

## **Chapter 9. Public Facilities and Services**

Public services are provided through a variety of public agencies and facilities, including the Colonial Heights Library, the Health Department, the Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Recreation and Parks and the related facilities, Colonial Heights Public Schools, and City Hall which houses many of the general functions of City government. The quality of life in the City is directly related to the quality and accessibility of these facilities and the services they provide.

It is important that the citizens of Colonial Heights be served by convenient and accessible educational and recreational facilities. The quality and condition of all public facilities sets the image of our City and sends a message about the values placed upon the services provided. High quality, well designed, and maintained facilities are an important factor in communicating the value placed upon the citizens served.

This plan inventories the existing facilities and identifies issues and a challenge facing each department as it strives to provide high-quality services to the citizens of Colonial Heights.

### **Library**

The Colonial Heights Public Library provides a wide range of library services to the community. The library's collections include traditional books and magazines, a large audio book and DVD/Blu-Ray collection and an e-Library, along with a public computer center and wireless network. The library also offers meeting rooms and year round children's programs.

The library's public computer center is open during regular library hours and provides the following services:

- Computers checkout
- Access to Internet access (high-speed cable connection)
- Access to Microsoft Office applications
- Walk-in service
- No time limits and
- Nominal printing costs

The Library is located at the corner of Conduit Road and Yacht Basin Drive.

## **Health Department**

The Colonial Heights Health Department strives "To protect, preserve and promote optimum health for the community through excellence in public health service." The department provides a variety of services to meet this objective.

Services include:

- Restaurant inspections and food safety training
- Rabies prevention
- Communicable disease investigations
- Lab work, including lead screening
- Services related to women's health
- Immunizations

The Health Department is located on Highland Avenue behind City Hall.

## **Police Department**

The Colonial Heights Police Department provides a safe environment for all citizens by enforcing all laws fairly and impartially, maintaining a high, visible police presence throughout the community, and deterring criminal activity. The Department is accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission since 2013.

The Colonial Heights Police Department is organizationally structured into two bureaus - Operations and Law Enforcement Services.

The Operations Bureau consists of the following divisions:

- Uniform Patrol
- Canine Units
- Major Accident Investigation Team
- Crime Scene Technicians
- Special Operations
- Sentinel Program
- Auxiliary Police
- Animal Control

The Law Enforcement Services has the primary task of providing support to all officers and the command staff of the Colonial Heights Police Department. The bureau is responsible for the criminal investigations division, training, maintenance, crime prevention, public speaking, the Police Citizens Academy, special events, the Sentinel Program, purchasing of equipment, property, and evidence, and buildings and grounds. The bureau is also responsible for inspections, research and development, grants, records, and special projects.

The Investigations Division of the Colonial Heights Police Department has the primary responsibility in the investigation of serious or serial crimes. Crimes commonly assigned to the division include rape, robbery, homicide, burglary, sex offenses, missing persons, and fraud related incidents. They routinely works with local, state and federal agencies to investigate crimes occurring in Colonial Heights and the region.

The Police Department is located in the Public Safety Building on the corner of Highland Avenue and the Boulevard.

## **Fire and EMS**

The City of Colonial Heights Fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Department provides fire suppression and prevention services and promotes fire safety and related services. The department also provides emergency medical and rescue services for residents, workers, and visitors to the City.

The Fire Department consists of six divisions:

- Administration
- Operations
- Prevention
- Emergency Communications
- Training
- Emergency Management

Fire Administration is located in the Public Safety Building on the corner of Highland Avenue and the Boulevard. Fire Station #1 is located on James Avenue adjacent to the Public Safety Building and Fire Station #2 is located on Dunlop Boulevard.

## **Sheriff's Department**

The City of Colonial Heights Sheriff is a Constitutional Officer of the Commonwealth elected by City voters every four years.

The primary functions of the Sheriff's Office are:

- Providing courthouse and courtroom security
- Serving court orders from all three courts and subpoenas from outside jurisdictions
- Making arrests at the courthouse on outstanding warrants
- Providing custody, control, and transportation of prisoners or inmates entrusted to the Sheriff's custody or that have been arrested by the Colonial Heights Police Department

The Sheriff and his deputies are sworn law enforcement officers able to enforce state traffic code and effecting criminal arrests. Deputy Sheriffs routinely provide assistance

to the Colonial Heights Police Department by providing additional personnel during major incidents, inclement weather, or when additional personnel can help expedite a successful resolution while protecting lives and property.

