Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A MASTER PLAN ELEMENT

November 2000

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN
Adopted
November 2000

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COMMUNITY FACILITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Background 1
Goals and Objectives 2
Community Facilities Map 3

City-Owned or Operated Facilities

Aquatic Centers 4
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Activity Center 5
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Historic Farm Complex 6
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Miniature Golf Course 8
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Skate Park 8
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Water Park 8
B&O Railroad Station and Freight Shed 10
Casey Community Center 11
City Hall 12
City Hall Concert Pavilion 13
DeSellum House 14
Firehouse, Old Station Eight 14
Kentlands, Tschiffely-Kentlands Buildings 15
Kentlands Barn 15
Kentlands Firehouse 16
Kentlands Mansion 17
Kentlands, Other Historic Structures 18
Mills/Nash House 19
Museums 20
Observatory, Gaithersburg International Latitude 21
Parking Facility 22
Parks 23
Police Station 24
Public Works, Parks Maintenance, and Engineering 25
Senior Center, Gaithersburg Upcounty 26
Teen Centers 27
Wells/Robertson House 28
West Side Drive Recreational Facility 28
WSSC Site 29
Wye Site 30
Other City-Owned or Operated Buildings 30
City-Owned or Operated Facilities Chart 31
Future Public Facility Needs to be Assessed 32

Other Community Facilities

Educational Facilities 33
Schools Serving Gaithersburg Residents Chart 34
Fire and Rescue Services 36
Libraries 37
Montgomery County Agricultural Center 37
Postal Services 38
Police 38
Solid Waste Services 39
Water and Sewer Services 39

Appendix A

Chart from Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for 21st Century

Appendix B

Ad Hoc Committee Report

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

PLAN

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

A community facilities element of the City Master Plan is required by the State of *Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Act of 1992 (1992 Planning Act).*

This plan element, as stated in the Planning Act, is to "show proposals for the most appropriate and desirable patterns for the general location, character, and extent of public and semi-public buildings, land, and facilities for specified times as far into the future as is reasonable."

The community facilities element is only one component of the overall master plan for the City. Other adopted elements include the six land use plans with housing policy for the six neighborhoods, a transportation element, a sensitive areas element, a bikeways and pedestrian plan, the Smart Growth Policy, and a parks and recreation plan.

This *Community Facilities Plan* directly relates to several of the City's strategic directions. The first is the goal of maintaining and enhancing basic City services. It also supports the strategic direction regarding the cultural arts plan which states that the City should "create and implement a comprehensive cultural arts plan (facilities and programs)." A third strategic direction—"pursuing programs that foster educational and recreational opportunities for all youths"—is supported by the necessary community facilities.

Citizen participation has been an integral part of the overall effort for the community facilities plan. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed in October 1996 and was charged with the task of devising an issues report for the City Planning Commission. This report was finalized and presented to the Planning Commission in May 1997. The Ad Hoc Committee focused on many different topics: parks and open space, recreation, cultural resources, government facilities, public safety and emergency services, educational facilities, solid waste services, water and sewerage systems, all of which have been included in their report (see Appendix B).

Early in the committee's discussions, it became apparent that the parks, recreation, and open space aspect of the plan warranted an in-depth review. A consultant group, Urban Research Development Corporation (URDC), was retained to conduct a comprehensive review and to give direction relative to the City's parks, recreation programs, and open space. The resulting report fully addresses these issues in the document titled, *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for the 21st Century.* The plan was presented to the Mayor and City Council on August 3, 1998, and was followed by a work session on August 10, 1998. The formal public hearing was held on October 10, 1998, and a second work session conducted on November 9, 1998. A third work session was held on November 22, 1999. Adopted December 20, 1999, the park and recreation plan is now a separate element of the master plan.

This *Community Facilities Plan* is divided into two sections: *City-owned or Operated Facilities*, which describes structures under the ownership or operation of the City along with proposals for future modifications; and *Other Community Facilities*, a general description of services and buildings not under City control, but providing essential services to Gaithersburg residents.

The goals listed below reflect a practical approach to implementing this plan. Efficiency and order, combined with aesthetic responsiveness, will lead to serviceable and attractive facilities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- The development of the *Community Facilities Plan* will serve as a general inventory of City-owned facilities available to Gaithersburg residents.

- The stewardship of historic resources, now placed in the care of the City, will reflect the understanding of the City's heritage and expertise in maintenance of older structures, their carrying capacity, and their interpretation.

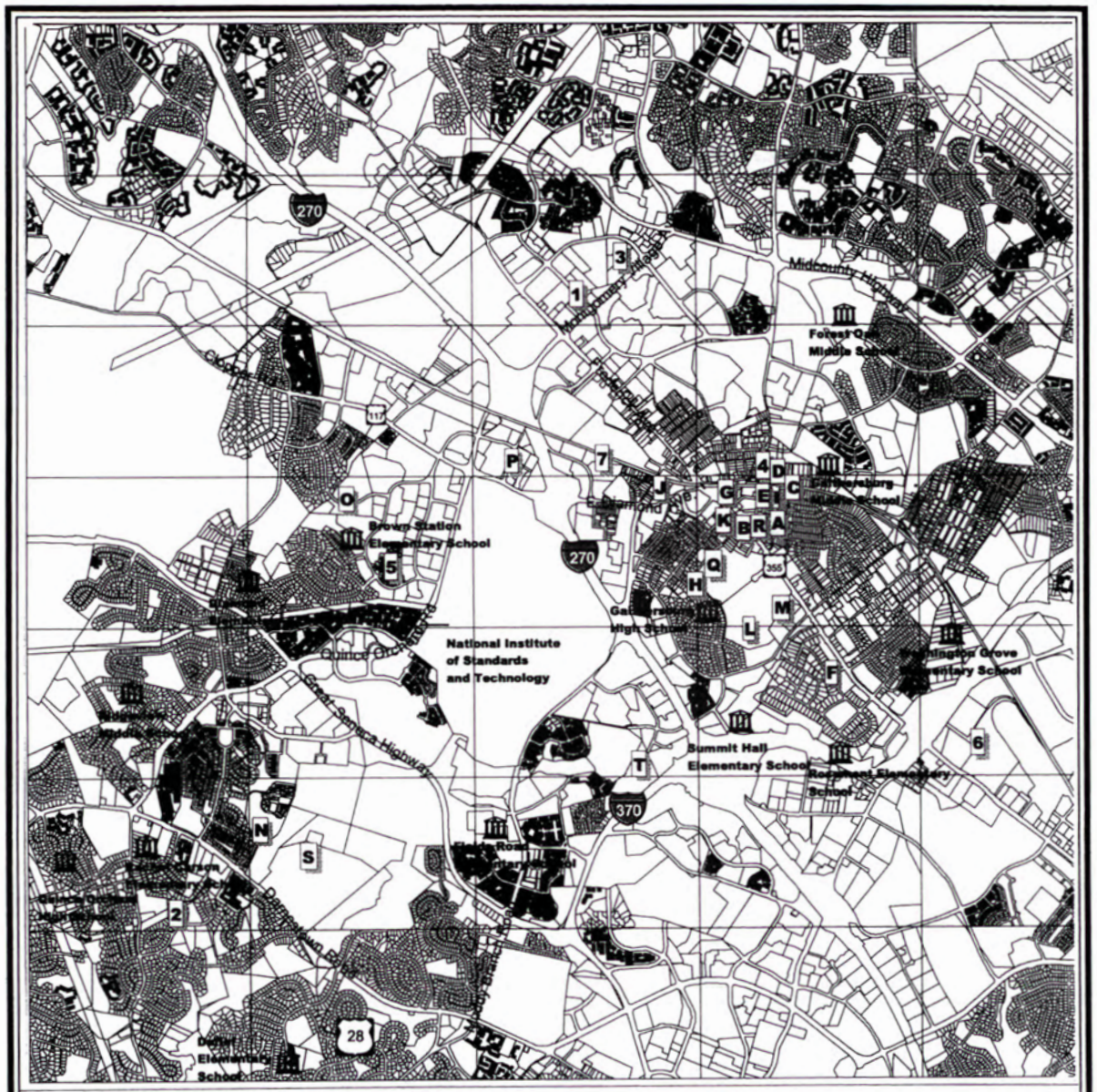
- The City will remain dedicated to ongoing efforts of efficiency and economy in the regulation of the facilities and:
  - maintain clean, attractive, safe, and sound facilities;
  - minimize disruption of services and avoid costly unplanned replacements; and
  - conduct effective preventive maintenance programs including timely inspection and servicing.

