

**Comprehensive Plan 2040**  
Your County. Your Vision. Your Future.

# Chapter 8

## Community Facilities Element

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES And Services

## Introduction and Purpose

The timely and economical provision of community facilities is an integral part of growth management and land use regulation activities undertaken by Washington County to ensure an essential quality of life for residents. The location of community facilities is fundamentally tied to longstanding growth management objectives in Washington County which seek to direct services to planned growth areas where both existing infrastructure and the density of residents enable the efficient provision of essential institutional services.

The types of community facilities provided, as well as the programs and services associated with each, will vary throughout the County according to the differing needs of rural and urban communities. The designation of regulatory place types within County ordinances, plans and policies, such as Urban and Town Growth Areas, or Rural Villages, helps to guide policies embedded within these regulatory documents in determining what types of community facilities are appropriate in different urban and rural contexts. In certain cases, municipalities provide essential public facilities and services to citizens of the County who live outside the corporate limits of the municipality. In others, community facility provision is handled jointly by Municipal and County governmental entities. As a result of such cooperative arrangements, it is essential that coordination occur between entities representing these local governments when creating policies that specify where and how community facilities will be provided. The County's coordination and support of Community Facilities should continue to serve its diverse population and encourage accessibility inclusive of the needs of residents.



Washington County Pen Mar Park - Band Shell and Pavilions

## Related County Plans and Policy Documents

There are many different plans and policy documents that govern the operation and funding of varied types of community facilities covered within this element. The most directly relevant of these plans or policy documents are noted in the following section.

### Capital Improvement Plan

The County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is how future infrastructure needs are forecasted and prioritized. The Plan enables such improvements to occur according to a timely and cost-effective fashion. A major purpose of the CIP is to provide a means for coordinating and consolidating all departmental and agency project requests into one document. The projects can then be examined and prioritized based on established criteria that includes County plans and policies. The resulting document is the CIP. A 10 year CIP is developed each fiscal year and includes scheduling and financing of future community facilities such as public buildings, roads, bridges, parks, water and sewer projects, and educational facilities. The Plan is flexible and covers 10 years with the first year being the Capital Improvement Budget. Funds for each project are allocated from Federal, State, and local sources by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Capital Improvement Plan not only accounts for the acquisition, expansion, and rehabilitation of infrastructure and other capital assets, but it also incorporates the following basic underlying principles of the County:

- Capital projects are targeted to support the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and other County functional plans.
- Capital investments are made for economic development.
- Existing assets are preserved and maintained to ensure continued service.
- External funding possibilities are considered when reviewing and prioritizing projects.
- Intergovernmental funding is sought for regional projects.
- Debt is used carefully and managed in accordance with the goals and objectives of County policies.



Hagerstown Regional Airport - Terminal Bridge

## Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) has been in place since 1990 in Washington County and is a primary regulatory tool for the provision of community facilities outside of incorporated municipalities. Each municipality has autonomous authority to manage infrastructure within their incorporated boundaries. However, it is important to coordinate with these municipalities in housing planning and uniform enforcement of mitigation techniques.

The APFO was enacted to ensure “that public facilities and services needed to support new development shall be available concurrently with the impacts of such new developments.”<sup>1</sup> “Adequate Public Facilities” are defined by the Ordinance as “those facilities relating to roads, sewerage disposal systems, schools, water supply and distribution systems, and interim fire protection systems meeting established minimum standards.” Adequacy standards for each of these facility types are described within the APFO. Authority is granted to the Planning Commission to determine when adequacy has been met in the approval or disapproval of an application for development. Phased development, particularly with larger projects that may cause substantial new demand for public infrastructure or services, is an integral method by which this concurrency is attained to spread out the impacts of development over a manageable and cost-effective timeline.

## Washington County Water & Sewerage Plan

The Washington County Water and Sewerage Plan is the primary policy document governing the quality, supply and capacity of water and sewer facilities within the County for a 20 year time horizon. As noted within the Plan, “the planning and implementation of water and sewerage facilities constitute the most physically direct method of guiding development within the County.”<sup>2</sup> The Water and Sewerage Plan sets policies regarding the provisions of these services, which are designed to implement, and be consistent with, the policies of the Comprehensive Plan. The Water and Sewerage Plan inventories existing service areas as well as those programmed to be served in the future. The Plan also serves to link local water and sewer provision with Federal and State regulations governing their operations, including the Clean Water Act, Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plans, Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load limits as well as other regulatory tools.



Division of Environmental Management and Emergency Services

1 Washington County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, p. 1

2 Washington County Water and Sewerage Plan: 2009 Update, I-1

## Washington County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan

The Educational Facility Master Plan (EFMP) is a long-range (10 year) planning document that is produced annually by the Washington County Board of Education. Within the document are analyses of Washington County communities, the physical and functional state of each school facility, and student enrollment trends. This analysis is then synthesized into a Master Plan for facilities that meet the needs of Washington County Public Schools (WCPS). This Plan helps inform the public, and various County and Municipal officials, about the short- and long-range needs for school facility improvements, including prioritization of identified needs. Implementation of the Plan is accomplished through the development of an annual Capital Improvement Program request for funding which mirrors the plan set forth in the EFMP, which is submitted to both the County and State governments for project funding approval. The CIP request includes both the current funding year, as well as the next five (State) to ten (local) years of estimated funding needed to accomplish the master plan.<sup>1</sup>

## Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The purpose of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is to evaluate current open space opportunities, analyze future impacts from growth, and develop a coordinated plan to address future open space needs. The Maryland Program Open Space (POS) laws and the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 require that all counties in the State of Maryland produce and maintain an Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. As noted in these laws, all land acquisition and park development funded through these programs must be consistent with the approved State and County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans. The County's use of POS funding requires such a plan to be updated every five years.

## Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan

This document outlines the County's plan for the management of the present and future solid waste and recyclables generated within its borders for a 10 year period. This Plan examines the existing solid waste management systems in place including projections for waste streams. It also analyzes alternatives to manage waste including waste reduction, recycling, and energy recovery alternatives. The Plan is updated every three years.

## Washington County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The purpose of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is to prevent or reduce loss of life and injury and to limit future damage costs by developing methods to mitigate or eliminate damage from various hazards. Local mitigation plans follow a planning methodology that includes public involvement, a risk assessment for various hazards, an inventory of critical facilities and at-risk residential areas, a mitigation strategy for high-risk hazards, and a method to maintain and update the Plan. Mitigation plans are required to be updated every five years in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. States and incorporated local communities are provided funding under this Act to carry out the planning process. The Washington County Division of Emergency Management is the primary County agency in charge of leading the planning process.

## Washington County Basic Emergency Operations Plan

The Plan provides a framework for government and private entities to mobilize resources and conduct activities in response to public emergencies. It provides a unified structure for public/private emergency response operations to ensure a coordinated and effective operation. The Emergency Operations Plan describes how various agencies work collaboratively to respond to incidents that threaten life, property, public safety and the environment in Washington County. In addition to emergency response, the Plan also seeks to reduce future vulnerability to such events within the County through timely and coordinated disaster response, and through regional planning and training activities. The design of the Plan was based upon the functional structure of the National Incident Management System and the Federal Response Plan which recognizes that, for some disasters, State and Federal assistance may be required to achieve a total response.<sup>1</sup> The Washington County Division of Emergency Services has been delegated primary responsibility for coordinating County emergency preparedness, planning, management and disaster assistance functions.

## Washington County Free Library Strategic Plan

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to chart the direction of the Washington County Free Library for the next four years. The Plan outlines the Library's blueprint for services in the identified areas of education, workforce development and civic engagement.



Washington County Free Library in downtown Hagerstown

## Infrastructure Assessment for Washington County & the City of Hagerstown (2013)

Infrastructure is a key element for communities to attract and retain both residents and businesses. This report provides a snapshot of current infrastructure in Hagerstown and Washington County including water, sewer, transportation, electricity, gas and telecommunications. It focuses on describing existing conditions within nine Economic Development Regions where the land is zoned for business, industry, institutional uses and commercial development. The nine areas were selected by the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission's Infrastructure Committee because of being the largest areas where significant room for economic growth or redevelopment exists as a result of already possessing the basic infrastructural elements necessary to support such growth. The nine areas, which include the Airport region, Maugans Avenue/I-81 region, Friendship Business Park, Fort Ritchie/Cascade Town Center, City of Hagerstown, Interstate Business Park region, Hopewell Valley region, North Hopewell Valley and the Technology and Research Park, were given a numerical score based on the readiness of each infrastructural element to support sustainable economic growth.

## Community Facilities Analysis by Type

### Water and Sewerage Facilities

The provision of public water and sewer is an integral part of implementing many of the land use policies of the Comprehensive Plan. It facilitates the most direct method of guiding development within the County. Development is dependent upon access to these facilities, which also ensure the health of citizens and the local environment. This level of planning goes beyond the generalized goals of the Comprehensive Plan and is given a higher level of analysis and priority as part of the Water Resources Element of this Plan and the separate County Water and Sewerage Plan. The main office for the Department of Water Quality is located at 16232 Elliot Parkway, just outside of Williamsport.

### Parks and Recreation

Residents and visitors alike are fortunate to have access to a wide variety of public lands dispersed throughout Washington County that serve many different recreational user groups. The quantity and quality of recreational facilities in Washington County serves to meet the needs not only of local neighborhoods but also to draw visitors to Washington County from around the globe.

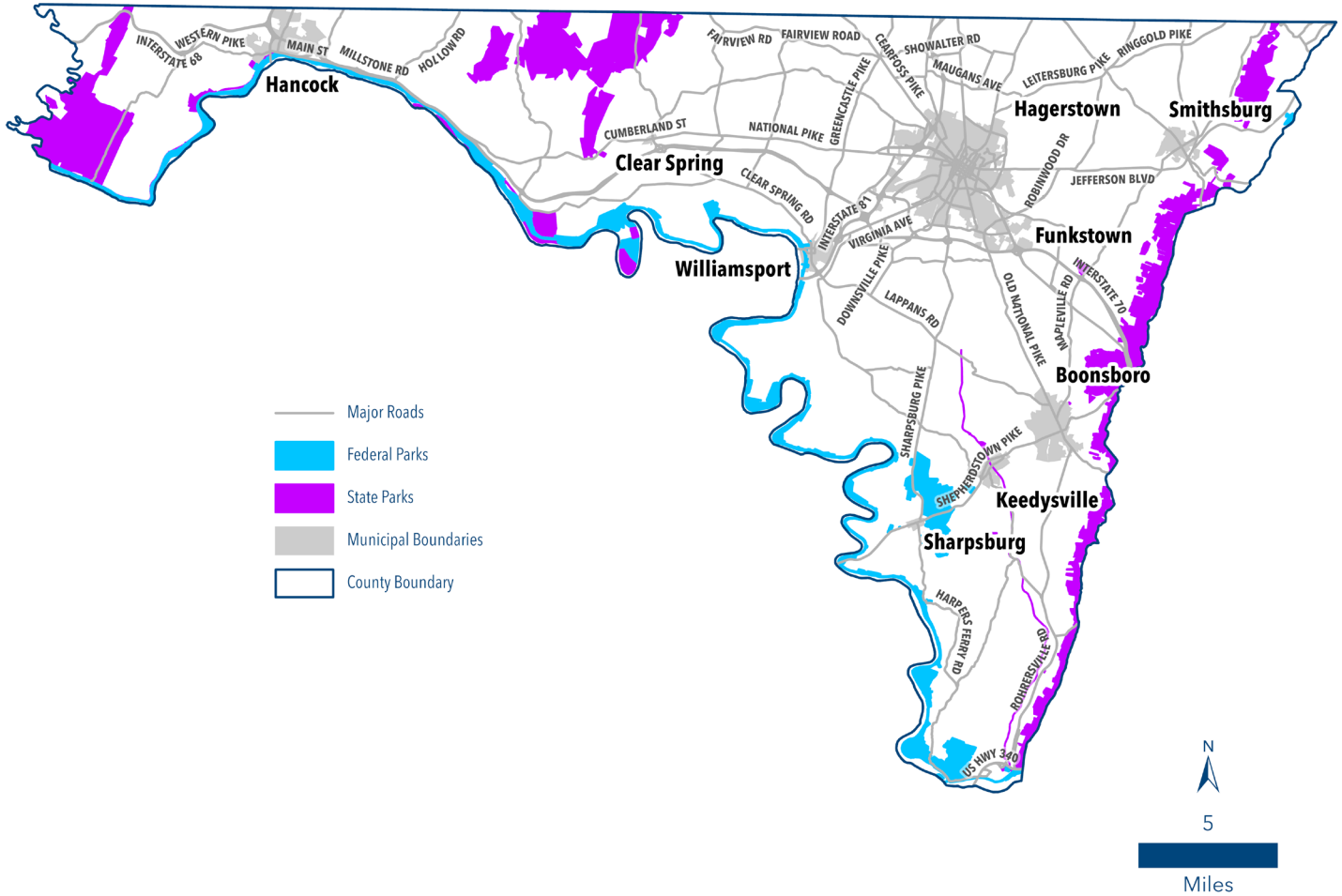
#### Federal Parks and Recreation Facilities

There are four Federal parks located within Washington County shown in Map 8-1: Antietam National Battlefield, Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The primary intent of the first three parks is to protect and interpret historic sites and landscapes through educational programming while also offering some active recreational opportunities. The Appalachian Trail is a long-distance footpath which extends more than 2,100 miles through the Appalachian Mountain from Georgia to Maine. Forty miles of the trail are in Maryland, all of which are found in Washington County. These facilities are owned and managed by the National Park Service with the assistance of local groups. Federally owned parklands total approximately 8,300 acres, or 23% of public recreation land in Washington County.

