

CHAPTER 4¹ PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION

The first three chapters focused on developing a framework for future growth of Northumberland County. The first chapter examines physical and environmental conditions that influence or limit potential development. Chapter 2 identifies goals and strategies designed to deal with important issues that were defined by the physical analysis, demographic studies and in community workshops.

Chapter 3 is the first principal element of the Comprehensive Plan, the element that establishes a framework plan of future land use. The land use plan is an instrument for guiding overall growth although its main focus is to establish policies and guidelines for development that occurs through private investment.

The current chapter focuses on that phase of the plan which is primarily represented by public investment. Its focus is on the provision of public facilities and services. In combination, the Land Use Plan and the Public Facilities and Services elements comprise the core of the Comprehensive Plan for Northumberland County as envisaged by the Virginia Statutes. Public services covered in this chapter are provided by a combination of state, county and private agencies. The level of detail for any one subject area is general because of a requirement of the Virginia Law which stipulates that the Comprehensive Plan

"... shall be general in nature, in that it shall designate the general or approximate location, character and extent of each feature shown on the plan ..."

The Public Facilities and Services Plan should be helpful to the County by enabling it to anticipate additional public services that will be needed in future years. To private as well as public agencies that operate separately from the County government, the plan will provide policies and guidance concerning the County's intent to provide services of a particular type.

B. HIGHWAYS

Northumberland County is served by a network of primary and secondary public roads that are maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Route 360 is a federal primary while all other public roads, primary and secondary, are state roads. Although there are a few residential streets that are privately owned, the State's policy is to operate and maintain the public road system within counties. This policy applies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. New secondary roads may be built as part of a private development and brought into the state system if they are planned and constructed to VDOT standards and meet the service requirements for state-maintained roads.

While the State gives a high priority to traffic considerations when planning improvements to existing public roads, the County may influence the timing of improvements. Road widenings, bridge replacements and other major improvements to the existing system may be offered as

¹Filename is Chapter4.3rd

priorities of the County during periods when VDOT is preparing its plans for highway improvements.

Space for Figure 4.1 Existing 24-Hour Traffic

There are two state plans for roads, one for the primary system and one for the secondary system. Each system has its own planning cycle and in order for the County to introduce its planning priorities it must do so at the proper time within each planning cycle.

This section of the comprehensive plan focuses on the potential need for improving a network of roads that best meets the circulation needs of different areas of the County.

1. Major Roads Identified

The clearest picture of which roads carry the predominant traffic in Northumberland County comes from an inspection of 24-hour traffic volumes. VDOT prepares traffic counts on most state roads on a continuing basis. Figure 4.1 illustrates graphically the amount of traffic currently (1995) on specific roads. This map shows by the width of the line roads that have more than 500 vehicles per 24 hours.

Primary routes 360 and 200, both of which carry in excess of 3000 vehicles per day (VPD) form the central corridor of the County. Route 202 is also an important primary that connects Northumberland to Westmoreland County. These three primary roads not only provide primary circulation within the County's economic corridor but they also connect the County with Westmoreland, Richmond and Lancaster Counties.

Secondary roads, shown on the map with traffic flow above 500 VPD, extend traffic service from the primary routes to areas with concentrations of residential development, farm or marine activities. Some observations are appropriate for specific roads.

- Route 201 has traffic volumes that are below that normally expected on a Primary Road, but instead carries traffic at about the same level as a secondary road. This is a reflection of its physical condition because the distance from Heathsville to Kilmarnock over the 201/3 combination is about the same as it is over 360 and 200. Traffic naturally follows the routes of better roads; therefore, the 360/200 combination from the central part of the County south to Kilmarnock is the preferred route.
- Route 617 from Hyacinth to Village appears to be a "shortcut" from Route 201 to 360. Drivers often select roads of less quality if they can gain a substantial distance saving. That seems to be the case with this route.
- Most of the other roads with traffic above 500 VPD serve major areas of development or serve as corridors through rural areas. In general, these are the roads that are likely to continue to serve as feeder roads to developing areas and will warrant a higher priority for improvements.