- The City will establish a safe and accessible repository for all building and site plans for City-owned properties.

- An appropriate place will be selected for the City's archives which will consider all aspects of archival preservation and management.

- The development of this master plan will incorporate and further advance the following goals of the City's strategic plan:
  - implement the master plan for parks, recreation, cultural, and leisure activities;
  - create and implement a comprehensive cultural arts plan (facilities and programs); and
  - maintain and enhance City services.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES MAP



City-Owned or Operated Facilities:

- A City Hall, Concert Pavilion, and Wells/Robertson House
- B Police Station
- C Teen Center
- D Aquatic Center
- E B&O and Freight Shed
- F Casey Community Center
- G Firehouse, Old Station Eight
- H Observatory, International Latitude
- I Mills/Nash House
- J WSSC Site
- K Wye Site
- L Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm: Activity Center, Miniature Golf Course, Skate Park, and Water Park
- M Bohrer Park at Summit Hall: Historic Farm Complex
- N Tschiffely-Kentlands Buildings
- O Public Works Maintenance Building
- P Senior Center, Upcounty
- Q DeSellum House
- R Parking Facility
- S Lakelands Aquatic Center
- T West Side Drive Recreational Facility

Other Community Facilities:

1. Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Fire Department
2. Fire Station #31
3. Gaithersburg Regional Library
4. Gaithersburg Main Post Office
5. Diamond Farms Post Office
6. Suburban Maryland Plant and Distribution Center
7. Montgomery County Agricultural Center

CITY-OWNED OR OPERATED FACILITIES

AQUATIC CENTERS

2 Teachers Way

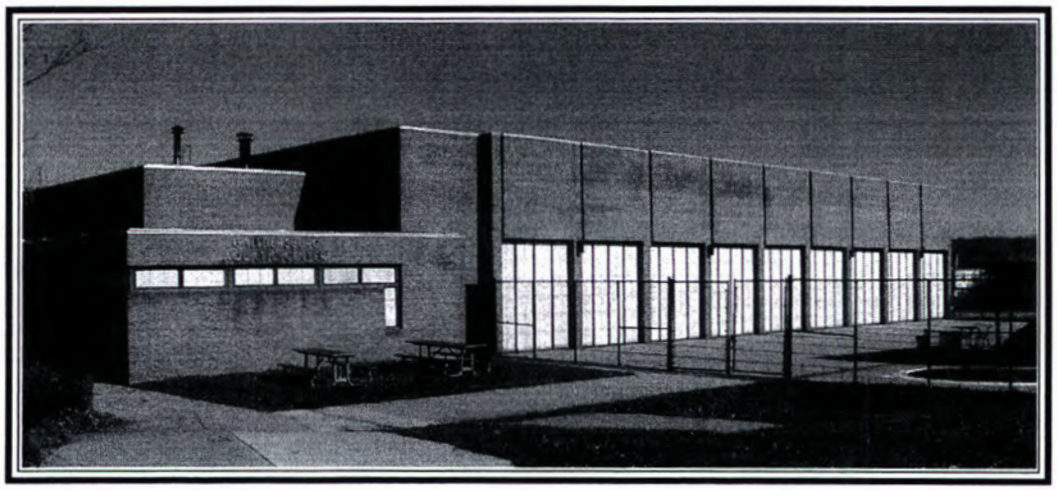
The Gaithersburg Aquatic Center, opened in 1977 and located adjacent to Gaithersburg Middle School, is a joint venture between the City and Montgomery County Public Schools. Swim teams from the schools use the facility for their practice and swim meets, and Gaithersburg Middle School students may take swimming as part of their physical education classes. A team of professionals oversees these activities.

The main indoor pool is 75 by 45 feet ranging in depth from 3 1/2 to 12 feet. There are six lap lanes. A shallow-water training pool, 45 by 20 feet, has depths from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet, and may be entered by a wheel chair ramp as well as stairs. One wall opens during warm weather to give the swimmers an outdoor feeling. A pleasant 360- by 102-foot patio (with lounges, chairs, and tables), runs along the outside of the open wall. Completely equipped locker facilities are available for both men and women. Various programs are conducted at this facility which include swimming lessons for adults and children, water aerobics, and rentals for birthday parties.

The facility will be maintained in a compliant manner according to guidelines established by the Montgomery County Health Department as well as those set forth by the State. Repairs to the facility and equipment will be addressed as they arise to ensure a safe facility for patrons and staff.

Main Street, Lakelands

A new aquatic center, to serve the west side of the City, is included in the plans for the regional park to be constructed at Lakelands. A 55,000-square foot multi-purpose building will include two indoor pools, a gym, multi-purpose rooms, a dance studio, and an administrative area. One pool will be a 25-yard lap pool and the other a leisure pool, totaling 30,000 square feet. The facility will be constructed as part of Phase II of the park development and is estimated to be underway in FY 2004-05.