#### State Parks and Recreation Facilities

The State of Maryland also owns and maintains lands in Washington County that include eight State parks and four Wildlife Management Areas shown in Map 8-1. The developed State parks include Fort Frederick, Gathland, Greenbrier, South Mountain (includes Appalachian Trail), South Mountain Battlefield, Washington Monument, Woodmont, and the Western Maryland Rail Trail. Fort Tonoloway State Park is an undeveloped historic site near Hancock. Wildlife Management Areas include Box Turtle, Indians Springs, Sideling Hill, and Prather's Neck. There is a wide variety of passive and active recreational opportunities in these areas including biking, hiking, camping, horseback riding, walking/jogging, swimming, and playgrounds. Other State lands include the Albert Powell Fish Hatchery, Brownsville Pond, Roundtop Hill Natural Heritage Area, and two fire towers. State owned parks and Wildlife Management Areas are located in the eastern and western sections of the County and total approximately 23,300 acres, or nearly 65% of public recreation lands.

Map 8-1: Federal and State Parklands



**Local Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Washington County parks include a variety of facilities to serve the varied recreational needs of the County’s residents. County owned parks serve as host to a range of uses from the weekly summer concerts at historic Pen Mark Park, softball leagues at Pinesburg Softball Complex, fishing and canoeing on Antietam Creek at Devil’s Backbone Park, to providing a connection to our agricultural heritage through the numerous events held at the Agricultural Education Center and Rural Heritage Museum. These and many other County parks and recreational facilities offer ample opportunity to engage in active or passive recreational pursuits throughout the County.



Pen Mar Park - Pavilion Overlook Area



Wilson Bridge - Picnic Area



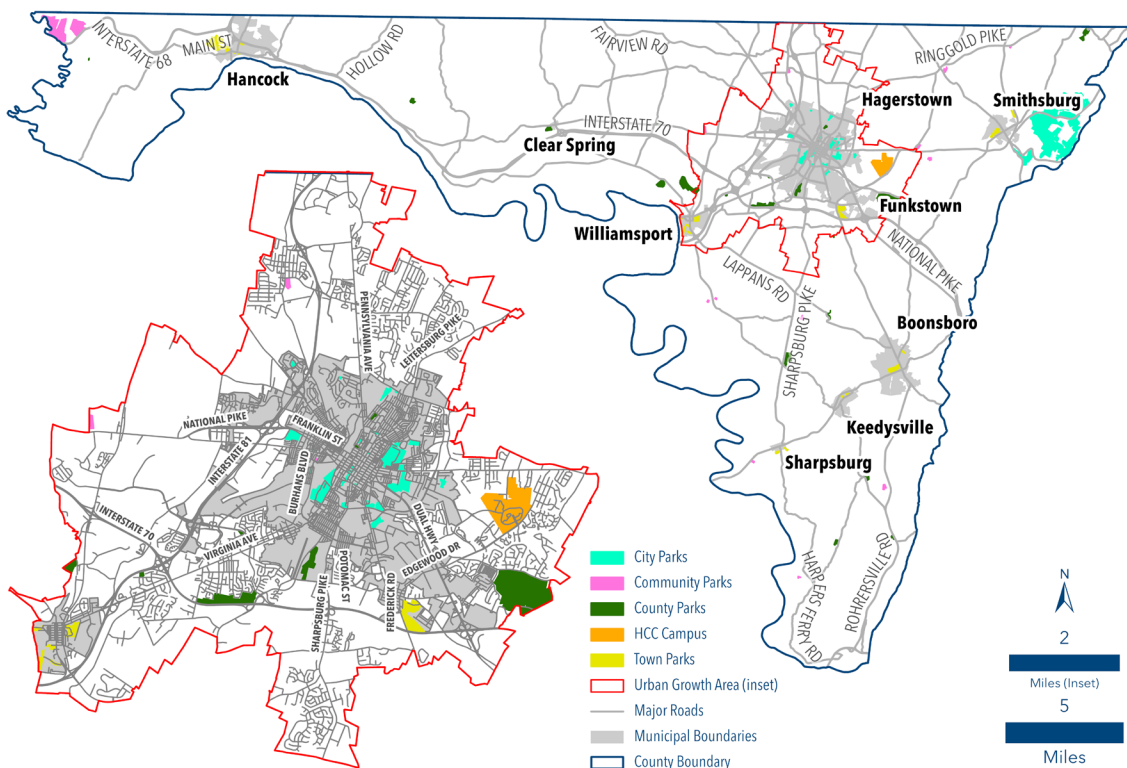
Included within the County parks and open space system are school recreational land and special use parks. School Recreational Land includes sites owned and maintained by the Board of Education and serve to provide for the school’s recreational needs as well as limited community needs. The school recreational land consists of formal athletic fields and playground equipment with the primary focus on scholastic sports and in school recreational activities. An agreement between the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education allows additional funds to be provided to build an expanded gym, storage areas, recreation rooms and offices to support recreation centers which are open to the public when school is not in session. These centers are managed by the County’s Department of Parks and Recreation.

Special Use Parks are areas that are generally oriented toward a single purpose use such as public golf courses, including protection of unique features such as historic or cultural sites, stream access, wetland areas, and habitat management areas. Examples are Mount Briar Wetland, located near Rohrsersville, and Wilson Bridge over the Conococheague Creek.

The County Parks and Recreation Department now manages 22 park facilities County-wide consisting of approximately 895 acres of open space and recreation land. This total represents 2.5% of the public lands acreage in Washington County.

While not owned or administered by Washington County, there are nine (9) incorporated municipalities within the County that also provide parks and recreational opportunities to residents within their jurisdictional boundaries. Those municipalities include the City of Hagerstown (22 parks and 60 miles of bike lanes and paths) and the Towns of Boonsboro (1 park); Funkstown (1 park) Hancock (3 parks); Keedysville (1 park); Sharpsburg (1 park); Smithsburg (2 parks); and Williamsport (2 parks). The Town of Clear Spring has no municipal parks but does contain Clear Spring County Park. Municipal parks serve a similar purpose to those provided by the County in offering mostly active recreation areas but also some passive recreation facilities.

Map 8-2: Local Parks and Recreational Facilities



## Educational Facilities

### Primary and Secondary Education Overview

Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) serves more than 22,000 students at 46 schools. Educational facilities under the jurisdiction of Washington County Public Schools include elementary, middle and high schools, special programs and administrative centers. Private educational institutions also provide educational services to residents of Washington County.

School facility needs are determined by projecting school enrollment system-wide, and at various grade levels. The forecasting of school enrollment in Washington County requires the analysis of multiple data sources including birth rates, local and regional housing trends, educational program changes, boundary changes, the local economy, and an understanding of the individual communities within the County. School population projections are most reliable when enrollment is projected for large geographic areas for one or two years in the future. System-wide projections for near years have a higher degree of certainty than the estimates for later years. Additionally, the accuracy of the projections diminishes as the geographic area becomes smaller. Maryland Department of Planning guidelines require enrollment forecasts to be prepared or updated annually.

In June of 2015, the Board of Education approved an attendance zone realignment that took effect during the 2016-2017 school year. This realignment did not significantly alter any existing middle or high school attendance zones but did make changes to the elementary attendance zone boundaries of several schools. These realignments were needed as a result of the opening of one new elementary school and the closure of two others in the 2015-2016 school year. Attendance zone realignment also seeks to balance enrollment amongst all schools to the greatest extent possible.

A new, larger capacity Bester Elementary facility was opened in August of 2014, replacing the original, smaller facility on the same property. In 2016, the closure of aging and obsolete Conococheague and Winter Street Elementary Schools and the concurrent opening of Jonathan Hager Elementary School resulted in a decrease of 83 seats at the elementary level as calculated using the State Rated Capacity (SRC) formula provided by the Maryland Public School Construction Program. Jonathan Hager Elementary was, however, sited and designed to allow future expansion to absorb future enrollment growth within its service area. A new Sharpsburg Elementary facility also opened in August 2020, replacing the original facility, some of which was constructed in 1936.



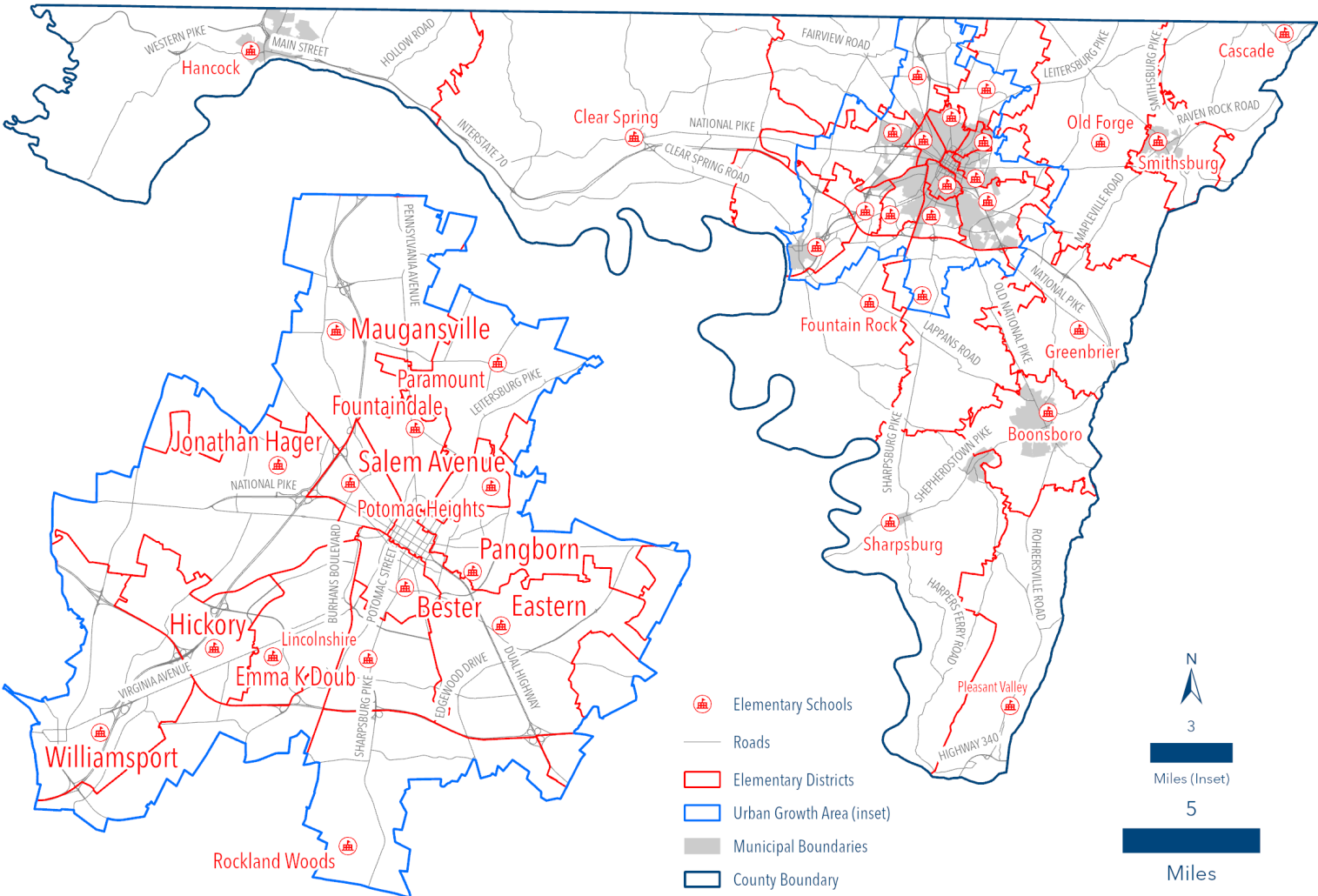
Bester Elementary School - Hagerstown

## Elementary Schools

WCPS currently operates 25 elementary schools. Most elementary schools in the school system are organized in a pre-kindergarten through Grade 5 format. One elementary service area is split between two schools: Ruth Ann Monroe Primary (Pre-K to Grade 2) and Eastern Elementary (Grades 3-5). Several elementary schools have been newly constructed since the last Comprehensive Plan including: Bester, Jonathan Hager, Maugansville, Pangborn, Rockland Woods, Ruth Anne Monroe, and Sharpsburg. A new elementary school to replace and consolidate Fountain Rock and Hickory elementary schools is currently in the planning stages, with a planned opening in 2027.

