

# *Caroline County*

## *Department of Planning & Codes*



Crystal L. Dadds, Director  
Leslie Grunden, Assistant Director of Planning  
Matt Kaczynski, Assistant Director of Development Review

Health & Public Services Bldg.  
403 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Denton, Maryland 21629-1335  
Telephone: 410-479-8100  
Facsimile: 410-479-4187

### **Planning Commission Staff Report, July 9, 2025**

**Staff Contact:** Olivia Vidotto, Planner III

**Item:** Community Facilities Chapter

#### **Summary:**

The Community Facilities chapter is attached for your review.

Staff has provided a red-lined version of each chapter to reflect the edits in the in-house working document, along with a clean edited copy of each chapter – with no revisions shown – for your review. To assist in your review, the edits in the red-lined version are summarized below:

- Wording that is shown in red with a strike through line is from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and is being deleted. Example: ~~Please have a nice day.~~
- Wording that is shown in red is new and proposed for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan update. Example: **We are going to have a nice day.**

**Request:** Each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan contains a substantial amount of information, but our key focus will be on two areas: the goals and objectives at the beginning of each chapter and the implementation strategies at the end of each chapter. These strategies are recommended actions to achieve the goals and objectives outlined at the beginning of the chapter. During your review, consider if the goals and objectives are appropriate and attainable, and if the implementation strategies are aligned with and support the goals and objectives. We will go through each page together, discuss the content, and gather recommendations to finalize this chapter.

## CHAPTER 5: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, *community facilities* in Caroline County are defined to include recreation and parks facilities; educational facilities, libraries, museums and cultural resources; emergency services and public health facilities; law enforcement and court facilities; and public works facilities.

A goal of the *Caroline County Comprehensive Plan* is to provide and maintain a system of community facilities that effectively meets the changing needs of County residents. This system should be planned and managed in a manner that supports and aligns with the County's land use and growth management goals and objectives.

Objectives for community facilities include:

- To promote effective interagency coordination with the appropriate Municipal, County, and State agencies and entities in the planning, development, and programming of community facilities that align with the guiding principles, goals, and long-term vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan;
- To assess and provide sufficient parklands, open space lands and recreation facilities that are available to meet both current community needs and projected population growth;
- To ensure the provision of a safe, reliable supply of potable water and adequate wastewater treatment for all County residents;
- To encourage municipalities to annex adjacent areas that lack adequate public water and sewer services to promote efficient infrastructure expansion;
- To concentrate growth within Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) to maximize the use of existing or planned public infrastructure, reduce sprawl, and promote fiscally and environmentally sustainable development;
- To ensure that all proposed development is contingent upon the availability and capacity of essential public facilities and services, including but not limited to roads, water supply, wastewater treatment and schools;
- To coordinate with public and private entities to site and design public facilities in a manner that supports the County's and municipalities' growth management objectives and;
- To guide the development of communications infrastructure in a way that strengthens emergency capabilities and enhances broadband access to support business growth and community connectivity.

Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) projects a total of 38,720 residents by 2050 for Caroline County which represents an average annual growth rate of 1.2%. Population growth and demographic shifts in the County will influence the nature, location, and scale of community facilities and services required to meet future needs.

To support a growing population, County and Municipal governments must engage in the

planned and coordinated assessment, development, and expansion of adequate community facilities and services. Key areas include public water and sewer, parks and recreation facilities and services, public education facilities, and public safety services such as emergency management, fire, medical, police, and disaster response. See Table 5-1 for an inventory of existing community facilities and Map 5-1 for their locations.

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Public Elementary Schools	5
Public Middle Schools	2
Public High Schools	2
Parks and Recreation Facilities	45
Law Enforcement Facilities	6
Emergency Services Stations	6
Libraries	3
Courthouses/ Legal Services Facilities	13
Public Health Service Facilities	2

## **Recreation and Parks Facilities**

In 2022, the *Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan* (LPPRP) was updated. Updates to the LPPRP are required under State law every six years.

The Caroline County LPPRP is developed to assist the State’s evaluation of each County’s land preservation and recreation program to ensure adequate public investment. Most importantly, the LPPRP qualifies local governments for Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funding/grants. The LPPRP serves as a guide for park acquisition, land preservation and conservation for the County and its municipalities. The LPPRP provides detailed strategies for recreation, land preservation, and natural resource conservation that extend beyond the scope of the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

The LPPRP aligns with and supports the preservation and conservation goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. The “Mission Statement” of the LPPRP is to *“improve and enrich citizen well-being and community life through the provision of affordable, high quality activities and parks and facilities for Caroline County families and individuals.”*

The LPPRP outlines significant strategies for advancing recreation and parks, preserving agricultural land, and conserving natural resources within the County. One key strategy is the strengthening of mandatory open space dedication requirements within the County subdivision regulations. Effective May 1, 2007, the County began requiring all major subdivisions include accessible recreational or open space equal to at least five percent of the subdivisions gross area, with a minimum area and parcel size of not less than three- quarters of an acre. Additionally:

- At least seventy five percent of the required or open space must be suitable for active recreation.
- All required recreation and open space must be offered for public dedication.
- A major update to the open space regulations was the exclusion of environmentally constrained areas in required open space calculations, ensuring that the designated land is suitable for recreational activity.

As shown in Table 5-2, the County currently contains:

- 158 acres of recreation land, and
- 324 acres of resource land.

Recreation land is developed for primary use by the public; resource lands are lands whose primary objective is natural resource protection. The majority of the public recreation and resource land is State-owned, comprising 7,272 acres. An additional 1,011 acres are owned by the County, towns, and Board of Education (BOE). As of 2024, including public and private/quasi-public lands, the County has a total of 10,512 acres of recreation and resource land.

Caroline County’s municipalities play a vital role in supporting recreation and parks throughout the County. Approximately 44% of the County’s recreation land is located within the incorporated towns, highlighting the significant contribution of municipal areas to the overall recreational network. Municipalities often serve as primary points of contact for the public, offering accessible recreational facilities and programming. Many of the recommended future land acquisitions and recreation projects identified in County planning efforts are located in or near municipalities.

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Recreation Land</b>	<b>Resource Land</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
<b>Local Recreation and Resource Lands Total</b>	<b>445.2</b>	<b>354.4</b>	<b>799.6</b>
Board of Education	104.4	0.0	104.4
Caroline Co.	158.8	324.3	483.1
Ridgely	36.9	-	36.9
Denton	51.3	11.2	62.5
Federalsburg	57.6	18.1	75.7
Preston	8.5	0.0	8.5
Greensboro	21.6	0.0	21.6
Hillsboro	4.0	0.8	4.8
Templeville	0.8	0.0	0.8
Goldsboro	1.3	0.0	1.3
<b>State and Federal Recreation &amp; Resource</b>			

<b>Lands Total *</b>	1487.4	5784.6	7272.0
Private/Quasi-Public	278.3	1467.3	1745.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2551.3</b>	<b>7960.7</b>	<b>10512.4</b>

2022 LLPR chart

\* there is no Federal Recreation Land in Caroline County

### **LPPRP Recreational Attributes**

Caroline County categorizes its recreation and resource lands into a diverse range of park types and facilities to serve varying community needs. These include:

- Regional parks
- Community parks
- Neighborhood parks
- School recreation parks and fitness facilities
- Mini parks
- Special use areas
- Water access sites
- Undeveloped parks

(See Map 5-1 for locations)

### State and Federal Recreation Lands

Recreation and resource land at the State level includes several key areas within the County:

- Tuckahoe State Park (primarily undeveloped and the largest State recreation holding)
- Chesapeake Forest/State Forest Area
- Martinak State Park
- Idyllwild Natural Resource Area
- Denton Armory.

There is no Federally owned recreation lands located within Caroline County, however,

The Town of Denton is now a stop on the American Discovery Trail. Denton is the first officially recognized “Trail Town” along the American Discovery Trail. This national trail spans approximately 6,800 miles across 15 states from coast to coast and showcases the diverse landscapes and cultural heritage of the United States. It is the only coast-to-coast, non-motorized trail in the United States. Denton’s designation as a Trail Town will provide an economic boost in tourism with hikers, bikers, and adventure seekers bringing new business to local shops, dining and lodging. This is also an opportunity to promote local history and culture to a national audience.

## Water Access

Caroline County provides public water access at four major landing sites:

- Hillsboro Boat Ramp (*Tuckahoe River*) – County owned
- Choptank Marina (*Choptank River*) – County owned
- Ganey's Wharf (*Choptank River*) – County owned
- Greensboro Boat Ramp (*Choptank River*) – Leased and operated by the County, owned by the Greensboro Fire Department

Additional public landings and/or marinas are available in:

- Denton
- Federalsburg
- Martinak and Tuckahoe State parks
- Smithville Community Lake

These water access points contribute significantly to recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and passive recreation (hiking, birdwatching, etc.) activities across the County.

PLACEHOLDERS FOR MAP 5-1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MAPS 5-2 THROUGH 5-6  
RECREATION AND PARK FACILITIES BY COUNTY REGION (NSEW)



## LPPRP Capital Improvement Program

The 2022 LPPRP includes a Long Range Capital Improvement Program with a nine-year timeframe. Most of the County's priorities within that period are enhancement projects at existing facilities, including the North and South County regional parks, community parks within municipalities and rural villages, and waterfront recreational facilities such as Choptank Marina and Ganey's Wharf.

## **Educational Facilities**

As stated in the 2024 *Educational Facilities Master Plan for Caroline County Public Schools*, enrollment in Caroline County public schools is projected to increase significantly in the next 10 to 15 years, with 4 schools slated to be near or over State-rated capacity limits by 2030. The County and the Board of Education will continue to work together to ensure that the capacity for educational facilities is considered during the development approval process.

Most of Caroline County's public schools received facility upgrades and renovations between 2010 and 2025. Projects included roof replacements, security and safety upgrades, infrastructure improvements and internal building alterations., Greensboro Elementary School was entirely replaced with a new building in 2021.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>
PK 3	20	20	20	21	21	21
PK 4	288	288	298	307	307	307
K	386	396	416	416	416	416
1	408	398	408	428	428	428
2	448	412	402	412	433	433
3	422	452	416	406	416	437
4	389	427	457	420	410	420
5	379	396	435	466	429	418
6	405	371	389	426	457	420
7	375	413	379	396	435	466
8	426	383	421	386	404	444
9	451	478	429	472	433	453
10	400	392	416	373	410	376

11	385	388	380	403	362	398
12	383	378	380	373	395	355
Elem. SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sec. SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total K-12	5,258	5,284	5,327	5,377	5,427	5,463
Total PK-12	5,566	5,592	5,645	5,705	5,755	5,791
FTE PK-12	5,556	5,582	5,635	5,695	5,744	5,780
Note: Kindergarten is full-day, pre-kindergarten is half-day-DES,PES,RES						
Note: Pre-kindergarten is full-day - GES,FES						
Source: CCPS EFMP 2024						

School Type	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Elem. PK-5	2,740	2,789	2,852	2,876	2,859	2,880
Elem K-5	2,432	2,481	2,534	2,548	2,531	2,552
Middle 6-8	1,207	1,167	1,188	1,209	1,296	1,330
High 9-12	1,620	1,636	1,605	1,620	1,600	1,581
Elem. SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sec. SE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total K-12	5,258	5,284	5,327	5,377	5,427	5,463
Total PK-12	5,566	5,592	5,645	5,705	5,755	5,791
FTE PK-12	5,556	5,582	5,635	5,695	5,744	5,780
Source: CCPS EFMP						

As shown in Table 5-5, the middle schools are projected to receive the largest portion of school enrollment increases in the next six years.

Table 5-5 shows projected school facility utilization based on official State Rated Capacity (SRC).