The Gaithersburg Aquatic Center, adjacent to Gaithersburg Middle School

The Activity Center, the City's newest building for community use

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM ACTIVITY CENTER

506 South Frederick Avenue

This 49,000-square foot facility, which opened to the public in June of 1998, provides indoor recreation featuring two large gymnasiums, two multipurpose rooms, a food service area, and the Lovin' Life Fitness Center. Programs include a fitness and wellness program, open gyms, athletic leagues, a wide variety of classes ranging from gardening to dancing, children's camps, after school recreation for teens, special events, and arts programs. The Activity Center has rooms for rent for business meetings, parties, trade shows, seminars, religious services, and athletic events. The center complements both the usage and style of the adjacent miniature golf course and outdoor swimming pool.

The large, colorful commissioned banners displayed in the front lobby are part of the Art in Public Places program. The halls of the center display art by local artists with exhibits changing every six to eight weeks.

A 12,300-square foot skate park has been built at the rear of the Activity Center. Planning for expanding the picnic pavilion restroom facilities is also underway.

The Activity Center also houses the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture offices which administer the City's parks and recreation programs.

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM HISTORIC FARM COMPLEX

502 South Frederick Avenue
Historic Resource

The cluster of buildings at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm forms the oldest collection of historic sites in the City. The property has a colorful 240-year old history associated with significant events in the pioneer settlement of Logtown, the Civil War, advances in science and agronomy, and with the social development of the town that has become the City of Gaithersburg. The complex includes the main house, a barn, a smokehouse, a tenant house, a modern rambler-style house, landscaped gardens, an orchard, and mature trees including a tulip poplar which is 22 feet in circumference.

The City purchased 57 acres of Summit Hall in 1982, granting a life interest in the main house and outbuildings to Frances Wilmot Kellerman, daughter of Frank Wilmot, original developer of the Summit Hall Turf Farm. The green lawns, ponds, and woods of the estate are used as a recreational area by the City.

The **main house**, about 3,944 square feet and first built about 1783, reconstructed in 1840, with additions in 1886 and 1937, commands a panoramic view of the area and features architectural elements from three different periods of ownership, including the original log structure incorporated into the larger house.

The **tenant house**, the last one remaining of an original total of four, dates from the mid- to late-1800s and is an unusual form called an "I-house."

The **log smoke house**, approximately 14 square feet, and built in the early 1700s, is believed to be the oldest structure in Gaithersburg and was restored by the City according to a consultant's recommendation in 1988.

A view of Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm from Frederick Avenue

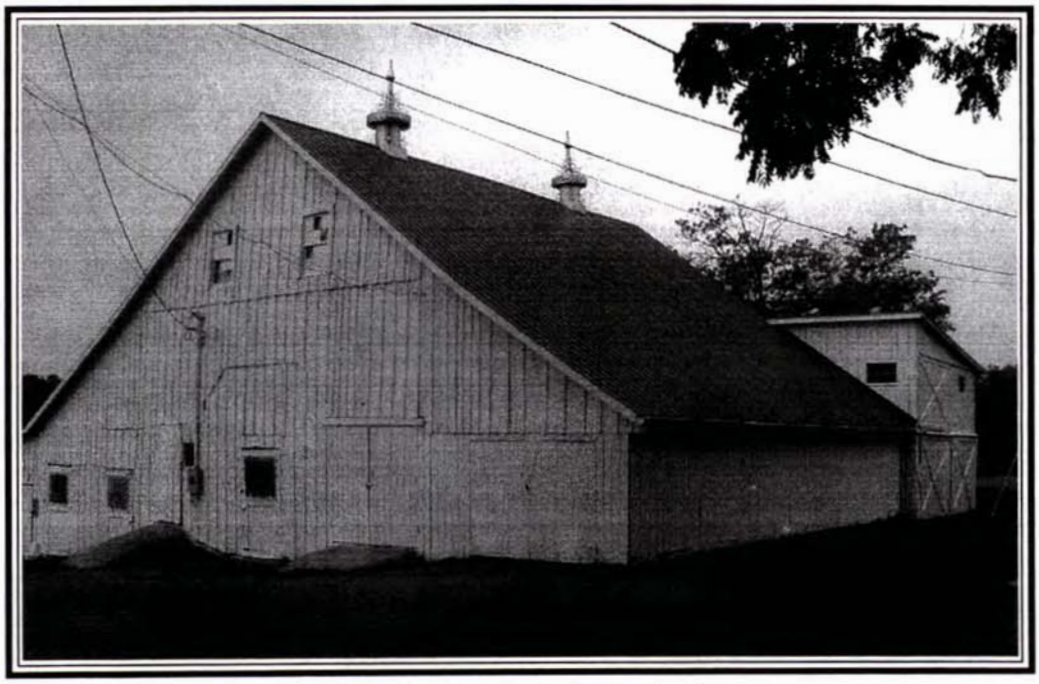
The board-and-batten **barn**, circa 1887 with later additions, was a combination stable/carriage house/ granary.

At the rear of the property is a **cemetery.** This small plot was restored by the City and is the final resting place for four members of the DeSellum family.

The **modern house**, behind the historic main house, was built in 1953 as a farm manager's house and is an example of high-style, mid-20th century contemporary design in Gaithersburg.

The City owns three historic **outbuildings** that are intended to be moved to the farm area—the **stable** and **chicken coop** from Cedar Avenue, now dismantled and in storage, and the 1890s **carriage house** from Chestnut Street donated to the City in 1988. These must be carefully sited.

The farm buildings, along with the open space, offer the opportunity to create a realistic representation of farm life and a direct connection to Gaithersburg's rural heritage. A master plan should be developed that incorporates the historic farm area into its environmental setting and accommodates interpretive programming. In the entire surrounding park, distinct zones of modern play and recreation activities must be separate from the historic area, and the open vista in front of the main house must be preserved in keeping with its original historic setting. More extensive development of the historical interpretation of this important site could emerge through a public/private partnership. Any increased development of the site must take into careful consideration all historic elements.



The barn is a board-and-batten structure

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM MINIATURE GOLF COURSE

510 South Frederick Avenue

The City of Gaithersburg opened a miniature golf course in 1994 and it is considered to be a state-of-the-art 18-hole putting course. This beautifully landscaped course is laid out on 2.5 acres of parkland at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm adjacent to the Activity Center and Water Park. The course includes moveable hole placements which gives greater variety to the course, multi-tiered garden ponds, and is lighted for night play. During the open season in 1999, April through October, attendance reached 28,411 visitors.

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM SKATE PARK

510 South Frederick Avenue

This newly constructed facility, which opened in June of 2000, is a 12,300-square foot skate park designed for in-line skaters and skateboarders. Within the skating arena there are 12 ramp/box structures of pressure-treated wood with a smooth, durable surface known as Skatelite. The ramps and boxes allow for varying conditions to suit the interest and skill of all skaters. The ground level skating surface is ultra smooth asphalt. Benches inside and out serve as a rest spot for skaters and a viewing place for friends and family.

