

VII. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES AND UTILITIES

A. INTRODUCTION

Community facilities are the improvements made to an area which serves the general public. They include not only those facilities owned by the public, but also those owned and operated by private enterprise for the benefit of the community. The following discussion reports on existing community facilities in Southampton County. A general overview of the relative location of selected community facilities is provided in Chapter VIII GROWTH MANAGEMENT, EXHIBIT VIII-A on page VIII-2.

There is a direct relationship between the location and densities of land use and the location and size of required public facilities and services. The location of existing land uses largely determines the requirements for public improvements. On the other hand, future land development is directly tied to the adequacy of public services and the willingness of government to extend or upgrade them. Without sewer, water, roads, public safety, emergency services, and educational facilities, the uses and density to which land can be put is limited. For this reason, much of the utility and value of privately-owned land is a reflection of the level of public facilities which serve it. Because public facility improvements are extremely expensive in terms of the local tax dollars required to provide them, they should be prudently planned and provided in the most economical and efficient manner possible. This requires exercising local powers to regulate changes in land use to insure that the public is not later required to pay for public facilities that might have been unnecessary.

Several community facilities projects were completed in the 1990's, including a new high school, a new middle school (formerly the high school), a new County office facility on the old primary school site in Courtland, the Agri-Business Park and the Courthouse renovation.

B. ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

The County has benefited from the efforts of the Southampton County Historical Society in their opening of the Southampton Agricultural and Forestry Museum in 1990. The 6,400 square foot facility, located just off Linden Street on Heritage Lane in Courtland, serves an important role in preserving the proud agricultural and forestal past of our region by displaying antique farm implements, tools, and other artifacts. A new "peanut display building" was recently constructed and provides a good educational resource regarding the importance of the peanut to Southampton County.

The cultural facilities in the County have also improved with the opening of Rawls Museum of Arts on Linden Street, located directly behind the Walter Cecil Rawls Library. The facility serves as an adjunct to the Walter Cecil Rawls Museum.

C. CHURCHES

There are approximately 60 churches in Franklin/Southampton County, with most denominations represented.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone service is provided by Verizon, which offers cellular and digital service.

Four major television networks from the Hampton Roads metro area and one public television station from Portsmouth cover the County. Charter Communications, with an office in Franklin, provides 1,651 Southampton County customers with cable television service. Not all residents in Southampton County have cable service. The Charter Communications system is currently being updated and improved.

There are two local radio stations: WYSR-AM and WLQM-FM. Numerous AM and FM stations in the Hampton Roads metro area also serve Southampton County.

The Tidewater News, a bi-weekly newspaper, is published in Franklin. Dailies from Norfolk, Newport News and Richmond also cover the County.

E. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

The County's electric power is supplied mainly by Dominion Virginia Power. Several rural areas of the County are served by Community Electric Cooperative or Mecklenburg Electric. The City of Franklin owns and operates its own electric service.

F. FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Nine volunteer fire departments serve the County. Fire service in rural areas has improved with the installation of various dry hydrants throughout the County. These hydrants serve as a water source under critical conditions. To date, 29 such hydrants have been installed by various volunteers and civic organizations.

In 2000, the County began a study of alternatives to sustain and improve fire and rescue services. Declining numbers of new volunteers, diminished availability of volunteers during daytime, rising equipment and maintenance costs, and the increasing time spent in training and fund-raising are issues to be addressed.

G. GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The County of Southampton has a seven-member Board of Supervisors with a County Administrator overseeing the daily operations of county government.

The 30,000 square foot Southampton County Office Center, located on the old Courtland Elementary School site, was opened in June 1992. No debt was incurred in constructing the \$2.5 million facility, and both the Health Department and Social Services pay rent plus

a share of operating expenses to the County. The building houses all of the County's administrative departments.

A 1986 Department of Corrections (DOC) report recommended that the County Jail be replaced. The building, constructed in 1952, was designed for only 32 prisoners but at times housed 60 inmates. The population in the past reached larger proportions but was relieved somewhat by the City of Franklin's decision to participate in the Tidewater Regional Jail. The 1986 DOC report called for construction of a new 100-bed jail facility to serve the County with the existing facility being utilized as a work release camp.

The County leased the former "Camp Twenty" road camp, a 100-bed facility north of Capron, previously closed and mothballed by the Commonwealth in 1991. A fifteen-year lease grants the County a right of first refusal should the State later decide to sell the facility and guarantees sufficient jail space in the short term. The County uses the facility as a work camp to allow prisoners to "pay their room and board." Twenty-six new positions were required to operate the facility, all of which are State-funded.