As of September 2020, the SRC for County elementary schools totaled 11,577 students according to the WCPS Facilities Fact Sheet. A measure of adequate capacity for elementary schools is capped at 90% of State Rated Capacity (SRC) under Washington County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. System-wide, as of September 2020, Washington County had 9,996 elementary school students enrolled. Elementary schools and their districts are shown on Map 8-3 below. It is noted that the Funkstown School for Early Childhood Education facility (a previous elementary age facility) is now being utilized as a facility to house the Academy of Blended Learning Education (ABLE) which serves all grade levels.

Map 8-3: Elementary School Districts and Schools

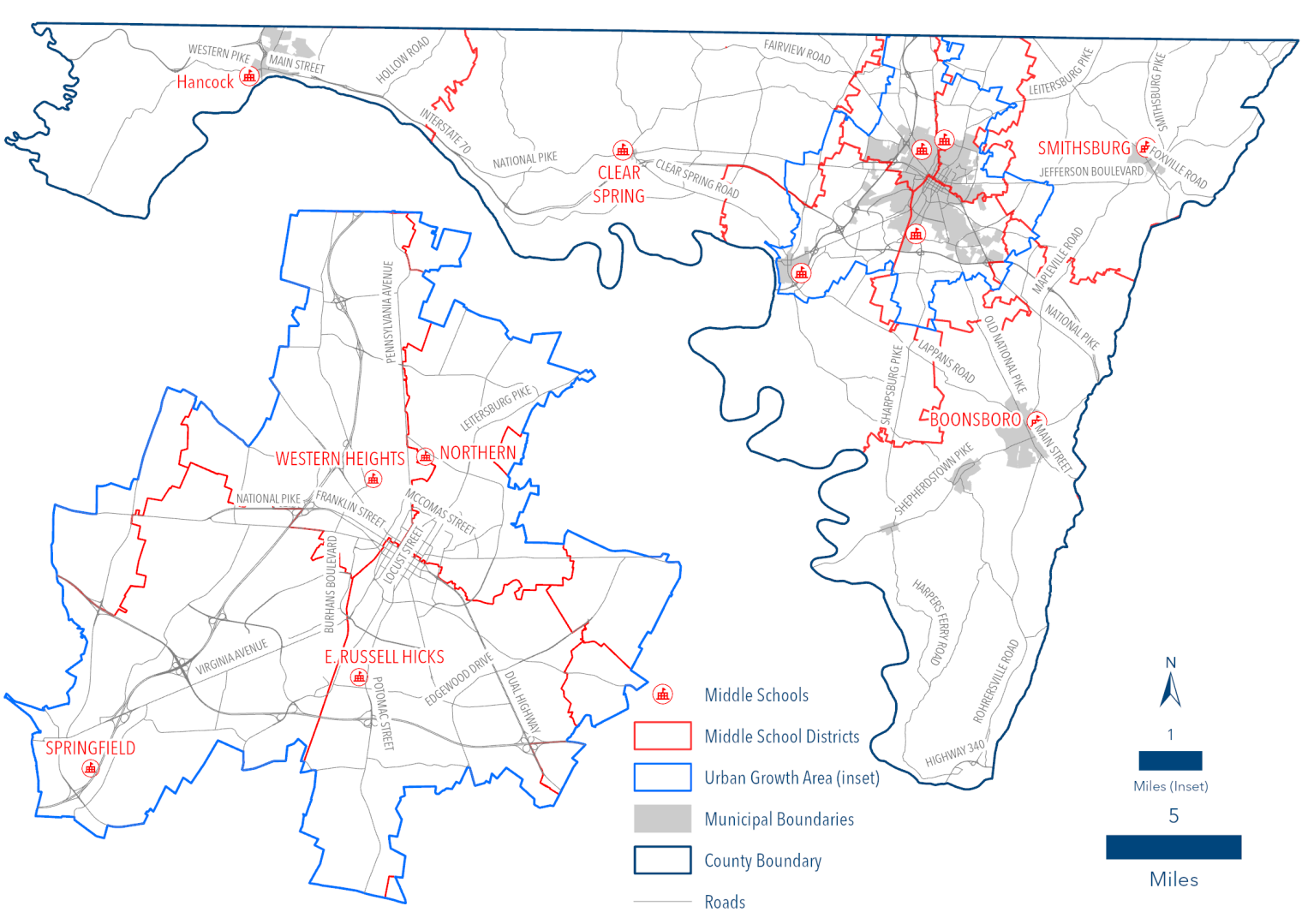


## Middle Schools

WCPS operates seven middle schools covering grades 6 through 8. An eighth school, Hancock, is located within the same facility as Hancock High School with grades 6 through 12 being served. All but Western Heights Middle School are located on the same campus or in close proximity to their associated high schools, thereby permitting some use of shared facilities.

System-wide, as of September 2020, Washington County had 5,147 middle school students enrolled. The total SRC for the seven middle schools was 6,396 student seats. Therefore, middle school enrollment was at 80% of the combined SRC of all middle schools. The location of public middle schools and the boundaries of the districts are shown on Map 8-4.

Map 8-4: Middle School Districts and Schools



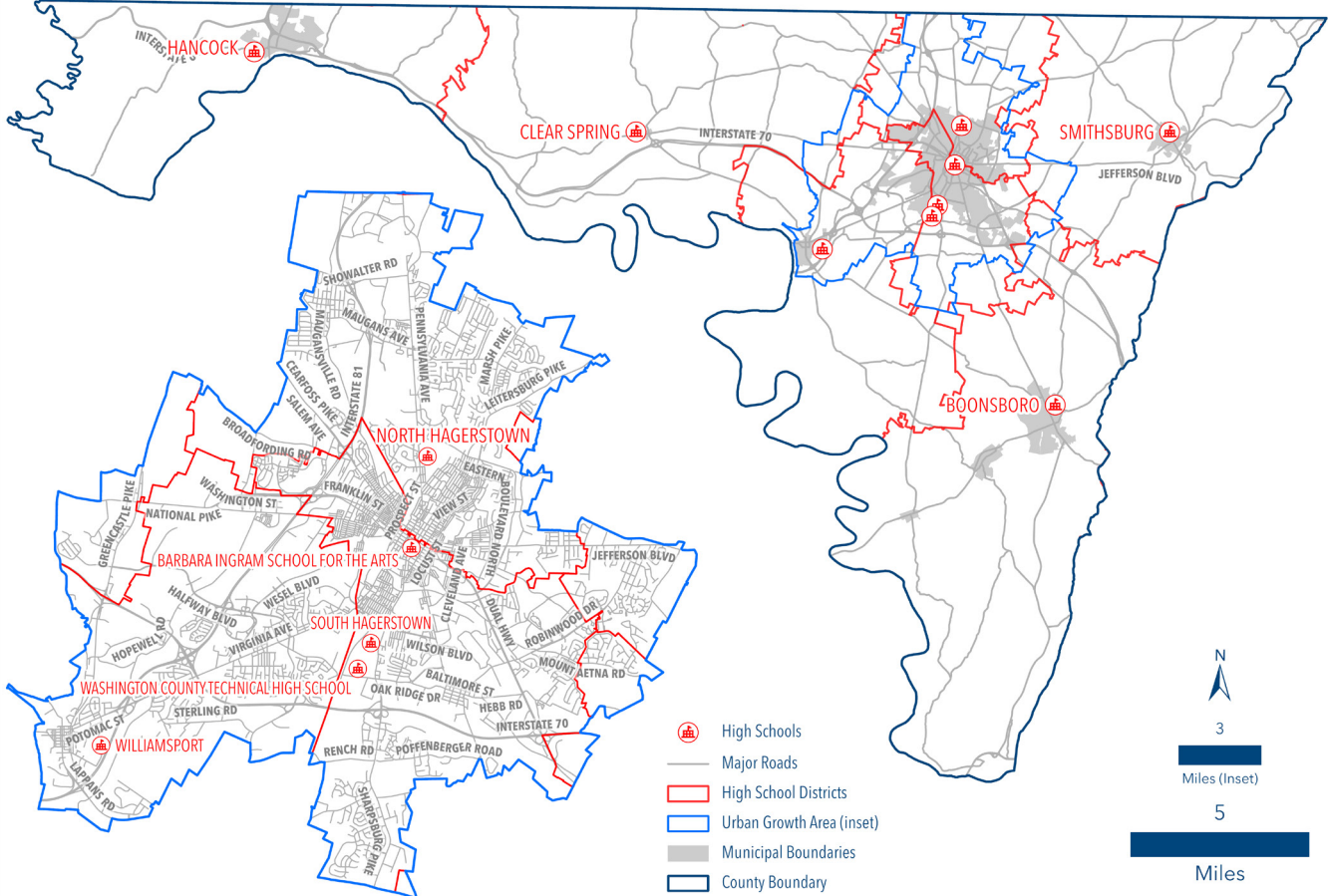
## High Schools

Students in grades 9 through 12 attend one of nine high schools (including Hancock Middle/High School). System-wide as of September, 2020 WCPS had 6,721 students enrolled in these schools which have an overall SRC of 7,960 student seats. Therefore, high school enrollment was at 84% of SRC. The location of individual high schools and their respective districts are shown below on Map 8-5.

A notable addition to the County’s high school network in the time since the County’s last Comprehensive Plan was made when the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BISFA) was opened in the renovated former Henry’s Theatre on South Potomac Street in Hagerstown in 2009. The school offers rigorous arts instruction and training in various areas of concentration and collaborates with the adjacent Maryland Theater to share facility space. In 2020 the Vincent Rauth Groh Academic Center classroom addition was opened to accommodate the school’s academic offerings. The school has been recognized as one of the top arts schools in the country.<sup>1</sup>

Another unique high school in the County system is the Boyd J. Michael, III Technical High School, located near South Hagerstown High School and available to students in grades 10 through 12. In addition to a more typical core high school curriculum, students can take courses in a number of different career and technology programs ranging from carpentry to criminal justice to digital communications, to the newly added diesel technology program. Some courses provide college credit through agreements with Hagerstown Community College and other two- and four-year institutions. The school has been open since 1972.

Map 8-5: High School Districts and Schools



1 Washington County Public Schools, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts: About <http://wcpsmd.com/schools/high-schools/barbara-ingram-school-arts/about>, 2016.

## Special Programs

**The Marshall Street School** serves students with developmental, intellectual or learning disabilities, autism, or orthopedic impairment from ages 3-21. Within the Marshall Street School, The Washington County Job Development Center Program (JDC) serves the vocational training needs of special needs students ages 14 to 21. Students receive vocational training and academics including language arts, math, computer skills and handwriting. They also receive life and work skills training including food service, housekeeping, building maintenance/woodworking, horticulture/grounds keeping, industrial assembly, work preparation/job placement skills, adaptive physical education and other individualized instruction designed with the student's needs in mind. Students receive an educational program designed to enable them to earn a Maryland public high school certificate. The Marshall Street School serves approximately 75 students each year, with 35 of those students in the JDC program.

**The Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School at Fairview** provides environmental education for 5th grade students who spend three school days at the school near Clear Spring High School. The program is available to all 5th graders in the Washington County Public Schools system as a part of their regular school year.

**Antietam Academy**, located near the South Hagerstown school complex, provides an alternative educational facility for students demonstrating difficulties in the areas of behavioral and emotional adjustment to the traditional school setting. The Evening High School Program allows students to earn up to two credits toward graduation requirements each semester.