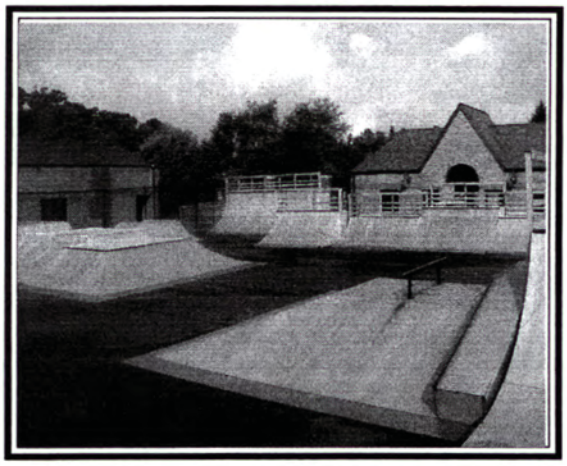
BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM WATER PARK

510 South Frederick Avenue

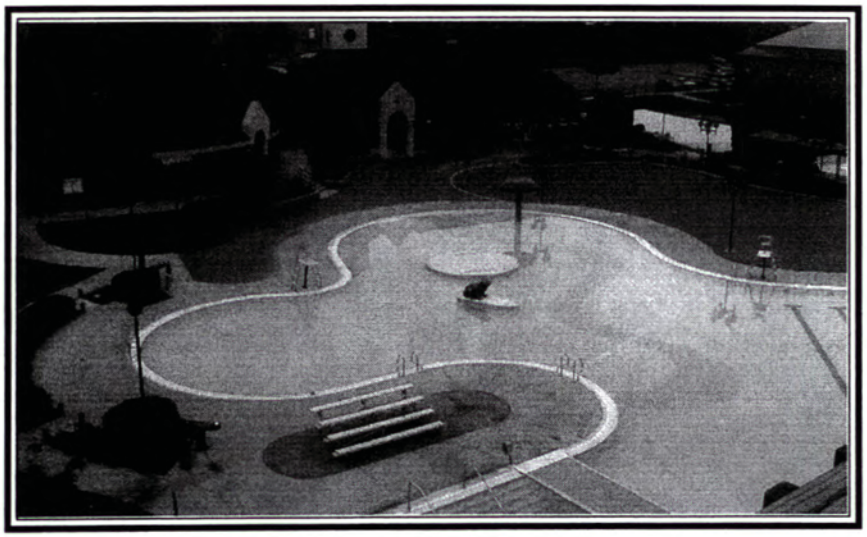
The Water Park is a $2.5 million outdoor swimming pool that serves the citizens of Gaithersburg and surrounding communities. The Water Park has 250-foot double water slides, a zero depth entry main pool, a rain drop umbrella, a sunning island, and a frog fountain. There also is a zero depth children's splash pool with a frog slide and seal spray.

This facility, which opened in 1991, also operates a food concession stand. It has changing rooms, two dry playgrounds, picnic facilities, and lawn chairs. The main pool is 10,330 square feet in size and the baby pool is 1,209 square feet. The facility, which served over 100,000 people in 1998 (the season extends from Memorial Day through Labor Day), is overseen by a team of aquatic professionals.

The Miniature Golf Course



The Skate Park



The Water Park viewed from the top of the water slide

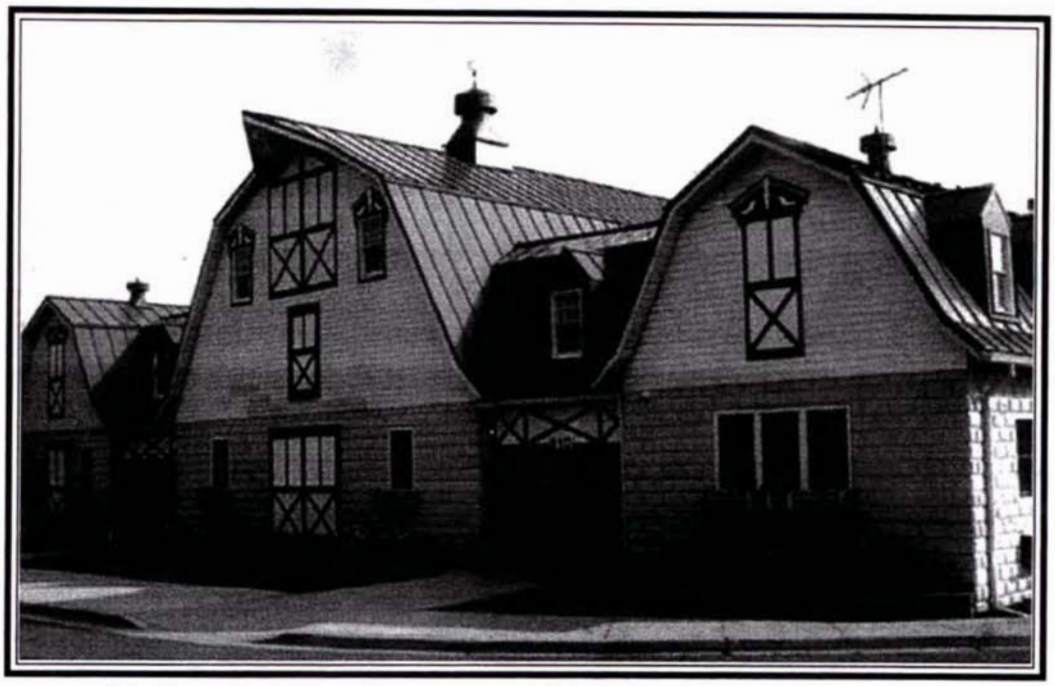
The B&O Railroad Station still serves the daily trains and their passengers

B&O RAILROAD STATION AND FREIGHT SHED

5 South Summit Avenue
Historic Resource, National Register Site

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station, built in the Queen Anne style by E. F. Baldwin, in 1884 and enlarged in 1905 and 1907, stands in the center of Olde Towne Gaithersburg. The station is a symbol of the important impact the railroad exerted on Gaithersburg's early economy. For many years, the station served the town as a link to move passengers and goods to all corners of the east coast. With the advent of the automobile in the last half of the twentieth century, passenger rail service declined considerably, although the station continued in use. The station and freight house received National Register listing in 1977, local historic designation in 1983, and were restored in the 1980s. The buildings' current uses—ticket office, waiting room, coffee shop, and museum (in the freight shed)—are highly compatible with the historic uses and the fabric of the structures and should continue.