2. General Road Plan

The General Road Plan for Northumberland County is presented on Figure 4.2. This plan is intended to become a part of the Comprehensive Plan and serve as a guide to the County for purposes of identifying the County's own priorities for road improvements in future years. For purposes of this plan, public roads in Northumberland County are classified and identified as follows:

Space for General Road Plan

a. Four-lane Primary

U.S. Highway 360: This is the central traffic corridor of the County which serves nearly all traffic moving into, through and out of the County. It now has four lanes except for the segments between Heathsville and Burgess and between Lilian and Reedville. The County's primary strategy for this road should include completion of this section as a four-lane road in order to establish a safe and efficient traffic corridor through the entire County.

Where 360 passes through villages, coordinate improvements with the local need for traffic management in order to minimize interference between local and through traffic. This is in particular a factor in Callao where on-street parking competes with through traffic. Within the villages that have not yet developed to the extent of experiencing traffic and parking interference, this issue may be addressed by including off-street parking requirements in the zoning ordinance and coordinating access to parking areas through site plan review.

Further improvement in the function and safety of this road may be accomplished by reducing the number of access points. One technique is to require more spacing between residential driveways, that is by requiring greater lot frontages. Another is to utilize reverse-frontage lots for larger subdivisions in which the direct access to a lot is from a secondary road.

b. Two-lane Primaries

VA 200: This route links 360 at Burgess to Kilmarnock and from there via Route 3 to locations south of the Rappahannock River. It carries just slightly less traffic than 360 and serves as an extension of the central corridor that runs through the County. The 360/200 corridor serves all villages and constitutes an "economic corridor" within the County and also links the County with outside markets. Past improvements such as the bridge over the Great Wicomico River demonstrate that VDOT places a high priority on Route 200. Accordingly, it warrants a major position in the comprehensive plan.

VA 202: This primary links Route 360 at Callao to Route 3 at Templeman. It is a more direct route to Northumberland County than Route 3 via Warsaw and Kilmarnock. Yet it has been reported that traffic to Northumberland County from the west often uses the longer Route 3 via Warsaw rather than VA 202. One possibility for increasing the use of 202 would be to advertise it along Route 3 as the "shortest way to Northumberland County's fishing and other activities.

VA 201: This road, although classified as a primary, provides a much lower level of service than Routes 200 and 202. In terms of traffic using it and its condition, 201 is more like a secondary road than a primary. Unless it is improved to standards similar to 200 or 202, the road will likely continue to serve at the level of a secondary feeder road. This plan continues to designate 201 as a primary, although the major priorities of the County may be better served by continuing to upgrade the corridor primaries.

c. Feeder Secondary Roads:

These are secondary roads that serve as feeder roads to developed areas and primary circulation throughout rural areas of the County. They are identified on the Highway Plan as: (1) existing feeder roads, namely those running from one of the central corridor roads; and (2) new feeder roads added to complete circulation.

3. Planned Highway Improvements by VDOT

The following improvements are currently planned by VDOT for construction.

Route 202: Replacement of Hampton Hall Bridge on Route 202 at county line.

Route 652: Reconstruct Route 652 for 1.82 miles east from Route 360. This project includes drainage improvements to other roads within the same area, namely 644 and 673.

Route 607: Improve alignment of Route 607 for .20 miles east of Route 200.

Route 647: Complete the reconstruction of Route 647 east from 360 for a distance of 1.05 miles.

Route 629: Reconstruct Route 629 from Route 614 a distance of .40 miles.

Route 742: Resurface this route from 625 to the end of the road, a distance of .19 miles.

C. RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES

1. Existing Recreational Sites and Opportunities

Recreational opportunities in Northumberland County consist of a mixture of public and private facilities and programs, both land and water oriented. Some of the more significant facilities are identified below.

- a. The only county-operated athletic park is located adjacent to the Northumberland Middle School. It offers little league level baseball at the present time and planning is in progress to extend the park to include a picnic area with grills and a walking area. The site contains two acres.
- b. A private group is in the process of organizing official little league baseball and T-ball within the County which would serve ages 5 through 18. Specifics of this program had not been released at the time this report was prepared.
- c. School sites perhaps offer the most opportunities for active recreation, since each school has its own recreational area. With a new elementary school to be completed in 1996, it is understood that two existing elementary schools will be discontinued as schools and available for other uses. This action will reduce the recreational opportunities available now to the Callao and Burgess areas unless an arrangement is made to continue in use the recreational areas associated with the Callao and

Fairfield elementary schools.

- d. State facilities include two large conservation areas. One, located at Hughlett Point, contains about 204 acres. Specific plans for the use of this site have not been revealed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. A second state-owned site, the Bush Mill Stream Area, containing 103 acres is located near Howland. These were established as conservation areas under the control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. A 1994 preliminary site plan prepared by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Resources, envisages the development of the Bush Mill site with a small parking area with scenic trails and interpretive signs.