School	SRC	Grades	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031

Denton Elementary	736	PK-5	87%	90%	92%	93%	93%	94%
Federalsburg Elementary	572	PK-5	71%	75%	78%	79%	80%	82%
Greensboro Elementary	818	PK-5	99%	101%	103%	104%	103%	103%
Preston Elementary	441	PK-5	93%	90%	91%	90%	88%	87%
Ridgely Elementary	496	PK-5	94%	95%	97%	97%	97%	97%
All Elementary Schools	3,063		89%	91%	93%	94%	93%	94%
Colonel Richardson Middle	542	6-8	65%	63%	67%	68%	72%	74%
Lockerman Middle	945	6-8	90%	87%	88%	89%	96%	98%
All Middle Schools	1,487		81%	79%	80%	81%	87%	89%
Colonel Richardson High	862	9-12	56%	57%	55%	56%	56%	54%
North Caroline High	1,263	9-12	90%	91%	89%	90%	89%	88%
All High Schools	2,125		76%	77%	76%	76%	75%	74%
All Schools	6,675	PK-12	83%	84%	84%	85%	86%	87%

Notes:

1.Utilization is based on FTE enrollment: includes half-day 3 yr old PK, full-day 4 yr old PK & full-day

The educational facilities in Caroline County are well-maintained and offer a clean and safe environment for learning. However, several aging school buildings require modernization to support the continued delivery of high-quality programs. Future modernization projects will be necessary at several of the County's older school facilities, including Denton Elementary, Ridgely Elementary, Federalsburg Elementary, Lockerman Middle School, and the Caroline Career and Technology Center. The timing and implementation of these projects must be balanced with available local funding and the potential need for additional student capacity.

Current capacity issues are most acute at Greensboro Elementary, which was built in 2021 and in 2025 is already at 100% capacity, and Ridgely Elementary, which is currently at 95% capacity. Future enrollment projections indicate Denton Elementary will be near 95% capacity within the next 10 years. Lockerman Middle School and North Caroline High School also have capacity pressures that will increase within the next 10 years.

The Superintendent and Board of Education have recognized the importance of preparing a proactive long range plan to address both school modernization and capacity needs. This planning effort has included policy updates, such as the adoption of the Long Range Facility Planning and Student School Assignment policies. Additionally, the school system has developed growth scenarios and adjusted its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to cover a 10-year planning horizon, rather than the traditionally required 5 years. This extended timeline provides a clearer understanding of the total fiscal impact associated with both ongoing modernization efforts and the need for additional capacity.

Caroline County Public Schools will undertake systemic renovations to extend the functional life of existing school buildings prior to full-scale general renovations. These projects may include, but are not limited to, replacement or upgrades of major systems such as roofing, mechanical systems, and structural components. In some cases, systemic renovations will be used to address the most critical infrastructure needs, thereby postponing the need for more extensive and costly general renovation projects.

According to the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP), public school enrollment in Caroline County is projected to increase by 3.1% by 2031. The EFMP includes capacity and facility utilization for each of the County's schools:

"The lowest current facility utilization for elementary schools is 69 percent in Federalsburg. The highest is 103 percent at Greensboro. Overall, Caroline County's elementary schools were at 88 percent of capacity in 2023. Total elementary capacity utilization is expected to remain above 89 percent for the next 10 years.

In 2023 Lockerman Middle is at 89 percent capacity and Colonel Richardson

Middle is at 67 percent capacity. Overall middle school enrollment is at 81 percent of capacity. Middle school enrollment is projected to remain steady over the next few years before gradually rising again with Lockerman reaching 94 percent of capacity by 2033.

The expansion projects completed at North Caroline High in 1998 and 2002 provided just enough capacity for the recent demographic cycle when enrollment peaked in 2006 at 98 percent of capacity. In 2023 North Caroline High is at 983 percent of capacity and Colonel Richardson High is at 62 percent of capacity. Overall high school capacity utilization is 83 percent in 2023 and is projected to increase slightly before decreasing to 76 percent in 2033.

The total state rated capacity of all Caroline County schools was 85 percent utilized in 2023. Total system utilization of state rated capacity is projected remain above 80 percent during the next 10 years. Capacity utilization rates are based on current official enrollment projections and State Rated Capacity numbers. Projections will continue to be adjusted as new data is available.”

Current capacity issues are most acute at North Caroline High School, Lockerman Middle School, Greensboro and Preston Elementary Schools, each of which are near the state rated capacity. Projects to address overcrowding will be in addition to the on-going modernization needs of aging school buildings and systems.

Priority projects identified in the 2024 EFMP to address utilization and capacity needs include:

- Planning and development of a potential new middle school for the County;
- Modernization projects at older schools: Denton Elementary, Ridgely Elementary, Federalsburg Elementary and Caroline Career and Technology Center;

Modernization of facilities can result in a significant reduction in school State Rated Capacity and thus exacerbate the capacity situation at a particular school. In such cases modernization projects also may require a capacity expansion component. If site constraints limit expansion ability, a feasibility assessment may be needed to determine if building a new school at an alternative location is more cost-effective.

## **Higher Education**

Currently there are no facilities for post-secondary education located in Caroline County. Caroline County residents seeking higher education are served by Chesapeake College, the state’s first regional community college, which offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Caroline County, along with the five other Eastern Shore counties served by the College (Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot) contribute annually to the school’s budget. The College’s Board of Trustees is a ten-member body responsible for setting the strategic

direction and governance of the College. Appointed by the Governor of Maryland, the Trustees represent the five counties served by the College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) and provide oversight on policies, programs, and finances, ensuring Chesapeake College meets the needs of the community.

## **Libraries, Museums and Cultural Resources**

There are currently libraries located in the corporate limits of Federalsburg, Denton, and Greensboro. Caroline County's Bookmobile service ended its run after 50 years of service in November of 2012. The decision was made as the use of the Bookmobile has decreased steadily over the years. Money being spent to keep the Bookmobile running for a few customers could be redirected to services being used by many more people.

### **The Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center**

Located in Denton, it offers visitor information, restrooms, a boat ramp with boat trailer parking, a nature trail and plenty of parking including bus accessible spaces. The center is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the evolution and development of the land, its inhabitants and their relationship with the Choptank River along with providing information about Denton, Caroline County, and beyond.

### **The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad (UGRR) Trail**

This is part of the National Historic Park Trail. Denton has 4 historic markers as part of the UGRR driving map.

### **Tuckahoe Meeting House**

Located across from the visitor center in Denton, this historic house is also part of the quilt trail and provides information on the history of the local heritage. Built in 2803, this was one of five Quaker meeting houses in Caroline County whose members sustained a local Underground Railroad network.

### **The Museum of Rural Life**

Located on Second Street in Denton, it tells the stories of residents living in Caroline's agriculture-based economy and houses the headquarters for the County Historical Society.

### **Greensboro Historical Society Museum**

Located in Greensboro, this museum offers a glimpse into regional history with exhibits on the Transpeninsular Indian Trails, the story of the boundary dispute that led to the establishment of the famed Mason-Dixon line, along with a bit of whimsy on an internationally renowned chicken that was inducted in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1915.

**Preston Historical Society Museum** - located in the Noble House, a historic home that dates to 1833 and is open on select days and times for visitors to obtain information on the history of Preston (originally known as Snow Hill).

**Ridgley Railroad Memorial Park** - This downtown park includes a mile of paved trail along the railroad right-of-way which is part of the “Rails to Trails” program, a historic railroad depot and railcar.

## **Caroline County School Impact Fee**

In 2018, the Caroline County’s School Excise Tax was revised to an impact fee of \$5,000 per housing unit for single-family and multifamily dwellings for school construction. For age-restricted (55 and over) dwellings, a \$2,000 impact fee was imposed for fire protection/Emergency medical services. These fees are set however, the current limits fail to account for inflation, escalation in the costs of school construction by square footage, and anticipated school enrollment stemming from new development, which will continue to increase pressure for new schools.

Currently, the impact fee assists Caroline County to address capital improvements to school facilities. It also assists in assessing service levels. School construction and related costs are projected to exceed \$50 million or more over the next ten years. At current levels, impact fees will only cover a portion of these expenses. To address this funding gap, the County should undertake an “Impact Fee Study,” –a necessary step to justify and implement any fee increases. As part of this process, the County should consider raising the current impact fee to be between \$8,000 to \$10,000 per residential unit within the next several years. Additionally, a higher impact fee should be applied to multifamily units, reflecting their typically greater demand for school infrastructure and public services. Proactively adjusting the fee structure will help ensure that new development contributes more equitably to the costs of public facilities and reduces the financial burden on existing taxpayers.

## **Law Enforcement and Court Facilities**

### **Caroline County Sheriff’s Office**

The Caroline County Sheriff’s Office is the primary law enforcement agency for Caroline County Maryland. The Office is located at 9305 Double Hills Road in Denton. Located on the site are the Administration, Patrol Division, Canine Unit, Criminal Investigations Division, Support Services Division, Animal Control and the Records Division. The Department provides a variety of law enforcement services to the County, including crime prevention, criminal investigation, patrol and traffic units, courthouse security, school security and security at the Health and Public Services building. The Office currently employs 46 sworn personnel.

### **Caroline County Department of Corrections**

The Caroline County Detention Center is in a historic building on the Choptank River at 101 Gay Street in Denton. Built at Pig Point (now Denton) in 1797, the first County Jail originally was overseen and maintained by the Sheriff. All County prison functions were the responsibility of the

Sheriff from that time until the creation of the new Detention Center in 1995. Oversight of the Detention Center transferred to the newly created Department of Corrections in 1995. The Department of Corrections oversees inmate care and education at the Detention Center. The Department also transports incarcerated individuals to and from court and supervises inmate transfers coordinated through the arresting agency. In addition, pre-release programs, home detention programs and parole hearings are supervised by the Department. The Detention Center maximum capacity is 132 inmates, although post-Justice Reinvestment Act, the numbers of incarcerated individuals are generally less than half the maximum capacity. Inmates can spend up to 18 months at the facility. Individuals with longer sentences are generally sent to a State prison.

### Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies

The towns of Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro and Preston maintain municipal police departments that patrol the towns. The Caroline County Sheriff's Office currently provides law enforcement services to all other municipalities along with the Maryland State Police.

### Court Facilities

The Caroline County Courthouse is located at 109 Market Street in Denton. The courthouse houses the chambers and courtrooms for the judge of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, as well as the clerk's offices, jurors' assembly room, the Office of the State's Attorney for Caroline County, the Register of Wills and the master's office.

The District Court of Caroline County hears landlord/tenant cases, replevin actions, traffic violations, criminal cases classified as misdemeanors and certain felonies, and civil cases in the amount of \$30,000 or less. The District Court does not conduct jury trials. The District Court is located at the John R. Hargreaves District Court and Multi-Service Center at 207 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Denton. A Field Office of the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation also is located in the building.

## **Emergency Services and Public Health Facilities**

The Caroline County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is responsible for Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services for Caroline County. The Department provides pre-hospital emergency care to citizens and visitors, Emergency Management for county government, and Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, and EMS Emergency Communications, including operation of the 911 emergency call center for Caroline County

The Emergency Management (EM) division of DES provides emergency planning and coordination, natural disaster relief, and management of the 911 call system. EM also provides police communications for the County Sheriff's Department and four town police departments as well as fire and rescue units for eight Fire/EMS-Medical Departments. EM also manages the National Crimes Information Computer System for police agencies.. EM oversees the development of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was updated in

2024. The Plan assesses hazards risks and outlines response strategies for protection of human life and critical community facilities from natural hazards including tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, severe storms, winter weather, droughts, landslides, or earthquakes. Critical community facilities include government buildings, communication towers, power stations, water treatment plants, water towers, and wastewater treatment plants. The Plan, which is updated every five years, addresses priority hazard mitigation strategies for both County and municipal facilities.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division of DES provides around-the-clock pre-hospital emergency medical services to the citizens of Caroline County. EMS is the primary provider of Advanced Life Support services in the County and also provides basic life support services augmented by municipal volunteer Fire/EMS services. EMS provides medical direction and quality assurance for all emergency medical services within Caroline County, including volunteer service, and operates out of the towns of Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Preston, and Ridgely. Caroline County has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding counties.

