

## **CHAPTER 8 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT**

Public services and facilities provided by the Town and other government agencies ensure the health, safety and welfare of existing and future populations. To insure that adequate community facilities and services are available when needed, the Town must continually monitor demand and capacity. Preparation of a “Community Facilities Element” in the Comprehensive Plan is a preliminary step in addressing supply and demand for community facilities and services including roads, streets and sidewalks, water, sewer, storm drainage systems, police and fire protection, etc. This element of the Comprehensive Plan establishes Town policies for community facilities and services, examines existing conditions, and recommends actions the Town should take to insure an appropriate level of investment in facilities and services that meet the needs of existing and future populations and to support economic development. The water and sewer services are discussed in detail within the “Water Resource Element of this Comprehensive Plan and a further discussion concerning growth of the Town and continued facilities adequacy is detailed in the “Municipal Growth Element. The Comprehensive Plan’s “Transportation” chapter fully addressed the Town’s current and proposed recommendations for the road, street and sidewalk system.

### **GOAL**

- Provide an appropriate array of adequate community facilities and services required to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Denton.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Assure the continued expansion of public facilities and services commensurate with local financial capabilities and demand for services.
- Assure the provision of community services and facilities in a manner which is the least disruptive to the environmental qualities of the area.
- Insure that all areas of the Town are afforded adequate public services necessary to promote public health, safety and welfare.
- Continue to examine the pattern and direction of future growth and assess impacts on public facilities and services.
- Establish priorities for water and sewer service extensions.
- Adopt impact fees and water and sewer connection charges to ensure that new development pays for the impacts on town services, as opposed to the existing citizens.
- Provide adequate parks, recreation areas and open space opportunities and ensure that they are equitably distributed throughout the Town for existing and future residents.

## **Water and Sewer Facilities**

There is a comprehensive discussion concerning the Town's Water and Sewer Facilities within Chapter 5 "Water Resources Element" of this Comprehensive Plan.

### Sewer

The Denton wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located on Legion Road at the intersection of Legion Road and Foy Road. The WWTP was expanded in the late 1990's to a capacity of 0.80 million gallons per day (mgd). There are ten pump stations located within the Town: 1) Second Street Pumping Station; 2) Industrial Park Pumping Station; 3) Denton Plaza Pumping Station; 4) Lupine Lane Pumping Station, 5) Wesleyan Pumping Station; 6) Wilmuth Street Pumping Station; 7) Cattail Pumping Station; 8) Lockerman Pumping Station; 9) Fairfield Pumping Station, and 10) Goose Creek Pumping Station. These ten stations all pump to one another; the first four (Second Street, Industrial Park, Denton Plaza and Lupine Lane stations) pump to the WWTP plant.

The Treatment Plant is designed for an average daily flow of 800,000 gallons and for a peak daily flow of 2.67 million gallons. Currently the plant operates at a three-year rolling average of 394,667 gallons per day, which is 49% of the design capacity. The Town is in the process of upgrading the existing WWTP to meet enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) capabilities. The wastewater treatment plant capacity will remain at 800,000 gpd after the upgrade.

### Water

The water system capacity is 770,000 gallons per day (gpd). Average flow for the last three years is 405,667 gpd for the water system.

The Town of Denton's water source is three potable wells in the Piney Point Aquifer. Two are operational wells.

- Well #3, drilled in 1970, is located off of Kerr Avenue and Md. Rt. 404 and has a pumping capacity of 439 gallons per minute (gpm).
- Well #5, drilled in 2000, is located south of Engerman Avenue and West of Park Lane has a pumping capacity of 510 gpm.
- Well #1, located off of Fifth and Gay Streets, has recently been abandoned because of silting problems.

In 2009, the Town applied for financial assistance through the MDE Water Quality Infrastructure Program Capital Projects Financial Assistance program for the construction of new well. Well #6 will be 12 inches in diameter, 450 feet deep and has the pumping capacity of 700 gpm. The installation of the new well will help ensure adequate water capacity to the Town of Denton.