The renovated Southampton Courthouse now serves only court functions. The \$700,000+ project provided additional square footage for the General District and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Clerk's Office, and improved Courtroom and Court facility security as well as space for the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The "Colonnade on the Green" project was completed with a budget of \$204,022. The funding for this project included:

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|--|-----------|
| • Camp Foundation | \$40,000 |
| • Southampton County (parking lot repairs) | \$7,022 |
| • VDOT ISTE A Grant | \$157,000 |

H. HOSPITAL/HEALTH SERVICES

The Southampton Memorial Hospital is a 221-bed, full-service, non-profit health care hospital. The Hospital is fully accredited with 35 physicians on staff and 56 courtesy staff, representing 23 specialties. The hospital was purchased by Community Health Systems in 2000 who will spend \$20 million in the first six years of ownership. The money will be spent renovating and expanding the current site which will ultimately end up with a private room hospital. The expansion will involve 72,000 new square feet and maintain the current bed capacity, while making every room private. In June 2001, the hospital received notification of approval of their Certificate of Public Need (COPN). It is hopeful that groundbreaking will occur in the late spring or early summer of 2002.

The Village at Woods Edge is a senior living community sponsored by Southampton Memorial Hospital. The Village offers 55 one- and two- bedroom private apartment homes for independent senior adults. Forty-two private suites are available in The Manor, a separate but adjoining assisted living wing. The East Pavilion is a 116-bed long-term care facility and is part of, and operated by, Southampton Memorial Hospital.

The Courtland Health Care Center is a 90-bed facility with intermediate care service provided by a licensed staff on duty 24 hours-a-day.

I. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Southampton County Sheriff's Department has 69 sworn officers.

A Sheriff's Office addition/renovation was completed with a budget of \$833,000. The funding for this project included:

- Commonwealth of Virginia Special Appropriation (EOC) \$150,000
- Building Fund (2000 & 2001) \$298,000
- City of Franklin (Prorated Share) \$40,000
- Short Term Note – Series 2001 \$345,000

J. LIBRARIES

Two libraries serve the County. The Walter Cecil Rawls Library and Museum, affiliated with the Virginia Museum, holds 156,547 volumes, while the Ruth Camp Campbell Memorial Library, located in the City of Franklin, holds 40,000 volumes. The Walter Cecil Rawls Library and Museum was renovated in the Spring of 2001. The renovation included removal of the asbestos floor tile and mastic for a cost of \$15,000 which was paid by the County. The County also approved funds for a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address the library's future capital needs and to assist with grant applications. The Library also did some internal cosmetic improvements such as painting and installation of new floor tile.

K. NATURAL GAS

Commonwealth Gas has the franchise for Southampton County. Transmission lines bisect the County near Courtland. A natural gas line serves the Southampton Agribusiness Park.

L. PARKS AND RECREATION

At the Board of Supervisor's request, the Department of Conservation and Recreation Resources surveyed the Nottoway River in 1990 to determine if it qualified for inclusion into the State Scenic Rivers Program. The Department surveyed the entire length of the Nottoway from the Sussex County Line to its confluence with the Blackwater River near Battle's Beach and determined that the entire length did indeed qualify. Legislation was introduced by Delegate J. Paul Council, Jr. to the 1992 Virginia General Assembly and subsequently passed to include that portion of the Nottoway from Sussex County Line to Cary's Bridge at State Route 653 in the State Scenic Rivers Program. Other portions of the Nottoway may be added to the program later by the General Assembly if so requested by the Board of Supervisors.

In the early 1990's, a Recreation Task Force comprised of local citizens was formed by the Board of Supervisors to study the recreational opportunities and needs of the County. A direct-mail survey was sent to 1,700 households county-wide requesting information in regard to existing and needed recreational opportunities and possible funding sources. A majority of the responses indicates that there are plenty of recreational opportunities in the County and that tax dollars should not be spent to enhance such programs.

At public forums held during the preparation of this document, some residents voiced their desire for a community pool as well as the need for recreation areas for elderly residents and organized youth recreation programs. The need for public parks was voiced, as was the need for a County recreation department and a recreation plan.

Cypress Cove Country Club offers an 18-hole golf course, swimming pool, six lighted tennis courts, a golf pro shop, and a clubhouse with dining facilities.

Hunting, fishing, and boating are perhaps the most popular recreational opportunities available in Southampton County. White-tailed deer are so plentiful in the area that Southampton County has one of the highest ranking deer harvests in the state. The State maintains five public boat landings in the County.