The Freight Shed at the B&O Station, restored and used as a community museum



The Casey Community Center, converted from dairy barns to community use

CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER

810 South Frederick Avenue
Historic Resource

The Casey Community Center is an outstanding example of Gaithersburg's ability to appreciate its past while adapting it to different needs. The adaptive reuse of the barn as a community center illustrates the transition of a farming community to a modern suburban community.

The large white, green-trimmed barn, about 175 feet by 80 feet (approximately 14,000 square feet) with two silos, sits on a six-acre tract abutting an apartment complex, a single-family neighborhood, and busy Maryland Route 355. It was donated to the City of Gaithersburg by Eugene B. Casey shortly after the larger farm was annexed into the City in 1969. The barn, which was built in 1938, housed cows producing milk for local dairies well into the 1960s. It was formally deeded to the City in 1971 to be used as a community center and renovated in 1977. Activities at the Center include professional meetings, dinners, dances, classes, creative tot time, and many other multi-purpose events operated under the aegis of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Center's staff currently consists of four full-time and 16 part-time employees. Improvements for handicap access are needed and are budgeted for FY 01. This includes improvements to the entrance ramps, regrading a part of the parking lot to facilitate wheel chair travel, and relocation of the handicap parking spaces. The first floor bathrooms will also receive modifications for better wheel chair access. An elevator will be funded out of CDBG funds to allow ADA access to programs on the second floor.

This is an important gateway landmark. Should use patterns change due to the new Activity Center at Bohrer Park, a people-oriented use for this facility, rather than storage, will keep the southern entrance to the City vibrant. Any future renovations should preserve the roof line and front façade.

City Hall, an award-winning adaptive reuse of a historic structure for government use

CITY HALL

31 South Summit Avenue
Historic Resource

Gaithersburg City Hall—the Sanford W. Daily Municipal Center—is located in Olde Towne Gaithersburg and is a testimony to the City's efforts to preserve its history while providing modern city government services. City Hall consists of a stately house, with a modern office building addition to the rear, overlooking beautifully landscaped grounds. Two memorials to the men and women in the armed services are located in prominent places; and a neighborhood park, with picnic shelter, playground, and tennis courts, is located behind City Hall. A new concert pavilion, which opened in 1998, graces the front lawn.

The large American Foursquare house, historically known as the Schwartz house, was built in 1895 as a private residence for the Miller family and illustrates the Georgian Revival style of balanced cubical shape, with pedimented dormers on all sides and centered doors. In 1913, Edward Schwartz purchased the home and enlarged not only the house, which was the first private residence in the City to have electricity, but, more notably, established a peony garden with up to 410 varieties that attracted visitors, including President Woodrow Wilson, and was even featured in *National Geographic.*

In 1958, the City bought the house for use as a City office building and recreation center. As City services expanded, the need for office space resulted in the rear office addition (21,663 square feet) which was constructed in two phases in 1987 and 1989.

City Hall is currently a 27,900 square-foot facility which is home to staff offices of the City Manager's Office, Planning and Code Administration, and the Department of Finance and Administration. There are 67 employees at City Hall. Public meetings of the Mayor and City Council, Planning Commission,

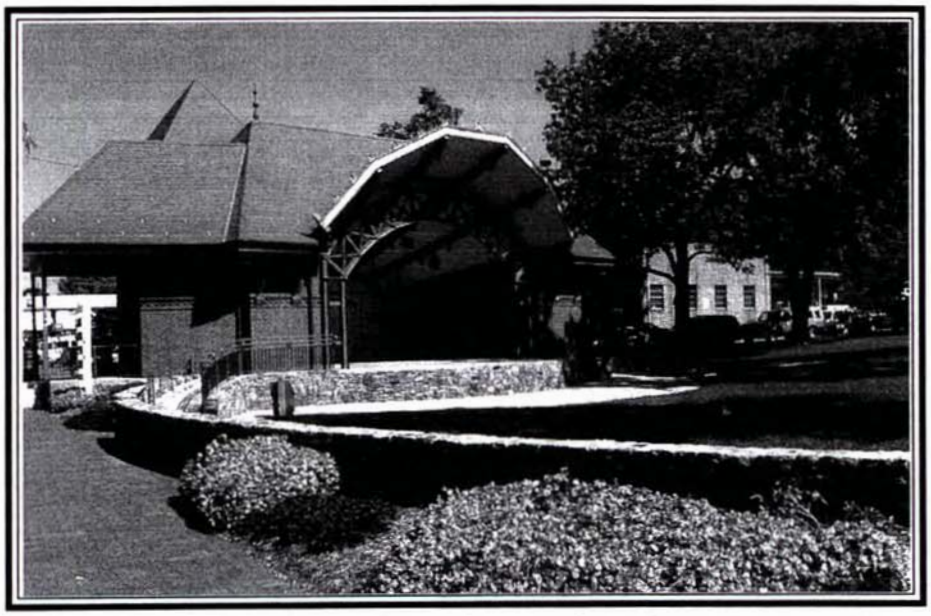
Board of Appeals, and various other committees and community groups are held in the main Council Chambers at City Hall. A large, second-story gallery space is available for art exhibits and meetings. City Hall is the main information center for the City and recently has expanded services to include the processing of passport applications.

A modification to the entrance driveway is also under review, with implementation expected in 2001. FY 01 funding will support modifications to audio-visual and sound systems in the Council Chambers, and HVAC upgrades in City Hall.

CITY HALL CONCERT PAVILION

The City Hall Concert Pavilion, located on the lawn of City Hall along South Summit Avenue, is a new facility (1998) which has become a major focus for the revitalization of Olde Towne in Gaithersburg. This new pavilion, approximately 1,329 square feet, was a direct result of the 1995 Olde Towne design charrette, and its architectural elements mimic details on the nearby late nineteenth century B&O train station. The placement of the pavilion directly adjacent to South Summit Avenue has enlivened the streetscape and provides an interesting architectural element in Olde Towne. The large front lawn of the pavilion can seat approximately 700 to 1200 people.

Gaithersburg is committed to promoting the performing arts, and this pavilion provides a performance space for concerts, film screenings, theatrical productions, and special children's events. This facility will continue to provide cultural opportunities through art and entertainment. No major capital expenditures are expected.