SITE IDENTIFICATION	Trailer Boat Landing	Marina (No. of Slips)	Fishing (Pier or Bank)	Beach (Swimming)	Nature Study Area	Picnic Area	Camping Area
Hampton Hall Creek Landing Hampton Hall Creek			X				
Mundy Point Ldg., Yeocomico R.			X				
Lodge Landing, Lodge Creek	X		X				
Forrest Landing, Coan River	X		X				
Rowes Landing, Coan River	X		X				
Vir-Mar Beach, Potomac River				X	X	X	
Kohk Island, Chesapeake Bay			X	X	X		
Shipping Point Ldg., Little Wicomico River			X				
Shell Landing, Cockrell Cr.	X		X				
Cranes Creek Ldg., Cranes Cr.	X		X				
Cedar Point Ldg., Gr. Wicomico R.	X		X				
Coopers Ldg., Gr. Wicomico R.	X		X				
Sampsons Wharf	X		X				
Glebe Point Ldg. Gr. Wicomico R.			X				
Hughlett Point							X
Bush Mill Cr. Vicinity							X

Source: Chesapeake Bay Area Public Access Plan, 1990; and Planning Commission Members.

- e. In the Chesapeake Bay Area Access Plan (1990) both public and private areas for accessing public waters in Northumberland County were identified. Thirty access points were examined of which 14 are publicly owned and the remaining 16 are private. The private facilities include both commercial marinas and membership associations. The two tables on the following pages identify the major features of each of these sites.

Table 4.1 gives a listing of public sites together with the specific recreational opportunities available at each site. The most dominant activities are (i) fishing that is available at all but two of the sites and (ii) trailer boat launching facilities available at about half of the facilities. Access to beaches by the public is available at Vir-Mar Beach and Kohk Island. One of the concerns expressed by citizens in the workshops

was a need for more access to beaches. Greater beach access would also support the tourist business of the County as well as serve the needs of county residents. While it is true that many residents have access to the beach from waterfront homes or from membership associations, other residents of the County do not have the same access to the waterfront.

The Chesapeake Bay Access Plan indicated that "numerous beaches exist along protected shorelines. These beaches are often informal access areas, located on private property. Many receive heavy use by those familiar with the area and can be reached only by boat. They should be evaluated to determine suitability for future development for public use", according to that plan. The "plan" also noted that the County's small ramps and old "steamboat landings" could be developed to provide additional public access to the Bay. Another resource for access to the Bay are tour boats and charter fishing boats, the latter being available from numerous private sources on the Northern Neck.

Table 4.2 lists 16 marinas that provided 679 boat slips in 1990. Some of these are "membership" marinas but most are commercial marinas offering not only boat storage but fuel, food sales, restrooms, boat repairs. Northumberland County's unique location at the mouth of the Potomac River near the middle of the Chesapeake Bay makes this one of the more popular destinations for recreational boating and fishing.

- f. Three golf courses are located within Northumberland County. Indian Creek golf course is part of a group of recreational facilities offered by the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. The Village Green golf course is located on Route 360 just west of Callao. Quinton Oaks golf course is also located within the County.

2. Analysis

Northumberland County's major recreational offering is its access to 440 miles of shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and creeks. Sports fishing, recreational boating and sailing also provide a stimulus for summer tourism thereby contributing greatly to the economy of the County through marine sales and operation of marinas, including repairs and fuel sales. In addition the boats that are based permanently in the County provide a significant contribution to the tax base. It should be a major policy of the County to promote the development of quality boating facilities for both public and commercial use.

SITE IDENTIFICATION	Trailer Boat Landing	Marina (No. of Slips)	Fishing (Pier or Bank)	Beach (Swim- ming)	Nature Study Area	Picnic Area	Camping Area
Bon Harbor Asso., Comish Creek (Mem)		17					
Coan Harbor Estates, Glebe Cr. (Mem)	X						
Coan River Marina, Coan R.	X	49					
Lake Francis Marina, Kingscote Cr.	X	28					
The Fishing Center, Yeocomico R.							
Olversons Marina, Lodge Cr.	X	170					
Lewisetta Marina	X	27					
Krentz Marina	X	35					
Smith Pt. Marina/Campgrnd, Slough Cr.	X	75					X
Leroys Marina, Slough Cr.		26					
Buzzards Point Marina, Cockrell Cr.		88					
Horn Harbor Marina, Campgrnd & Restaurant, Gr. Wicomico R.	X	30					X
Mallard Bay Great Wicomico River (Mem)		10					
Tiffany Yacht Club, Gr. Wicomico R.		13					
Ingram Bay Marina	X	49					
Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club, (Mem)		17					
Smith Point KOA							X
Glebe Point Campground							X

Source: Chesapeake Bay Public Access Plan, 1990 and Planning Commission Members.