The Sheriff's Department is located in the Colonial Heights Courthouse located on the 500 block of the Boulevard.

## Recreation and Parks

The City of Colonial Heights Department of Recreation and Parks strives to provide, develop, and maintain an array of parks, facilities, services, and recreational opportunities for all citizens to improve the overall quality of life for the community. The department provides a wide range of quality recreation and parks services through public awareness, utilization of resources, and responsiveness to the community.

The department is organizationally structured into six operational divisions:

- Buildings & Grounds
- Horticulture
- Parks
- Community Center (includes the Senior and Teen Centers)
- Recreation
- Violet Bank Museum

The Parks Division is responsible for managing more than 75 acres of park land within the City's nine parks. It is also responsible for upkeep of all recreation facilities, including all eleven ball fields (including Shepherd Stadium), nine tennis courts, and the Soccer Complex, as well as the City's buildings and grounds and Horticulture operations.

### Parks

- White Bank Park
- Floral Avenue Park
- Edinborough Park
- Flora Hill Park
- Appamatuck Park
- Fort Clifton Park
- Lakeview Park
- Roslyn Landing Park
- Wakefield Park

### Facilities

- Shepherd Stadium
- Community Center
- Teen Center
- Senior Center
- Violet Bank Museum
- Soccer Complex
- Skate Park
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Outdoor Basketball Courts

These City Parks and Facilities are located throughout the city and are depicted on the Facilities Map (Map 10).

### Violet Bank Museum

Violet Bank was one of the first houses in the Riverview Subdivision purchased in 1919. In 1948, it was sold to American Legion Post 284. It served as Post 284's Headquarters until 1959, when it was acquired by the City of Colonial Heights. At first, the building served as the Chamber of Commerce, and then as Colonial Heights' first public library. Violet Bank is still owned and operated by the City of Colonial Heights, and is now a historic house museum and part of the Recreation & Parks Department.

## **Colonial Heights Public Schools**

Colonial Heights has three public elementary schools: Tussing Elementary School, Lakeview Elementary School, and North Elementary School. Colonial Heights Middle School serves the entire City. The City also has a high school (Colonial Heights High School) and accompanying Vocational Center. All schools are accredited by the Virginia Board of Education and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The school division achieved District Accreditation under AdvancED.

The School Board for the City of Colonial Heights is a five-member board elected to serve four-year terms of office. The Colonial Heights City School Board derives its authority from the Constitution of Virginia, the Code of Virginia, the City Charter, and the regulations of the State Board of Education.

### **Colonial Heights Vocational School**

The technical center, serving grades nine through twelve, opened in 1980-81 and teaches the following vocational capabilities: Child Care, Culinary Arts, Information and Communications Technology, Marketing Education, Manufacturing Technology, Auto Mechanics, Business, and Building Trades.

Colonial Heights Vocational School Recreation Amenities include:

- Multi-purpose fields (8)
- Skate Park
- Picnic Tables
- Concession

### **Colonial Heights Middle School**

Colonial Heights Middle School, located at 500 Conduit Road, is the sole middle school serving the community. The building serves a sixth, seventh and eighth grade population averaging around 700 students.

Colonial Height Middle School Amenities include:

- Gymnasium
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court
- Additional Playing Fields

### **Colonial Heights High School**

Colonial Heights High School was established in 1957 at the site of the present Colonial Heights Middle School. In 1964 upon completion of the current building, it moved to its present location at 3600 Conduit Road. The high school is accredited by the State Board of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member in good standing of the Virginia High School League. In 1991, the school received recognition by the State of Virginia as a nominee for the National Secondary School Recognition Program for "Outstanding Secondary Schools". The school is for ninth through twelfth grade students and averages around 850 students.

