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## CHAPTER SEVEN: COMMUNITY FACILITIES & PUBLIC SERVICES

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One of the goals of long-range planning is to coordinate planned development with vital infrastructure improvements and public services. Community infrastructure needs are essential to allowing the Town to develop in a sustainable and prudent manner. Continuing to provide and improve upon necessary public services for Mount Airy residents is of equal importance to support a vibrant human infrastructure desired within the community. As such, these services should be thoughtfully considered when planning for infrastructure improvements.



BENCH AT WATKINS PARK

Many jurisdictions have recognized that public infrastructure and facilities are not capable of serving extensive development. Small Towns, in particular, are increasingly concerned about aging infrastructure and less financial support from the State due to budget restrictions. Certainly, services need to be provided to support new development, but it is the long-term maintenance of that infrastructure that becomes a financial challenge to the local government. For these reasons, long-term infrastructure planning is essential for all related development projects.

Two traditional tools by which public services are scheduled to keep pace with new land development are the APFO, or Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and the CIP, or Capital Improvements Program. The APFO intends to work in conjunction with the CIP, by providing specific timing of essential infrastructure which is based on a level of service currently observed by the jurisdiction.

The Capital Improvements Program is a long-range planning implementation tool by which needed public improvements are placed into a specific time frame for funding, design, engineering, and construction. The CIP is an adopted document that delineates a schedule of the improvements for public facilities such as water and sewer lines and stations, roads, parks, fire stations and schools. The typical time frame for a capital improvements program is five years, with a yearly update to reprioritize needed facilities and associated funding within the municipal fiscal budget for the listed projects.

Many of the smaller Towns across the Country do not create traditional Capital Improvements Programs in order to address infrastructure issues. This often leads to shortfall problems of facilities with no specific plan in place to address lacking services. The Town cannot continue to grow in a sustainable manner without proper timing and maintenance of essential services.

Continuous pursuit of properly timed infrastructure construction and maintenance allows the quality of life within the community to be maintained. Communities that grow and mature over time should adapt to changing infrastructure needs as the fabric of the community demands certain services.

Community Facilities and Public Services to be discussed in this chapter that are necessary to serve the Town environment are listed below:

- Parks and Recreation
- Public Schools
- Public Safety
- Emergency Services
- Government Facilities
- Libraries and Senior Centers
- Water, Sewer, and Wastewater
- Solid Waste and Recycling

This chapter will discuss and analyze the current inventory of other Town facilities for each classification of services, as well as review short and long-term needs for each area.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

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The Town of Mount Airy provides for various active and passive recreational opportunities at several locations from many sources. The Town owns and maintains 10 parks, several private organizations own recreational fields, and both Carroll and Frederick County Boards of Recreation own recreational fields within the Town boundaries. The Town of Mount Airy has the greatest need for regionally based baseball, soccer, and football fields. The need for a greater supply of baseball and soccer fields can be contributed to the population increase over the past decade.

In the past, the town had a policy of dedicating 10% of land to parks. However, in 2006, the town's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance was changed to reflect a requirement of dedicating 3 acres of park land for every 100 citizens, bringing the town in line with Carroll County Park standards observed at that time. This new goal left the town with an immediate and significant shortfall of park land. Even with the addition of a new 88-acre park (Windy Ridge),



approximately 100 additional acres are needed to meet town park needs. A new open space ordinance was adopted in the spring of 2010 that requires significantly larger amounts of open space dedication for new subdivisions of all sizes and densities. While open space has been required for new residential developments, neither commercial development and industrial subdivisions have been required to provide open space. As the Town implements its vision for pedestrian accessibility and connectivity through trail networks throughout the Town, there is an opportunity to extend this requirement to non-residential development. In response to the 2007 Town Survey, and 2012 Community Needs Assessment, there is an active search to purchase additional land specifically for a regional sports complex to make up the shortfall. The vision is that a regional sports complex off of a major artery would be the perfect complement to existing natural open space parks, neighborhood facilities, and the multi-purpose recreational area at Watkins Park. There is a possibility of the development of a new regional park on the Leishear farm that is owned by Carroll County and lies directly northeast of the current Town boundaries. That opportunity would be part of the consideration for the potential annexation of the Harrison and Leishear farm acreage into the Town.