Denton has three water storage tanks, water treatment facilities and a distribution system. One water storage tank has a storage capacity of 100,000 gallons and two tanks have a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons each.

## Summary

The Town has adopted water and sewer connection charges and capacity fees, which are assessed on any new development. In addition, as part of any annexation, the Town requires that the property owner enter into an annexation agreement which sets forth that all water and sewer extensions are paid for by the property owner.

As summarized in the “Water Resource Element” of this comprehensive plan, the Town has decided to not expand the Water and Wastewater facilities. A decision was also made to prioritize the current capacity allocations first to commercial and industrial use, and the remainder to residential uses.

## **Public Buildings**

### Administrative Offices

The Town administrative offices are located at the southwest corner of Third and Gay Streets. The facility houses administrative staff, planning, and codes inspection staff, and finance staff.

The Department of Public Works staff is housed at the WWTP site at 650 Legion Road.

### County Offices

County administrative offices for the County Commissioners are located in the Court House on Market Street. Other County administrative offices are located at 403 South Seventh Street in the Health and Public Services Building.

The Caroline County Department of Public Works is located at 520 Wilmuth Street in Denton. These services include Administration, Central Shop, Roads, and Special Services. Special Services consists of Mosquito Control, Noxious Weed Control, Gypsy Moth Control, Recycling, Building Maintenance, and Solid Waste.

The Caroline County Soil Conservation District is located at 640 Legion Road in Denton. The Caroline Soil Conservation District serves a predominantly agricultural region. Farming operations include dairy, swine, beef and a growing poultry industry.

### State Highway

The State Highway Administration has a branch location at 508 Caroline Street in Denton.

### Library

The Denton Branch of the Caroline County Public Library is located at 100 Market Street. The facility serves as the central facility for the library system for Caroline County. In addition to reading and lending materials, the library provides facilities for public access to the internet and meeting rooms.

## **Public Safety**

### Emergency Management

The Caroline County Department of Emergency Management, located at 7 North First Street, is responsible for emergency planning and coordination for county government; Emergency Communications including a new 800 MHz digital trunked public safety radio system, 911,

police communications for the Sheriff's Department and five town police departments; fire and rescue communications for eight Fire/EMS Departments, and manages the National Crimes Information Computer System for the police agencies. In addition, the department manages a comprehensive and progressive risk management program including employee safety, workman's compensation, general liability, property, and fleet insurance.

In addition to communications, the Department is responsible for the development and maintenance of the countywide Emergency Operations Plan and all related emergency/disaster preparedness functions, including writing, and updating all-hazards emergency plans, shelter and mass care plans, evacuation procedures, mutual aid agreements, and grant projects for response and recovery efforts. The Department also manages the State Fire Aid Program.

The County recently purchased 70 acres of land just outside of Denton for the future location (at some indeterminate period of time) of a County Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center which would house EMS operations, the Sheriff's Department, and the Emergency Operations Department. The site may be annexed to the Town to allow access to municipal sewer and water systems (identified as a growth area in the Growth Element – Chapter 4).

#### Emergency Medical and Advanced Life Support Services

The Caroline County Department of Emergency Medical Services augments the 24-hour basic life support (BLS) service provided by the County's eight volunteer fire companies, and is the County's primary provider of advanced life support (ALS) services. Funding for BLS and ALS programs is derived from the County (some of which is through Development Rights and Responsibility Agreement funds) fund raising activities and private donations.

Basic Life Support services in Denton are provided by trained members of the Denton Volunteer Fire Company, who respond to calls within the Company's first-due response area and provide supplemental support to second and third-due response areas. Because employment responsibilities prevent many volunteers from responding to daytime calls, the EMS Department provides trained ambulance crews during the day to ensure adequate coverage for the Town.

The County's ALS program employs trained paramedics and cardiac rescue technicians who provide advanced emergency medical treatment and also operate twenty-four hours a day.