Funding for EMS-Medical is supplied through the County general fund appropriations and a fee for services program. The fee for services program bills patients and their insurance companies according to national standards. Income from the fee for services does not offset the appropriation to totally fund EMS-Medical.

Medical services are critical, particularly for a region with an older and/or aging population base. In Caroline County, the segment of the population aged between 40 and 60 has the potential to put additional strain on our medical services over the next 25 to 30 years. The current age group with the highest population is 60-64 years old. The increase in aging populations typically requires additional medical services because, as a group, they tend to have more medical needs.

Medical services facilities include the Department of Health offices at the Health and Public Services (HAPS) building in Denton, which offers a broad range of affordable health services to address the physical and mental health of the community and support special populations like seniors and individuals with disabilities. In addition to clinical services for women's health and maternity, behavioral health, reproductive health, children's health, and infectious diseases, the Department of Health offers health and wellness programs and administers a variety of benefit programs to help Caroline County residents access affordable health insurance coverage and nutrition benefits.

Additional healthcare services are available through Choptank Community Health System (CCHS), a private not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1978 as Caroline Health Services, Inc. to establish comprehensive primary health care services for Caroline County residents. Choptank Health's first center opened with two primary care providers in Goldsboro in northern Caroline County in 1980. Additional CCHS facilities have since opened in Denton to serve central Caroline County and Federalsburg to serve the southern portion of the County. In addition to primary health care, CCHS now provides pediatric, women's and prenatal, and behavioral health services.

Although there are no 24-hour emergency rooms or medical clinics in Caroline County, the University of Maryland Urgent Care facility, located in Denton, has operating hours from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. and provides urgent care services through the University of Maryland Shore Health System.

The lack of 24-hour emergency care facilities puts even more strain on the County's Emergency Medical Services resources. The University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton primarily serves Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties and offers 24-hour emergency room and inpatient/outpatient services. The hospital broke ground in October 2024 for a new, expanded facility to be located slightly north of Easton, to replace the existing facility located in downtown Easton. The new medical center is expected to be completed in the summer of 2028, and will include a 325,000 square foot, six-level main tower, complete with 122 licensed beds, seven operating rooms and a helipad. An adjacent building for offices and outpatient services will be 60,000 square feet.

## **Public Works Facilities**

### **Solid Waste**

On May 19, 2021, Caroline County adopted the Solid Waste Management Plan 2021-2030. The plan fulfills the following goals:

- Promote the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services in an economical and efficient manner, while protecting the overall public health, natural resources and environmental quality of Caroline County.
- Continue to participate in the Midshore regional recycling program and help the program meet the mandated goal for recycling 20% of Midshore solid waste.
- Provide planning so that adequate solid waste management facilities will be available during the next 10 years.
- Comply with State and Federal laws and regulations governing solid waste management.
- Be consistent with the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan.
- Encourage, where appropriate, regional cooperation and solutions to solid waste management problems.
- Provide opportunities for public participation in solid waste planning and facility locations.

Specific objectives and policies to accomplish these goals were developed and incorporated into the plan.

## MidShore II Regional Landfill

The Mid-Shore Landfill Cooperative was formed in the late 1980s to oversee the operation of the MidShore Regional Solid Waste System, which consists of four planned facilities slated to serve the solid waste needs for Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. Through the Cooperative agreement, each county is responsible for operating the regional landfill for a period of time. The MidShore I Regional Landfill operated in Talbot County until 2010 and now serves as a homeowner drop-off site and transfer station. The Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill is located in Caroline County at 12236 River Road, Ridgely and is slated to operate from 2011 through 2030, at which time MidShore III will open in Queen Anne's County to serve the region's solid waste needs. The proposed Midshore III Regional Solid Waste Facility will encompass a total of 90-acre fill area on a 124-acre facility near Centreville. The future facility's Phase I Preliminary Report and Refuse Disposal Permit Application was received by MDE in June 2022.

In addition to the free homeowner drop-off services provided at the MidShore II location, Caroline County also provides collection sites for homeowner drop-offs near Preston, Federalsburg and Henderson. An annual Trash Permit is required to access these sites.

### Recycling and Composting Facilities

There are currently nine drop-off recycling sites in Caroline County. Each drop-off site is equipped with front-load recycling containers and accepts glass (brown, clear, green), cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, mixed paper, metal food and beverage containers.

There is one privately-owned composting facility currently operating in Caroline County. The facility is located north of Ridgely and is operated by Mid-Atlantic Organic Resource Company. The facility composts chicken hatchery waste, poultry products, seafood, and wood waste.

## **Water & Sewer Facilities**

Adequate water and sewer infrastructure is important to the safe and healthy functioning of towns and growth areas. With the exception of the Jonestown Water System, the County does not own or operate public water or sewerage systems. All other public water and sewer systems currently operating in Caroline County are owned and operated by municipal governments (see Water Resources Element for detailed information about water and sewerage systems and on-site sewerage disposal (septic systems)).

## **Communications Infrastructure**

There are over 30 existing communications towers located in the County. Four towers are used for emergency services. Nine towers are incorporated on water towers within municipalities (See Map 5-2).

The County has a franchise agreement with Comcast for the supply of cable in unincorporated areas of the County. Municipalities are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their own agreements.

Since COVID-19, broadband has been a growing demand for commercial and residential customers. Broadband providers have expanded their services and improved the broadband speeds to customers in Caroline County. According to data provided by the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband, less than 2% of Caroline County broadband serviceable locations are considered unserved or underserved. Additional broadband providers have expanded in the County and provide service to customers located in municipalities.

The Board of County Commissioners partner with the Maryland Department of Information Technology, Maryland Broadband Cooperative and Choptank Fiber to share fiber-optic resources. These partnerships have been able to expand broadband opportunities to customers and anchor institutions while serving mor rural parts of the County. This has also provided cost savings on installing fiber optic infrastructure.

Based on the Maryland Broadband Cooperative's projected coverage map, the fiber optical cable is proposed to be installed in Caroline County linking Queenstown and Centreville in Queen Anne's County to Ridgely, Ridgely to Denton and Denton to Easton. The cable will be instrumental to the success of the Mid-Shore Regional Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely.

# Caroline County, MD Tower Sites

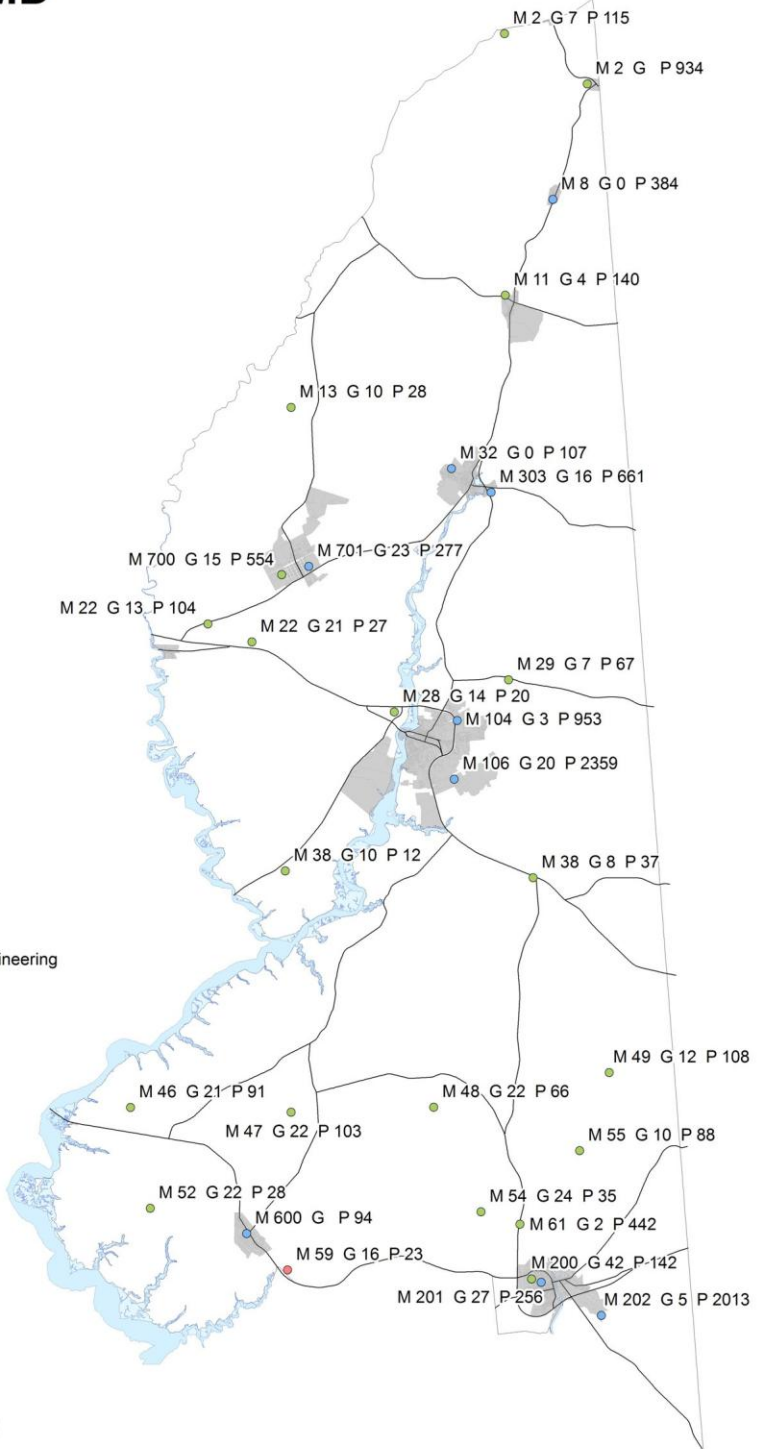
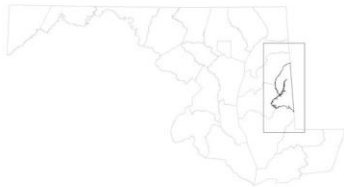
- Tower**
- Proposed
  - Existing
  - Water Tower

- Major Road
- Water
- Tidal Wetland
- Municipality



2 Miles

Caroline County  
Department of Planning, Codes, and Engineering  
December, 2008



## Community Facilities Implementation

- Require interagency reviews during the facility planning and capital improvement process. Create joint-use agreements for facilities shared among jurisdictions.
- In conjunction with the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), prioritize improvements and expansions for existing recreation facilities and land acquisitions.
- Coordinate water and sewer planning with municipalities through amendments to the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. Assist with securing funding for upgrades to aging water and sewer infrastructure and implement conservation programs to reduce water demand.
- Identify priority annexation areas and encourage annexation agreements that include infrastructure investment plans. Coordinate with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) for annexation consistency reviews.
- Align zoning and capital improvement programming with PFAs along with providing incentives for infill and redevelopment projects within PFAs.
- Require infrastructure capacity analyses during development review and delay or phase projects that exceed service capacity until improvements are made. Coordinate school and transportation planning with residential development approvals.
- Use GIS-based suitability analysis to guide public water and sewer facility siting and engage community stakeholders early in the siting process. Require conformance with Comprehensive Plan land use maps for new facility proposals.
- Update a countywide broadband infrastructure map and gap analysis. Partner with providers to extend broadband to underserved areas and requires broadband-ready design standards in all new subdivisions and major development. Incorporate emergency communication infrastructure needs into all public facility plans.
- Coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions to enhance the planning and development of private health and medical facilities throughout the Upper and Mid-Shore regions.

## CHAPTER 5: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, community facilities in Caroline County are defined to include: recreation and parks facilities; educational facilities; libraries, museums and cultural resources; emergency services and public health facilities; law enforcement and court facilities; and public works facilities.