TOWN OF MOUNT AIRY PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

<b>Park</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Amenities</b>
<i>East/West Park</i>	<i>5 acres</i>	<i>baseball field playground equip parking area basketball court connection to trail system</i>
<i>Watkins Regional Park</i>	<i>24 acres</i>	<i>1 lg and 2 sm. picnic pavilions 2 tennis courts 1 basketball court walking trail 2 soccer fields, 2 baseball fields skate park/parking area horseshoe pit, parking area doggy playground area trail connection playground area, volleyball court modern restroom facilities parking areas</i>
<i>Summit Ridge Park</i>	<i>7 acres</i>	<i>soccer field 2 baseball fields playground equipment parking area</i>
<i>Village Gate Park</i>	<i>6 acres</i>	<i>2 tennis courts 1 soccer field walking path connection to trail system reforestation area parking area</i>
<i>Prospect Park</i>	<i>10 acres</i>	<i>roller hockey court playground large picnic pavilion parking basketball court fishing pond future trail connection horseshoe pit/volleyball</i>
<i>Vestpocket Park</i>	<i>½ acre</i>	<i>gazebo benches and gardens</i>
<i>Twin Ridge Park</i>	<i>5 acres</i>	<i>1 soccer field 1 baseball field (lighted)</i>
<i>Windy Ridge Park</i>	<i>88 acres</i>	<i>future trail connection perimeter nature trails</i>
<i>Wildwood Park</i>	<i>3 acres</i>	<i>gardens gazebo walking path</i>
<i>Twin Arch Crossing Soccer Field</i>	<i>1 acre</i>	<i>soccer field parking area</i>

There are also a number of county facilities (Carroll and Frederick), both public and private, that are available to Mount Airy residents. This includes Old National Pike Park, 3 miles west of town. This facility has baseball and soccer fields with future plans for other recreational additions. Local sports leagues to include the Mount Airy Youth Athletic Association (MAYAA) and Four County Little League (FCLL) make use of baseball and soccer fields at schools located within the municipality. Schools outside the municipality are generally too distant to be of much use to the leagues serving the community. Another private set of fields has been used primarily by MAYAA over the years at the Fireman's Carnival grounds, privately owned by the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company. There are four



baseball fields at this complex and during winter months, two of the fields are used for football. If any development of this land were to occur, the community could lose the ball fields located there. The Town should therefore actively pursue an alternative location to replace those fields as well as create additional fields to meet current shortfalls caused by increased demand in recent years.

While there is still an emphasis on ensuring adequate playing fields to accommodate sports related events, there is an increased focus to coordinate community-oriented events in the Town's park facilities. The past decade has revealed a strong desire to take part in local events that build a community connection. Well attended events continue to include Camp Night, Movie Nights, benefit races and walks, as well as concerts and performances by local artists.

## PLANS FOR FUTURE PARK FACILITIES

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Parks and recreational facilities are important to the perception of the Town's character. Attractive and accessible facilities encourage use and are symbols of civic pride. Town parks should be visible and accessible from public roads. The landscaping and furnishing of park facilities should be done with quality and care. There are always a variety of park types available within a certain community and demand for certain types of recreation is greater in some locations than others. In 2008, a town survey was conducted which has changed the town government's perception of public needs and wants. Approximately 80% of the residents surveyed indicate a strong preference for passive, open-space recreation to include more picnic facilities, wooded areas and hiking/biking paths, camping, etc. This now needs to be considered in addition to the strong demand for more active, recreational sports. Longer range plans for Mount Airy Parks and Receptions include; development of Windy Ridge Park, the development of a Rails-to-Trails project, acquisition of land for a future sports complex, and a recreation center for indoor sports, cultural events, and teen activities.

**Guidelines for Parkland Acquisition:** There are general guidelines for creation of park facilities for a certain municipal population. Listed below are some general standards for providing parkland. A municipality should generally comply with these standards and monitor their acquisition of parkland over time to see if it meets the standard criteria.

Neighborhood Parks – 5 Acres/ 1,000 persons population/Average 1-10 acres – ½ mile service area.

Community Parks – 10 Acres/1,000 persons population/Average 20-75 acres – 2+ miles service area.

District Parks – 10 Acres/1,000 persons population/Average 100+ acres in a Regional Location.

There are also more specialized Regional/Resource types of parks, which may traverse several counties and provide hiking, biking or camping opportunities. Two examples of this type of park would be the Gillis Falls Watershed area located northeast of the Town and the Rails to Trails Greenway that continues to be designated on the current Master Plan. Neither of these greenways is developed but both have been included in the long-range planning projects at both the County and local level.