The EMS Department regularly monitors the level of service provided by ambulance and ALS crews to ensure that adequate personnel are in place 24 hours a day to serve to the emergency medical needs of the entire County. The Department also reviews population projections to anticipate types and rates of emergency service needs based on population size and demographic (elderly, special needs, etc.). However, the most basic indicator of adequate service is the ability to respond to emergency calls. An ambulance crew is considered to be operating at optimum capacity if it is able to respond to 100 percent of the calls in its first-due area. When coverage falls to 50 percent (with the remaining 50 percent of the calls being answered by nearby second-due ambulances), the Department recommends adding an ambulance located within the first-due response area. The need to expand ambulance service will be continuously assessed as the population increases.

### Fire Department

Fire protection for the Town and surrounding area is provided by the Denton Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Denton Volunteer Fire Department currently consists of 40 volunteer firefighters and 10 volunteer non-fire fighters. The single Denton VFD fire station is located at 400 South Fifth Street. The need to expand fire department equipment and/or facilities should be continuously assessed as the Town's population increases.

### Town Police Department

The Denton Police Department includes thirteen sworn Police Officers and two civilian Administrative Aides. The Department patrols the Town and answers calls for service 24 hours a day. The Town Police Department is housed in a recently constructed facility located at the northeast corner of Third and Gay Street. The need to increase the Town's police force and/or facilities should be continuously assessed as the Town's population increases.

### Caroline County Department of Corrections

The Caroline County Detention Center is located at 101 Gay Street. The building houses facilities for the detention and confinement of pre-trial detainees and adjudicated offenders in a safe and secure institution.

### County and State Police

The offices of the Caroline County Sheriff's Department are housed within the Caroline County Correctional Facility, located at 101 Gay Street. In January of 1995, the Caroline County Corrections Department and the Caroline County Sheriff's Office became two separate entities. The Sheriff's Office today consists of administration, patrol, criminal investigations, narcotics, Canine, Court Security, Civil Process, Teen Court, and Records.

State Police is located in the State Multi-Service Center at 207 South Third Street.

### Courts for Caroline County

The Circuit Court for Caroline County is located in the Court House at 109 Market Street. District Court of Maryland is located in the State Multi-Service Center 207 South Third Street. District Court has jurisdiction over most landlord-tenant cases, small claims, motor vehicle violations, misdemeanors, and certain felonies, and peace and protective orders. All other cases are heard in Circuit Court.

### **Public Health**

The Caroline County Health Department is located at 403 South Seventh Street. It is a local office of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, responsible for communicable disease prevention, wellness promotion, and environmental protection for all residents and the county in which they live. The Department operates ten programs concerned with addictions, developmental disabilities, health education and vital statistics, adult health and geriatrics, child health, communicable disease control, the environment, maternity and family planning, mental health and wellness promotion.

Complete hospital facilities are located in Easton, Maryland and Dover, Delaware. Caroline County operates an Advanced Life Support System (ALS) which provides fast medical attention to victims before they are transported to the hospital. ALS services are provided on a 24-hour

basis by the ALS staffs, who are trained and certified professionals. Memorial Hospital owns and operates a diagnostic lab located on Market Street.

### **Solid Waste Collection and Disposal**

Solid waste collection from residences, businesses and industries within Denton is handled by a private waste hauler who is contracted by the Town. The Town's solid waste is disposed of at the regional landfill located in Dorchester County.

Recycling services are provided to Denton through the Mid-Shore Regional Recycling Program (MRRP). MRRP was formed in 1993 as a cooperative partnership between Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. The program also provides free recycling services to residents of the four counties.

The Caroline County Public Works Department coordinates the program for municipalities in Caroline County. Curbside pickup is available to residents of Denton but it is limited to yard waste and bulky items only. The Denton Plaza on Route 404 is available as a 24-hour drop-off facility and accepts newspaper, mixed paper, aluminum cans, glass, aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and high grade office paper.

It is recommended that Denton develop and implement a Recycling Plan for the Town, with assistance from and in cooperation with the Mid-Shore Regional Recycling Program. The Plan should establish recycling targets, including:

- Regular residential and commercial curbside pickup of recyclable materials including glass, plastic, aluminum and paper;
- Departmental recycling programs within Town Departments that include source reduction goals;
- Public outreach and education programs and events; and
- Incentives for business participation.