In the same sense, public beaches may also contribute to the economy of the County while providing a major recreational service for local citizens. One needs only to look at the growth of other communities along the east coast to see that public beaches attract significant investment that satisfies a market for recreation. The growth of sports and recreational boating, combined with expanded beaches and beach front development, offers a substantial opportunity for the growth of Northumberland County's economy.

In the area of public recreation the focus of recreational planning should be on services that serve the local population of all ages. At the present public recreation that is offered through the Department of Recreation is limited by the amount of land available. This includes a single public playfield at the middle school and use of school sites whenever they are not in use by the school program. With the closing of Callao and Fairfield elementary schools, two recreational sites may be lost unless arrangements can be made to continue the recreational areas of these schools as county park facilities. The continued use of these sites would enhance recreational opportunities in the upper and lower parts of the County.

Figure 4.3 Recreation Map

As future plans are made for recreational facility development, the following general standards that have been used in other parts of Virginia as well as nationally may be helpful. These standards have been found to provide a satisfactory number and distribution of recreational facilities in typical communities. They may be adjusted as appropriate for Northumberland County.

- a. **Baseball and Softball fields:** Baseball is played in almost all communities and by nearly all ages. A group within the County is exploring the possibility of establishing little-league and T-ball programs for ages 5 through 18. Fields that are designed for youth baseball can also be used for adult softball since both use the same base spacing. The major difference is that softball requires a little longer pitching distance and longer outfield. A rule of thumb for ball fields in a community is at least one ball field for every 6000 persons. That would suggest at least two for Northumberland County, but because of the distance between upper and lower parts of the County others may be required in order to provide service to all parts of the County.
- b. **Basketball:** This is another popular activity among youth. Schools may provide enough basketball courts to meet this need if they are spaced throughout the community appropriately. Both the Callao and Fairfield school sites have basketball courts. The general standard for basketball courts is one court for every 500-1000 persons.
- c. **Tennis:** The demand for tennis depends upon the importance of this game to each locality. There is a state standard that suggests one tennis court for every 2000 persons. This rate can be adjusted to reflect the number of tennis courts available at school sites and at private facilities.
- d. **Swimming Pools:** The state standard suggests a swimming pool for every 10,000 persons. At present a public swimming pool is not available in Northumberland County for swimming lessons and competitive activities.

Future efforts to provide opportunities for recreation in Northumberland County should be focused on establishing a basic infrastructure of facilities similar to and in the amounts suggested above. The first step would be to secure sites for the facilities with the facilities themselves being added as funds are available. The two school sites that are being discontinued offer excellent opportunities to retain playfields that are already developed with some of the core facilities that are needed.

D. PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

This section addresses the public buildings used for the County administrative offices, courts related uses, Sheriff's department, and the buildings used for the County school system. The location of each of these facilities is indicated in Figure 4.4. Information on the County administrative office needs was obtained through discussions with County officials and department heads. Information on the County school buildings was obtained through discussions with the Superintendent of Schools. The new Northumberland County Library which has facilities for public meetings is an important contribution to public services to the county residents as is the Fisherman's Museum located in Reedville.

1. Administrative Offices

County administrative offices, courts facilities, sheriff's office, jail and other government functions are centrally located in Heathsville in or near the courthouse. The county is completing a new courts facility for the General District Court, the Circuit Court, Clerks of both courts, and the Juvenile and Domestic Court Services units. These will be located in a separate building behind the existing courthouse.

Insert graphic

Based on discussions with county officials, the Commissioner of the Revenues and the Treasurer both require additional office space. This can be provided when the court clerk relocates from the first floor of the courthouse to the new facility. The current plan is to convert the existing courtroom into a meeting room for the Board of Supervisors. Other offices can be relocated to areas vacated by the courts. The existing courthouse building will need to be renovated to add an elevator and provide handicap access to the Basement areas which meets the Americans with Disabilities

Act. Social Services, Health, the Registrar, and the Cooperative Extension Service have sufficient space in their existing locations and will not likely experience significant growth in the foreseeable future. The adjacent graphic diagrams the county office reassignment plan following the completion of the new courts building.