## WINDY RIDGE PARK

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In 2006, Town residents voted overwhelmingly to stop planned residential development on an 88-acre plot of land on the northwest side of town. This area has since been designated as a municipal park and has a 1 ¼ mile long nature trail surrounding it. Funding was made available within the town budget for a master plan for this park in the FY2008-2009 budget. This process has been completed making Windy Ridge the first Mount Airy park to be planned from the beginning. The intent is for this park to be a largely passive recreation area because of topography and limited access features through residential areas that make it most suitable for this type of use. This is consistent with the strong preferences shown in the town survey for this purpose. The development of the park is intended to occur in phases over many years. This will minimize cost and enable portions of it to be completed as community volunteer projects. Some of the features discussed so far in the planning process include camping and picnic areas, education and conservation areas for indigenous wild animals and plant-life, especially along the nature trail, a sledding hill, an outdoor amphitheater and a variety of other more passive types of recreation. This park could also house a future dog park and recreation center. The park will be designed so that the topmost level area could be used for additional ball fields in the event that the town is unable to acquire the land needed for a sports complex which is the optimal solution for additional active recreation needs.

## RAILS-TO-TRAILS FACILITIES PLAN

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The Rails-to-Trails right-of-way has been designated in the Mount Airy Master Plan for the last eighteen years. The actual trail pathway runs along the right-of-way for the old B&O railroad that went from the eastern border of town through the western border crossing the center of the downtown. This future greenways corridor will likely be completed in three phases. The first phase will run from the downtown to Watkins Park. A subsequent phase will extend from Watkins Park over Rte. 27 to the east and run one more mile to the main line rail line traveling east to Baltimore. This is shown in the Carroll County Comprehensive Plan to continue to Sykesville. The final phase of the rails to trails plan is to finish the trail from the downtown through to the westernmost part of the Mount Airy where it will meet up with the railway to points west. The entire trail will be designated as a hiking and biking path and will link up most of the residential developments in the town along the way to make Mount Airy a walking/biking community interconnected to the downtown and to most of the town parks along water and sewer easements. The Town is now in the process of actively acquiring easements needed for the trail system.



A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO CLEAN UP THE TRAIL PATHWAY IN CARROLL COUNTY

## MOUNT AIRY SPORTS COMPLEX

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The Town has long suffered from a shortage of athletic fields, and a Mount Airy Athletic Field Assessment, completed in 2006, revealed an overall shortage of between 8-11 fields. This fact has made it necessary for the town to actively search for a substantial parcel of land (50+ acres) to accommodate the additionally needed fields. To date, the Town has been getting by with community and school parks spread all around the town, causing parents of young athletes to consistently complain about the need to travel back and forth to fields in different locations. This situation presents a particular hardship for families with multiple children involved with sports. The best long-term solution to these needs is a single sports complex of sufficient size to accommodate multiple games at the same location. Such a complex could also offer the opportunity to bring the community together and enable the hosting of playoffs and tournaments in various sports. The Leishear Farm portion of the potential Harrison-Leishear annexation has been earmarked for this purpose. The location, North of Town and adjacent to Route 27, is convenient, easily accessed and will minimize noise and traffic complaints in the neighborhoods.

## MOUNT AIRY COMMUNITY CENTER

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In addition, recent Town surveys and Community Needs Assessments underscore the desire of Mount Airy residents for a local Community Center, a conveniently located facility with an accessible and broad range of capabilities, programs and offerings. In fact, based on the results of the 2012 Community Needs Assessment, a local Community Center is the most desired and preferred enhancement to the Town.

Local residents have expressed interest in a broad range of offerings, spanning indoor recreation as well as performance, exhibitions and other community programming. To accommodate the wide range of interests, the proposed design of the facility would need to include a dual-purpose gymnasium and auditorium for stage performances, multi-purpose areas for arts and crafts, an adequate kitchen and serving area, and a place for teen activities such as dances and other types of games and recreation. An in-depth due diligence is proceeding for this project, including visits to nearby Community Centers in neighboring counties, and extended discussion with professionals involved with designing, constructing and operating similar facilities. Multiple locations are being considered and evaluated, and the Town is using a thorough due diligence process for determine the feasibility and best management of the project.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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TWIN RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Resident children are divided between these two counties although they often live in close proximity to each other. Most municipalities the size of Mount Airy have their own high schools. Mount Airy has not had a high school since 1967.

Both the Carroll and Frederick County school systems serve Mount Airy. The students attend elementary, middle, and high schools in their respective counties. In Frederick County, the students are served by Twin Ridge Elementary, Windsor Knolls Middle and the new Lingnore High School. In Carroll County, the students are served by Parr's Ridge primary school, Mount Airy Elementary, Mount Airy Middle and South Carroll High School.