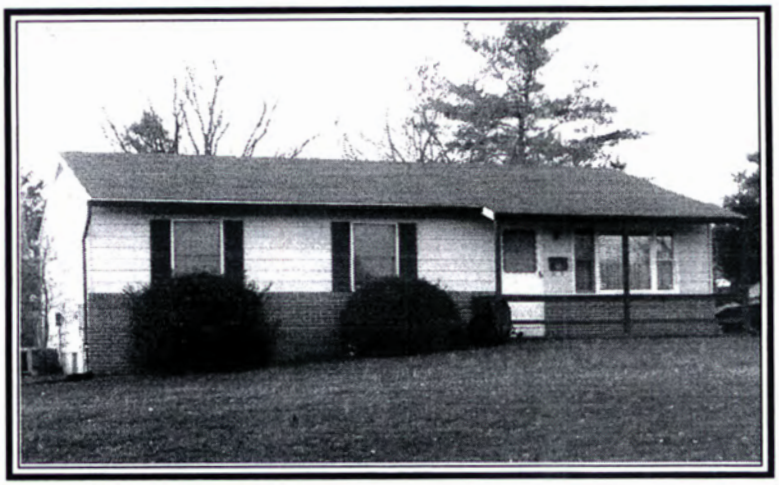


City Hall Concert Pavilion, a place and space to bring the community together

DESELLUM HOUSE

50 DeSellum Avenue

This house, built in the early 1980s, serves as the permanent housing component of the Wells/Robertson rehabilitation program. The three-bedroom rambler, with finished basement, provides long-term housing for one staff member and four men who have completed the transitional program at the Wells/Robertson House.



The DeSellum House, home for participants in the Wells/Robertson rehabilitation program

The former firehouse, "Old" Station Eight

FIREHOUSE, OLD STATION EIGHT

13 East Diamond Avenue
Historic Resource

Known as "Old Station Eight," the former firehouse, circa 1927, owned by the City and leased to the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Fire Department, is currently undergoing a major interior transformation. Two-thirds of the 4,000-square foot building will be renovated into a community meeting hall, with the remainder dedicated to a fire museum. Construction of the fire museum is underway, with completion expected in 2001. The centerpiece of the museum will be a 1941 Diamond T fire engine which served Gaithersburg from 1941 to 1950. This was the first pumper with a pre-connected hose line in Montgomery County. Photographs, uniforms, and other fire fighting memorabilia will also be displayed. Special attention should be given to the restoration and interpretation of the fire hose tower as an integral part of the museum efforts. This may require a structural evaluation.

KENTLANDS, THE TSCHIFFELY-KENT BUILDINGS

Historic Resource

Nestled in the midst of the neo-traditional development of Kentlands are the structures of the Tschiffely-Kent Estate. These City-owned buildings, which serve as the architectural springboard for the Kentlands community's inherent design, initially included the mansion, barn, firehouse, springhouse, carriage house, gate house (once located along Maryland Route 28), guest house, and other outbuildings. The barn's silos were razed; however, the tops are in storage and awaiting a future reuse. Two more extant structures, the "grotto" and the foundation of a greenhouse, are on private property, and (via a covenant) the City must approve any change that would alter the character or the historicity of these historic remnants. The guest house (near the mansion) and the gate house, which was dismantled and reconstructed as a modern dwelling with an exterior closely matching the original, are now privately owned. This latter property also has a covenant with the City affecting any change. The Citizens Assembly has recently purchased the carriage house.

Frederick Tschiffely purchased the farmland in 1852, and later his son, Frederick, developed the property into a fine estate. His heirs sold the estate to Otis Beall Kent in 1942. Kent altered the house and the landscape, and added outbuildings including the firehouse. When the property was sold to a local developer, Joseph Alfandre, in 1988, Kent's name carried over into the area's new name of Kentlands.

KENTLANDS BARN

311 Kent Square Road
Historic Resource

Officially known as the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, the brick, restored barn will be comprised of four artist studios for exhibition space, an art gallery, box office, museum shop, administrative area, and a 99-seat theatre for performing arts and classes. The facility will have an elevator and be ADA compliant.

The proposed programming for the first floor allocates five spaces for arts programs and instructions. A facility's office and reception area round out the design.

The barn at Kentlands, soon to be modified into a cultural arts center

The plan for the second floor of the barn involves an addition, due to the fact that part of the original space would be removed during renovations. This addition will allow for greater programming options and potential uses. Although large theatrical performances would be difficult in this area, this space, holding 99 seats, will accommodate smaller performances such as black box theater, storytelling, lectures, and the like. This space can also be used for gallery space, receptions, meetings, social dances, and drama classes.

The area containing the beams is proposed to serve as a multi-purpose room which could be used for gallery space, a reception area, or classroom space for small classes. The second floor includes space for a kitchenette.

Construction of the 9,350-square foot facility started in the fall of 1999, and occupancy is planned for late 2001. The City has approved funding in FY 01 for the building renovation, and funding in FY 01 for some programming.

KENTLANDS FIREHOUSE

321 Firehouse Lane
Historic Resource

This brick, two-story structure, circa 1940s, originally housed Mr. Kent's fire engine collection in the first floor garage section and a dwelling area in the upper story. Future uses are still under review, with one being the establishment of a bed and breakfast. The incorporation of a public/private partnership should be investigated.

Funding in FY 02 supports the planning for a structural analysis of the building.

The firehouse at Kentlands, awaiting evaluation for adaptive reuse

Kentlands Mansion, the architectural centerpiece of Kentlands

KENTLANDS MANSION

320 Kent Square Road
Historic Resource

The primary building of the Tchiffely-Kent estate structures, is the Georgian Revival mansion built in 1900, and now referred to as Kentlands Mansion. Its symmetrical brick façade is graced with details such as stone lintels, a metal cornice, and a hipped roof with balustrade. Following the decorator's showcase in 1991, which was held after the buildings were donated to the City by Joseph Alfandre, the building underwent changes to become a community facility. By 1994, air-conditioning and a new heating system had been installed, ADA requirements met, and other upgrades for group use—namely an elevator, a sprinkler system, and a security system—were added.

The four rooms available for rent on the first floor accommodate a total of 125 guests. Two smaller rooms on the second floor are suitable for social and business functions.

Kentlands Mansion is ideal for its current use as an art gallery and as a meeting and party facility, all of which are compatible with the site's residential character.

KENTLANDS, OTHER HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Historic Resources

The small brick **building on the green** is currently vacant. Although in good condition, it is not suitable for occupancy. Future adaptive reuse would require significant capital expenditure.

The ruins of a **springhouse** are near the lake and its spring still flows. To the untrained eye, the pile of stones appears to be merely rubble, but under them is the foundation of the springhouse. Removal of the stones would reveal whether the foundation is of dry stone or mortared and would also show the approximate size of the stone building once there. The roof of the springhouse was most likely wood and probably had shingles. Archeological efforts here would most likely result in the discovery of ceramic or glass objects. After documentation, the "ruins" could be stabilized and left as such, or the springhouse could be recreated.

A **greenhouse framework** is adjacent to the firehouse and requires repair for future reuse.