**Magnet Programs** are provided for highly gifted and talented students, covering a variety of subjects, at a number of elementary, middle and high schools throughout Washington County Public Schools.

## Administrative Facilities

Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) administrative offices are located at 10435 Downsville Pike in Hagerstown. WCPS employs over 3,500 teachers, support staff and administrators throughout the school system.

## Private Schools in Washington County

According to the Private School Review, the private school enrollment in Washington County for the K-12 population was 3,064 students in 2022. This represents 12 % of the overall K-12 student population in the County. There are 21 private schools in Washington County, the majority of which are religiously affiliated.<sup>1</sup>



## Public Education Facility Needs and Projection Analysis

### Enrollment Projections

The annually updated Washington County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) provides an overview of the last 20 years in enrollment trends. Between the years of 2000-2006, a housing boom and increase in population for the County resulted in an enrollment increase of 1800 students. Between 2007 and 2013, slow but steady enrollment growth continued. In 2014 and 2015, the public school system saw decreases in enrollment for the first time since 2000. Between 2016 and 2019 enrollment increased annually due in part to the expansion of Pre-K programs. However, in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic the school system saw a decrease of more than 1,000 students. Prior to the pandemic the student enrollment population could generally be considered “static” for grades kindergarten through twelve for several years.

The table below, taken from the 2021 Washington County, EFMP shows the actual enrollment data from 2020, and the projected surplus and deficit in seats from 2021-2027.

Table 8-1: Actual and Projected School Capacity 2020-2027

Elementary Schools	Actual 2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
State-rated capacity	11,577	11,577	11,577	11,577	11,577	11,577	11,577	11,577
Enrollment totals	9,996	10,987	11,007	11,112	11,101	11,132	11,230	11,336
Projected seat surplus/deficit	1,581	590	570	465	476	445	347	241
Percent of SRC	86%	95%	95%	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%
Net annual change	-916	991	20	105	-11	31	98	106
Percent of projected growth	-9.2%	9.0%	0.2%	0.9%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Middle Schools	Actual 2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
State-rated capacity	6,396	6,396	6,396	6,396	6,396	6,396	6,396	6,396
Enrollment totals	5,147	5,032	5,017	4,902	4,976	5,012	5,131	5,187
Projected seat surplus/deficit	1,249	1,364	1,379	1,494	1,420	1,384	1,265	1,209
Percent of SRC	80%	79%	78%	77%	78%	78%	80%	81%
Net annual change	-140	-115	-15	-115	74	36	119	56
Percent of projected growth	-2.7%	-2.3%	-0.3%	-2.3%	1.5%	0.7%	2.3%	1.1%
High Schools	Actual 2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
State-rated capacity	7,960	7,960	7,960	7,960	7,960	7,960	7,960	7,960
Enrollment totals	6,721	6,933	6,967	6,990	6,927	6,810	6,739	6,804
Projected seat surplus/deficit	1,239	1,027	993	970	1,033	1,150	1,221	1,156
Percent of SRC	84%	87%	88%	88%	87%	86%	85%	85%
Net annual change	3	212	34	23	-63	-117	-71	65
Percent of projected growth	0.0%	3.1%	0.5%	0.3%	-0.9%	-1.7%	-1.1%	1.0%

Source: Washington County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan

Enrollment projections are updated annually, and change quite frequently, and sometimes significantly, for future years. Projections for near years have a higher degree of certainty than the estimates for later years. The forecasting of school enrollment analyzes multiple data sources to create the most realistic model possible based on known or anticipated conditions. These figures, when compared against available or projected capacity, serve as a useful tool in determining future decisions. Middle school capacity appears, at first glance, to be of least concern according to these projected enrollment figures, as enrollment generally hovers below 80 percent of SRC during the time period surveyed. The available high school capacity is anticipated to slightly less, as projected enrollment is to reach almost 90% of available capacity during the projected period.

Elementary school capacity is shown to be of greatest concern according to these projections. The County's APFO restricts elementary school capacity to 90 percent of SRC. In all seven of the years estimated in the EFMP document above, the projected enrollment of the overall elementary schools system exceeded 90 percent (Percent of SRC) in the chart.

The available seating capacity shown in Table 8-1 is a bit misleading based on several factors. The first is because of where many available seats are located. A large number of available seats are located at the easternmost (Smithsburg), westernmost (Hancock) and southernmost (Boonsboro) schools, which can make redistricting impractical to fill those seats from elsewhere in the County. The second is based on how capacity is calculated. The state of Maryland dictates how school capacity is calculated, despite different educational delivery methods between counties. The actual middle school capacity is functionally lower by almost 10% based on the Washington County educational model for grades 6-8.

A rebounding housing market locally has spurred renewed interest in the potential buildout of a number of larger subdivisions at various stages of development.<sup>1</sup> Strong residential and commercial development in the southern portion of the Urban Growth Area, in particular, must be closely monitored for potential impacts on County Schools. South Hagerstown High was already at 111 percent of SRC in September 2020 according to the BOE Facilities Fact Sheet. Both South Hagerstown High and North Hagerstown High were projected to exceed their respective SRC's over the next decade. These trends provide some indication that additional capacity at the high school level will have to be created at some point in the relatively near future. As birthrates return to pre-pandemic levels and as in-migration of population for available and cheaper housing than those areas to the east continues, enrollment will likely continue to increase across all grade levels, beyond what is shown in this plan.

The BOE's Report listed the following schools as exceeding LRC (elementary) and SRC (middle and high):

**Elementary** – Boonsboro, Clear Spring, Emma K. Doub, Fountain Rock, Fountaindale, Hickory, Maugansville, Pangborn, Paramount, Pleasant Valley, Potomac Heights, Salem Avenue, Williamsport.

**Middle** – E. Russell Hicks

**High** – North Hagerstown High and South Hagerstown High

<sup>1</sup> Lovelace, C.J. "Housing market's return leads to potential Washington County Public Schools enrollment increases." [https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/housing-market-s-return-leads-to-potential-washington-county-public/article\\_292d8ffc-b5ce-11e7-8e9c-b3984b86f027.html](https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/housing-market-s-return-leads-to-potential-washington-county-public/article_292d8ffc-b5ce-11e7-8e9c-b3984b86f027.html). October 21, 2017.



## Facility Needs (Funded or Identified)

The EFMP lists projects for the public school system including new school construction, additions, modernizations, and systemic renovation projects. Like enrollment projections, this document is updated annually and is adjusted based on many factors. The list includes many building system updates to keep facilities in use rather than build new or replace existing structures. The EFMP serves as the guide to formulate the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and prompts discussion on how to proceed with funding the identified facility needs. The current County CIP includes funding for capital maintenance (building system replacements) in the immediate fiscal years and one new elementary school planned to open in 2027. With 25 of the 47 WCPS facilities reaching 50 years of age by 2030, most of the buildings are in need of replacement or complete modernization. Funding a capital renewal program to meet these needs will be challenging, but would support long term community, educational, and economic needs. The figure below illustrates County’s current commitment to the listed projects, which totals \$198 million.

Figure 8-1: 2023-2032 CIP Education Budget

Page	Project Costs	Total	Prior Appr.	Budget Year		Ten Year Capital Program			Future
				2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>Education</b>									
<b>Board of Education</b>									
108	Capital Maintenance - BOE	162,673,224	15,653,224	14,036,000	13,776,000	13,916,000	15,008,000	13,888,000	76,396,000
109	Replacement Elementary School	36,320,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	16,000,000	16,020,000	2,800,000
<b>Board of Education Total</b>		<b>198,993,224</b>	<b>15,653,224</b>	<b>14,036,000</b>	<b>13,776,000</b>	<b>15,416,000</b>	<b>31,008,000</b>	<b>29,908,000</b>	<b>79,196,000</b>

## Post-Secondary Education

### Public Colleges and Universities

#### Hagerstown Community College (HCC)

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) is a 319 acre, 18 building campus, on Robinwood Drive in the County's Urban Growth Area east of Hagerstown's city limits. HCC awards associate's degrees, certificates and letters of recognition. HCC offers more than 100 programs of study that are utilized by roughly 5,000 students seeking college credits and another 5,000 students pursuing continuing education classes. More than 900 high school students also take classes at the Community College each year through the ESSENCE Program and the STEMM Technical Middle College.<sup>1</sup>



Hagerstown Community College (HCC) Photo credit: <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/>

A variety of facility improvements are ongoing at the HCC campus. The County's current CIP (2023-2032) has budgeted \$28 million for facility upgrades during that period. These improvements include renovation of the Athletic, Recreation, and Community Center (ARCC) and Advanced Technology Center (ATC) as well as second entrance improvements.

#### University System of Maryland at Hagerstown

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) is a regional higher education center that currently offers more than 20 programs of study from five USM institutions. Participating universities include the University of Maryland, College Park; Towson, Salisbury, Coppin State, and Frostburg State Universities, as well as the University of Maryland University College. All undergraduate programs begin at the junior level, so all undergraduate students transfer in from community colleges or partner universities. USMH occupies a series of renovated historic buildings in the heart of downtown Hagerstown. The renovations, which were completed in 2005, preserved the historic character of the buildings while still adding modern architectural features and facilities that serve 21st century educational needs. The USMH complex includes 44 offices, 22 classrooms, 4 interactive video network (IVN) classrooms, 6 computer labs, 2 nursing labs and a library/media center over 77,000 square feet. Enrollment in the fall of 2022 was 210 students.



USMH Downtown

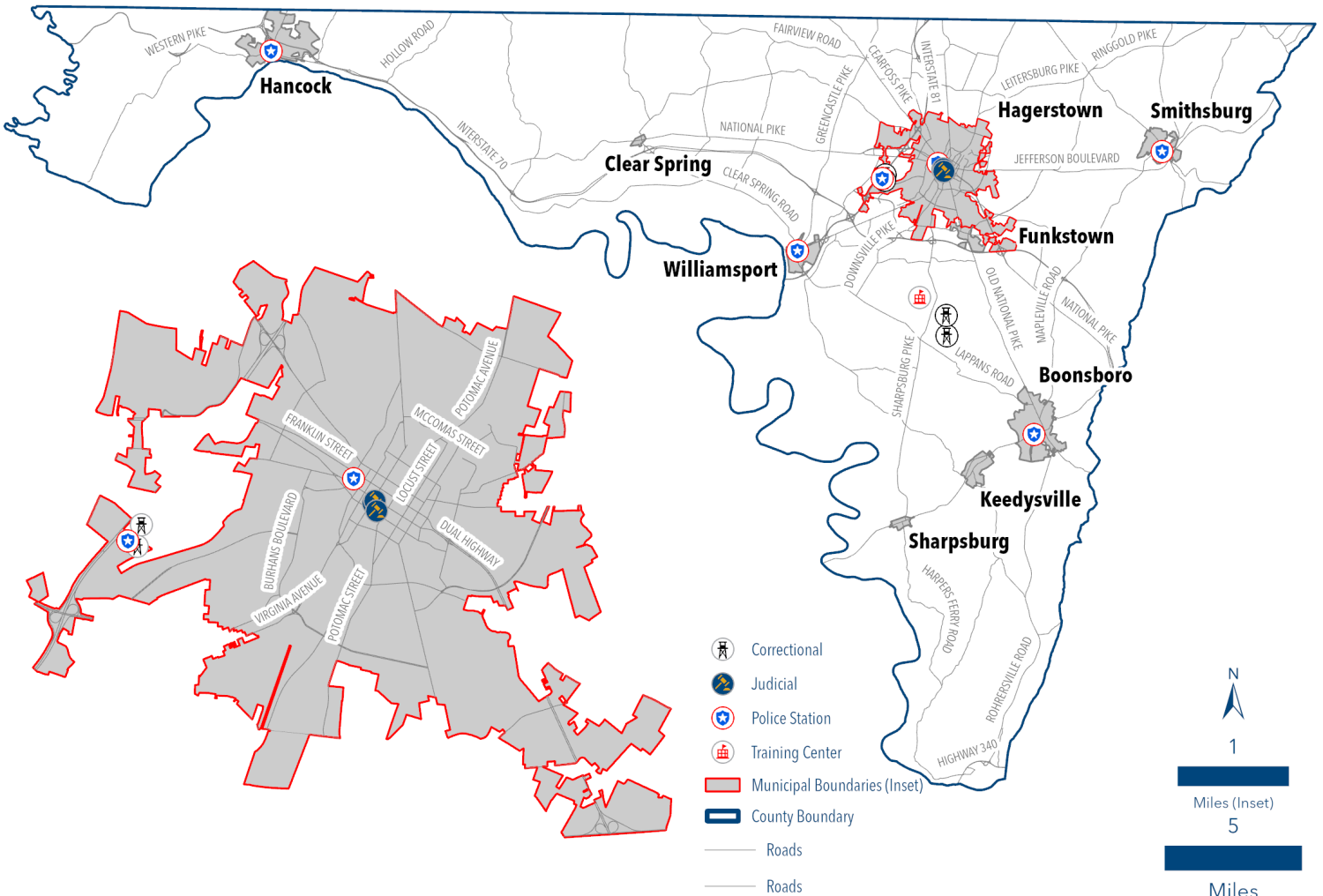
<sup>1</sup> Hagerstown Community College, About Hagerstown Community College. <http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/about-hcc>, 2016.