PARR'S RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MOUNT AIRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Frederick County rebuilt Linganore to address capacity and physical structural issues. The new Linganore High reopened in the fall of 2010. In the Carroll County side of Mount Airy, Mount Airy Middle completed construction of an expanded replacement school and opened its doors to Middle School Students in fall of 2013.

The Town Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance does not allow any residential subdivision to move forward if any of the schools in the Town or in the County are at 100% of State Rated Capacity. The following tables illustrate both the 2012 enrollment and future capacity projections for area public schools attended by the Mount Airy Community. All enrollment figures were obtained from the Carroll County and Frederick County Board of Education from the sources noted below.



MOUNT AIRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Projected Enrollments – Percent of State Rated Capacity						
Elementary Schools	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Parr's Ridge Elementary (K-2)	68.7	68.9	67.4	67.2	68.0	70.5
Mount Airy Elementary (3-5)	83.4	77.3	76.4	70.6	70.7	69.2
Twin Ridge Elementary (K-5)	73.1	73.3	70.2	68.9	69.3	70.2
<b>Middle Schools</b>						
Mount Airy Middle (6-8)	71.1	74.8	69.9	70.1	64.8	64.0
Windsor Knolls Middle (6-8)	82.1	81.7	83.7	81.5	80.7	74.3
<b>High Schools</b>						
South Carroll High (9-12)	83.3	80.7	84.4	84.6	82.7	82.3
Linganore (9-12)	92.0	91.1	88.0	85.9	83.4	83.3

<b>Projected Enrollments – Percent of State Rated Capacity</b>			
<b>Name of School</b>	<b>State Rated Capacity</b>	<b>2013 Enrollment</b>	<b>Percent Of State Capacity</b>
<b>Elementary Schools</b>			
<b>Parr’s Ridge Elementary (K-2)</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>73.9%</b>
<b>Mount Airy Elementary (3-5)</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>82.8%</b>
<b>Twin Ridge Elementary (K-5)</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>74.9%</b>
<b>Middle Schools</b>			
<b>Mount Airy Middle (6-8)</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>105.1%</b>
<b>Mount Airy Middle (6-8) New</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>75.9%</b>
<b>Windsor Knolls Middle (6-8)</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>High Schools</b>			
<b>South Carroll High (9-12)</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>81.5%</b>
<b>Linganore* (9-12)</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1482</b>	<b>93%</b>

Source(s): FCPS. Facilities Services Division. 2013 Enrollment Report. December 2013. September 30, 2013 Enrollments and Capacities  
 CCPS. Enrollment Projections. Actual and Projected Enrollments – Educational Facilities Master Plan – 2014-23  
 FCPS: September 2013 Education Facilities Master Plan Annual Update

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **Maryland Resident State Trooper Program:**

Police, fire, and emergency medical services are part of the Town’s Adequate Public Facilities standards. The scope of all of these services will be discussed below.

Police service has been provided by the Maryland Resident Trooper Program since 1975. Mount Airy has five resident



MARYLAND STATE POLICE BUILDING LOCATED AT  
 1100 BALTIMORE BLVD.  
 WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND 21157

troopers with one officer from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office that circulates within the town area should they be needed. State funding for the State Trooper Program was steady until FY 2010 when where the program was cut by approximately \$55,000.00. This mandates that the Town make up the shortfall in funding to maintain the Program. The Town will continue to monitor coverage to make sure adequate service is being provided by the resident trooper program. The average cost per fiscal year per officer for the Town is \$135,000.00. Additional officers are currently needed to cover the Town population at a standard recommended by both counties, which is one officer per 1,000 persons of population.

Additional costs for the State Trooper Program have also been increasing yearly by the State and will be a consideration in being able to maintain the State Trooper System over the long-term. General fund revenue is utilized to fund the resident trooper program. Although the town receives some aid towards this cost from the State of Maryland and the local counties, the majority of the costs are borne by the Town.

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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### FIRE AND RESCUE

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Emergency Services are provided by the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company (MAVFC) for fire, rescue, and emergency medical. The Fire Company personnel include 50 volunteer responders, numerous volunteer support personnel (non-responders), eight full-time paid personnel who work a 24 hour on/72 hour off rotating shift and approximately 20 part-time paid personnel who work various shifts 24/7. The present paid staffing breakdown is as follows: M-F, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. there are 4 personnel on duty. At least one of these personnel is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider (Paramedic) and at least one is typically an EVOD or Emergency Vehicle Operator/Driver for the larger fire apparatus.