The sheriff's building is being expanded to accommodate the needs of a new E-911 emergency dispatch system. The movement of dispatchers to the 911 space will free up some office space for use as desk space for some of the deputies. In order to provide desk space for all of the deputies and to accommodate administrative needs, however, there is a need for at least two more rooms than is available in the present building.

Jail space is presently accommodating more inmates than the design capacity. A need for additional beds as well as a larger kitchen area is seen in future years.

2. School Facilities

Schools are provided in Northumberland County School system by a Board of Education through the office of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board, together with its administrative staff is responsible for providing a system of public school facilities and an educational program of high quality. The population range from which most of the school enrollment comes has remained almost constant since 1980 and state estimates suggest this trend will continue for the next 10 to 15 years. Following are the estimates of population for the age group 0 to 19 for the last two decennial censuses and projections by the Virginia Employment Commission for the next two census years (Refer to Table 1.13, Appendix A).

YEAR	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	2485	2305	2457	2451

Demographic trends show that although population growth has been occurring in Northumberland County, most of the growth is occurring in the adult population. The analysis referred to above reports that the age group from 20 to 44, customarily referred to as the "childbearing age" is projected by the state to decline by nearly 600 persons by 2010. In addition, the older population is growing not only demographically but by the attraction of Northumberland County as a place for retirement. These forecasts point to an era of little growth potential for school enrollment.

The County will open the Northumberland Elementary School in 1996. This new facility will replace elementary schools at Fairfield and Callao, which will be made available for alternative uses. Northumberland Middle School and Northumberland High School will continue to serve the upper grades. The school system projects that school membership in the next five to ten years will remain fairly steady. The schools are identified in Figure 4.4 and described in the following paragraphs:

- Northumberland Elementary School

This new elementary school is designed for an enrollment of 750 students from preschool to kindergarten through the fifth grade. Its design features some of the latest technology, including pre-wiring for computer networks in each classroom area. School system projections indicate that the elementary school enrollment will remain steady or decline in the future, therefore it should have sufficient capacity until growth patterns in young families increase.

- Northumberland Middle School

This facility is the oldest in the school system and it is currently accommodating about 420 students. There is a space shortage at this facility which has required the conversion of the stage area and the shop to classroom space. Temporary classroom units are also in use due to the lack of classroom space. This facility should be identified for future improvements which would improve its efficiency and capacity.

Figure 4.4, Schools and Other Public Buildings

- Northumberland High School

The 1995 high school enrollment is about 450 students which is the peak level in the system at this time. The space is adequate at this time and should remain adequate until student enrollments resume a growth pattern.

Overall, the present school system's capacity appears to be fairly evenly matched with the number of students. And with little growth foreseen in enrollment, future school planning can focus on refining the use of existing facilities to meet membership needs of any particular year.

The two elementary schools that are being discontinued present opportunities to the community for other offerings. The analysis of recreational space suggested that the playfields could increase the opportunities for full-time recreation. The buildings present other opportunities. Other communities have converted school buildings to various uses including: economic enterprises, housing, community service buildings, community colleges and the like. The County will need a strategy for the future use of the buildings.

E. WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Water Supply

An examination of water sources is presented in Chapter 1 as part of the analysis of environmental conditions. That chapter identified groundwater as the present source of potable water supply for Northumberland County. Water comes from three aquifers with most of the major wells taking water from the second level aquifer. Most wells, however, that are not in a community water system, take water from the water table aquifer, the one closest to the surface. State surveys have indicated that the aquifers should provide an adequate supply of potable water to the County well into the 21st century.

The Health Department classifies these systems as community, transient or non-transient water systems. A community water system is one that serves 14 or more houses or 25 or more persons for at least six months per year. A transient public water system is a class that is used by motels, restaurants and similar uses. A non-transient system is the same as a community water system but is used less than six months per year.

The Three Rivers Health District listed 54 public water systems in Northumberland County in 1995. These were distributed among the above three classes as follows: 28 community water systems; 8 transient systems; and 18 non-transient systems.