The Franklin-Southampton County Fair is held each August in the Agri-Civic Center. The fair reflects and celebrates the agricultural heritage of our region. The fair is well known for its quality entertainment, both local and national. Residents participate in contests for home arts, art and photography, and science and technology. Other entertainment includes a talent show, a pet show, horseshoe contests, rides and many other events. A variety of food is available throughout the five day event. Miss Franklin-Southampton County Fair is crowned and reigns throughout the year.

Another prominent part of the fair is the livestock show where hogs, lambs, and steers are shown and judged. Contests are also conducted for poultry, rabbits, field crops and horticulture.

M. RESCUE SQUADS

Boykins, Capron, Courtland and Ivor rescue squads serve the County. In January 2001, the Southampton County Fire and Rescue Association presented its recommendation to the Southampton County Board of Supervisors regarding the improving of daytime emergency medical service response in Southampton County. The County studied the proposal and formed a committee to study the feasibility for implementation of paid daytime rescue squad service and solicit proposals for the daytime service and billing options). It is the hope that implementation of such a service would be in place by early 2002. This recommendation is for Rescue service only, it does not include Fire service at this time.

N. SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

1. Elementary and Secondary Education

The new \$11 million Southampton High School was opened in September 1993. A \$4 million Middle School renovation was completed in 1995. The Southampton campus is one of the most technologically advanced in the state.

EXHIBIT VII-A displays individual school information for existing facilities.

In 2000, construction of two new elementary schools began. The projected operational date for the facilities is fall 2001. One school will be located on Grays Shop Road in the northern part of the County and will have a capacity of 500 students. It is named Nottoway Elementary School. The other will be located on Ivor Road in the northern part of the County and will have a capacity of 500 students. It is named Meherrin Elementary School. Both schools have been designed to allow for future expansion if necessary. When these facilities are operational, the elementary schools in Ivor and Boykins will be closed. Also, the Courtland Elementary School will not operate in 2001 and may be used as an early learning center.

2. Higher Education

Southampton Memorial Hospital School of Practical Nursing is sponsored jointly by Franklin and Southampton County Public Schools. Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin, a two-year institution, is part of the Virginia Community College System. Its occupational and technical programs lead to certificates or associates

**EXHIBIT VII-A
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL INFORMATION
1999-2000**

School Information	Boykins	Capron	Courtland	Hunterdale	Ivor	Southampton Middle	Southampton High
Design Capacity	348	297	552	544	297	750	850
Current Enrollment	207	195	332	468	161	676	769
Features	Cafetorium	Auditorium, Cafetorium	Cafetorium	Cafetorium	Cafetorium	Gym, Auditorium, Ball Fields	Gym, Shop, Auditorium, Ball Fields
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	6-8	9-12
Non-School System Functions/ Uses	Community Functions	Community Functions	Community Functions	Community Functions	Community Functions	Community Functions	Community Functions

Source: Southampton County School Assistant Superintendent, April 2000.

of applied science degrees and are designed to prepare individuals for certain business or technical professions. Other programs include developmental work, special training for industry, and community service. Nearby colleges and universities include: Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Virginia Wesleyan College, The College of William & Mary, and Chowan College.

O. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The City of Franklin and Southampton County participate with the Southeastern Public Service Authority in a regional landfill. The County also participates with the authority in a curbside recycling program. In 1999, the participation rate by County residents/ customers was 25.46% with a monthly average of 940 residences/businesses served. Some 10,500 pounds of recyclable materials were collected during 1999 from County program participants. Several improvements have been made since 1989 in the County solid waste collection system. New transfer stations have been constructed in Adams Grove, Drewryville, Sebrell and Unity, bringing the total number of county-maintained facilities to fourteen. Money was also budgeted previously for a facility in the Kingsdale area pending location of a suitable site. No suitable site was located. The Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) also constructed a new transfer facility on Route 460 in Ivor in 1992, bringing the number of SPSA sites in the County to three (Ivor, Boykins, and SR 671). Two new solid waste compactors were strategically installed at the Capron and Joyner's Bridge sites to assist the existing Courtland compactor in reducing transportation costs.

Overall, this system of solid waste collection seems to be serving the County well. One exception is the issue of illegal dumping of construction debris and use of the facilities by non-county residents. Where the sites are unmanned, the facilities are subject to abuse by individuals and contractors wishing to avoid the tipping fee at the regional landfill. To date, the County has responded only on a complaint basis and several citations have been issued. The issue should be continually monitored and if conditions later warrant, the sites may have to be manned and operated on a more limited basis during the week than now exists.

The County also adopted a new "white goods" policy in 1993 to address the removal of freon from certain appliances prior to disposal. County residents are permitted to place worn-out refrigerators, air-conditioners and the like in the red boxes (not the compactors) at the transfer stations. The white goods are separated from the waste stream at the SPSA landfill in Suffolk by SPSA personnel where they are set aside for freon removal by a private contractor. Upon removal of the freon, the contractor labels the appliance "freon-free" after which it is carried to the regional landfill for disposal.