MOUNT AIRY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY  
CARROLL COUNTY STATION 1

Daily, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., two personnel, at least 1 ALS provider. On Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. nightly, three personnel, at least one ALS provider, 3<sup>rd</sup> person is typically an EVOD. While these personnel are primarily utilized for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), they are utilized when needed to staff or operate fire equipment as well. The Fire Station was constructed in 1992 and located across the street from the Mount Airy Elementary School.

The “first due” service area, or area where the MAVFC is expected to respond first, extends well beyond the Town limits into Carroll and Frederick counties and a small portion of Howard County. In addition, the MAVFC may be called outside the first due response area to assist departments in any of the four surrounding counties on “mutual aid” calls. Though call totals have been well into the 2000’s over the past several years, the call total for 2010 was 1,990. Of those calls, 55% were in Carroll County, 37% were in Frederick County, 6% were in Howard County and 2% were in Montgomery County. Average response time from dispatch to the scene is between 8 and 12 minutes. Monitoring of response times is done frequently and updated when necessary.

Increasing call volume and decreasing volunteer participation has resulted in the need for increases in paid personnel. This need is especially evident for EMS trained personnel as the Town population increases. The Town has an ordinance that provides \$1,000 per residential building permit that is mandatory revenue going to the MAVFC. Due to the large downturn in the residential housing market, this income stream to the fire company has been greatly reduced. The Town contributes 10% of its annual property tax revenue to assist in funding the local volunteer company. Carroll County is the only contributing county at the moment. A minimal contribution used to be received from Frederick County, but in light of the current state of the economy has been withdrawn.

## GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

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### MOUNT AIRY TOWN HALL

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Situated in the heart of the downtown area, the Mount Airy Town Hall is located at 110 South Main Street. At this location, the administrative offices for Water and Sewer, Finance, Engineering, Code Enforcement and Community Planning are accessible to the public. Recently renovated in 2007, the Town Hall was expanded slightly to accommodate adequate office and meeting room space. Regularly monthly Town Council meetings are held at this location. The Town Council Room also serves as the venue for various Town Commission Meetings. In addition, the Town Hall also serves as the location for an Operations Center for the coordination of emergency management services for the Town.



## FLAT IRON BUILDING

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The Flat Iron Building is a Town icon that is located at 2 Park Ave. This well-known building currently hosts the Resident Troopers office and the Historical Society's museum. The building is in need of structural repairs and the Town is currently looking at options for either making repairs or replacing the building with a similar structure. The Town did a feasibility study to see what options were available and is deciding on the best way forward. Due to the strategic location of the building, being situated in the heart of the Downtown, the future uses must be carefully considered to the best benefit to Mount Airy, its businesses and residents.

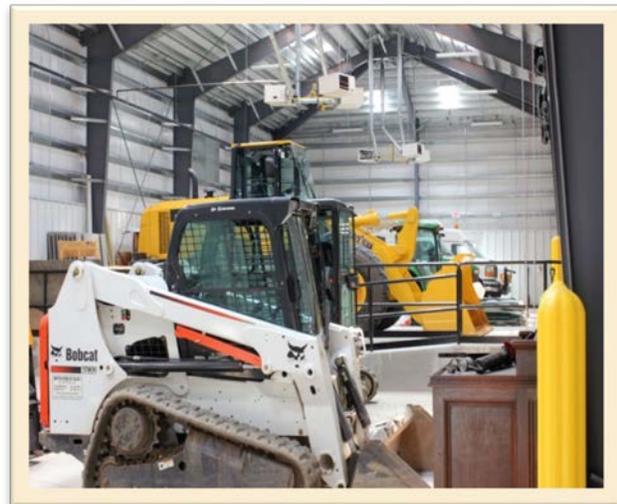


REBUILT IN 1917, THE FLAT IRON BUILDING WAS PURCHASED BY THE TOWN OF MOUNT AIRY IN OCTOBER OF 1951

## MOUNT AIRY MAINTENANCE FACILITY

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The Mount Airy Maintenance Facility is located at 215 Prospect Road, just west of Prospect Park. This facility serves as the central operating location for the Department of Public Works and has been part of the Capital Improvements Program and has been undergoing both site and structural upgrades. The Mount Airy Maintenance Facility is not a public facility, but functions to allow the Public Works staff to directly serve the Town residents in an efficient manner.