### **Schools**

Denton is currently served by three public schools, Denton Elementary (Grades K-5, 635 Students), Lockerman Middle School (Grades 6-8, 781 Students), North Caroline High School (west of and outside Denton's corporate limits) (Grades 9-12, 1168 Students), and one private school, Wesleyan Christian School.

- Denton Elementary School is located on Sharp Road serves grades kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The school is located on a 20 acre site that was recently annexed.
- Lockerman Middle School is situated on 18.78 acres located at 410 Lockerman Street. It serves grades 6 through 8.
- North Caroline High School occupies approximately 50 acres located on Central Avenue. It serves grades 9 through 12 and includes a career and technology center.

The School Master Plan includes a Facilities Needs Summary that states that Caroline County will need to build additional school capacity to meet anticipated need as the County population

increases. An in depth analysis of school capacity to meet future population needs is included in the “Municipal Growth Element” of this Comprehensive Plan.

New facilities are being considered in the County School Master Plan include two new elementary schools, one new middle school (to augment capacity at Lockerman Middle School) and additional high school capacity to supplement capacity at North Caroline High School and/or the career and technology center.

The Caroline County Board of Education has begun to observe a growing student population problem that is now challenging the capacities of three northern county elementary schools, including Denton’s.

The CIP also includes the construction of a new middle school within the next five years in the Denton area for the new middle school. The timing and scale of improvements planned for the public schools that serve the Town of Denton indicate that the Town and the County have coordinated planning efforts to ensure that education facilities will expand to sufficiently accommodate anticipated growth.

### **Chesapeake Culinary Center**

Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) is operated by Friends of the Grape, Inc., a local, non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors and staffed by professionals from the hospitality industry. CCC operates a restaurant at the Shore Gourmet Denton Market currently located at 5 South Second Street. CCC’s adult programs are offered through Caroline County Social Services, training participants for employment in food services industries.



The Center partners with the Upper Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to offer classes and training for WIB youth clients from Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties to secure summer employment in the food industry. The Center also has established a partnership with Caroline County Parks and Recreation to provide kid’s cooking camps, and lessons on nutrition and culinary arts training for At-Risk youth who have participated in CCC after school programs, along with a supplemental class for the youths’ parents. Additional CCC programs are provided through the Center’s partnership with Spoons Across America, a national program that teaches children about nutrition, obesity and social skills. CCC also participates in Transitions, a program offered through the Caroline County Board of Education that teaches mentally challenged students life and social skills to enable them to live in group homes.

The Chesapeake Culinary Center has been successful in piloting and continuing programs and projects that are beneficial to Denton and the surrounding community. CCC is looking forward to establish a permanent headquarters that will enable CCC to realize its full potential as a facility dedicated to improving the quality of life in Denton and Caroline County through economic development, education, and cultural arts programs.

## **Parks**

Denton contains a variety of public park and recreation facilities, described below.