The County has also formed a Litter Control Council which promotes recycling, litter control, and organizes the "Adopt-A-Spot" program. Problematic litter spots are adopted by various individuals and organizations.

The County uses volunteers in VDOT's "Adopt-A-Highway" program. To date, 163.1 miles of Southampton's roadways have been adopted in this program, ranking Southampton County 29th out of 100 localities statewide.

P. WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES

In 1989, the Southampton County Water and Sewer Master Plan 2010 was completed. The report was prepared for the purpose of developing a master water and sewer plan to serve the County through the year 2010. It provides the framework for development of public water and sewer utilities in the County for a 20-year period.

The report is organized with general observations of the County's water and sewer systems first. These observations are followed by summaries of funding options, recommendations, and a plan of development. The plan of development reflects the engineer's (Wiley and Wilson) judgment of the relative need for various projects. The body of the report consists of sections containing more detailed observations and recommendations on each of the study areas. The report has been the general guide followed by Southampton County to date with respect to certain water and wastewater facilities. It is on file for public review in the County Administrator's office.

Major water and sewer improvements have been completed in different areas within the County. The largest project, an estimated \$11.5 million water and sewer improvement project, was completed in 1996 in Boykins, Branchville and Newsoms. Sewer improvements included construction of a new 590,000 GPD regional wastewater treatment plant in Boykins, six sewage pumping stations strategically located from Branchville to Newsoms, and 150,000 linear feet of gravity sewer and force main piping providing service to 1,400 customers. The regional water system was formed by interconnecting four wells that served as raw water sources. Water improvements included construction of a new 200,000 gallon elevated water storage tank in Newsoms and a new 300,000 gallon elevated tank near Boykins Elementary School, sixty-five new fire hydrants, and 82,000 linear feet of new water line. The funding for this project included:

• Farmer's Home Administration Grant	\$5,571,888
• Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Loan (4.5%)	\$5,636,250
• Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) Grant (Water and Sewer)	\$2,100,000
• Virginia Indoor Plumbing Program	\$302,000
• U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration Grant	\$420,000
• Virginia Water Projects	\$25,000

Included were approximately \$381,000 worth of improvements to the Edgehill Sewer Works. This project included closure of the present lagoon system and tying the subdivision's sewer to the Franklin City sewer system via piping along SR 706. This project was necessitated by increasingly restrictive discharge limits established by the Clean Water Act. The issue of long-term water service in Edgehill was resolved in 1998 with replacement of the hydropneumatic tank.

The Boykins water extension project consisted of 3,500 linear feet of new 12-inch water main from the 300,000 gallon elevated tank west of Boykins along the north side of the CSX railway to Spring Garden Street and then along Spring Garden Street to its intersection with Serbin Street. The piping upgrades substantially improved pressure and flow to the north side of the Town of Boykins, particularly enhancing the fire suppression capabilities at Narricot Industries, the County's largest employer. The new waterline will also facilitate retirement of the old 60,000 gallon elevated water tank on Spring Garden Street, which is now more than seventy (70) years old. The project was completed with a budget of \$247,500. The funding for this project included:

• 2000 Building Fund	\$9,710
• 2001 Building Fund	\$237,770

On June 4, 1998 the City of Franklin and the County of Southampton submitted to the Commission on Local Government for review a proposed interlocal agreement negotiated by the two jurisdictions under the authority of Section 15.2-3400 of the Code of Virginia. The Commission reviewed the agreement and recommended the court's approval, which was subsequently granted in 1999.

This agreement would allow the City and the County to work jointly on projects of a commercial/industrial nature. The extension of water and/or sewer from the City into the County, upon request, would greatly enhance economic development in the agreement area. The agreement area contains approximately 17.1 acres and encompasses a portion of the County that borders the City.

Southampton County, in conjunction with the City of Franklin extended water and sewer service to the site of the new International Paper Converting Center on General Thomas Highway (State Route 671).

The County purchased a 111.4 acre tract along U.S. 58 across from Story’s Station Road and constructed an Agribusiness Industrial Park. This \$1.7 million project included preliminary infrastructure estimates of \$419,000 for water service, \$206,000 for sewer service and \$36,000 for electrical service. The County obtained funding from VDOT’s Industrial Access Road Funds for access road construction. This money is “bonded” in the sense that the County would have been required to refund it to the State if no investment had occurred within the park in three years. The water system is an on-site well and water storage tank and sewage connected to the Courtland Wastewater Treatment Plant. When this project came on-line, the Courtland Wastewater Treatment Plant was at or near capacity. The park contains 88.4 developable acres. The \$3.65 million State Farmer’s Market (Southeastern Virginia Farmer’s Market) was completed in 1998 and occupies 21 acres in the Southampton Agribusiness Park.