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## LIBRARY AND SENIOR CENTER

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### MOUNT AIRY BRANCH LIBRARY

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#### History

In 1965, the Carroll County Commissioners gave the Town of Mt. Airy permission to open a community library, with the provision that the Town raise \$3,000 to refurbish and furnish a room above the Town office at the time located in the Flat Iron Building. Four months later, after donations and fund-raising events such as a benefit shoot at the Rod and Gun Club, a dance for teens, and a book sale, the library opened. In 1974 the Mt. Airy Community Branch moved to the former American Grocery



Building, now serving as the Town Hall offices, and in 1993 a new full-service Mount Airy Branch Library opened on Ridge Avenue.

The Carroll County Public Library (CCPL) provides numerous services and community programs of varying degrees within each community. Activities include youth reading programs, book clubs, theatrical renditions, music sharing, and history programs specific to our home state of Maryland. This location is equipped with one large and one small meeting room available to rent for meetings. The Mount Airy Branch serves area citizens well and provides an important community amenity for all ages.

The Mount Airy Branch Library is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The County Commissioners reinvest tax payer money into maintaining county-funded facilities. The most recent renovations to the library began in 2012. Plans include repavement of the driveway, and reworking of the sidewalk to improve grade and accessibility.

### MOUNT AIRY SENIOR CENTER

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Located on the same site as the Mount Airy Branch Library, but operating as a separate facility, is the Mount Airy Senior and Community Center. Supported by the Carroll County Bureau of Aging and Disabilities, a variety of programs such as nutrition, recreation, education, health, and socialization are offered Monday through Friday. This center is conveniently located in close vicinity to the neighboring senior housing development.

Planning for regional libraries and senior centers are part of the Carroll and Frederick County capital improvement process and based on critical population densities.

## WATER/WASTEWATER

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### WATER SUPPLY

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The Town of Mount Airy is not only located in two counties, but also divided into five different watersheds. For the past five years, the Town has been under a Consent Order with the Maryland Department of the Environment to find additional source water for the Town's increasing water supply demands. The Town operates strictly off of groundwater supply, and all other options for a long-term water supply have been limited due to financial considerations. The Town has upgraded their storm drain system along Main Street over the past year as well as placed 8,000 Linear Feet of pipe for the water main, making the main a 12" line.

The unconfined fractured rock aquifer is the source of water supply for the Town. The system uses 11 wells to provide a municipal water supply for over 9,600 residents. The Town's existing water supply system consists of eleven wells, transmission and feeder mains and five water treatment/booster pumping stations. The Town also operates three elevated tanks capable of holding over 1,700,000 gallons in reserve. The main well field is located in Frederick County and consists of wells #1-4. Wells #5 and #6 are located in Carroll County west of MD 27. Wells #7 (Twin Ridge Subdivision) and #8 (Summit Ridge Subdivision) were brought on line as a result of those two subdivisions. Public Well #9 was on Town owned property and subsequently developed and well #10, was brought on by way of development activity. Public well #11, recently brought on line within the last year is located on South Main Street, is located on Town owned property and put into service to fulfill the requirements of MDE to satisfy the water allocation of existing approved developments.



<b>Well Number</b>	<b>MDE Approved Allocations based on Yearly Average</b>	<b>Current Demand</b>
Wells 1-4	255,000 gpd	
Well 5	43,000 gpd	
Well 6	149,000 gpd	
Well 7	99,000 gpd	
Well 8	150,000 gpd	
Well 9	79,000 gpd	
Well 10	77,000 gpd	
Well 11	75,000 gpd	
<b>Total Gallons Per Day Allocation</b>	<b>927,000 gpd</b>	<b>765,000 gpd</b>

<b>As of 2013</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>
<b>Pipeline</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
<b>Vacant Land and Redevelopment</b>	<b>Need to Find 221,500 GPD</b>	<b>Available</b>
<b>Outer Growth/Annexation Areas</b>	<b>Not Available</b>	<b>Not Available</b>
<b>Exception: Harrison &amp; Leishear</b>	<b>Available (With 4 Wells on Property)</b>	<b>Available</b>

Demand for infill and future (Residential/Commercial/Industrial) 424,000 gpd  
**Total Demand 1,189,000 gpd**

Current Maryland Department of the Environment has allocated and permitted the Town for a total of 927,000 gallons per day to be extracted from all eleven wells currently on line. The Town recently constructed in the last five years a third water storage tank capable of holding 1,000,000 gallons per day of water in reserve.