A goal of the *Caroline County Comprehensive Plan* is to provide and maintain a system of community facilities that effectively meets the changing needs of County residents. This system should be planned and managed in a manner that supports and aligns with County's land use and growth management goals and objectives.

Objectives for community facilities include:

- To promote effective interagency coordination with the appropriate Municipal, County, and State agencies and entities in the planning, development, and programming of community facilities that align with the guiding principles, goals, and long-term vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan;
- To assess and provide sufficient parklands, open space lands and recreation facilities that are available to meet both current community needs and projected population growth;
- To ensure the provision of a safe, reliable supply of potable water and adequate wastewater treatment for all County residents;
- To ensure the provision of a safe, reliable supply of potable water and adequate wastewater treatment for all County residents;
- To ensure the provision of a safe, reliable supply of potable water and adequate wastewater treatment for all County residents;
- To encourage municipalities to annex adjacent areas that lack adequate public water and sewer services to promote efficient infrastructure expansion;
- To concentrate growth within Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) to maximize the use of existing or planned public infrastructure, reduce sprawl, and promote fiscally and environmentally sustainable development;
- To ensure that all proposed development is contingent upon the availability and capacity of essential public facilities and services, including but not limited to roads, water supply, wastewater treatment and schools;
- To coordinate with public and private entities to site and design public facilities in a manner that supports the County's and municipalities' growth management objectives and;
- To guide the development of communications infrastructure in a way that strengthens emergency capabilities and enhances broadband access to support business growth and community connectivity.

Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) projects a total of 38,720 residents by 2050 for Caroline County which represents an average annual growth rate of 1.2%. Population growth and demographic shifts in the County will influence the nature, location, and scale of community facilities and services required to meet future needs.

Population growth and demographic shifts in the County will influence the nature, location, and scale of community facilities and services required to meet future needs. community facilities and services required to meet future needs.

Deleted: c...prehensive Pp	...
Formatted	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: the following... recreation and parks	...
Deleted: institutions;facilities	...
Deleted: ,	...
Deleted: public	...
Deleted: ,...emergency services and public heal	...
Deleted: houses...and legal services	...
Deleted: ,	...
Deleted: correctional facilities;...ublic works	...
Deleted: <object>	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: residents...esidents. This system shou	...
Formatted	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: planning ,	...
Deleted: Ensur	...
Deleted: ing adequate...parklands, and	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: <#>To promote effective	...
Deleted: <#>Ensuring	...
Deleted: <#>Ensuring	...
Deleted: <#>Ensuring	...
Deleted: <#>E	...
Deleted: <#>E	...
Deleted: <#>E	...
Deleted: <#>an adequate...supply of	...
Deleted: <#>an adequate...supply of	...
Deleted: <#>an adequate...supply of	...
Deleted: Encouraging	...
Deleted: E	...
Deleted: in need of	...
Deleted: Directing growth toward	...
Deleted: Require	...
Deleted: ring adequate public facilities to	...
Deleted: Work with public and private	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: .	...
Deleted: Management of communications	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: that the County and its municipalities	...
Formatted	...
Deleted: .....Section Break (Next Page).....	...
Deleted: .....Section Break (Next Page).....	...
Deleted: will change as well, including types and	...

To support a growing population, County and Municipal governments must engage in the planned and coordinated, assessment, development, and expansion of adequate community facilities and services. Key areas include public water and sewer, parks and recreation facilities and services, public education facilities, and public safety services such as emergency management, fire, medical, police, and disaster response. See Table 5-1 for an inventory of existing community facilities and Map 5-1 for their locations.

**Table 5-1: Community Facilities Inventory**

**Facility Type  
Number**

Public Elementary Schools  
5

Public Middle Schools  
2

Public High Schools  
2

Parks and Recreation Facilities  
45

Law Enforcement Facilities  
6

Emergency Services Stations  
6

Libraries  
3

Courthouses/ Legal Services Facilities  
13

Public Health Service Facilities  
2

**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**  
**Recreation and Parks Facilities**

- Deleted: T
- Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li
- Deleted: orderly
- Deleted: for County and Municipal governments are essential to serve a growing population base. ...
- Deleted: This
- Deleted: s
- Deleted: services, and education
- Deleted: al facilities and services.
- Deleted: It also includes
- Deleted: and
- Deleted: Known

- Deleted: Police Stations
- Deleted: 8

- Deleted: Airports

- Deleted: ¶
- ¶
- ¶
- ¶
- ¶
- ¶
- Deleted: ¶

## Recreation and Parks Facilities

In 2022, the Caroline County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) was updated. Updates to the LPPRP are required under State law every six years.

Updates to the LPPRP are required under State law every six years.

Updates to the LPPRP are required under State law every six years.

The Caroline County LPPRP is developed to assist the State's evaluation of each County's land preservation and recreation program to ensure adequate public investment. Most importantly, the LPPRP qualifies local governments for Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funding/grants. The LPPRP serves as a guide for park acquisition, land preservation and conservation for the County and its municipalities. The LPPRP provides detailed strategies for recreation, land preservation, and natural resource conservation that extend beyond the scope of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The LPPRP aligns with and supports the preservation and conservation goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. The "Mission Statement" of the LPPRP is to "improve and enrich citizen well-being and community life through the provision of affordable, high quality activities and parks and facilities for Caroline County families and individuals."

The LPPRP outlines significant strategies for advancing recreation and parks, preserving agricultural land, and conserving natural resources within the County. One key strategy is the strengthening of mandatory open space dedication requirements within the County subdivision regulations. Effective May 1, 2007, the County began requiring all major subdivisions include accessible recreational or open space equal to at least five percent of the subdivisions gross area, with a minimum area and parcel size of not less than three-quarters of an acre. Additionally:

- At least seventy five percent of the required or open space must be suitable for active recreation.
- All required recreation and open space must be offered for public dedication.
- A major update to the open space regulations was the exclusion of environmentally constrained areas in required open space calculations, ensuring that the designated land is suitable for recreational activity.

As shown in Table 5-2, the County currently contains:

- 158 acres of recreation land, and
- 324 acres of resource land.

Recreation land is developed for primary use by the public; resource lands are lands whose primary objective is natural resource protection. The majority of the public recreation and resource land is State-owned, comprising 7,272 acres. An additional 1,011 acres are owned by the County, towns, and Board of Education (BOE). As of 2024, including public and private/quasi-public lands, the County has a total of 10,512 acres of recreation and resource land.

Caroline County's municipalities play a vital role in supporting recreation and parks

**Formatted:** Left, Indent: Hanging: 0.25", Right: 0.75",  
Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** 2006

**Deleted:** -

**Deleted:** ¶  
¶

**Deleted:** ¶

**Deleted:** ¶

**Deleted:** ¶

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.63", Line spacing:  
Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple  
1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1.79", Line spacing: Multiple  
1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1"

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple  
1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing:  
Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** T

**Deleted:** quasi public

throughout the County. Approximately 44% of the County's recreation land is located within the incorporated towns, highlighting the significant contribution of municipal areas to the overall recreational network. Municipalities often serve as primary points of contact for the public, offering accessible recreational facilities and programming. Many of the recommended future land acquisitions and recreation projects identified in County planning efforts are located in or near municipalities.

**Table 5-2: Recreation and Resource Land by Owner (acres)**

Owner  
Recreation  
Land  
Resource  
Land

Total  
Acres

Local Recreation and Resource Lands Total

445.2  
354.4  
799.6

Board of Education

104.4  
0.0  
104.4

Caroline Co.

158.8  
324.3  
483.1

Ridgely

36.9  
-  
36.9

Denton

51.3  
11.2  
62.5

Federalsburg

57.6  
18.1  
75.7

Preston

8.5  
0.0  
8.5

Greensboro

21.6

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.13", First line: 0", Right: -0.12", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

0.0
21.6
<b>Hillsboro</b>
4.0
0.8
4.8
<b>Templeville</b>
0.8
0.0
0.8
<b>Goldsboro</b>
1.3
0.0
1.3

**State and Federal Recreation & Resource Lands Total \***

1487.4

5784.6

7272.0

**Private/Quasi-Public**

278.3  
1467.3  
1745.6

**TOTAL**

2551.3  
7960.7  
10512.4

2022 LLPR chart \* there is no Federal Recreation Land in Caroline County

**LPPRP Recreational Attributes**

Caroline County categorizes its recreation and resource lands into a diverse range of park types and facilities to serve varying community needs. These include:

- Regional parks
- Community parks
- Neighborhood parks
- School recreation parks and fitness facilities
- Mini parks
- Special use areas
- Water access sites
- Undeveloped parks

(See Map 5-1 for locations)

**State and Federal Recreation Lands**

Recreation and resource land at the State level includes several key areas within the

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0.5", First line: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: First line: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** categories for

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** r

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:** c

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** n

**Deleted:** , school...chool recreation parks

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:** m

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** s

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:** w

**Deleted:** ,

**Deleted:** and u

**Deleted:** .

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** areas utilized for r

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

County:

- Tuckahoe State Park (primarily undeveloped and the largest State recreation holding),
- Chesapeake Forest/State Forest Area
- Martinak State Park,
- Jdylwild Natural Resource Area,
- Denton Armory.

There are no Federally owned recreation lands located within Caroline County, however.

The Town of Denton is now a stop on the American Discovery Trail. Denton is the first officially recognized "Trail Town" along the American Discovery Trail. This national trail spans approximately 6,800 miles across 15 states from coast to coast and showcases the diverse landscapes and cultural heritage of the United States. It is the only coast-to-coast, non-motorized trail in the United States. Denton's designation as a Trail Town will provide an economic boost in tourism with hikers, bikers, and adventure seekers bringing new business to local shops, dining and lodging. This is also an opportunity to promote local history and culture to a national audience.

Water Access

Caroline County provides public water access at four major landing sites:

- Hillsboro Boat Ramp (Tuckahoe River) – County owned
- Choptank Marina (Choptank River) – County owned
- Ganey's Wharf (Choptank River) – County owned
- Greensboro Boat Ramp (Choptank River) – Leased and operated by the County, owned by the Greensboro Fire Department

Additional public landings and/or marinas are available in:

- Denton,
- Federalsburg,
- Martinak and Tuckahoe State parks,
- Smithville Community Lake,

These water access points contribute significantly to recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and passive recreation (hiking, birdwatching, etc.) activities across the County.

PLACEHOLDERS FOR MAP 5-1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MAPS 5-2 THROUGH 5-6 RECREATION AND PARK FACILITIES BY COUNTY REGION (NSEW)

PLACEHOLDERS FOR MAP 5-1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MAPS 5-2 THROUGH 5-6 RECREATION AND PARK FACILITIES BY COUNTY REGION (NSEW)

Deleted: include

Deleted: ,

Deleted:

Deleted: , ...artinak State Park, ...

Deleted: ...dylwild Natural Resource Area, ...

Deleted: and the

Deleted: Most State recreation land is undeveloped and located within Tuckahoe State Park.

Deleted: Federal...ederally owned recreation lands located within Caroline the ...

Deleted: .

Deleted: t...own of Denton is now a stop on the American Discovery Trail. Denton is the first officially recognized "Trail Town" along the Great American Discovery Trail. This national trail spans approximately 6,800 miles across 15 states from coast to coast, serving as a symbol of unity and adventure, and showcasing ...and ...

Formatted: Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: (public landings at ...our major ...

Deleted: The County has ownership of the

Formatted: Font: Italic

Deleted: ,

Formatted: Font: Italic

Deleted: , and

Formatted: Font: Italic

Deleted: ....The County leases and operates ...

Formatted: Font: Italic

Deleted: , which is owned by the Greensboro Fire ...

Deleted: in ...enton, ...

Deleted: ...ederalsburg, ...

Deleted: the...S s...ate parks, ...

Deleted: and at

Deleted: .

Formatted: Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Deleted: DELETE THE CURRENT MAP ...