Southampton County, its towns, and Franklin supply water to residential and commercial users from wells. Franklin, Capron, Ivor, and Branchville have ground pressure tanks. See EXHIBIT VII-B.

EXHIBIT VII-B SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA REGIONAL WATER UTILITIES			
Locality	Avg. Daily Use	Max. Capacity	Storage
Boykins*	128,300 GPD	300,000 GPD	135,000 G
Branchville*	44,300 GPD	300,000 GPD	105,000 G
Capron	30,000 GPD	60,000 GPD	27,500 G
Courtland	141,173 GPD	175,000 GPD	175,000 G
Drewryville	14,700 GPD	19,500 GPD	3,000 G
Edgehill	32,700 GPD	62,400 GPD	10,000 G
Ivor	64,000 GPD	15,000 GPD	15,000 G
Newsoms*	31,300 GPD	200,000 GPD	13,000 G
City of Franklin	1.4 MG	3.0 MGD	900,000 G

* Regional system for the three towns. G-Gallons GPD-Gallons Per Day MG-Million Gallons

Source: County of Southampton, Virginia.

The County operates the Courtland, Edgehill, and Boykins sewage systems. Franklin provides its own sewerage services. Capacity compared to use allows for considerable growth of the system users. Secondary treatment is in Franklin and Edgehill. Boykins has a primary treatment facility and Courtland has tertiary treatment. See EXHIBIT VII-C.

EXHIBIT VII-C SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA REGIONAL WASTEWATER UTILITIES		
Locality	Avg. Daily Use	Capacity Storage
Boykins*	118,000 GPD	590,000 GPD
Courtland	148,000 GPD	303,000 GPD
Edgehill	28,000 GPD	40,600 GPD
City of Franklin	1.4 MGD	2.0 MGD

* Boykins' system has been updated and capacity increased to 590,000 GPD. This system is a regional system serving Boykins/Branchville/Newsoms and areas between.

G-Gallons

GPD-Gallons Per Day

MG-Million Gallons

Source: County of Southampton, Virginia.

Q. CONCLUSIONS

Fire, rescue and law enforcement services received dramatic improvement in February 1992 with the county-wide improvements of Enhanced 9-1-1. A state-of-the-art communications center constructed adjacent to the Southampton jail receives 9-1-1- calls and immediately displays the phone number of the caller, the caller's street address, the map book and page number that address appears on, as well as the primary emergency responders for the address. According to comments received from many county residents, the system has already paid dividends in improved response.

Volunteers have always provided the County with effective and efficient emergency response. Based upon recent trends in work commuting patterns, however, it has become increasingly difficult to dispatch volunteer units, particularly rescue units, during daytime work hours. Simply put, many of the volunteers are on-the-job and unable to respond. This trend needs to be closely monitored with thought given to the future establishment of at least one full-time response unit somewhere in the County.

Ensuring that the provision of community services and facilities is phased with the demand or need is a major component of growth management. Community facilities and public services are those minimum facilities and services the County provides for the common good. The quality of public facilities contributes to the quality of life in the County. Some facilities, such as clean drinking water and adequate sewage disposal are necessities, while others, such as parks and museums, are highly desirable for cultural and educational enrichment.

The existing and projected capacity of community facilities should be identified so that decision-makers can evaluate the issues and problems of providing these services in the

context of the County's projected growth rate and geographic distribution. The provision of these services and facilities should be encouraged to coincide with development as it relates to the General Land Use Plan and the need or demand for such services or facilities.

Southampton County must constantly re-evaluate its community facilities and services to ensure that the tax dollars are spent in the most cost-efficient manner possible. The County is in the process of developing a Capital Improvements Plan to chart its course with respect to buildings and facility expansions. The County has traditionally utilized its annual budgeting process as an opportunity to evaluate programs and services. The County has also attempted to work closely with Federal, State, and regional agencies to obtain grant funds and cost-sharing arrangements. With respect to costly utility expansions or extensions, the County should work closely with its towns and with State and Federal agencies to ensure that essential services are provided when growth occurs.

The County should continue to support State assistance for the installation of dry hydrants in rural areas.

With the completion of the new High School and the Middle School in 1995, Southampton's secondary school needs will be met well into the 21st century. With the completion of the two new elementary schools, the elementary school needs will also be met for the next few decades.