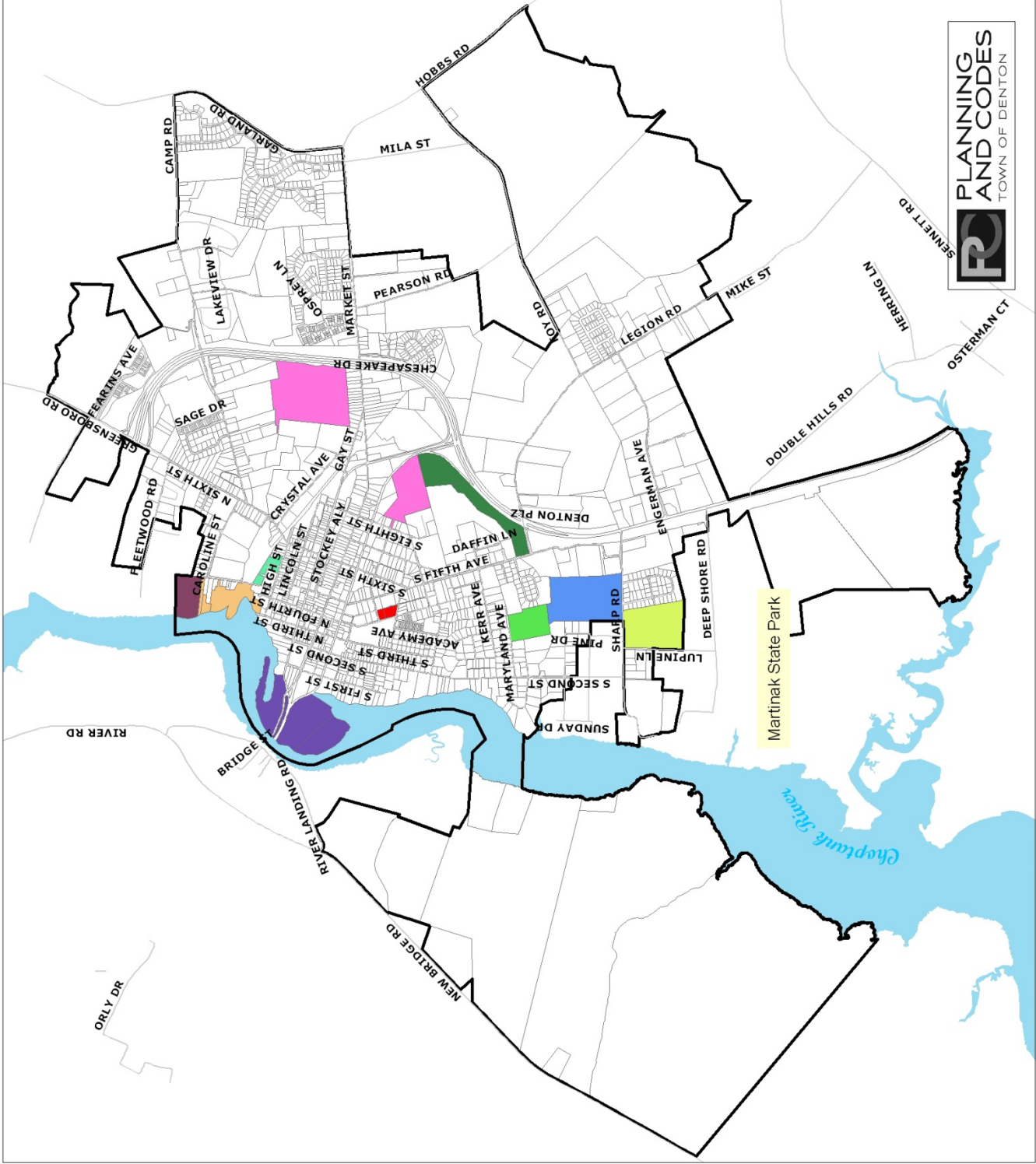
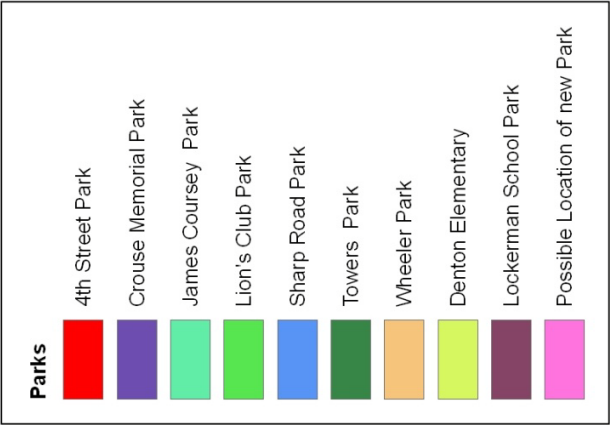
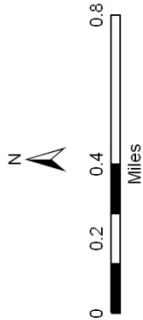
- Towers Park - an 8.28-acre natural area located off of Fifth Street in the southern portion of Town. This wooded site is frequently used by the local Boy Scout Troop.
- Dan Crouse Park - a one-acre, Town-owned Park located on the Choptank River at Pig Point. The park contains basketball courts, boat ramp, pavilion, picnic area, playground, restrooms and parking. Recent additions to this park facility include a tourist information center and gazebo.
- Denton Lions Club Park - a 9.52-acre, quasi-public community park which contains two Little League Baseball fields and associated buildings. The park is located on Maryland Avenue in the southern part of Town.
- Lockerman School Park - a 4.73-acre community park located on the grounds of Lockerman Middle School and owned by the County Board of Education. Facilities include a baseball field, running track and soccer field.
- Wheeler Park – a 2.77-acre Town-owned community park located on the west side of Lockerman Street. Park facilities include tennis courts and a picnic pavilion (currently under construction).
- Denton School Park - a 6.67-acre community area co-located with the Denton Elementary School. Facilities include a hard surface area, two ball fields, nature trail, playground, and soccer field.
- James Coursey Sr. Memorial Park - a quasi-public neighborhood park and playground for the residents of the adjacent housing project. The site is owned and maintained by the Rural Housing Association. The park, previously named North Park, expanded after the Town acquired additional land in 1995.
- Fourth Street Park - a .5-acre facility owned and maintained by the Town of Denton and located next to the Armory. Facilities include a children's playground, with tot lot facilities and tennis courts.
- Denton Armory - a County-owned and operated facility which contains the offices of the County Parks and Recreation Department. Facilities include a gymnasium.
- Sharp Road Park - an approximately 24-acre Town-owned park. The current five-year development plan for this park includes development of a multi-use park to include a trail and other facilities for recreation activities.
- Martinak State Park - a 99-acre park owned and operated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. George Martinak deeded this land of forests, fields and marsh to the state in 1961 for preservation as a recreational facility and a natural area for the enjoyment of all. The park serves regional needs and is located immediately south of Denton. Facilities include an amphitheater, camping, boat ramp, fishing, nature trails, pavilion, picnic areas and playgrounds. Bordered by the Choptank River and Watts Creek, this area supports a wide variety of plant and animal life.