Formatted

Formatted

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Deleted: ¶

Map 5-1

Deleted:

### LPPRP Capital Improvement Program

The 2022 LPPRP includes a Long Range Capital Improvement Program with a nine-year timeframe. Most of the County's priorities within that period are enhancement projects at existing facilities, including the North and South County regional parks, community parks within municipalities and rural villages, and waterfront recreational facilities such as Choptank Marina and Ganey's Wharf.

### Educational Facilities Educational Facilities Educational Facilities

As stated in the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan for Caroline County Public Schools, enrollment in Caroline County public schools is projected to increase significantly in the next 10 to 15 years, with 4 schools slated to be near or over State-rated capacity limits by 2030. The County and the Board of Education will continue to work together to ensure that the capacity for educational facilities is considered during the development approval process.

- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Moved up [1]
- Deleted: The Caroline County LPPRP is designed to assist the State's evaluation of each County's land preservation and recreation program to ensure adequate public ...
- Formatted
- Deleted: Based on the approved...he 2022
- Deleted: , ...includes A... Long Range Capital ...
- Formatted
- Deleted: The 2017 LPPRP reflected a total of ...
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: people, however in the LPPRP a ...
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: - 2008 Update... prepared by Vitech ...
- Deleted: These dramatic increases mean that, ...
- Deleted: of

Most of Caroline County's public schools received facility upgrades and renovations between 2010 and 2025. Projects included roof replacements, security and safety upgrades, infrastructure improvements and internal building alterations. Greensboro Elementary School was entirely replaced with a new building in 2021.

- Deleted: have seen several upgrades ...received
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: in the last five years
- Deleted: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future,
- Formatted
- Deleted: SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL and
- Deleted: (source MDP)
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: Enrollment 2023
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: Table 5-3: Historical School Enrollment
- Formatted
- Formatted
- Deleted: ¶
- The improvements and expansions to secondary
- The improvements and expansions to secondary
- Deleted: The improvements and expansions to
- Deleted: important because the large
- Formatted

**Table 5-3: Project CCPS Enrollment by Grade 2026 - 2031**

Grade	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
PK 3	20	20	20	21	21	21
PK 4	288	288	298	307	307	307
K	386	396	416	416	416	416
1	408	398	408	428	428	428
2	448	412	402	412	433	

**Impacts of New Development on Educational Facilities & Services¶**

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** ~~Impacts of New Development on Facilities & Services¶~~

**Deleted:** Prior to current development trends, the current school age population and enrollment projections indicated that the construction of new schools was not necessary in Caroline County, thus, renovations and additions to current facilities were recommended.¶

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** By

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt, Bold

**Formatted:** Centered, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt, Bold

**Formatted:** Centered, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

[433](#)

[3](#)  
[422](#)  
[452](#)  
[416](#)  
[406](#)  
[416](#)  
[437](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[4](#)  
[389](#)  
[427](#)  
[457](#)  
[420](#)  
[410](#)  
[420](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[5](#)  
[379](#)  
[396](#)  
[435](#)  
[466](#)  
[429](#)  
[418](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[6](#)  
[405](#)  
[371](#)  
[389](#)  
[426](#)  
[457](#)  
[420](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[7](#)  
[375](#)  
[413](#)  
[379](#)  
[396](#)  
[435](#)  
[466](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[8](#)  
[426](#)  
[383](#)  
[421](#)  
[386](#)  
[404](#)  
[444](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[9](#)  
[451](#)  
[478](#)  
[429](#)  
[472](#)  
[433](#)  
[453](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

10  
400  
392  
416  
373  
410  
376

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

11  
385  
388  
380  
403  
362  
398

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

12  
383  
378  
380  
373  
395  
355

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Elem. SE  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Sec. SE  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Total K-12  
5,258  
5,284  
5,327  
5,377  
5,427  
5,463

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Total PK-12  
5,566  
5,592  
5,645  
5,705  
5,755  
5,791

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

FTE PK-12  
5,556

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

[5,582](#)  
[5,635](#)  
[5,695](#)  
[5,744](#)  
[5,780](#)

Note: Kindergarten is full-day, pre-kindergarten is half-day-DES,PES,RES Note: Pre-kindergarten is full-day - GES,FES  
Source: [CCPS EFMP 2024](#)

**Table 5-4: Project CCPS Enrollment by School Type 2026 - 2031**

**School Type**

**2026**  
**2027**  
**2028**  
**2029**  
**2030**  
**2031**

**Elem. PK-5**

[2,740](#)  
[2,789](#)  
[2,852](#)  
[2,876](#)  
[2,859](#)  
[2,880](#)

**Elem K-5**

[2,432](#)  
[2,481](#)  
[2,534](#)  
[2,548](#)  
[2,531](#)  
[2,552](#)

**Middle 6-8**

[1,207](#)  
[1,167](#)  
[1,188](#)  
[1,209](#)  
[1,296](#)  
[1,330](#)

**High 9-12**

[1,620](#)  
[1,636](#)  
[1,605](#)  
[1,620](#)  
[1,600](#)  
[1,581](#)

**Elem. SE**

[0](#)

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.5", Right: 2.69", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Deleted: By

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt



Grades

2026

Formatted: Font: Bold

2027

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Bold

2028

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

2029

Formatted: Font: Bold

2030

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Bold

2031

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Denton Elementary

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Bold

736

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Formatted: Font: Bold

PK-5

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

87%

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

90%

92%

93%

93%

94%

Federalsburg Elementary

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

572

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

PK-5

71%

75%

78%

79%

80%

82%

Greensboro Elementary

818

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

PK-5

99%

101%

103%

104%

103%

103%

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Preston Elementary

441

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

PK-5

93%

90%

91%

90%

88%

87%

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Ridgely Elementary

496

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

PK-5

94%

95%

97%

97%

97%

97%

All Elementary Schools

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

3,063

89%

91%

93%

94%

93%

94%

Colonel Richardson Middle

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

542

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

6-8

65%

63%

67%

68%

72%

74%

Lockerman Middle

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

945

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

6-8

90%

87%

88%

89%

96%

98%

▲ All Middle Schools

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

1,487

81%

79%

80%

81%

87%

89%

▲ Colonel Richardson High

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

862

9-12

56%

57%

55%

56%

56%

54%

▲ North Caroline High

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

[1,263](#)

[9-12](#)

[90%](#)

[91%](#)

[89%](#)

[90%](#)

[89%](#)

[88%](#)

[All High Schools](#)

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

[2,125](#)

[76%](#)

[77%](#)

[76%](#)

[76%](#)

[75%](#)

[74%](#)

[All Schools](#)

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0", First line: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:**

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt, Condensed by 0.2 pt

**Formatted:** Normal, Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 0.11", Left + Not at 1"

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** ¶

**Formatted:** Normal, Indent: Left: 0", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 0.11", Left + Not at 0.42"

**Deleted:** .....Section Break (Next Page).....

**Deleted:** .....Section Break (Next Page).....

**Deleted:** .....Section Break (Next Page).....

**Formatted:** Font: 10 pt

**Deleted:** Table 5-5: Existing & Projected Education Facility Utilization/Excess Capacity Based on Official State Rated Capacity (SRC) ...

[6,675](#)

[PK-12](#)

[83%](#)

[84%](#)

[84%](#)

[85%](#)

[86%](#)

[87%](#)

Notes:

1.Utilization is based on FTE enrollment: includes half-day 3 yr old PK, full-day 4 yr old PK & full-day Kindergarten.

2.SRC for GES for 2021/22Source: CCPS EFMP 2025

Source: CCPS EFMP 2025

The educational facilities in Caroline County are well-maintained and offer a clean and safe environment for learning. However, several aging school buildings require modernization to support the continued delivery of high-quality programs. Future modernization projects will be necessary at several of the County's older school facilities, including Denton Elementary, Ridgely Elementary, Federalsburg Elementary, Lockerman Middle School, and the Caroline Career and Technology Center. The timing and implementation of these projects must be balanced with available local funding and the potential need for additional student capacity.

The educational facilities in Caroline County are well-maintained and offer a clean and safe environment for learning. However, several aging school buildings require modernization to support the continued delivery of high-quality programs. Future modernization projects will be necessary at several of the County's older school facilities, including Denton Elementary, Ridgely Elementary, Federalsburg Elementary, Lockerman Middle School, and the Caroline Career and Technology Center. The timing and implementation of these projects must be balanced with available local funding and the potential need for additional student capacity.

Current capacity issues are most acute at Greensboro Elementary, which was built in 2021 and in 2025 is already at 100% capacity, and Ridgely Elementary, which is currently at 95% capacity. Future enrollment projections indicate Denton Elementary will be near 95% capacity within the next 10 years. Lockerman Middle School and North Carolina High School also have capacity pressures that will increase within the next 10 years.

The Superintendent and Board of Education have recognized the importance of preparing a proactive long range plan to address both school modernization and capacity needs. This planning effort has included policy updates, such as the adoption of the Long Range Facility Planning and Student School Assignment policies. Additionally, the school system has developed growth scenarios and adjusted its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to cover a 10-year planning horizon, rather than the traditionally required 5 years. This extended timeline provides a clearer understanding of the total fiscal impact associated with both ongoing modernization efforts and the need for additional capacity.

Caroline County Public Schools will undertake systemic renovations to extend the functional life of existing school buildings prior to full-scale general renovations. These projects may include, but are not limited to, replacement or upgrades of major systems such as roofing, mechanical systems, and structural components. In some cases, systemic renovations will be used to address the most critical infrastructure needs, thereby postponing the need for more extensive and costly general renovation projects.

According to the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP), public school enrollment in Caroline County is projected to increase by 3.1% by 2031. The EFMP includes capacity and facility utilization for each of the County's schools:

"The lowest current facility utilization for elementary schools is 69 percent in

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

**Formatted:** Justified, Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Justified, Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

**Deleted:** A new Elementary School was built in Greensboro and opened for the 2021-2022 school year. Upon completion of the new facility, the old school building was demolished. ¶

**Formatted:** Justified, Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Justified, Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** with future...uture enrollment projections indicateing...there will be an impact Denton...enton Elementary will be near 95% capacity within the next 10 years. Elementary. Lockerman Middle School and North Caroline High School also have capacity pressures that

**Deleted:** ing

**Deleted:** there will be an impact on Denton

**Deleted:** Elementary.

**Deleted:** with continued population growth

Federalburg. The highest is 103 percent at Greensboro. Overall, Caroline County's elementary schools were at 88 percent of capacity in 2023. Total elementary capacity utilization is expected to remain above 89 percent for the next 10 years.

In 2023 Lockerman Middle is at 89 percent capacity and Colonel Richardson Middle is at 67 percent capacity. Overall middle school enrollment is at 81 percent of capacity. Middle school enrollment is projected to remain steady over the next few years before gradually rising again with Lockerman reaching 94 percent of capacity by 2033.

The expansion projects completed at North Caroline High in 1998 and 2002 provided just enough capacity for the recent demographic cycle when enrollment peaked in 2006 at 98 percent of capacity. In 2023 North Caroline High is at 98.3 percent of capacity and Colonel Richardson High is at 62 percent of capacity. Overall high school capacity utilization is 83 percent in 2023 and is projected to increase slightly before decreasing to 76 percent in 2033.

The total state rated capacity of all Caroline County schools was 85 percent utilized in 2023. Total system utilization of state rated capacity is projected remain above 80 percent during the next 10 years. Capacity utilization rates are based on current official enrollment projections and State Rated Capacity numbers. Projections will continue to be adjusted as new data is available."

Current capacity issues are most acute at North Caroline High School, Lockerman Middle School, Greensboro and Preston Elementary Schools, each of which are near the state rated capacity. Projects to address overcrowding will be in addition to the on-going modernization needs of aging school buildings and systems.