# Law Enforcement, Correctional Facilities, Judicial Services

Services affecting public safety including law enforcement, correctional facilities and judicial services are cooperatively provided by local and State entities within Washington County. These entities include the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, Washington County Judicial Services Division, Washington County Detention Center, Hagerstown Police Department, the Maryland State Police, Maryland Correctional Institution, Maryland Judicial System and municipal law enforcement agencies. These facilities are shown on the Map 8-6 below and detailed in the following pages.

Approximately \$57.8 million has been appropriated in the current Washington County CIP (2023-2032) for all public safety improvements, including those to police, fire, correctional and emergency services. These improvements include more than \$8 million for continued expansion of the centralized training facility for police, fire and emergency services (EMS) personnel to meet the growing demand for trained EMS personnel within the County.

Map 8-6: Law Enforcement, Correctional Facilities and Judicial Services



## Law Enforcement

The **Washington County Sheriff's Department** is located at 500 Western Maryland Parkway in Hagerstown. Located on the site are the Administration and Patrol Divisions, Narcotics Task Force as well as the Washington County Detention Center. The Washington County Sheriff's Department provides a variety of law enforcement services to the County, including crime prevention, criminal investigation, patrol and traffic units, courthouse security, school resource officers, two community deputies and more. The Sheriff's Department also staffs and operates the Detention Center, which houses roughly 425 male beds and 70 female beds with special needs beds.<sup>1</sup>

As an alternative to incarceration, the Washington County Sheriff's Office also provides a **Day Reporting Center** next to the Detention Center. This facility offers an on-site, nonresidential, program that is designed to change an offender's adverse thinking patterns and attitudes, improve job skills and job retention. The program blends community supervision with intensive case management, intensive treatment for substance related disorders in group and individual settings, medication assisted treatment using Vivitrol, random alcohol and drug testing, and job training for those with inadequate work skills and lack of stable employment, life and soft skills, financial education, step study, coaching and pro-social supports. The program will refer individuals to community providers for mental health services and medication management. The program is open to Washington County residents who have not committed a violent crime, do not have pending charges, and meet several other criteria outlined on the Washington County Sheriff's Office website.<sup>2</sup>

**The Maryland State Police (MSP)** operates 23 barracks across the State. Barrack O is in Washington County on Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive near its intersection with I-70 and MD-65. The Maryland State Police work in a cooperative fashion with local law enforcement agencies to address public safety throughout the County. The Field Operations Bureau (FOB) is the subdivision of the Maryland State Police responsible for providing law enforcement services at barracks statewide. Approximately 75% of MSP sworn personnel are assigned to this bureau.<sup>3</sup> FOB also includes Special Operations and the Transportation Safety Command.

**The Hagerstown Police Department (HPD)** is located at 50 North Burhans Boulevard, Hagerstown, in the former train station. HPD provides law enforcement services within the corporate boundary of the City of Hagerstown. HPD includes several divisions, including Patrol, Internal Affairs, Crime Analyst, Criminal Investigations, Narcotics Task Force and more. The Patrol Division is the largest division of the HPD and includes four platoons of officers and a K-9 unit. The Downtown Squad of the Patrol Division is housed within the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown complex at 34 West Washington Street, where it often provides law enforcement coverage for special events in the city center. The Burhans Boulevard station is also home to the Western Maryland Regional Crime Laboratory, which provides forensic services for crime scene investigation to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

<sup>1</sup> Washington County Sheriff's Office. History of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. <https://washcosheriff.com/about-us/sheriffs-office-history/>, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Day Reporting Center. <https://washcosheriff.com/day-reporting-center/>, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland.gov. Organization of the Maryland State Police. <http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/default.aspx>, 2022.  
Washington County, Maryland Comprehensive Plan 2040

HPD and the Washington County Sheriff's Department cooperatively staff and operate the Washington County Special Response Team (SRT), created in 1999.<sup>1</sup> This specially trained and equipped unit of officers and deputies from various units within each agency is designed to respond to and resolve situations requiring skills, training, and equipment not typically available to the average police officer. These non-typical responsibilities include hostage situations, snipers, execution of high-risk drug search and seizure warrants, apprehension of known violent criminals, and protection of V.I.P.s.

## Correctional Facilities

The **Maryland Correctional Institution – Hagerstown (MCI-H)** is one of three state prisons located on 880 acres of land located just south of Hagerstown off Sharpsburg Pike (Route 65) on Roxbury Road. This medium security facility houses approximately 739 male offenders who stay an average of 97.5 months<sup>2</sup>. The facility's operating budget was \$53.9 million in FY2020 with an annual cost per capita of \$85,616<sup>3</sup> with a ratio of 1.4 to positions. In-house services offered by this correctional facility include secondary education and vocational training, plus a substance abuse program for inmates. The facility is also the hub for Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement hearings and housing and serves as the regional open parole hearing facility.

Nearby, the **Roxbury Correctional Institution (RCI)** is a medium security facility housing an all-male inmate population of 1,670 offenders according to 2020 Inmate Characteristic Reporting. Its annual budget, according to FY2020 reporting was \$58.3 million. The ratio to positions for the facility is 4.42 with an annual per capita cost of \$33,342 according to the same report. Inmates, who stay an average of 97.2 months at the jail, produce material for the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, provide recycling and agricultural services, and train hard-to-place shelter dogs for placement with families.<sup>4</sup>

The third correctional facility in Washington County is the **Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC)**. MCTC housed 2,672 male inmates who stayed an average of 66.6 months in 2020 according to the same Inmate Characteristic Report. The \$83.4 million operating budget reflects a ratio to positions of 4.96 and an annual cost per capita of \$29,310 in the 2020 Fiscal Year reporting. The facility provides academic, vocational and job readiness training. The facility is home to the Maryland Correctional Enterprises operation that repairs and re-manufactures cartridges for laser printers, fax machines and copiers, saving the State millions of dollars. Inmates also train service dogs for wounded and traumatized veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

1 City of Hagerstown, Maryland. About HPD: Special Operations. <http://www.hagerstownmd.org/486/Special-Operations>, 2016.

2 Maryland Department of Corrections, Inmate Characteristics Report, July 2020

3 Division of Corrections, MD Code, Correctional Services Article 3-207 Fiscal Year 2020 Report

4 Ibid, 12.

## Judicial Services

Washington County is home to three courthouses, all of which are located in downtown Hagerstown within close proximity of one another near Summit Avenue and West Antietam Street. The Washington County Orphan’s Court is a specialized court that handles wills, estates, and other probate matters and limited aspects of guardianship.

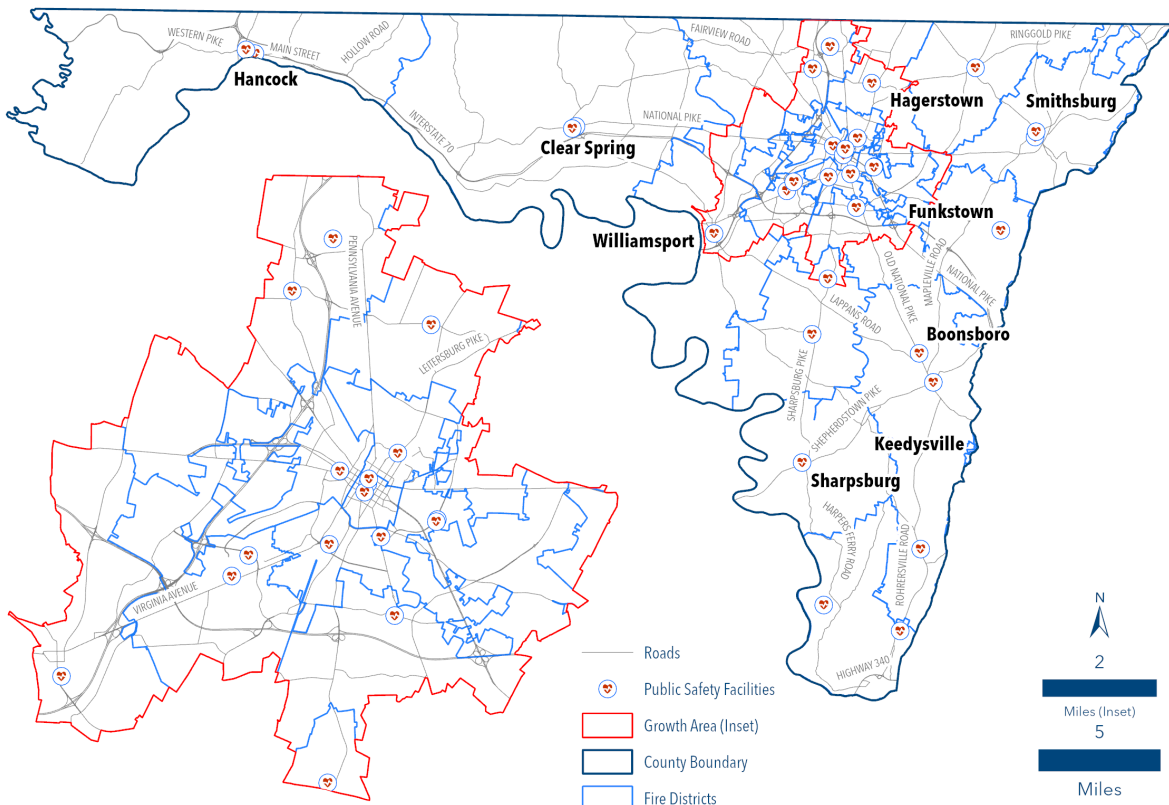
The District Court handles the majority of cases in Washington County, which are argued before a judge only, not a jury. Cases heard in District Court include traffic violations and other misdemeanors, domestic violence, peace order petitions, landlord-tenant disputes and civil cases involving limited dollar amounts.

The Washington County Circuit Court generally handles more serious criminal cases, major civil cases, including juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody and child support and most cases appealed from the District Court, orphans’ courts and certain administrative agencies. Cases may be argued before judges and/or juries.

## Emergency Services

**The Washington County Division of Emergency Services** includes the Departments of Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Operations, Emergency Air Unit, and Special Operations. The Map 8-7 below shows fire and rescue companies operating in Washington County. The County also has mutual aid agreements with numerous State agencies, all surrounding counties and has developed working relationships with volunteer organizations including the fire and rescue units that are active in incorporated communities and in rural areas.

Map 8-7: Fire and Rescue Companies in Operation



## Fire and Rescue Companies

Washington County has a total of 14 volunteer fire companies and 7 rescue/ambulance companies. While most staffing within these organizations is provided by volunteers, some employees are hired in paid career positions essential to operational administration. The fire and rescue companies operating in Washington County are shown in the chart below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Station</b>
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company	1
Williamsport Volunteer Fire Co.	2
Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Co.	4
Hancock Volunteer Fire Co.	5
First Hose Company of Boonsboro	6
Smithsburg Volunteer Fire Co.	7
Leitersburg Volunteer Fire Co.	9
Funkstown Volunteer Fire Co.	10
Potomac Valley Volunteer Fire Co.	11
Fairplay Volunteer Fire Co.	12
Maugansville Goodwill Vol. Fire Co.	13
Mt Aetna Volunteer Fire Co.	16
Sharpsburg Area EMS	19
Washington County Rehab Unit	25
Washington County Air Unit	25
Washington County Hazmat	25
Emergency Support Services	25
Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway	26
Long Meadow Volunteer Fire Co.	27
Williamsport Ambulance Co.	29
Clear Spring Ambulance Squad	49
Hancock Rescue Squad	59
Boonsboro Ambulance Squad	69
Community Rescue Service	75
Smithsburg Ambulance	79

**Table 8-3: City of Hagerstown Fire Department**

Station	Name	Resources
HFD Station 1	First Hagerstown Hose Co.	Engine 1
HFD Station 2	Antietam Fire Co.	Engine 2
HFD Station 3 (City owned)	Independent Junior Fire Co. and Pioneer Hook & Ladder Company	Engine 3 Truck 3
HFD Station 4	Western Enterprise Fire Co.	Engine 4 Truck 4
HFD Station 5	South Hagerstown Fire Co.	Engine 5
HFD Administrative Office		Shift Commander
HFD Training Academy		Live-Fire Training Props Tower Practical Training Areas

The **Washington County Emergency Rehab Unit** is currently housed at Station 25 at 17556 York Rd. in Hagerstown. The Rehab currently runs a 2011 Freightliner equipped with supplies for the rehab sector of an emergency scene where they may be needed. The mission of the Rehab Unit is to respond to assist fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and local law enforcement by supplying necessary food, fluids, and rehabilitation operations. The unit also supports EMS in the rehab section with materials such as pop-up tents, misting fans, cooling chairs and some additional medical supplies to assist with monitoring patients

## Special Operations

**The Washington County Technical Rescue Response and Mitigation Unit (Special Operations)** provides the County fire and rescue departments and the citizens of Washington County with specialized equipment, training, and personnel in the fields of Hazardous Materials Emergencies, Technical Rescue and Disaster Management. The unit is currently located on Frederick Street in Hagerstown.