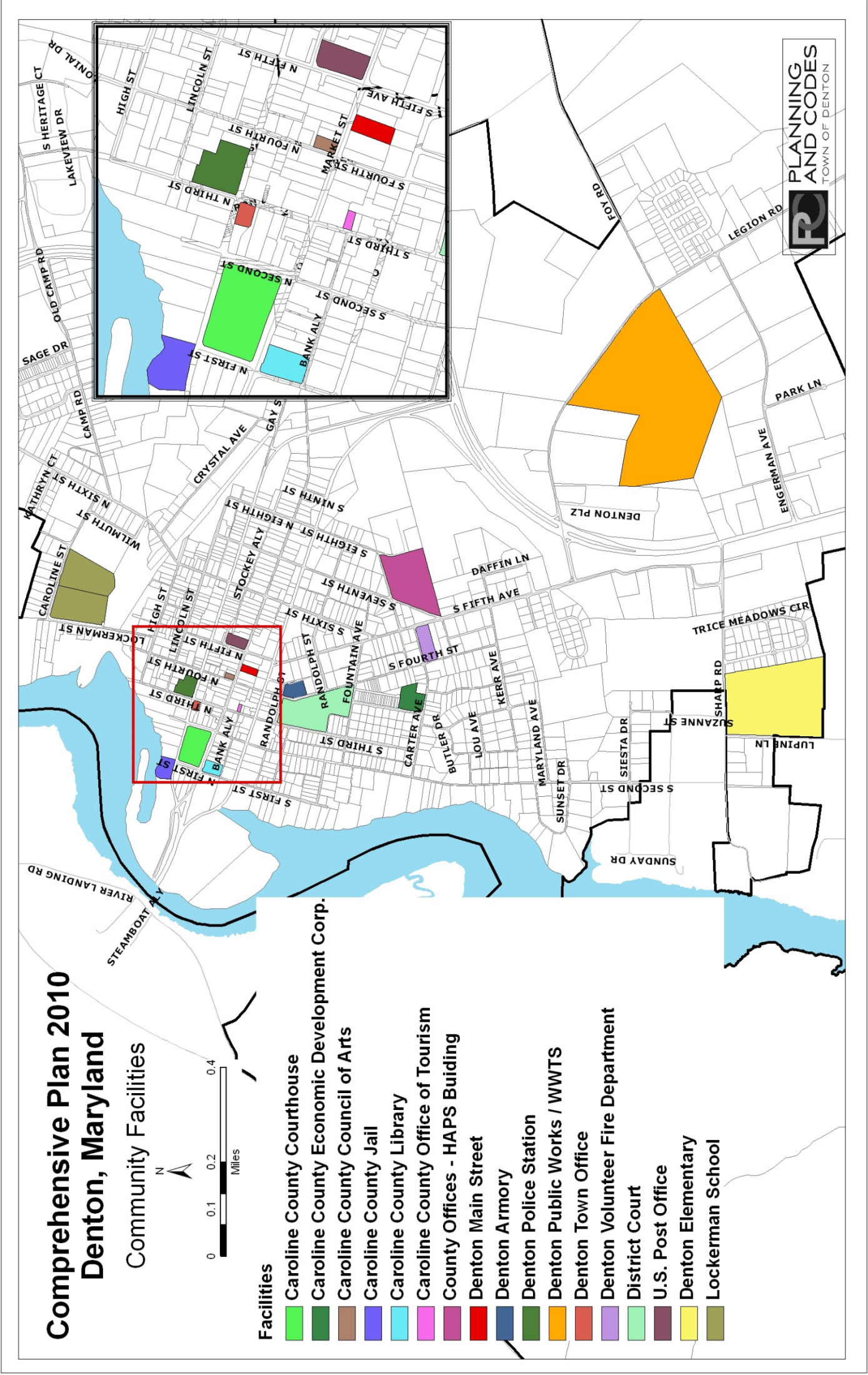
Map: 8-1

# Comprehensive Plan 2010 Denton, Maryland

## Denton Parks



Map 8-2:



## **Community Facilities Policies**

The following policies shall apply to the provision of community facilities within Denton:

1. The Town will develop a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to outline the scheduling and phasing of public improvement projects for a revolving six (6) year period. The CIP will be coordinated with the Town's Annual Budget so that financing can be arranged on a pre-planned basis. The provision of public improvements as outlined in the CIP will be balanced against the fiscal ability of the Town and the Town's objectives for managing the location and rate of growth.
2. The Town has established priorities for sewer and water service extension in accordance with the *Denton Comprehensive Plan*. These priorities are shown on Map 5-6 in Chapter 5 the "Water Resource Element", and should be reflected in the *Caroline County Master Water and Sewer Plan*.
3. The Town requires all new development to pay for extensions of service (sewer and water) and also for a "fair-share" of the costs for capital improvements to community facility systems which will be necessary to accommodate the new development's community facility and service demands. Some costs associated with community facilities and services may be recouped through Town-levied impact fees.
4. The Town requires that all new development shall be adequately serviced by roads, sewerage, water, storm drainage, schools, fire and police protection, and solid waste collection and disposal as a condition of approval.
5. The Town will encourage stormwater management practices which utilize low impact, surface and on-site drainage treatment.
6. Annexation will be a condition for extending Town community facilities and services outside of the Town's corporate limits.
7. Future large-scale developments will be required to provide exactions (proffers) land dedications or fees-in-lieu of dedications for the provision of community facilities, including parks, schools and open spaces.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following are recommendations relative to Town-supplied community facilities and services.

1. Develop a linear greenway park and pedestrian/bike trail along the abandoned railroad right-of-way in the northern end of Town and extend to connect Lockerman School Park to Sharp Road Park.
2. Plan for a new community park located east of MD 404 to serve existing and proposed new residential neighborhoods (Map 8-1).
3. Work with the County to identify and acquire appropriate sites within the Denton Growth Area for anticipated middle school facility.
4. Work with the County and State to identify and acquire an appropriate site for an emergency medical care facility within the Denton.

5. Work with the County to identify an appropriate site for expanded County offices and facilities as needed.