4.5 Community Water Systems

Figure 4.4 illustrates the locations of most of the major public water systems currently in service. The map displays 32 systems including the community systems and some non-transient systems such as public schools and systems serving larger employers. The systems on the map are rated collectively to serve an aggregate of 7633 persons.

Future needs over the next 20 years for potable water may not at this time be a significant planning issue for Northumberland County. There appears to be an abundance of groundwater especially in the deeper aquifers. Development is dispersed to many locations and each development can be served with its own community water system.

This could change in the distant future should large-scale development of the type that is developing in many communities along the Mid-Atlantic states come to Northumberland County. Such development, however, may be regulated and required to provide its own water system in scale with need. It would be prudent on the County's part, however to have an alternative source of potable water supply. This is particularly true because of the County's proximity to sea water. Major withdrawals even in the upper reaches of the lower aquifers combined with pressure from sea water could modify adversely the quality of water available in the aquifers. A long-range strategy to investigate surface impoundments may be prudent.

2. Sewage Disposal

The general mode of sewage disposal in Northumberland County is the septic tank; only at Reedville has a public sewerage system been established. That system is operated by the Reedville Sanitary District which is governed by a board comprised of the same persons who serve on the County Board of Supervisors. The Sanitary District was originally designed to serve the town of Reedville but it was expanded recently in order to extend coverage to the Blackberry Community Development Project Area.

Figure 4.6 shows the boundaries of the original district and the "Blackberry" project area addition. Also shown on this map are the general locations of five pumping stations and the treatment plant. The latter is located across Cockrell Creek near the Zapata Protein Facilities, which is also served by the system.

The system is presently operating only at a small percentage of its total capacity. The treatment plant is designed to treat 200,000 gallons per day. Only about 30,000 gallons per day are being treated (1995). The system has 202 taps of which 181 are residential and 21 are commercial or industrial.

Because the system is operating considerably below capacity, it would be enhanced by the addition of more users. The Blackberry project will help by adding another 30-40 taps. But that would add only 4000 to 5000 gallons per day, still leaving the plant operating far below capacity.

A strategy to provide more users for the system would be to target for development some of the land east of Route 360 that is now largely vacant. The area has very poor soils for septic tanks (See Figure 1.4) so it is unlikely to see much development without public sewers. The more likely development would be industrial or business uses since this is not an area of prime demand for residential development. It is not on the waterfront.

4.6 Reedville map

Other areas of the County show signs of developing into active commercial areas even without sewers. The area around Callao is a prime target area for sewers because of poor soil conditions in that area. Further commercial development is greatly limited without sanitary sewers. There are also good signs of growth at Burgess and at Heathsville, but soils in those areas are not as limiting as they are around Callao. In the long-range picture all three of these areas would likely experience more development if sewers were available.

But there is the problem of financial feasibility. The experience at Reedville does not offer much encouragement that a sewerage system would be cost effective at any of the other promising commercial areas. There is the additional consideration in these other commercial hubs; that there is no large concentration of residential development and not a trend that would suggest one is in the offering. Nevertheless, the potential in these areas is for commercial development and the establishment of new jobs. This alone may be sufficient reason to at least examine the feasibility of establishing sewers at each location. Then only if it were determined to be feasible and cost-effective, the County could explore ways to meet the need and establish priorities.

F. OTHER PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Emergency Services

Emergency services are available in Northumberland County through volunteer fire departments and volunteer rescue squads. Communications are coordinated through the Sheriff's office. Figure 4.7 identifies the locations of fire and rescue facilities within the County and the area served by each facility.

Fire departments serving Northumberland County include the following fire stations:

- The Callao Volunteer Fire Department: serves the northern part of the County to the Horsehead.
- The Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: serves the eastern portion of the County approximately from Horse Head to the Chesapeake Bay and the southern portion to about one mile below Wicomico Church. This fire company's main station is in Reedville with a sub-station located on Route 200 between Burgess and Glebe Point.
- The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department: serves the remainder of the County from the point served by the Fairfield Company to the county line (shaded area on Figure 4.7).
- The Upper Lancaster County Volunteer Fire Department serves a small portion of Northumberland County between Mill Creek and Route 615 (county line).