## Emergency Air Unit

The **Washington County Emergency Air Unit** provides breathable air support for emergency service agencies and other companies working on different types of incidents such as working fires, those involving hazardous materials, and special rescue operations. The Air Unit is also located at Station 25 on York Road in Hagerstown.

## Emergency Communications

The **Washington County Emergency Communications Center (911 Center)**, is located on Elliott Parkway in Williamsport. Emergency communications resources were consolidated at this location, which installed wireless capability in 2005 that more accurately tracks the location of a caller using GPS coordinates, thereby ensuring quicker response times. Next-Generation 911 implementation is ongoing with this facility upgrading equipment to handle text, video and voice for 911 communications.



## Emergency Management

The **Washington County Emergency Management Office (EM)**, located at Elliot Parkway in Williamsport, is the primary entity in charge of analyzing natural or man-made threats to the community. Amongst other responsibilities, EM works with other agencies to develop a Basic Emergency Operations Plan which describes how the community's resources will be organized and deployed in the event of a disaster. EM works to address mitigation, planning, response and recovery efforts in emergency response situations. The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is a key preventative planning tool spearheaded by the Department which also helps to reduce vulnerability to natural and man-made public emergencies.

## Emergency Services Issues

### Staffing and Recruitment

Washington County is fortunate to receive the voluntary effort of many local citizens who selflessly donate their time and effort to protect their neighbors from hazards such as fire. However, like many localities who rely on volunteers to provide vital community services such as firefighting in less populous areas, Washington County has seen a measurable decline in volunteerism for these important jobs. Fewer volunteers result in more difficulty in emergency providers meeting industry standard response times.

Accordingly, the County has begun proactively addressing the problem through a multi-pronged approach. Incrementally, the County is looking to increase the number of paid, career positions at fire companies. Hiring more full-time drivers is the first step in this transition towards a more balanced staffing system which is less reliant on volunteers to supply the bulk of the labor.

In addition, the County is also looking to provide increased training and incentives for both paid and volunteer emergency personnel to continue filling these vital roles. A significant investment in achieving these ends is the development of the new Public Safety Training facility near the Westfields development on Sharpsburg Pike in southern Hagerstown. It provides a centralized facility for knowledge, skills and fitness training for emergency personnel throughout Washington County.



Public Safety Training Center in Washington County, MD

# Libraries

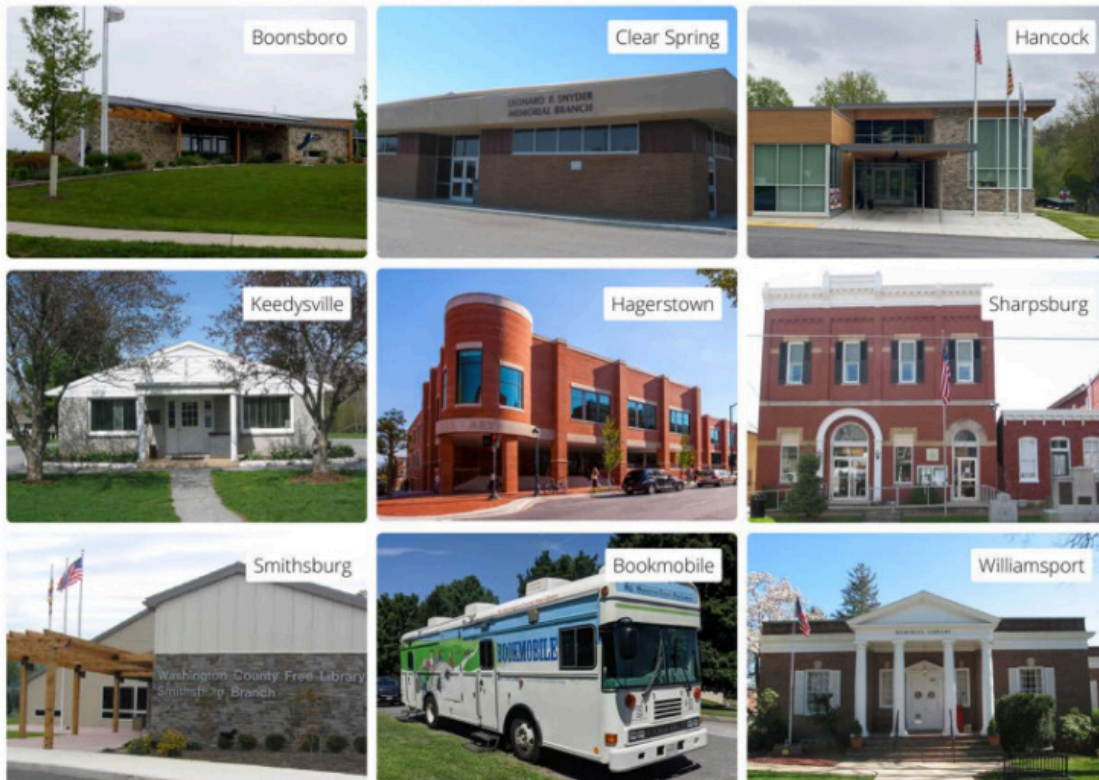


Horse and buggy bookmobile in 1905. Photo - Washington County Free Library

Founded in 1898, the Washington County Free Library System is the second oldest county-wide library system in the Nation.<sup>1</sup> The System is comprised of eight libraries and a bookmobile. The central library is located in downtown Hagerstown with branches located in Boonsboro, Clear Spring, Hancock, Keedysville, Sharpsburg, Smithsburg, and Williamsport. The bookmobile was the first mobile library in the U.S. when it opened in 1905, propelled by horse and buggy.<sup>2</sup>

The Hagerstown library also houses the Western Maryland Room, established in 1968 to preserve historical information about the region. The Room contains approximately 10,000 books and substantial archival material including maps, newspapers, photographs, and other artifacts covering the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys, all of Western Maryland, plus Frederick and Carroll Counties to the east. Some material is also included for all counties adjacent to those five Maryland counties in the three surrounding States of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

## Washington County Free Library System



Source: Washington County Free Library 2020 Annual Report

1 Washington County Free Library. About Us. <http://www.washcolibrary.org/?q=about>, 2016.

2 Washington County Free Library. Location/Hours: Bookmobile. <http://www.washcolibrary.org/?q=bookmobile>, 2016.  
Washington County, Maryland Comprehensive Plan 2040

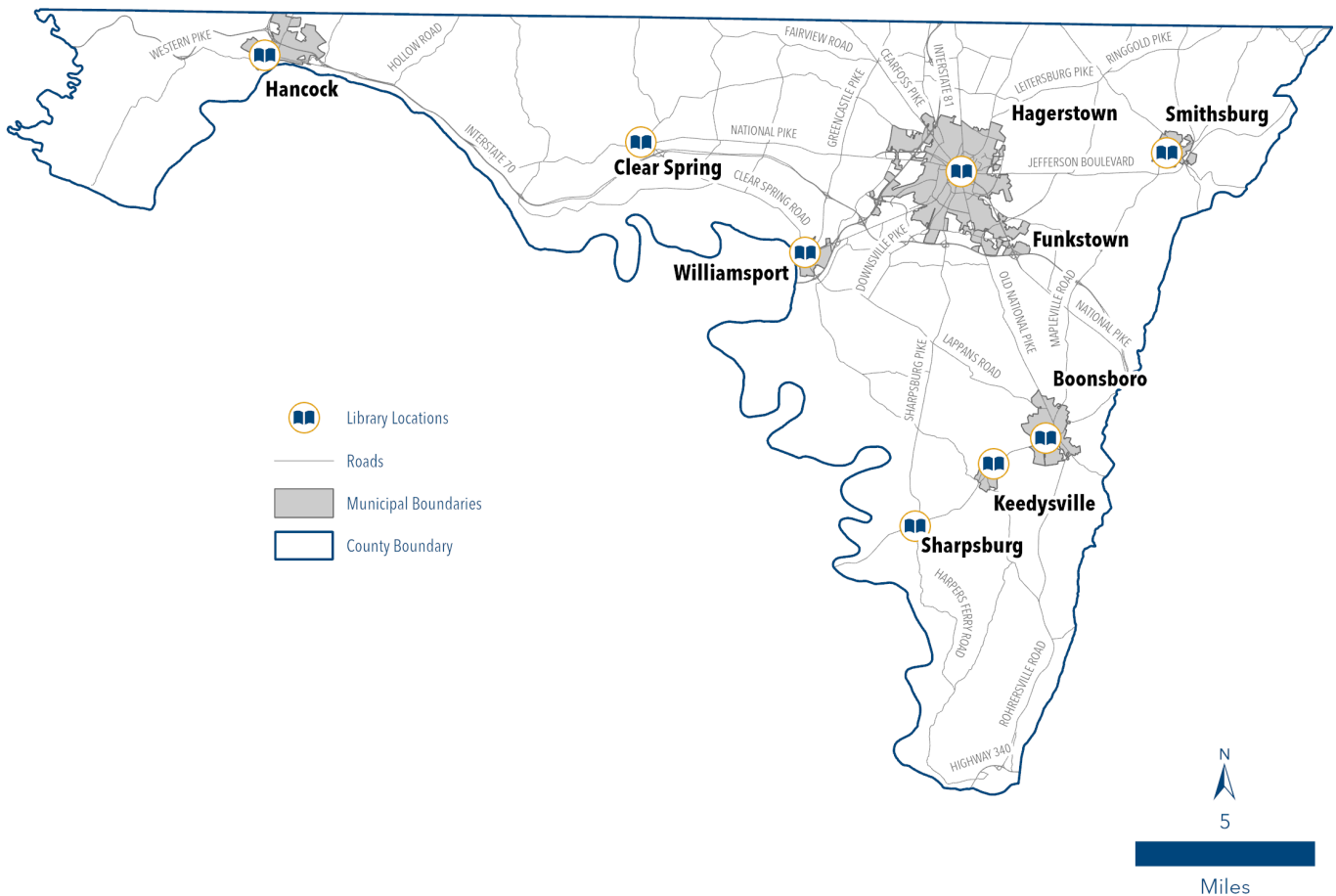
This library also offers genealogy resources for those individuals looking to trace their family history and a variety of informational tools on business and governmental affairs for citizens, officials and students.

The bookmobile carries approximately 4,000 items to schools (public, private and home), daycares, nursing homes, retirement communities as well as neighborhood and community stops. The bookmobile will visit any location that agrees to check out at least 15 materials per month and has space for the vehicle to park and turn around. The bookmobile also offers homebound service for individuals who can't reach a library branch because of physical limitations, age, or lack of mobility. Patrons must agree to use only the bookmobile to qualify for this service.

The Washington County Free Library system is an independent agency governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees. The System draws operating revenues from the City, County, and State, as well as from fines, fees, donations, capital and endowments. Libraries are staffed by both paid employees and volunteers. According to the library system's Fiscal Year 2022 annual report for every \$1 spent on the system, the community received more than \$5 worth of services. More than 50% of residents are cardholders with the library system.

Washington County's current ten-year CIP (2023-2032) has a budget of \$216,492 which includes the planning stage of a Williamsport library replacement. The eight branches of the Washington County Free Library system are shown below in Map 8-8.