Colonial Heights High School Recreation Amenities include:

- Football/Track Stadium (Off-Site)
- Gymnasium
- Baseball Fields (2)
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Multi-Purpose Field

### **Lakeview Elementary School**

Lakeview Elementary School, located at 401 Taswell Avenue, serves students kindergarten through fifth grade and averages 375 students. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lakeview was chosen as one of the Top Twelve Schools in Virginia in 1989, and in 1994 was recognized and received the Commonwealth of Virginia Excellence In Education Award. More recently in 2000, Lakeview's Character Education Program, Heroes Everywhere, was identified as one of the best in Virginia.

Lakeview Elementary School Recreation Amenities include:

- Gymnasium
- Playground

### **North Elementary School**

North Elementary, located at 3201 Dale Avenue, serves an average of 325 students in grades kindergarten through five. North Elementary has been fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1976.

North Elementary School Recreation Amenities include:

- Court for Basketball or Other Sports
- Playground
- Gymnasium

### **Tussing Elementary School**

Tussing Elementary School, located at 5501 Conduit Road, opened its doors in August of 1975 and has an average enrollment of 600 students.. The school is accredited by the Commonwealth of Virginia and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1986, Tussing Elementary School was recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia as one of the twelve schools in the state in the United States Department of Education's Elementary School Recognition Program. Tussing Elementary School serves grades kindergarten through five.

Tussing Elementary School Recreation Amenities include:

- Gymnasium
- Softball Field
- Soccer Field
- Basketball Courts (2)
- Playground

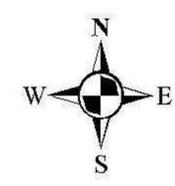
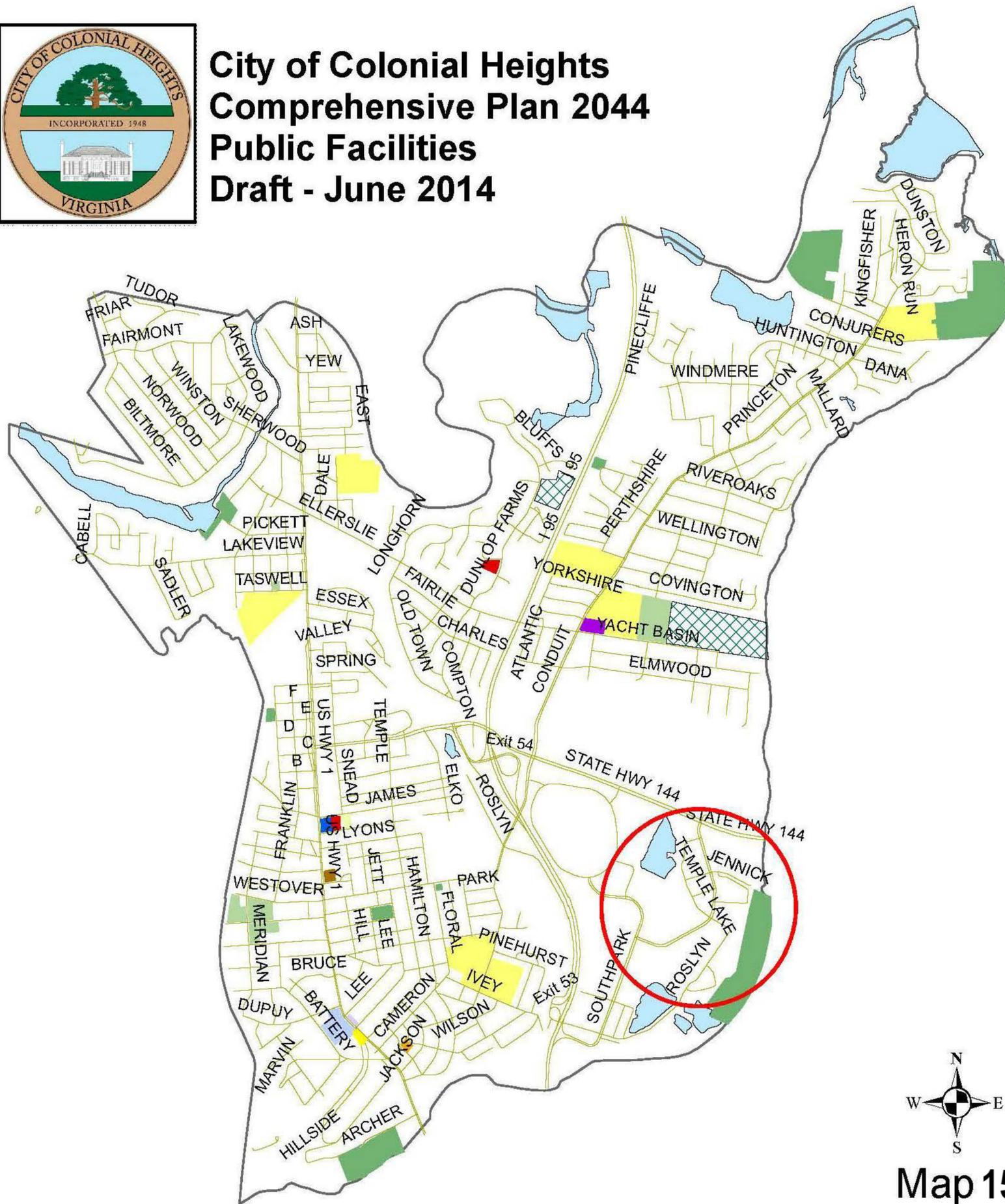
**The following Public Facilities and Service Policies correspond to a specific goal and objective found in Chapter 2. The goal and policy number are abbreviated within the parenthesis.**