Building on the green at Kentlands

The greenhouse framework at Kentlands

The Mills/Nash House, restored by the City and used as a local model railroad museum

MILLS/NASH HOUSE

18 East Diamond Avenue
Historic Resource

This cross-gabled Victorian residence, known as the Mills or Nash House, was built in 1889 by Peddicord and Colemen for Mr. Bennett of the B&O Railroad. It was enlarged in 1919 and occupied into the 1980s when it was converted to commmercial use. This house stands, with the altered 6 East Diamond Avenue house, as the last of the dwellings that once lined this section of East Diamond Avenue. The City acquired the building in 1990 and restored its exterior and rehabilitated the interior.

For the near term, continued use of this house as a model railroad museum will provide, along with the forthcoming fire station museum, a cultural anchor in that end of Olde Towne. Both stories are utilized by the Gaithersburg Model Railroad Society, Inc. The first floor contains the operating layout with four main lines of the model train and one branch line representing several scale miles of track. The second floor houses an extensive library of books, magazines, pictures, photographic slides, and videos of railroadiana and visual aid materials.

Over the longer term, the building should be evaluated as to how it might otherwise contribute to the Olde Towne revitalization. If future use of the building requires an addition, it should be built at the rear so that the main block of the house is kept intact, preserving the front and sides. The building is currently open to the public on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Several small museums, all of which are located in Olde Towne, serve the City.

The Gaithersburg Historical Association (GHA) coordinates the **Gaithersburg Community Museum** which is housed in the restored B&O Freight Shed **at 9 South Summit Avenue**. The GHA dedicates itself to the promotion and preservation of local history and provides a research data base for interested parties. The organization conducts tours for second-graders and other groups, such as the Smithsonian Institute, as well. Publications are high on their list of priority projects and include a walking tour of historic Gaithersburg, a history of Asbury Methodist Home, and other brochures. The GHA sponsors guest speakers, book signings, the Olde Towne House and Garden Tour, and many other activities. The Gaithersburg Community Museum is open three days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Space needs are crucial for this group, as are signage and interpretation. At the Community Museum, in addition to the exhibits provided by the GHA, there is a large model railroad provided by the Gaithersburg Model Railroad Society.

Railroad cars, undergoing restoration, and a train engine are on display outside the museum. **The Gaithersburg Railway Museum** has oversight of these cars, and works to preserve and promote the railroad heritage of the City. There is need for interpretation and funding for the ongoing restoration and preservation of these cars.

At 18 East Diamond Avenue, in the historic Nash House, the **Gaithersburg Model Railroad Society** (GMRS) carries out ongoing construction of a large model railroad for hobby enthusiasts, but with the larger purpose of educating the public about the railroad in Gaithersburg and Maryland at large. The Society participates in train shows at the fairgrounds, and is open each Saturday, and for special events in Olde Towne.

Viewed as potential strong contributors to the revitalization of Olde Towne, the museums have come under study by the City to assess their needs and marketing opportunities. These museums, which are open for only limited hours a week, suffer from the lack of funding, personnel, and space. The volunteer members of the museums are working with City staff to arrive at a plan for the future.

One recommendation that holds promise is that a curator be used to coordinate the efforts of the museums. This person would work closely with the City and the volunteer groups to provide support to improve funding, personnel, and space acquisition. Each museum would retain their individual goals, mission, and volunteer groups, but could build on the synergy created by their proximity.

The Fire Museum, located at 13 East Diamond Avenue, ("Old" Station Eight), is planned to be officially opened in 2001. It will be dedicated to promote the history of fire fighting and safety in Gaithersburg. The current restoration of the building will offer a large assembly hall for public use and a room for display of fire fighting memorabilia. Other areas will be used for storage of gear. A restored 1941 Diamond T fire engine, used between 1941-1950, will be a highlight of the display. Special attention should be given to the restoration and interpretation of the fire hose tower as an integral part of the museum efforts. This may require a structural evaluation.

The historic resources at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm and Kentlands possess additional museum possibilities.

OBSERVATORY, GAITHERSBURG INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE

100 DeSellum Avenue
Historic Resource, National Landmark, National Register Site

The City's only National Landmark is located at DeSellum Avenue in the Observatory Heights subdivision. The observatory was built in 1899 as one of six placed around the world, on the parallel of 39° 08' north latitude, to observe the position of the earth. The data thus gathered established and measured the earth's movement or "wobble" on its axis, which had previously only been hypothesized. This information is vital to the functioning of today's satellite-dependent communications and positioning systems. Members of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) still come to the observatory to utilize the ground markers for current day measurements.

The small wooden, gable-roofed building, restored in 1990, is about ten feet square on the interior and 13 feet square on the exterior. It has a metal roof which opens east and west by a system of pulleys.

Also on the property is a brick caretaker's house, circa 1940s, owned by the City, and currently used by Old House Parts (OHP), a non-profit organization that sells discarded historic building pieces. A one-car, painted block garage with a rear storage section is close to the house and is used by OHP for storage. OHP will be relocating in late 2000 or early 2001.

Continued public access to this unique site through tours is strongly recommended. The small house at James Street, at the entrance to this site, might also be incorporated into interpretative plans.

Presently, only occasional tours are made of the site, with these usually being a school group and by appointment only. Any future use and plans must take special care to preserve the geodetic markers and the vital azimuth marker on the property ,and to prevent vandalism. Although OHP is only open Saturdays, the weekly and occasional other visits by OHP staff help to maintain vigilance on the condition of the buildings and grounds.

The City has had long term plans for a science center on this site. However, inadequate land area for the proposed science center was a stumbling block that has rendered the project infeasible, redirecting the City's efforts in the direction of a pocket park. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan calls

The Observatory site, from left to right: garage, caretaker's house, the observatory