Map 8-8: Washington County Library Locations



# Commercial Communications Facilities

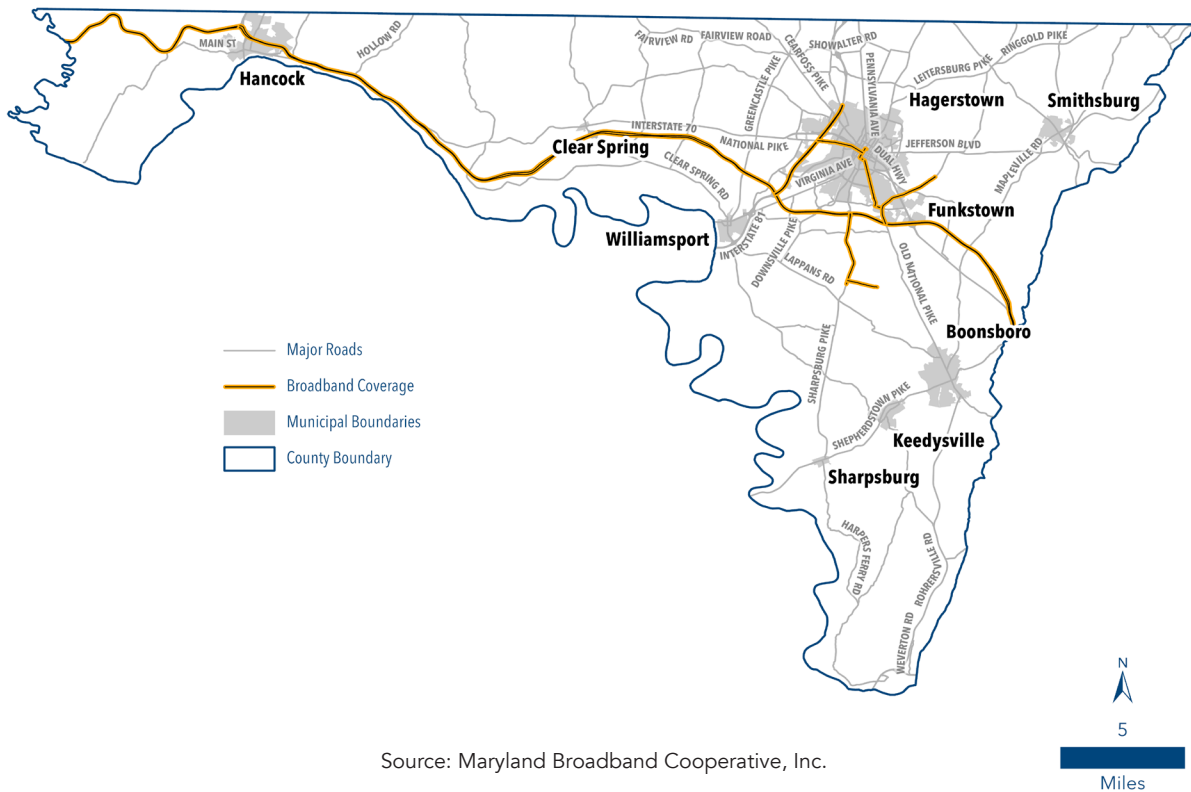
## Broadband

The major push in communications technology in Washington County, as it is elsewhere in many parts of the country, is to extend high-speed internet service (broadband) to as much of the County as possible. Much of modern life, including both people’s personal and professional lives, now takes place online. Accordingly, to capitalize on the economic and community development aspects of this technological shift, counties are keen on providing the communications infrastructure necessary to be competitive in attracting new businesses and residents to the area, while also supporting those who already reside here. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has funding available for broadband projects and can assist with connectivity in the region.

There are several broadband providers who collectively supply service to the majority of Washington County. A variety of broadband technologies are provided by these companies, including fiber optic cable, cellular, DSL, and wireless.

There are also “big pipe” carriers with fiber installation running along I-70 and I-81 that could be tapped by companies needing higher speeds and capacity for their business application needs. Several companies maintain large fiber runs connecting to Ashburn, VA; Washington, DC; Philadelphia, PA; and New York City.<sup>1</sup>

Map 8-9: MDBC Fiber Optic Network



Source: Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc.

<sup>1</sup> Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Infrastructure Committee. Infrastructure Assessment for Washington County and the City of Hagerstown. (Hagerstown, MD: Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Infrastructure Committee), 2013, 19.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC), a public-private partnership, also has broadband infrastructure within Washington County. MDBC is a member-owned and operated universal access, fiber optic network designed to deliver an advanced broadband network across the rural communities in Eastern, Southern and Western Maryland to foster economic development and public service delivery. The MDBC receives funding to build the infrastructure through the Maryland Rural Broadband Coordination Board, which was formed under Senate Bill 753. Map 8-9 shows the route of MDBC’s fiber optic network through the County in yellow.

## Communication Towers

Washington County retains the authority to determine appropriate sites for the location of commercial communications towers. Under most circumstances, the State and local authority over the placement, construction and modification of personal wireless communications services is preserved under the Federal Communications Act of 1996, Section 704. Washington County also took steps in 1999, through the amendment of its Zoning Ordinance, “to minimize the visual impact of towers, to minimize the number of towers through shared use and co-location, to encourage utilization of designs that either eliminate or reduce the need for new towers, and to ensure that all towers are compatible with surrounding natural and man-made land uses.”<sup>1</sup> The amendment also gives special attention to the siting of towers along the Appalachian Trail, Antietam Overlay zones, and Historic Preservation zoning districts for similar concerns over land use compatibility. Commercial communications towers are considered a principal permitted use in most County zoning districts, except for residential districts, where they are prohibited. As communication technologies evolve, it is important for the County to adjust its ordinances and policies to ensure compatibility with land uses, as well as encourage new technologies which improve connectivity for residents.

## Airport

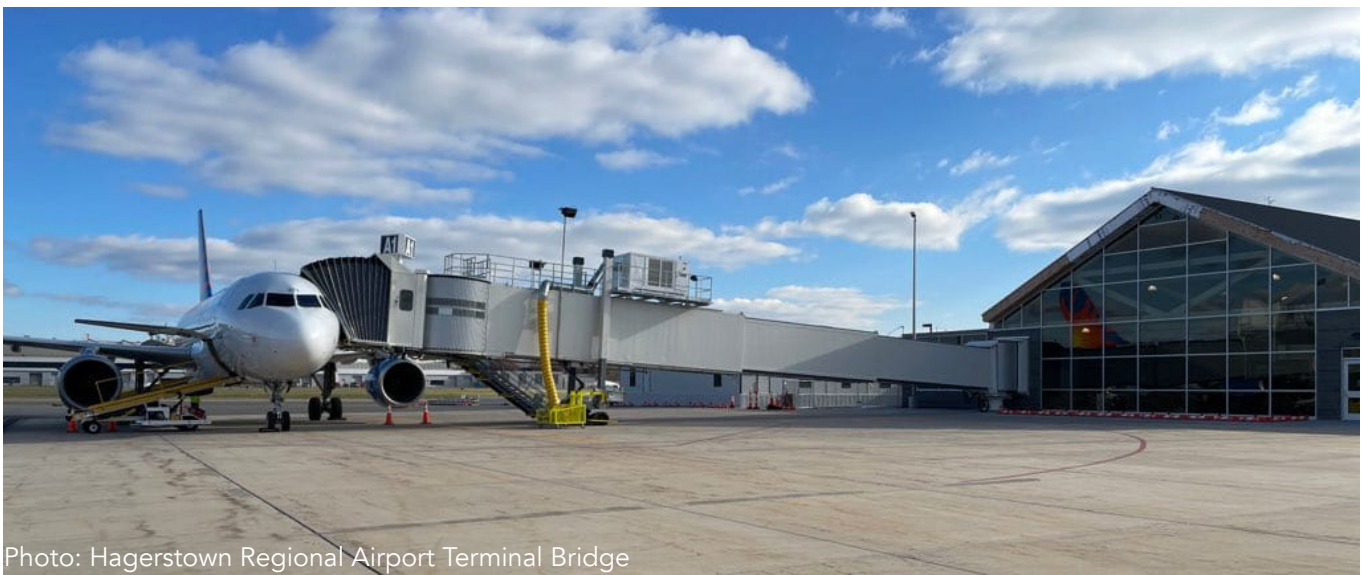


Photo: Hagerstown Regional Airport Terminal Bridge

Housed within and operated by the Washington County Division of Public Works, the Hagerstown Regional Airport - Richard A. Henson Field (HGR) is one of the primary commercial airports serving the quad-state region, particularly the Hagerstown, MD –Martinsburg, WV Metropolitan Area.

The approximately 700 acre facility is located on U.S. 11, adjacent to Interstate 81, four miles north of the City of Hagerstown. HGR has an air traffic control tower, state-of-the-art navigational aids and one of the longest runways in the State of Maryland. HGR has room for four airlines and several car rental agencies. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) provides passenger security screening, and the Washington County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement support to HGR. Commercial businesses located on the property include a fixed base operator (FBO) with numerous large commercial and corporate hangars, maintenance repair operations, and some corporate entities. The Airport is discussed in more detail in the Transportation element of this Plan.

## Social Services

### County Health and Social Services Agencies

**The Washington County Health Department** is a part of the Maryland Department of Health as well as an agency of the County government. The Department is headquartered on Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown. The Washington County Commissioners serve as the official Board of Health. The Department is funded through a combination of Federal, State, and local dollars, plus third-party and private-pay reimbursements.

The major programs offered under the Health Department umbrella include Adult Services, Behavioral Health, Children's Health, Communicable Disease, Environmental Health, Maternal and Reproductive Health, Teens, Wellness and Health Promotion as well as other services. These programs are targeted towards people of all means, ages, and abilities. The services offered by various organizations under these range of programs include immunizations, health screenings, substance abuse treatment and prevention, health and nutrition support for low income families and/or children, identifying and limiting the spread of communicable diseases, addressing public health concerns by ensuring the provision of clean air, water and food, offering confidential health services to teens, maternal and reproductive health, and providing transportation to Medicaid medical appointments for those unable to travel on their own.

Other Health Department programs are provided at alternative locations throughout the County by various entities, such as the WIC Certification Clinic on Burhans Blvd in Hagerstown, the Jail Substance Abuse Program at the Detention Center on Western Maryland Parkway, and Tri-State Community Health Center in Hancock.



Street view of Health Department Building - Source Google Maps

**The Washington County Administration Building, Office of Disability Issues** enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act within County government, to guarantee that all County programs and activities are open to, and usable by, all County citizens. The Office is the official County government liaison with the Washington County Disabilities Advisory Committee (DAC), which provides advice and guidance to the Board of County Commissioners on matters of interest and concern to our citizens who have disabilities.

**The Washington County Parks and Recreation Department** was established to provide affordable recreation and fitness classes for local residents of all ages. The Department is headquartered on Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown. Parks and Recreation holds a wide variety of classes at a number of facilities throughout Washington County including community recreation facilities at four elementary schools (Maugansville, Pangborn, Rockland Woods and Ruth Ann Monroe), at the Agricultural Education Center on Sharpsburg Pike, Williamsport Community Center, Hagerstown Community College, and the Washington County Parks Department on South Potomac Street in Hagerstown.

**The Washington County Department of Social Services**, the local office for the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR), the State's primary social service provider, is located on North Potomac Street in Hagerstown. DHR assists people in economic need to independently support themselves and their families, provides preventative services and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.

## Advisory Boards and Committees

A number of boards and commissions serve in an advisory capacity to the Washington County Board of Commissioners in health-related matters for specific interest groups within the County. Some of these bodies also provide programs and services and have their own community facilities that help to address public health in Washington County. Others simply meet monthly in the County Administration Building at 100 West Washington Street in Hagerstown.