Priority projects identified in the 2024 EFMP to address utilization and capacity needs include:

- Planning and development of a potential new middle school for the County;
- Modernization projects at older schools: Denton Elementary, Ridgely Elementary, Federalburg Elementary and Caroline Career and Technology Center;

Modernization of facilities can result in a significant reduction in school State Rated Capacity and thus exacerbate the capacity situation at a particular school. In such cases modernization projects also may require a capacity expansion component. If site constraints limit expansion ability, a feasibility assessment may be needed to determine if building a new school at an alternative location is more cost-effective.

**Formatted:** Justified, Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** The Caroline County Public Schools are also committed to a program providing dedicated space for wellness centers at each school as it is being modernized with the most recent one being Preston Elementary (2016) and Greensboro Elementary (2020). Requests for wellness center space at the other schools will be included in future CIP requests as part of the general modernization of those schools, subject to a continuing review of the program and its funding availability.¶

**Deleted:** The 2008 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan update includes the following recommended facility improvement priorities for the includes the following options for Caroline County public schools:¶

¶ EXISTING and/or PROPOSED SCHOOL ...

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Deleted: ¶

## Higher Education

Currently there are no facilities for post-secondary education located in Caroline County. Caroline County residents seeking higher education are served by Chesapeake College, the state's first regional community college, which offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Caroline County, along with the five other Eastern Shore counties served by the College (Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) contribute annually to the school's budget. The College's Board of Trustees is a ten-member body responsible for setting the strategic direction and governance of the College. Appointed by the Governor of Maryland, the Trustees represent the five counties served by the College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) and provide oversight on policies, programs, and finances, ensuring Chesapeake College meets the needs of the community.

## Libraries, Museums and Cultural Resources

There are currently libraries located in the corporate limits of Federalsburg, Denton, and

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** HoweverHowever, the County is in the service area of Chesapeake College, located in Wye Mills, and has representation on the Board of Directors.

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** The educational interest group meeting indicated a need to bring courses from the college directly to our students in the high school. Currently there are opportunities for high school students to take college courses at Chesapeake College, however it was felt that leaving the school made it more difficult to fit the courses into the schedule and that the need for the student to provide their own transportation excludes students of lower income families.

**Deleted: and**

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Greensboro. [Caroline County's Bookmobile service ended its run after 50 years of service in November of 2012. The decision was made as the use of the Bookmobile has decreased steadily over the years. Money being spent to keep the Bookmobile running for a few customers could be redirected to services being used by many more people.](#)

**Deleted:** A bookmobile services unincorporated areas surrounding Preston, as well as Hillsboro, Ridgley, Goldsboro, Henderson and Marydel.

#### **[The Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center](#)**

[Located in Denton, offers visitor information, restrooms, boat ramp with boat trailer parking, a nature trail and plenty of parking including bus accessible spaces. The center is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the evolution and development of the land, its inhabitants and their relationship with the Choptank River \[along with providing information about Denton, Caroline County, and beyond.\]\(#\)](#)

**Deleted:** River

**Deleted:** & Joppa Wharf Museum

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Deleted:** , I

**Deleted:** West

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** .

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

#### **[The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad \(UGRR\) Trail](#)**

[This is part of the National Historic Park Trail. Denton has 4 historic markers as part of the UGRR driving map.](#)

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

#### **[Tuckahoe Meeting House](#)**

[Located across from the visitor center in Denton, this historic house is also part of the quilt trail and provides information on the history of the local heritage. Built in 2803, this was one of five Quaker meeting houses in Caroline County whose members sustained a local Underground Railroad network.](#)

**Deleted:** ¶

#### **[The Museum of Rural Life](#)**

[Located on Second Street in Denton, tells the stories of residents living in Caroline's agriculture-based economy and houses the headquarters for the County Historical Society.](#)

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Deleted:** , I

#### **[Greensboro Historical Society Museum](#)**

[Located in Greensboro, this museum offers a glimpse into regional history with exhibits on the Transpeninsular Indian Trails, the story of the boundary dispute that led to the establishment of the famed Mason-Dixon line, along with a bit of whimsy on an internationally renowned chicken that was inducted in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1915.](#)

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

[Preston Historical Society Museum - located in the Noble House, a historic home that dates to 1833 and is open on select days and times for visitors to obtain information on the history of Preston \(originally known as Snow Hill\).](#)

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

[Ridgley Railroad Memorial Park - This downtown park includes a mile of paved trail along the railroad right-of-way which is part of the "Rails to Trails" program, a historic railroad depot and railcar.](#)

**Formatted:** Font: Bold

## Caroline County School Impact Fee

In 2018, the Caroline County's School Excise Tax was revised to an impact fee of \$5,000 per housing unit for single-family and multifamily dwellings for school construction. For age-restricted (55 and over) dwellings, a \$2,000 impact fee was imposed for fire protection/Emergency medical services. These fees are set however, the current limits fail to account for inflation, escalation in the costs of school construction by square footage, and anticipated school enrollment stemming from new development, which will continue to increase pressure for new schools.

**Deleted:** By law,

**Deleted:** is capped at

**Deleted:** and is currently at that level. The County's excise tax is set at these limits

Currently, the impact fee assists Caroline County to address capital improvements to school facilities. It also assists in assessing service levels. School construction and related costs are projected to exceed \$50 million or more over the next ten years. At current levels, impact fees will only cover a portion of these expenses. To address this funding gap, the County should undertake an "Impact Fee Study," – a necessary step to justify and implement any fee increases. As part of this process, the County should consider raising the current impact fee to be between \$8,000 to \$10,000 per residential unit within the next several years. Additionally, a higher impact fee should be applied to multifamily units, reflecting their typically greater demand for school infrastructure and public services. Proactively adjusting the fee structure will help ensure that new development contributes more equitably to the costs of public facilities and reduces the financial burden on existing taxpayers.

**Deleted:** excise tax

**Deleted:** other

**Deleted:** could total

**Deleted:** in

**Deleted:** Unless, Caroline County initiates impact fees, which will require a full

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** the

**Deleted:** seek to raise the current excise tax rate to...

**Deleted:** in

**Deleted:** five

**Deleted:** .

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 7", Left

## Law Enforcement and Court Facilities

### Caroline County Sheriff's Office

The Caroline County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency for Caroline County Maryland. The Office is located at 9305 Double Hills Road in Denton. Located on the site are the Administration, Patrol Division, Canine Unit, Criminal Investigations Division, Support Services Division, Animal Control and the Records Division. The Department provides a variety of law enforcement services to the County, including crime prevention, criminal investigation, patrol and traffic units, courthouse security, school security and security at the Health and Public Services building. The Office currently employs 46 sworn personnel.

### Caroline County Department of Corrections

The Caroline County Detention Center is located in an historic building on the Choptank River at 101 Gay Street in Denton. Built at Pig Point (now Denton) in 1797, the first County Jail originally was overseen and maintained by the Sheriff. All County prison functions were the responsibility of the Sheriff from that time until the creation of the new Detention Center in 1995. Oversight of the Detention Center transferred to the newly created Department of Corrections in 1995. The Department of Corrections oversees inmate care and education at the Detention Center. The Department also transports incarcerated individuals to and from court and supervises inmate transfers coordinated through the arresting agency. In addition, pre-release programs, home

detention programs and parole hearings are supervised by the Department. The Detention Center maximum capacity is 132 inmates, although post-Justice Reinvestment Act, the numbers of incarcerated individuals are generally less than half the maximum capacity. Inmates can spend up to 18 months at the facility. Individuals with longer sentences are generally sent to a State prison.

Deleted: capacity .

### Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies

The towns of Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, and Preston maintain municipal police departments that patrol the towns. The Caroline County Sheriff's Office currently provides law enforcement services to all other municipalities along with the Maryland State Police.

Deleted: and Preston

Deleted: towns

Deleted: and answer calls for service 24 hours daily.

Deleted: full-time

Deleted: the town of Ridgely; police protection in the towns of Goldsboro, Henderson, Hillsboro, Marydel and Templeville is provided jointly by the Caroline County Sheriff's Department and

Deleted:

### Court Facilities

The Caroline County Courthouse is located at 109 Market Street in Denton. The courthouse houses the chambers and courtrooms for the judge of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, as well as the clerk's offices, jurors' assembly room, the Office of the State's Attorney for Caroline County, the Register of Wills and the master's office.

The District Court of Caroline County hears landlord/tenant cases, replevin actions, traffic violations, criminal cases classified as misdemeanors and certain felonies, and civil cases in the amount of \$30,000 or less. The District Court does not conduct jury trials. The District Court is located at the John R. Hargreaves District Court and Multi-Service Center at 207 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Denton. A Field Office of the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation also is located in the building.

Formatted: Superscript

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold

## Emergency Services and Public Health Facilities

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 7", Left

The Caroline County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is responsible for Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services for Caroline County. The Department provides pre-hospital emergency care to citizens and visitors, Emergency Management for county government, and Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, and EMS Emergency Communications, including operation of the 911 emergency call center for Caroline County.

Deleted: With population growth anticipated in the County, expanded resources and services will be required for emergency and public health services. This is particularly true of emergency management, fire, police, and medical services.¶

Deleted: There are two types of emergency services in Caroline County that provide inter-related services, including Emergency Management Services (EM) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Both are divisions of Emergency Services.¶

The Caroline County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is responsible for Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services for Caroline County. The Department provides pre-hospital emergency care to citizens and visitors, Emergency Management for county government, and Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, and EMS Emergency Communications, including operation of the 911 emergency call center for Caroline County.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

The Emergency Management (EM) division of DES provides emergency planning and coordination, natural disaster relief, and management of the 911 call system. EM also provides police communications for the County Sheriff's Department and four town police

Deleted: is a Caroline County department that

Deleted: management

Deleted: 5

departments as well as fire and rescue units for eight Fire/EMS-Medical Departments. EM also manages the National Crimes Information Computer System for police agencies. EM oversees the development of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was updated in 2024. The Plan assesses hazards risks and outlines response strategies for protection of human life and critical community facilities from natural hazards including tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, severe storms, winter weather, droughts, landslides, or earthquakes. Critical community facilities include government buildings, communication towers, power stations, water treatment plants, water towers, and wastewater treatment plants. The Plan, which is updated every five years, addresses priority hazard mitigation strategies for both County and municipal facilities.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division of DES provides around-the-clock pre-hospital emergency medical services to the citizens of Caroline County. EMS is the primary provider of Advanced Life Support services in the County and also provides basic life support services augmented by municipal volunteer Fire/EMS services. EMS provides medical direction and quality assurance for all emergency medical services within Caroline County, including volunteer service, and operates out of the towns of Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Preston, and Ridgely.

Caroline County has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding counties.

Funding for EMS-Medical is supplied through the County general fund appropriations and a fee for services program. The fee for services program bills patients and their insurance companies according to national standards. Income from the fee for services does not offset the appropriation to totally fund EMS-Medical.

Medical services are critical, particularly for a region with an older and/or aging population base. In Caroline County, the segment of the population aged between 40 and 60 has the potential to put additional strain on our medical services over the next 25 to 30 years. The current age group with the highest population is 60-64 years old. The increase in aging populations typically requires additional medical services because, as a group, they tend to have more medical needs.

Medical services facilities include the Department of Health offices at the Health and Public Services (HAPS) building in Denton, which offers a broad range of affordable health services to address the physical and mental health of the community and support special populations like seniors and individuals with disabilities. In addition to clinical services for women's health and maternity, behavioral health, reproductive health, children's health, and infectious diseases, the Department of Health offers health and wellness programs

**Deleted:** 8

**Deleted:** EM oversees a comprehensive and progressive risk management program, including employee safety, workman's compensation, and general and property liability insurance

**Deleted:** is a Caroline County department that

**Deleted:** emergency medical services through a combination of volunteer and career providers.

**Deleted:** EMS

**Deleted:** A staffed career paramedic unit is dispatched on every EMS incident. The closest volunteer ambulance also is dispatched. On some calls requiring additional resources volunteer fire and rescue equipment are dispatched.