*Refer to the Municipal Growth Element for existing vacant land inventory and future annexation areas and projected water capacity demands.*

## WATER SUPPLY LIMITATIONS

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The Town of Mount Airy has historically utilized groundwater wells for its primary water supply. The emphasis on groundwater supply has served the Town well over the last thirty years and the Town has been fortunate to find, purchase and drill several large production wells, the majority within our municipal boundaries.

The Town would like to continue this trend of reliance on groundwater resources within the municipal boundaries. The Town also understands that a long-term water solution may not fit within these desired criteria. Most importantly, the ultimate water supply side must not exceed the design capacity of our WWTP, permitted at 1.2 million gallons per day processing capacity.

## WASTEWATER

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The Town of Mount Airy currently has 11 wastewater pump stations that move wastewater over the various ridges throughout the Town which all feed into a single wastewater treatment plant. The Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant is located approximately one mile east of MD 27 along an abandoned length of the B&O Railroad. The plant treats the wastewater and discharges the flow into the South Branch of the Patapsco River. The average flow into the WWTP during 1996 and 1997 was 553,500 gallons per day (gpd). During 1998, the flow was 515,000 gpd, 1999 totaled 523,000 gpd, and 2000 was 558,000 gpd. Looking more recently, the average flows into the WWTP during 2012 and 2013 were 677,000 gpd and 737,000 gpd, respectively. The treatment process consists of the following: a bar screen, grit removal, Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) aeration, clarification, Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) filtration, ultraviolet light and post aeration, solids process, sludge holding, and belt filter press with lime stabilization. This plant has a permitted treatment capacity of 1.2 Million gallons per day. This plant was built with the original sewer system in 1972 and has undergone 3 major upgrades.

This plant has a permitted treatment capacity of 1.2 Million gallons per day. This plant was built with the original sewer system in 1972 and has undergone 3 major upgrades.

The first upgrade was around 1989 and expanded the plant to meet the capacity of numerous developments recurring in Town.

In 1999, the plant was expanded again to its current design capacity, but also improved with Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) technology which includes the installation of aerobic and anoxic zones. The biological processes involve the use of micro-organisms and oxidation to reduce both total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorous (TP) from the water. During nitrification the ammonia is oxidized to nitrite and then to nitrate in the presence of oxygen under aerobic conditions. This is followed by the denitrification of nitrates which biologically reduces to nitric oxide, nitrous oxide and nitrogen gas, in the absence of oxygen under anoxic conditions. Total phosphorous in wastewater is a combination of soluble and particulate phosphate. The solids, or

particulates, are easily removed through the solids removal process. During aerobic conditions the soluble phosphorus is solidified by aerobic heterotrophs and then broken down under anaerobic conditions to the release of phosphorus. This process is repeated with the return sludge system.

In 2010, the wastewater plant was upgraded to Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) technology. The TETRA Denite system combines the denitrifications and filtration process to further reduce TN and TP down below the stringent 3mg/liter and 0.3mg/liter discharge limitations respectively.

This effective removal process is undertaken by introducing methanol as a carbon source. It has proven to be very effective in meeting the State's requirements.

## WASTEWATER LIMITATIONS

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The WWTP has reached its design capacity and physical capacity at its present location. There is opportunity to expand wastewater treatment capacity in the future provided that both a location and funding can be identified and that there is public support for a second wastewater treatment plant.

The Town needs to keep our long-term water supply options open, but with serious consideration of what the long-term financial limitations are for a smaller municipality. Because of these potential financial limitations, the Town may not be able to seriously consider all possible options. It is the Town's intention to only pursue long-term planning, development and a rate of growth that is responsive to and in balance with both the (known or demonstrated) capacity of the Town's water resources and the future growth preferences of the Town's residents.

## SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

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Solid Waste disposal is considered a critical public service. The Recycling and Sanitation Commission was created in 1990 to address State legislation requiring mandatory recycling. This commission, of up to nine members, has directed the collection and disposal of solid waste and monitored the ever-changing landscape of recyclables over the past 23 years. Town Code requires mandatory recycling within the Town. Curbside recycling has been in operation since 1992. All paper, glass, plastic and cardboard continue to be collected once weekly for town residents located in Carroll County and on a bi-weekly basis for



SINGLE STREAM BLUE RECYCLING BINS  
LINE TOWN STREETS ON RECYCLING DAY

town residents located in Frederick County. The “single-stream” curbside method used allows all recyclables to be “commingled” in the same recycling container. In 2008, the Town participated in a pilot program with Frederick County that provided 65-gallon totters with lids and wheels, more than tripling the container size. Recycling efforts dramatically increased, resulting in a decrease in landfill tipping fees. The Town extended the pilot program to the Carroll County side of Town in the spring of 2009, experiencing the same degree of success. This method is still in place today.