- Washington County Commission on Aging (535 East Franklin Street, Hagerstown)
- Washington County Commission for Women (County Administration Building)
- Washington County Disabilities Advisory Committee (Administration Building)
- Washington County Social Services Board (122 North Potomac Street)

## Washington County Health System - Meritus Health

Meritus Health, a non-profit regional hospital, is the largest health provider in Western Maryland. In December of 2010, Washington County Hospital, at the southern end of downtown Hagerstown, was closed as the Washington County Health System relocated to the Robinwood Professional Center where an expanded medical campus was formed.<sup>1</sup> Meritus Medical Center became the flagship facility within this campus in 2011. "Twenty primary and specialty care practices that make up Meritus Medical Group provide nearly 200,000 outpatient visits annually."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hagerstown Neighborhood Development Partnership. [re] introducing the former Washington County Hospital. . <https://washington-countyhospitalsite.wordpress.com/>, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Meritus Health. 2014-2015 Report to our Community. (Hagerstown, MD: Meritus Medical Group), 2015, 19. Washington County, Maryland Comprehensive Plan 2040

Meritus Medical Center, the primary health care facility on the medical campus, has 327 beds and a variety of advanced health care services. These include a special care nursery, a level III trauma program, a primary stroke center, and a wound center, as well as a cardiac diagnostic laboratory. Other hospital services that address outpatient needs are the John R. Marsh Cancer Center, Total Rehab Care, the Center for Clinical Research, and the Center for Bariatric Surgery. Numerous specialty care services are offered on the medical campus. Meritus Medical Center has officially become a teaching hospital, serving as a clinical training site for the Meritus Family Medicine Residency Program, as well as for more than 1,000 nursing and allied health students annually.

Meritus Health is currently seeking accreditation and licensure to open a proposed four-year osteopathic medical school adjacent to Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown. This facility is proposed to include a student housing complex as well.

Meritus Medical Group also has primary care facilities in North Hagerstown, Williamsport, Cascade, and Smithsburg that offer family, pediatric, adult and internal medicine services. Meritus Urgent Care is located on Crayton Blvd. Meritus is also contracted to provide health care services to students attending Washington County Public Schools. Nurses provide onsite health care to students, including first aid, health screenings for vision and hearing, referrals for more serious health conditions, administer prescription medication and more. The School Health Program serves an average of 500-700 students per month in school health rooms.<sup>1</sup>

## Western Maryland Hospital Center

Western Maryland Hospital Center, located at 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown, first opened its doors in 1957. Owned and operated by the State of Maryland, WMHC is an acute long-term care hospital with a 120 bed capacity. The Western Maryland Hospital Center features three programs: Specialty Hospital, Brain Injury and Comprehensive Care. The Specialty Hospital program admits patients who are ventilator dependent, require frequent intervention, rehabilitation, Peritoneal Dialysis, Total Parenteral Nutrition or special isolation. The Brain Injury program is a dedicated inpatient unit offering short and long-term acute rehabilitation designed to meet the needs of individuals with a recent diagnosis of stroke, traumatic brain injury or other acquired brain injury resulting in activity limitations and participation restrictions. The Comprehensive Care program is licensed as a skilled nursing home unit, certified by Medicare and Medicaid, for either short term or longer term residents. A variety of physical and occupational therapy, speech pathology, and therapeutic recreational services help many patients achieve greater levels of bodily independence. The Maryland Department of Health Master Facilities Plan (2022-2041) Phase I currently includes "Identifying strategic partners to transfer services from Western Maryland Hospital Center in Hagerstown and Deer's Head Hospital Center in Salisbury to healthcare and community providers;", which may result in privatization of this facility.



## Other Social Service Providers

The **Community Free Clinic**, located on Mill Street in downtown Hagerstown, provides free health care to Washington County citizens who are uninsured. The Clinic is funded solely by grants, fundraisers, community contributions, and individual donations. Washington County contributes money to the Community Free Clinic.

The **Hagerstown Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic**, a division of the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is located on Eastern Boulevard in Hagerstown. The Clinic provides high quality medical services to Veterans in the Hagerstown area. Services include preventative health care and screening, annual physicals, immunizations, management of chronic illnesses, women's health, educational services and more.

**Brook Lane Health Services** is a non-profit, continuum of mental health services treating people of all ages. Brook Lane's main campus is located along the Leitersburg- Smithsburg Road near Leitersburg, Maryland. Outpatient services are also offered at Brook Lane North Village office, located in the shopping plaza near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Longmeadow Road.

**The Mental Health Center of Western Maryland, Inc.** is a non-profit community mental health center governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of local community leaders. The Center provides preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for adults, children, adolescents and their families. They are located on Professional Boulevard in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Numerous other private and non-profit entities provide social services independently of, or sometimes in cooperation with, the network of community facilities provided by Washington County. Links to many of these agencies can be found by visiting Washington County's homepage ([www.washco-md.net](http://www.washco-md.net)).

## Cultural Facilities

### Washington County Arts Council

The Washington County Arts Council (WCAC) was formed in 1967 to advance and integrate the arts into local community life. Created by legislation from the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland was one of the first States in the nation to create a State Council for the Arts in order to preserve its culture and heritage.<sup>1</sup> In 2001, Hagerstown was among the first group of communities in the state to establish an Arts and Entertainment District, in accordance with further State legislation. Tax incentives were utilized to encourage the placement of arts institutions in municipal downtowns around the State to stimulate the economy and to improve local quality of life.

<sup>1</sup> Washington County Arts Council. (2016). History and Mission. Retrieved from Washington County Arts Council: <http://www.washingtoncountyarts.com/history-mission>

Currently located in the historic Walker House on South Potomac Street in the heart of downtown Hagerstown, WCAC is funded by grants from the Maryland Arts Council, Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, City of Hagerstown, and contributions from various private parties.

The building on South Potomac Street serves as a gallery and retail shop where area artists can display their work, while also providing revenue for the organization to carry out its mission. WCAC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members representing the arts, business and education sectors who serve up to two three-year terms.

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Established in 1931, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) is an accredited museum housing more than 7,000 works of art.<sup>1</sup> The Museum's collection leans towards American art, regional art and world cultures. The MFA not only curates and presents pieces from its collection, but also interprets the work through a variety of public events such as educational exhibitions, lectures, films, art instruction and other programs to ensure that residents and visitors of all ages gain greater understanding and appreciation of fine arts. The building housing the museum is a historic structure protected by an easement of the Maryland Historical Trust. The Museum is currently in the process of expanding its facility to a nearby existing building on Key Street, creating an art campus to allow for more programming and space for collections. Updates to the existing museum building are also included with the project which has \$3.5 million in State funding invested of the approximately \$18 million in projected project costs.



## Washington County Agricultural Education Center and Rural Heritage Museum

The Washington County Agricultural Education Center is a 54-acre facility that is located eight miles south of Interstate 70 on MD 65 (Sharpsburg Pike). The multi-use facility that hosts a variety of special events, particularly those related to the County's agricultural heritage, is open for public rental. The Washington County Agricultural Education Center is part of the Washington County Parks and Recreation Department.

The Ag Center is also home to the Rural Heritage Museum. The Museum consists of three buildings displaying more than 3,500 artifacts.<sup>2</sup> The first depicts early rural life in Washington County prior to 1940. The second houses farm equipment and implements that help illustrate the progression from human and horse-powered agricultural technology to the motorized era. Museum three shows modes of transportation used prior to 1940. The Museum also includes a Homestead and Village displaying log homes, brick wood fired bread oven, windmill, gardens, log church, doctor's office, cobbler, blacksmith shop and other buildings indicative of the County's pre-modern history.

<sup>1</sup> Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. About Us. <http://wcmfa.org/visit/about-us/>, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Washington County Rural Heritage Museum. About the Museum. <http://www.ruralheritagemuseum.org>, 2022.  
Washington County, Maryland Comprehensive Plan 2040

## The Maryland Theatre

Originally built in downtown Hagerstown in 1915, the Maryland Theatre has gone through many use incarnations from vaudeville shows to movies to a performance space for music and theater. The Theatre fell into disrepair by 1976 and was nearly dismantled and sold purely for its bricks. Local historic preservation efforts helped to save the Theatre from demolition, and it has been reopened to the public since 1978.<sup>1</sup> Today, the Maryland Theater is home to the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. It also hosts the monthly Wind Down events in downtown Hagerstown when streets around Public Square are closed to motor vehicles and opened to pedestrian traffic, food and music vendors. The Theatre is also the performance space for the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, located next door. A variety of other live performance events are held within the space as well, running the gamut from theater to popular music, to comedy and more.

The Maryland Theatre, Washington County Public Schools and the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown have grown their presence and offerings in Downtown Hagerstown as a part of the public-private partnership fostered by the Urban Improvement Project revitalization effort. A \$13 million project resulted in a 30,000-square-foot expansion of the Maryland Theatre, creating a new entrance, performance space, elevator and stair tower and several offices. A plaza and outdoor events space in the rear of the building links to an expanded Cultural Trail. The project also enhanced disabled access, restroom facilities and provided other improvements to the Theatre.

## Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote tourism derived economic development throughout the City and County through the marketing and promotion of attractions, businesses, events and services. The CVB operates the Visitor Welcome Center just north of Public Square on Potomac Street, where its offices are located. The CVB is guided in its work by a 15-member Board of Directors comprised of members representing various facets of the local tourism and business sectors. The Board has directed that the CVB put 70% of all funds towards operations, marketing, programs, advertising, and publications.<sup>2</sup>

## The Flying Boxcars at Meritus Park

In May of 2024, a new state of the art ballpark opened in downtown Hagerstown, the Flying Boxcars at Meritus Park. The park can host up to 4,000 fans for baseball games, and even more for non-sporting events including concerts. The multi-sport facility can also host soccer, lacrosse, football and more, and has already hosted several high school sporting events. The stadium will not only play host to baseball games, but will also serve as a venue for concerts, community events, and much more. The ballpark is not owned or administered by the County; however, the County does participate in the sponsorship of the park.

<sup>1</sup> The Maryland Theatre. History of the Maryland Theatre. <https://www.mdtheatre.org/history> , 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. What is the CVB? <http://www.visithagerstown.com/members/what-is-the-cvb>, 2022.

## Administrative Facilities

Most of the County government's administration is housed at the Washington County Administration Complex located at 100 West Washington Street in Hagerstown. The complex houses many County offices including the Office of Budget and Finance, Division of Information Systems, Division of Public Works and the Division of Health and Human Services and many more. The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County hold their regular weekly meetings at this location. Numerous other boards and commissions meet regularly at the Administration Complex, including the Washington County Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Animal Control Board, to name just a few. The Washington County Circuit Court has been joined to the Washington County Building, located immediately south at 24 Summit Avenue, where a variety of land records and other official documents are stored, aside from the judicial services which dominate the building's use.

Nearby to these two County facilities is the Washington County Office Building, located at 33 and 35 West Washington Street. Within this building are the County Treasurer, State's Attorney, Disabilities Coordinator, the Western Maryland Consortium and Alternative Sanctions.

Another major County government facility is the Washington County Administrative Annex located at 747 Northern Avenue. This facility houses the Engineering, Permits and Inspections, and Planning and Zoning offices.



Administration Building in Downtown Hagerstown



Administration Annex at 747 Northern Ave

## Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

The Solid Waste Department, housed within the Division of Environmental Management, operates the Forty West Landfill on Earth Care Road off of U.S. 40, one mile west of Huyetts Crossroads. The landfill, opened in December of 2000, is sized to meet the waste disposal needs of the County for 50 years. The County also maintains four household recycling drop-off locations: Dargan Convenience Center (Dargan School Road), Greensburg Convenience Center (Bikle Road, Smithsburg), Hancock Convenience Center (Hess Road, Hancock) and Kaetzel Convenience Center (Kaetzel Road, Knoxville). Residents are also able to drop off expired or unused prescription drugs at the Sheriff's Office on Western Maryland Parkway 24 hours per day, year-round. The County's Solid Waste and Recycling Plan (2022-2031) was recently updated and goes into greater detail on the facilities and their management as well as the handling of various waste streams.



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

- ★ Conduct a cost benefit analysis using several different scenarios to determine the most fiscally responsible and feasible option to handle the fluctuating school enrollment numbers.
- ★ Assess the necessity and feasibility to expand the public sewerage facilities to the existing and potential areas within the UGA which are not currently served and where existing on-site systems may need improvement.
- ★ Attempt to identify areas where new community facilities could be located to serve the needs of residents in an efficient manner.
  - Criteria for location should be tailored to facility type and should include things like access to population centers, proximity to multi-modal transportation facilities, and availability of water and sewer infrastructure.
  - Existing functional plans should be used to assist in identification of suitable locations or areas of need.
  - Site selection should be planned ahead of need to more efficiently use County resources and serve citizens effectively.
  - Ensure new facilities are sited and designed to encourage diversity and accessibility and are inclusive of the County's diverse population.
- ★ Lower impact or APFO fees inside the Priority Funding Areas, near transit or community facilities to foster compact development.
- ★ Coordinate with surrounding towns in housing planning and uniform enforcement of mitigation techniques.
- ★ Adjust ordinances and policies to ensure communication technology compatibility with land uses, as well as encourage new technologies which improve connectivity for residents.