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 7", Left

**Formatted:** Justified, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** The Director of Emergency Services is appointed by the Commissioners of Caroline County. The department is an active participant with the County Association of Fire Chiefs, EMS Association, and the County Volunteer Firemen's Association. The Basic Life Support Enhancement Committee is a County Commissioner appointed committee to oversee the billing for services program and daytime enhancement of career personnel.

**Deleted:** The public demand for EMS has developed over the past two decades. National and state regulations/standards define the characteristics of a quality EMS system. The future demand for EMS will require substantially increased funding efforts by Caroline County to ensure adequate services for residents, a growing population, and visitors.

**Deleted:** Volunteer fire departments are housed in County municipalities and respond to regional needs. However, with large-scale population growth, the efficiency of volunteer fire departments will be strained. Sub-stations and expanded facilities and services are required. A study for fire services could greatly assist in assessing additional needs, including potential funding sources for expansions and upgrades. At present, volunteer fire departments purchase equipment through a combination of County allotment and funds derived from fund-raising efforts.

**Deleted:** Police services are important for protecting the community's health and safety. At present, the Caroline County Sheriff's Department and Maryland State Police serve unincorporated areas. Caroline County's

**Deleted:** A

**Deleted:** require

and administers a variety of benefit programs to help Caroline County residents access affordable health insurance coverage and nutrition benefits.

Additional healthcare services are available through Choptank Community Health System (CCHS), a private not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1978 as Caroline Health Services, Inc. to establish comprehensive primary health care services for Caroline County residents. Choptank Health's first center opened with two primary care providers in Goldsboro in northern Caroline County in 1980. Additional CCHS facilities have since opened in Denton to serve central Caroline County and Federalsburg to serve the southern portion of the County. In addition to primary health care, CCHS now provides pediatric, women's and prenatal, and behavioral health services.

Although there are no 24-hour emergency rooms or medical clinics in Caroline County, the University of Maryland Urgent Care facility, located in Denton, has operating hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, and provides urgent care services through the University of Maryland Shore Health System.

The lack of 24-hour emergency care facilities puts even more strain on the County's Emergency Medical Services resources. The University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton primarily serves Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties and offers 24-hour emergency room and inpatient/outpatient services. The hospital broke ground in October 2024 for a new, expanded facility to be located slightly north of Easton, to replace the existing facility located in downtown Easton. The new medical center is expected to be completed in the summer of 2028, and will include a 325,000 square foot, six-level main tower, complete with 122 licensed beds, seven operating rooms and a helipad. An adjacent building for offices and outpatient services will be 60,000 square feet.

The University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton primarily serves Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties and offers 24-hour emergency room and inpatient/outpatient services. The hospital broke ground in October 2024 for a new, expanded facility to be located slightly north of Easton, to replace the existing facility located in downtown Easton. The new medical center is expected to be completed in the summer of 2028, and will include a 325,000 square foot, six-level main tower, complete with 122 licensed beds, seven operating rooms and a helipad. An adjacent building for offices and outpatient services will be 60,000 square feet.

The University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton primarily serves Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties and offers 24-hour emergency room and inpatient/outpatient services. The hospital broke ground in October 2024 for a new, expanded facility to be located slightly north of Easton, to replace the existing facility located in downtown Easton. The new medical center is expected to be completed in the summer of 2028, and will include a 325,000 square foot, six-level main tower, complete with 122 licensed beds, seven operating rooms and a helipad. An adjacent building for offices and outpatient services will be 60,000 square feet.

- Deleted:** Currently there are no hospitals or emergency medical care centers in Caroline County.
- Deleted:** T
- Deleted:** also
- Deleted:** . A
- Deleted:** is
- Deleted:** or commercial urgent care facilities available.
- Deleted:** such
- Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 6.88", Left
- Deleted:** and the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene offices located in the Town of Denton, both of which serve the entire County
- Deleted:** ¶
- Deleted:** ¶
- Deleted:** ¶
- Deleted:** This could include regional hospital facilities and emergency "out-patient" businesses for the Mid-Shore area. The Shore Health System merged with the University of Maryland Medical System in 2006 which has increased access to funding for additional ...
- Deleted:** This could include regional hospital ...
- Deleted:** This could include regional hospital ...
- Deleted:** During the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget ...
- Deleted:** During the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget ...
- Deleted:** During the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget ...
- Deleted:** October 2024
- Deleted:** October 2024
- Deleted:** October 2024
- Deleted:** , the project broke ground on the 230 ...
- Deleted:** , the project broke ground on the 230 ...
- Deleted:** , the project broke ground on the 230 ...
- Deleted:** . The campus
- Deleted:** . The campus
- Deleted:** . The campus
- Deleted:** There is currently planning underway ...
- Deleted:** There is currently planning underway ...
- Deleted:** There is currently planning underway ...
- Formatted** ...
- Deleted:** Regarding government facilities and ...
- Deleted:** Correctional Facilities¶ ...
- Formatted** ...
- Formatted** ...

## Public Works Facilities

### Solid Waste

On May 19, 2021, Caroline County adopted the Solid Waste Management Plan 2021-2030. The plan fulfills the following goals:

- Promote the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services in an economical and efficient manner, while protecting the overall public health, natural resources and environmental quality of Caroline County.
- Continue to participate in the Midshore regional recycling program and help the program meet the mandated goal for recycling 20% of Midshore solid waste.
- Provide planning so that adequate solid waste management facilities will be available during the next 10 years.
- Comply with State and Federal laws and regulations governing solid waste management.
- Be consistent with the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan.
- Encourage, where appropriate, regional cooperation and solutions to solid waste management problems.
- Provide opportunities for public participation in solid waste planning and facility locations.

Specific objectives and policies to accomplish these goals were developed and incorporated into the plan.

### MidShore II Regional Landfill

The Mid-Shore Landfill Cooperative was formed in the late 1980s to oversee the operation of the MidShore Regional Solid Waste System, which consists of four planned facilities slated to serve the solid waste needs for Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. Through the Cooperative agreement, each county is responsible for operating the regional landfill for a period of time. The MidShore I Regional Landfill operated in Talbot County until 2010 and now serves as a homeowner drop-off site and transfer station. The Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill is located in Caroline County at 12236 River Road, Ridgely and is slated to operate from 2011 through 2030, at which time MidShore III will open in Queen Anne's County to serve the region's solid waste needs. The proposed Midshore III Regional Solid Waste Facility will encompass a total of 90-acre fill area on a 124-acre facility near Centreville. The future facility's Phase I Preliminary Report

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** has a

**Deleted:** goal of the plan is to

**Deleted:** p

**Deleted:** protection

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

**Deleted:** The plan is currently undergoing an update that will be complete prior to the adoption of this plan.¶

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** -

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** 1980s

**Deleted:** , and the

**Deleted:** s

**Deleted:** that

**Deleted:** includes the counties¶  
-----Section Break (Next Page)-----

**Deleted:** of

**Deleted:** Services are located in Easton.

**Deleted:** Caroline County's Holly Road solid waste transfer station on River Road in Ridgely was, purchased in 1975 and, was designated as the second site for the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill to serve the area's waste needs from 2011 to 2030. Maryland Environmental Services (MES) has applied to construct and operate a new municipal landfill proposed in Centreville in After 2030 the next landfill host will be Queen Anne's County adjacent to the closed Centreville Landfill.

and Refuse Disposal Permit Application was received by MDE in June 2022, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. Through the Cooperative agreement, each county is responsible for operating the regional landfill for a period of time. The MidShore I Regional Landfill operated in Talbot County until 2010 and now serves as a homeowner drop-off site and transfer station. The Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill is located in Caroline County at 12236 River Road, Ridgely and is slated to operate from 2011 through 2030, at which time MidShore III will open in Queen Anne's County to serve the region's solid waste needs. The proposed Midshore III Regional Solid Waste Facility will encompass a total of 90-acre fill area on a 124-acre facility near Centreville. The future facility's Phase I Preliminary Report and Refuse Disposal Permit Application was received by MDE in June 2022.

In addition to the free homeowner drop-off services provided at the MidShore II location, Caroline County also provides collection sites for homeowner drop-offs near Preston, Federalsburg and Henderson. An annual Trash Permit is required to access these sites.

- Deleted: .
- Deleted: .
- Deleted: of
- Deleted: Services are located in Easton.

- Deleted: Caroline County's Holly Road solid waste transfer station on River Road in Ridgely was, purchased in 1975 and, was designated as the second site for the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill to serve the area's waste needs from 2011 to 2030. Maryland Environmental Services (MES) has applied to construct and operate a new municipal landfill proposed in Centreville in After 2030 the next landfill host will be Queen Anne's County adjacent to the closed Centreville Landfill. ...
- Deleted: ¶

Recycling and Composting Facilities

There are currently nine drop-off recycling sites in Caroline County. Each drop-off site is equipped with front-load recycling containers and accepts glass (brown, clear, green), cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, mixed paper, and metal food and beverage containers.

There is one privately-owned composting facility currently operating in Caroline County. The facility is located north of Ridgely and is operated by Mid-Atlantic Organic Resource Company. The facility composts chicken hatchery waste, poultry products, seafood, and wood waste.

- Deleted: Midshore Regional Recycling Program¶  
¶  
The Midshore Regional Recycling Program (MRRP) is a cooperative partnership that was formed in 1993 by Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. The program provides free recycling opportunities for residents. MRRP is primarily funded through a surcharge on solid waste disposed of at the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill in Easton. Other revenue sources include the sale of recyclables and grants. The County should explore methods to enhance the recycling program in Caroline County.¶
- Deleted: dropoff
- Deleted: . #1 & #2
- Deleted: located on

- Deleted: ¶

Water & Sewer Facilities

Adequate water and sewer infrastructure is important to the safe and healthy functioning of towns and growth areas. With the exception of the Jonestown Water System, the County does not own or operate public water or sewerage systems. All other public water and sewer systems currently operating in Caroline County are owned and operated by municipal governments (see Water Resources Element for detailed information about water and sewerage systems and on-site sewerage disposal (septic systems)).

- Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li
- Deleted: growth areas
- Deleted: A major goal of this Comprehensive Plan is to improve coordination between the County and its municipalities for the overall provision of public infrastructure including water and sewer.
- Deleted: utilities
- Deleted: descriptions of these

## Communications Infrastructure

There are over 30 existing communications towers located in the County. Four towers are used for emergency services. Nine towers are incorporated on water towers within municipalities (See Map 5-2).

The County has a franchise agreement with Comcast for the supply of cable in unincorporated areas of the County. Municipalities are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their own agreements.

Since COVID-19, broadband has been a growing demand for commercial and residential customers. Broadband providers have expanded their services and improved the broadband speeds to customers in Caroline County. According to data provided by the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband, less than 2% of Caroline County broadband serviceable locations are considered unserved or underserved. Additional broadband providers have expanded in the County and provide service to customers located in municipalities.

The Board of County Commissioners partner with the Maryland Department of Information Technology, Maryland Broadband Cooperative and Choptank Fiber to share fiber-optic resources. These partnerships have been able to expand broadband opportunities to customers and anchor institutions while serving mor rural parts of the County. This has also provided cost savings on installing fiber optic infrastructure.

FIX AND ADD BACK projected coverage map

Based on the Maryland Broadband Cooperative's projected coverage map, the fiber optical cable is proposed to be installed in Caroline County linking Queenstown and Centreville in Queen Anne's County to Ridgely, Ridgely to Denton and Denton to Easton. The cable will be instrumental to the success of the Mid-Shore Regional Business and Technology Park located in Ridgely.