Solid waste removal within the entire incorporated boundaries of Mount Airy, as well as recycling collection on the Carroll County side of Town, is contracted to a commercial hauler on a tri-annual basis. The Frederick County Division of Solid Waste Management provides recycling collection to residents on the Frederick County side of Town.

Mount Airy also provides yard waste pick-up approximately every other week, April until December. Every year, right after the New Year holiday, Christmas trees are collected and recycled. A yearly large item bulk pick-up is normally scheduled in the spring, of larger items; lawn mowers, grills, and items that aren’t allowed on a weekly basis.

The Town maintains a Downtown Trash and Recycling Center to help with the logistics of solid waste and recycling collection in the downtown environment. The combination of residential and commercial collections in the historic downtown zone led to this innovative solution to solve the problems of the different needs of these two entities. Our commercial hauler collects the one trash dumpster and two comingled recycling dumpsters three times each week. These dumpsters are contained in a locked facility, restricting access to only those authorized individuals and commercial enterprises that have been issued a key. This center was recently upgraded by paving the pad and hanging new signage. Future plans call for the installation of a surveillance camera and solar motion sensor lighting.

The future of solid waste disposal and recycling is very bright. Currently 34% of all residential waste is recycled. The eventual goal is to develop material recovery facilities that can receive all waste and divide it into those items that can be recycled and those that can’t. After extracting recyclables, the resulting solid waste will be separated into the small fraction of organic matter that can be broken down through anaerobic digestion and waste to be used as fuel for “waste-to-energy” facilities.

Mount Airy is committed to state-of-the-art recycling and sanitation programs in the future. Open relationships with the Frederick County and Carroll County Divisions of Public Works will allow Mount Airy to collaborate in efforts to take advantage of the potential savings of increased recycling percentages and decreased solid waste disposal. As new technologies are implemented, Mount Airy’s award winning Recycling and Sanitation programs will be ready to lead into the future.

Short term goals for recycling in Mount Airy involve informing the residents as more types of waste become recyclable. Plastic shopping bags, dry cleaning bags and plastic clothing bags currently are recycled separately. As new processes are developed to handle more recyclables, information will be distributed. Reducing the tonnage and tipping fees paid at the landfill or transfer station will save money for the Town and its residents. The single largest cost involved in solid waste and recycling is the collection process. The eventual goal of once-a-week pick-up of ALL solid waste will realize savings for the Town residents.

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## CHAPTER SEVEN: MAJOR GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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**GOAL 1:** Given their importance and essential contribution to the health and development of the Town, ensure adequate long range planning, program implementation and financial support for the Town's Community Facilities and Public Services.

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:**

- a) Develop a strategic and cohesive Capital Improvements Program for all Community Facilities and Public Services.
- b) Continue to include Capital Improvement Projects in the “out year” considerations with each annual budget
- c) Identify potential funding sources to support planned facilities.

**GOAL 2:** Identify program and operating goals for each facility and service for a timeframe TBD.

**GOAL 3:** Devise and implement assessment processes appropriate to each facility and service and begin to apply the processes consistently over time. Report the findings publicly on a TBD frequency and spur discussion, feedback and appropriate response by the Town's Commissions and the Town Council.

**GOAL 4: Look for opportunities with the Town's Community Facilities and Public Services to gain planning and operational efficiencies.**

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:**

- a) Establish bi-annual work sessions involving Town Officials, Commission representatives, and Town Administration Staff to identify current efforts, common goals, and opportunities for collaboration.

**GOAL 5: Promote alternative energy sources and support enhanced recycling considerations.**

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:**

- a) Identify alternative energy sources that are logical renewable resources for the Town.
- b) Develop standards for the installation and use of renewal energy systems.
- c) Incorporate renewable energy technologies in municipal facilities and on Town owned land.
- d) Develop best practices for mitigating visual impacts associated with alternative energy facilities.
- e) Explore the benefits of a Renewable Energy Task Force or Sub-Committee.
- f) Consider the development and adoption of a fully integrated energy master plan.

**GOAL 6: Invest in advance technologies to benefit residents, businesses, and visitors.**

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:**

- a) Analyze or assess technology needs for the Mount Airy business and residential community.
- b) Identify public safety benefits from advanced technology.
- c) Coordinate with County Partners to utilize existing technology infrastructure.
- d) Include the advancement of technology initiative in the annual budget cycle with a schedule of operating and maintenance costs.