Map 4.7 Fire, Rescue and Solid Waste Map

Rescue squads serving Northumberland County are:

- The Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad serves the western part of the County from the county line to the Coan River.
- The Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad located just east of Heathsville serves the area from the Coan River to an area marked approximately by Horse Head, Hull Creek, Great Wicomico River and Browns Store.
- The Fairfield Volunteer Rescue Squad serves approximately the same area as the Fairfield Fire Department and also operates through a main station at Reedville and a sub station at Burgess.
- The Kilmarnock Volunteer Rescue Squad serves the southern tip of the county from just below Wicomico Church, the same area served by the Kilmarnock Fire Department. The portion of the County served by the Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department is provided with Rescue Service by the Kilmarnock Rescue Squad.
- Smith Point Sea Rescue, operated by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, provides a search and rescue service.

2. Solid Waste Services

The solid waste system serving Northumberland County consists of three solid-waste collection stations which provide facilities for citizens to dispose of their refuse and recyclables into appropriate bins. The bins are then transported to a land fill in another jurisdiction by a private contractor. The locations of the collection stations are shown on Figure 4.7 as an open circle with a diamond within. They are located as follows:

- Lottsburg on land which was part of a school site; now beside the School Board offices.
- East of Horse Head on Route 360.
- On Route 200 between Wicomico Church and the county line.

A typical solid waste collection site occupies about an acre and contains the following:

- Container with compactor that can be transported by truck.
- Spare container
- Recycle box (1 or 2)
- An attendant is stationed at each site.

While the present sites offer a solid waste disposal system, including recycling, in different parts of the County, concern was expressed in meetings of a need to have a more visible program for disposing of household wastes which are classified as hazardous. Typical wastes in this category include old motor oil, paint cans, and household, or garden pesticides. Future planning should include arrangements for the disposal of these wastes.

G. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING PUBLIC SERVICES

The following table provides a quick reference to the public services covered in this Chapter of the

Comprehensive Plan. If the public or private sources that provide each type of service. Because services are provided by a combination of different public and private sources, planning for their development must be done in coordination with several other agencies.

The County is directly responsible for providing resources for construction of schools, county offices, sewage disposal facilities, solid waste stations and public recreational sites. The State provides for highways and support services through the Health Department and VPI Extension. Still other services (emergency services and recreation are in this category) are provided by private enterprise or not-for-profit organizations. A strategy for implementing the public elements of the Comprehensive Plan involves coordinating County projects with those provide by the State and other groups, private or public.

SUMMARY - PROVIDERS OF SERVICES	
Type of Facility	Agency or Level of Government Responsible for Providing Service
Highways, Public	Primary Highways: VDOT ² , District Engineer's Office, Fredericksburg
	Secondary Roads: VDOT, County Resident Engineer's Office
Recreational Facilities	Recreational Programs: Northumberland Department of Recreation
	State: Construction and operation of public boat ramps
	Commercial marinas; charter fishing boats; campgrounds; community associations
Water Supply	Community water systems: public and privately owned and operated
Sewage Disposal	Private septic tank except in Reedville where a public sewerage system is operated
County Office and Operational Buildings	County: Administrator's office
Schools	Northumberland County School Board
Emergency Services	Volunteer Rescue Squads, Fire Companies, County Officials
Solid Waste Services	Private Contractor

1. Capital Outlay Program

One tool for coordinating these activities is established as part of the planning enabling act in the Virginia Code. Section 15.1-464 authorizes local governments to prepare a Capital Outlay Program, commonly called a Capital Improvements Program.

A Capital Improvements Program identifies the major priorities anticipated by the County over the next several years and includes the probable cost to the County of each project. It is customary to prepare the program to cover about five years so that it serves as a bridge between the longer-range Comprehensive Plan and the yearly capital budget. The priorities of the Capital Improvements Program and associated cost estimates may be reexamined each year to reflect accomplished projects and available resources.

²Virginia Department of Transportation

2. Coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation

Each year VDOT prepares its own capital improvements programs. One program is prepared for improvements to primary highways and another for secondary roads. There is an opportunity for the County to express its priorities in each of these plans. Primary highways are planned and constructed through the District Engineer's Office. The County may make recommendations to the District Engineer at yearly hearings held for the purpose of discussing future improvements.

Improvements to secondary roads are handled by VDOT through a Six-Year Plan with local planning being coordinated through the Resident Engineer. The opportunity also exists for the County to make its priorities known when the Resident Engineer discusses planned secondary road improvements with the Board of Supervisors at a yearly meeting with the Board. By identifying its own roads that warrant improvement in the Comprehensive Plan, Northumberland County should be able to work many of its own priorities into the State's six-year plan for secondary roads.