Middletown consists of Municipal parkland, County parkland, and Board of Education land. In addition, several parcels within developments have been reserved as open space for recreational uses. The Town has submitted engineering plans to the State for extension of the linear park in Brookridge South & North Pointe and these plans are under review. The developed parkland in Middletown is as follows:

TABLE 6-2
PARKLAND INVENTORY WITHIN TOWN LIMITS

Site Name	Site Location	Acreage	Facilities Use
Foxfield Greenway	Westside of Hollow Rd.	13.100	trails, gazebo
Elm Street Pocket Park	100 Block W. Main St.	0.003	bench, landscaping
Memorial Park	Eastside S. Church Street	5.460	softball, basketball, pavilion, tot lot, multi-purpose court
Wiles Branch Park	Southside of West Main Street	25.386	basketball, tot lot, trails, pavilions, multi-purpose field
North Pointe Tot-Lot	Northside of North Pointe Terr	0.002	tot lot
Glenbrook Soccer Field	Southside of Glenbrook Dr.	2.260	soccer field, trails
Cone Branch Pocket Park	Westside of Cone Branch Dr.	1.350	gazebo, benches, lighted paths
North Pointe Park	Northside West Main St.	9.200	undeveloped, pond
Jefferson Village - Green Area	Center of Boileau Dr.	2.350	trail, benches, tot lot, grill, landscaping

**Total Parkland within
Town Limits 59.11**

TABLE 6-3
PARKLAND INVENTORY OUTSIDE OF TOWN LIMITS

Site Name	Site Location	Acreage	Facilities Use
Hollow Creek Park	7700 Hollow Road	12.441	undeveloped
Hawbottom Park - Parcel #1	9000 Block Hawbottom Road	3.900	undeveloped
Hawbottom Park - Parcel #2	9000 Block Hawbottom Road	31.250	undeveloped
Remsberg Park	Southside of Holter Road	87.900	undeveloped

Total Parkland outside of Town Limits	135.49
Total Parkland	194.60

Source: Middletown Staff 2008

Private park facilities exist at the Middletown Amvets. This 6 acre site includes picnic facilities with a pavilion and horseshoe courts. Also within the Town of Middletown are the Middletown County Park and recreation facilities and fields on properties owned by the Board of Education. The 79 acre County-owned park is located on Coblenz Road and is located adjacent to the Middletown High School. This park offers such amenities as lighted basketball courts, picnic facilities, play equipment, trails, sports fields, fishing, horseshoe pits, a bandstand, and a disc golf field.

Library Facilities

The Middletown Library was constructed in 1990 on a .87 acre lot adjoining the old elementary school on Prospect Street. The building consists of 2500 sq.ft. In fiscal year 2007-08 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008), the library had a circulation of 76,922 items. The library also offers many programs including children’s story times, teen programming and adult book clubs, as well as tours of the library facilities.

Fire & Ambulance Service

The Middletown Fire and Ambulance Company is presently located on South Church Street, one block south of Main Street but plans to construct new facilities at their carnival grounds. The firemen have a service area of approximately 35 square miles for the fire company with a larger service area for the ambulance company. There are roughly 70 active volunteers and four paid employees with additional people involved in other fire company activities. Three paid employees are on duty from 6:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. and are cross-trained for both fire and ambulance calls.

The Fire Company building was constructed in 1950 with several later additions, and houses a tanker truck, two Class A pumper trucks, one older pumper truck, a brush truck and two ambulances as well as a chief’s vehicle.

The Middletown Fire Company also owns 17 acres located on Franklin Street, which presently is used for carnivals and other activities to benefit the Fire Company. The Fire Company proposes to relocate the fire station there in the near future.

Police Service

Law enforcement within the Middletown corporate limits is provided through the Frederick County Sheriff Community Deputy Program in which deputies are assigned to the Town and maintain office facilities within the Town Municipal Building. Middletown reimburses the County in an annual contract for this service. Law enforcement outside the corporate limits is provided by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department and the Maryland State Police.

The contract Middletown has with the Frederick County Sheriff's Department has an annual cost of approximately \$120,000 per deputy per year. The Middletown Deputies duties include criminal investigations, traffic citations, and meetings and presentations with various community groups such as the Community Watch Program. The community deputy regularly schedules assignments for traffic enforcement on local streets.

Solid Waste

The Town presently contracts with a private hauler for municipal collection once a week of residential waste. Large commercial and industrial users must contract for their own waste disposal.

Middletown participates in the County recycling program and has its own yard waste program. The curb-side recycling program is now a single-stream program with 65-gallon containers that are picked up bi-weekly and contracted by Frederick County. Recycling material includes glass, paper, cans, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, books, aluminum foil, juice cartons and most plastic. The curb-side yard waste program involves one day a week, seasonal pick-up of grass clippings, and leaves.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

On October 15, 1991, Frederick County adopted an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which has been amended several times, including the most recent changes adopted on October 14, 2008. In simplest terms, the APFO does not permit development to proceed, except for minor subdivisions and remainders, if certain public facilities are not adequate or planned to be adequate within the near future. The County's APFO measures four facilities required to be adequate; roads, public water facilities, public sewer facilities, and schools. The County is currently considering adding a fifth measure of adequacy which would be emergency response times. The Town of Middletown is currently considering enacting an APFO of its own, although the Town currently has a residential growth policy to ensure adequate facilities.