- City should develop a city-wide customer service policy. (SD-7, QL-6)
- Utilize grants and foundations to assist funding of infrastructure maintenance and improvements. (EP-7, SD-7)
- Ensure that a high level of design and quality construction is maintained on all public projects within the City. When possible, follow Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. (SD-3, SD-7)
- Maintain and fully utilize all existing recreation and parks facilities before creating any new parks, centers or stadiums. (CC-5)
- Construct a new community center or expand the uses within the existing center to include a fitness center. (QL-2)
- Construct a state-of-the-art stadium to accommodate a variety of sports at the Vo-Tech Site as recommended by the joint Comprehensive Recreation, Parks & Schools Athletic Facilities Plan. (CC-5)
- Create a sponsorship program for all park facilities that provides advertisements in exchange for funds to help maintain parks and park facilities. (CC-5)
- Create a sports tourism taskforce to create a program that will attract sports tournaments and other sporting events. (CC-5)
- Create community gardens to promote a sense of community and access to healthy, locally grown food. (QL-2)
- Ensure the existing parks are maintained by including maintenance costs in the capital budget, grant writing, and imposing additional fees or taxes. (CC-5)
- Establish a Multipurpose Trail Plan that encircles the City and link parks and recreational use areas, schools, city services and commercial areas as shown in Multipurpose Trail Plan (Map 9) in Chapter 8, Transportation. (QL-6)
- Create workout or activity areas along the proposed trail system, specifically on the western side of the City, where the streets dead-end into the proposed trail. (CC-5)

- Link the City's trails along the river to the Appomattox Plan developed by the Crater Planning District Commission as shown on the Multipurpose Trail Plan (Map 9) located in Chapter 8 Transportation. (CC-5)
- Provide more summer activities in neighborhood parks, utilizing retirees and teenagers. (CC-5)
- Include all street, park, utility and building maintenance and future new facility needs in the capital budget program. (EP-7)
- Create a Public Safety substation in the mall area that could house Police and Fire/EMS staff to ensure citywide public safety coverage and low response time. See Map 10. (QL-7)
- Increase community policing efforts and citizen participation throughout the City by ensuring all areas of the City are covered by Neighborhood Watch. (QL-7)
- Increase the City's server capacity to accommodate electronic files that will take the place of using and storing paper. (SD-7)
- Make all public facilities ADA accessible. This includes all buildings and parks. (SD-7)
- The City should continue to support Colonial Heights Public Schools to help ensure exceptional educational opportunities for City students.
- The City should develop a program in which residents can pay to have the sidewalk repaired in the right-of-way adjacent to their property.
- Residents should maintain and keep unobstructed the right-of way adjacent to their property.



# City of Colonial Heights Comprehensive Plan 2044 Public Facilities Draft - June 2014



Map 15

City Administration	Park Facility Opportunity	Public Parks	Violet Bank Museum
Colonial Heights War Memorial	Police	Public Schools	
Courthouse	Post Office	Recreation and Parks Facility	Public Safety Opportunity
Fire/Rescue	Public Library	School Administration	