**Deleted:** Multi-jurisdictional water and sewer projects currently underway include the construction of a County-owned and managed public water system to serve the village of Jonestown, and Aa new sewage treatment facility to serve residents in the North County towns of Goldsboro, Henderson, Marydel and Templeville and areas outlying the townswas completed in 2018. It replaced the antiquated plant in Greensboro and also provided connections to homes in nearby Goldsboro, nearly all of which had failing septic systems. The new system will reduce the nitrogen flows into the Choptank River from the two towns by 83% and phosphorus by about 90%. The improved water quality makes it safer for fishing, swimming and kayaking. The North County Wastewater TreatmentWastewater Treatment Plant will be owned and managed by the North County Water and Sewer Authority, which includes a representative from the County and towns. The Authority oversaw the planning and construction and will continue to oversee the operation of the facility. ¶

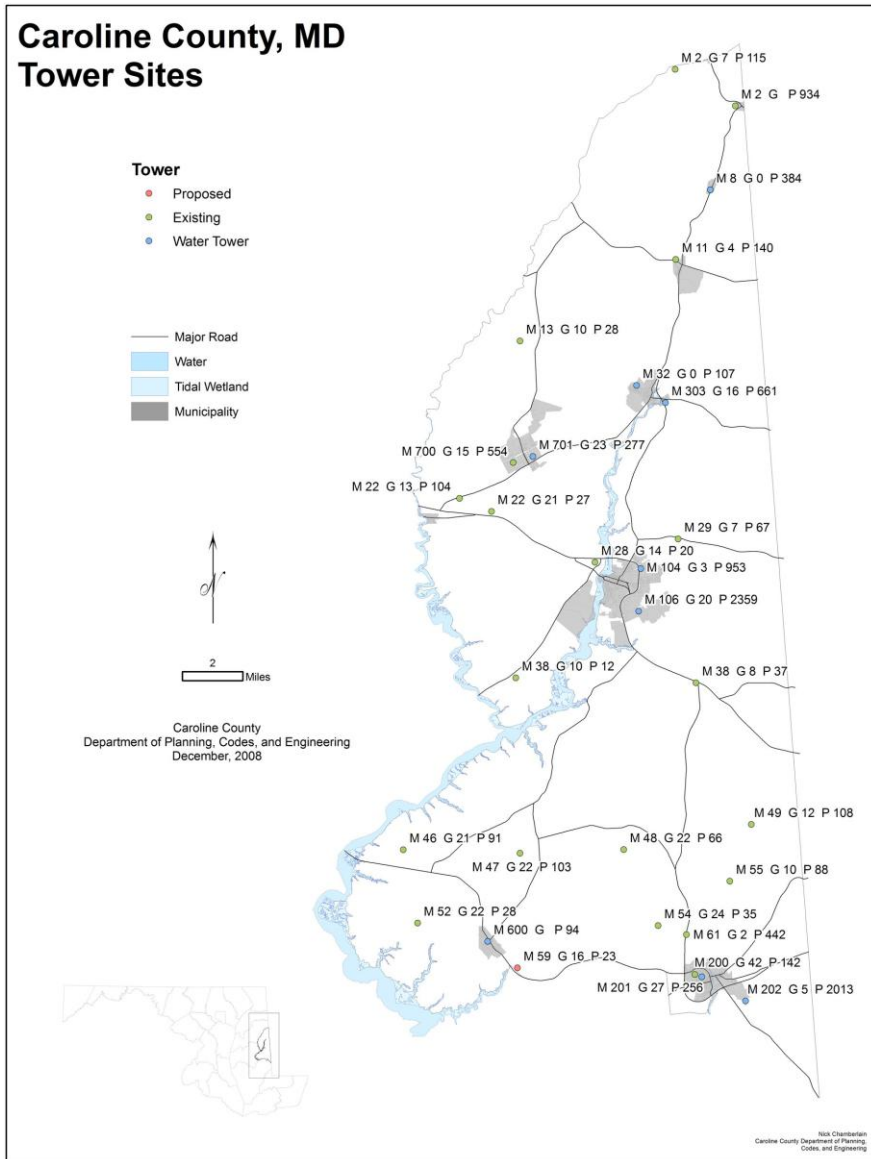
**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, Tab stops: 1", Left + Not at 0.13"

Map 5-2

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li



### Community Facilities Implementation

- Require interagency reviews during the facility planning and capital improvement process. Create joint-use agreements for facilities shared among jurisdictions.
- In conjunction with the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), prioritize improvements and expansions for existing recreation facilities and land acquisitions.
- Coordinate water and sewer planning with municipalities through amendments to the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. Assist with securing funding for upgrades to aging water and sewer infrastructure and implement conservation programs to reduce water demand.
- Identify priority annexation areas and encourage annexation agreements that include infrastructure investment plans. Coordinate with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) for annexation consistency reviews.
- Align zoning and capital improvement programming with PFAs along with providing incentives for infill and redevelopment projects within PFAs.
- Require infrastructure capacity analyses during development review and delay or phase projects that exceed service capacity until improvements are made. Coordinate school and transportation planning with residential development approvals.
- Use GIS-based suitability analysis to guide public water and sewer facility siting and engage community stakeholders early in the siting process. Require conformance with Comprehensive Plan land use maps for new facility proposals.
- Update a countywide broadband infrastructure map and gap analysis. Partner with providers to extend broadband to underserved areas and requires broadband-ready design standards in all new subdivisions and major development. Incorporate emergency communication infrastructure needs into all public facility plans.
- Coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions to enhance the planning and development of private health and medical facilities throughout the Upper and Mid-Shore regions.

**Deleted:** County Water and Sewer Authority, which includes a representative from the County and each of the four towns. The Authority will oversee the planning, construction and operation of the facility, which will be designed to accommodate projected increases in the region's population based on a build-out study of the region conducted in 2007. Sewer districts to be served have been designated by the Authority. Both of these projects are being undertaken to address existing and potential septic system failures and to prevent negative impacts to public health and the environment. The Jonestown and North County projects are in the early stages of design and engineering; timelines for construction have not yet been developed.

**¶**  
**¶** Communication Infrastructure¶

**¶**  
There are 32 existing communications towers located in the County. Four towers are used for emergency services. Nine towers water towers within municipalities (See Map 5-2).¶

**¶**  
The County has a franchise agreement with Comcast for the supply of cable to unincorporated areas of the County. Municipalities are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their own agreements.¶

**¶**  
The Maryland Broadband Cooperative is funded by the Maryland Rural Broadband Coordination Board, which was formed under Senate Bill 753. The Mid-Shore Regional Council has been one of the driving forces behind bringing the broadband through the County. Based on the Maryland Broadband Cooperative's projected coverage map, the fiber optical cable is proposed to be installed in Caroline County linking Queenstown and Centerville in Queen Anne's County to Ridgely, Denton and Denton to Easton. The cable will be instrumental to the success of the Mid-Shore Regional Business and Technology Park located in ...

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt, Not Bold

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 1", First line: 0", Right: 0.5", Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

**Deleted:** Update

**Deleted:** Master

**Deleted:** every 3 years

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

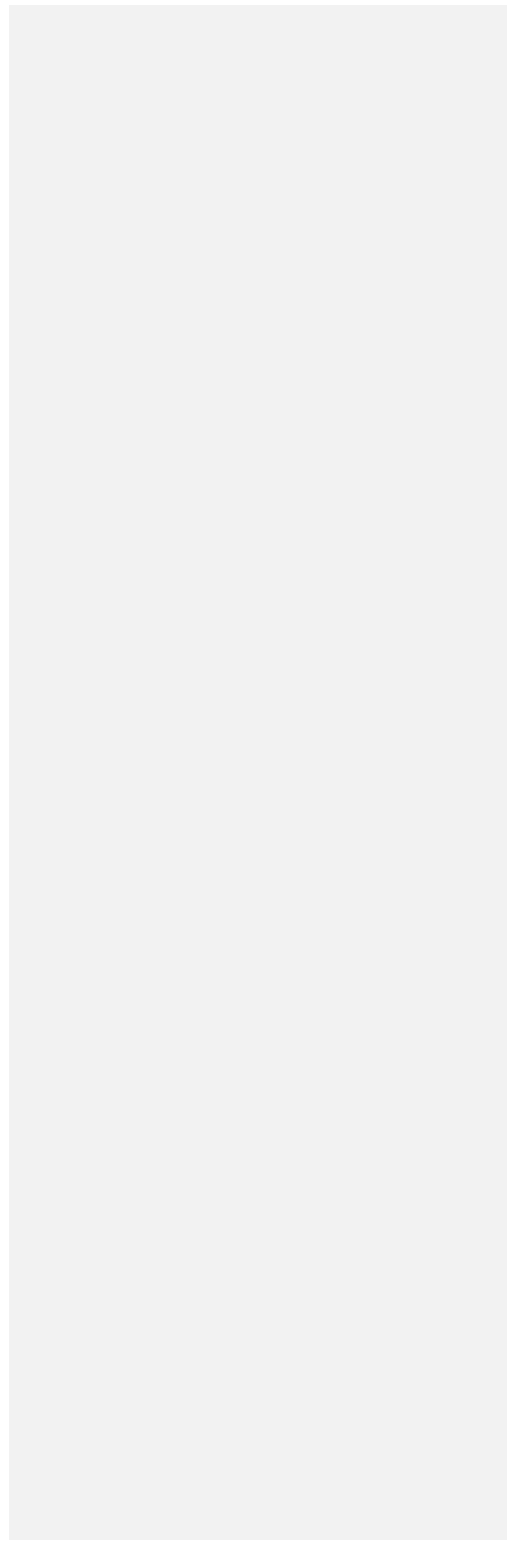
**Deleted:** Review the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and strengthen existing policies and regulations.

**Formatted:** Font: 11 pt

**Deleted:** <#>¶

|

|



CAROLINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE  
MEETINGS & REVIEW SCHEDULE

This Comprehensive Plan Update is for areas outside of the Towns within Caroline County

Planning Commission meetings are at 6pm in the HAPS Bldg

**2025**

<b>JULY 9</b>	PC mtg – Community Facilities
<b>AUGUST 13</b>	PC mtg – Housing (Olivia)
<b>September 10</b>	PC mtg – Economic Development (Olivia), Overview Land Use & Overview Water Resources & Priority Preservation Areas (Leslie)
<b>October 8</b>	<b>NO PC MEETING</b> – Public Outreach at the Preston Town Hall 6pm
<b>November 12</b>	PC mtg – Summary of Public Outreach meeting 10/8 (Olivia), Land Use, Water Resources & Priority Preservation Areas (Leslie)
<b>December 1</b>	Update draft and send out for internal review with Planning & Code staff and agency directors. 30-day review and comment.
<b>December 31</b>	Planning & Code staff and agency directors review comments due

**2026**

<b>January 14</b>	PC mtg – draft plan to PC for 30-day review and comment
<b>February 13</b>	PC comments due
<b>February 23</b>	Commissioners – draft plan, summary with comments from PC for review and comment
<b>February 27</b>	Draft plan to towns/others for 30-day review and comment
<b>March 2</b>	MDP – email draft plan for review and comment (60-day review)
<b>March 31</b>	Comments due from towns/others
<b>May 4</b>	MDP comments due
<b>April 8</b>	PC meeting and public hearing – final draft with attached comments form MDP and others for review, edits and approval
<b>April 28</b>	Commissioners review, edits and approval
<b>September 9</b>	PC mtg – schedule for Zoning Code update

## CAROLINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC OUTREACH SCHEDULE

This Comprehensive Plan update is for areas outside of the Towns within Caroline County  
Staff will attend these events to hand out flyers & information

JULY 12	3pm	Rock the Barn – 101 Cow Barn Rd., Ridgely
AUGUST 9	12-4pm	Summer Daze – Preston
AUGUST 15 & 16	5pm	2025 Caroline Summerfest – Downtown Denton
OCTOBER 8	6pm	PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING – Preston Town Hall
OCTOBER 18	12-4pm	HallowDaze – Preston
OCTOBER 25	11am	Mactoberfest – Chesapeake Culinary Center
DECEMBER 6	12-4pm	WinterDaze – Preston
DECEMBER 13	4-8pm	Winterfest – 205 Central Ave., Ridgely