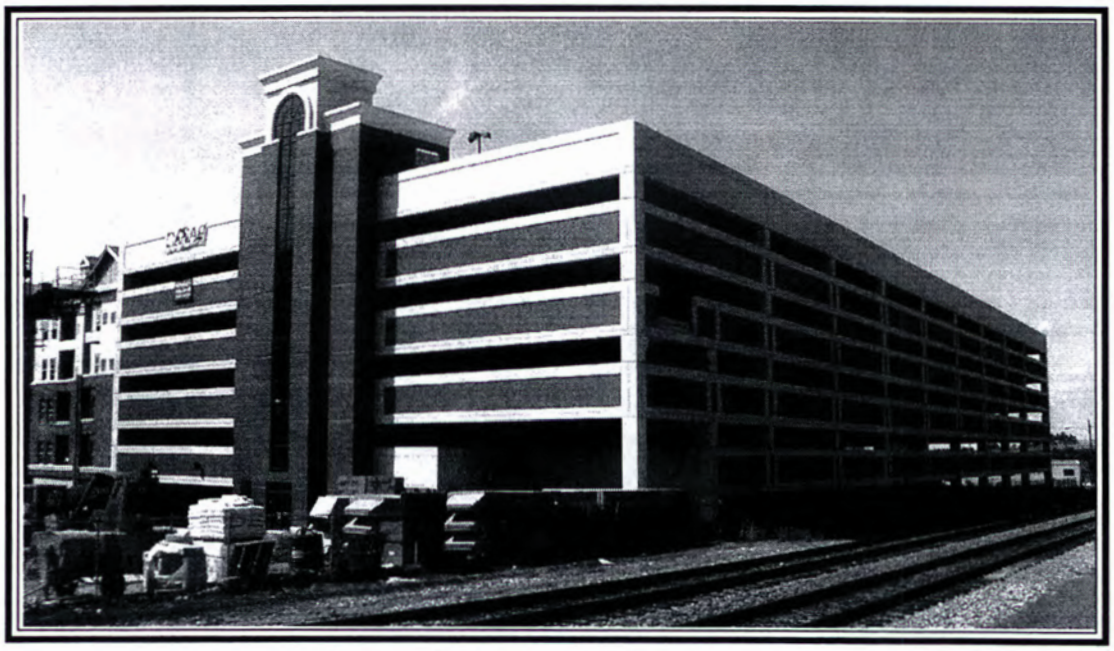
for the creation of a pocket park at this site. FY 01 funding supports planning and design, with construction proposed for FY 02. This will involve the demolishing of the current caretaker's house on the property and replacing it with a picnic shelter, an interpretive kiosk, and signage that explains the history and purpose of the site. A committee will be formed in the fall of 2000 to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on how to proceed as a park site while protecting the Observatory.

PARKING FACILITY

12 East Cedar Avenue

This five-level parking garage, with a top level of rooftop parking, is anticipated to be open in late 2000. Of the 727 parking spaces, 126 will be reserved for the use of the residents of the abutting 68 apartments currently under construction, and 200 for the DANAC offices. The remaining spaces will be for commuters and visitors to Olde Towne. The issues of metered spaces and manner of reservation are still under review.

A pedestrian bridge, extending from the fourth level, will cross over the railroad tracks to enable visitors access to Olde Towne from the parking garage. The 27-foot high bridge will be approximately 80 feet long and 10 feet wide, and will be embellished with logos of the City and the historic B&O Railroad. An elevator tower, with stairs, will bring the walkers to the parking area behind the buildings on East Diamond Avenue where they can then walk safely to the railroad station and other businesses.



The Gaithersburg parking garage

The playground area at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

PARKS

City, state, and school-owned recreation areas in Gaithersburg comprise 716.3 acres, as follows:

City-owned parks	522.4 acres
Seneca Creek State Park (within Gaithersburg)	29.0 acres
Public Schools	164.9 acres

As mentioned in the introduction to this document, an in-depth review of the parks was conducted in 1998 and presented in the publication titled *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space for the 21st Century*. The plan lists all existing City parks as well as recreational facilities at public schools, condominiums, homeowners' associations, and private apartments.

Two work sessions and a public hearing on the plan were held in 1998, with a third work session following in July of 1999. Adoption of the plan took place on December 20, 1999, and the document is now a separate element of the City's master plan.

Pertinent summary charts from that booklet are included in Appendix B.

POLICE STATION

7 Cedar Avenue

The Gaithersburg Police Department was created in 1961 and has grown to its current complement of 35 sworn officers and five civilian employees.

The police station, a 9,857-square foot structure, was purchased in 1993 when the police outgrew the space in the lower level of the City Hall building. The 7 East Cedar Avenue location is ideal for it is located at the center point of the City and remains close to City Hall and the Olde Towne area.

The nontraditional look of the building, which has the appearance of three townouses, fits well with the Department's Community Policing philosophy, which promotes working with all facets of the community to solve problems and forming partnerships that will ensure the safety and security of the City and produce a high quality of life for all people.

The Department of Human Services, which has been sharing the building with the Police Department, will relocate to the Wells/Robertson House upon completion of the addition which is anticipated to be in early 2001.

The building houses the administrative day-to-day functions of the Police Department, such as the Department's evidence control and record keeping functions. There are no holding facilities in the building as this service is provided to the Police Department by the Montgomery County Police facilities located in Germantown and Rockville.

The Gaithersburg Police Department responds to calls for service as necessary within the City limits. Gaithersburg Police Officers make arrests and enforce traffic laws and local ordinances. In 1999, there were 21,000 calls for service within the City limits. Gaithersburg officers handled 8,591 or 41 percent of the calls. They made 494 adult arrests, 134 DWI arrests, and issued 5,017 traffic citations. The Gaithersburg Police Department also provides many other services to the community to include Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), Neighborhood Watch, security surveys for homes and businesses, vacant house checks, requests for special patrols, Citizen Police Academies, Selective Traffic Enforcement, and child safety seat installations. The Department, in cooperation with the City's Department of Recreation, provides an after-school program for elementary school children. Recently, the Department has added a victim advocate to assist victims of crime.

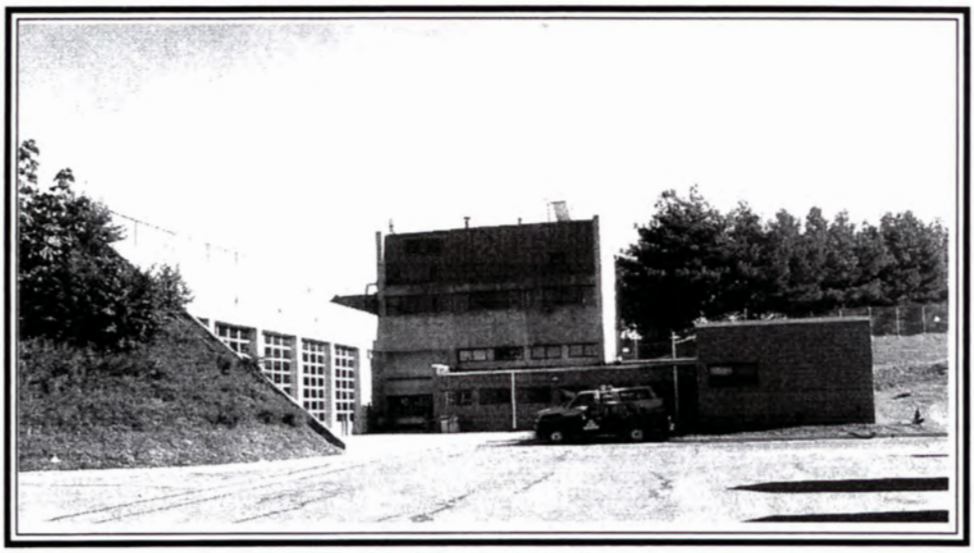
The Gaithersburg Police Station, located in Olde Towne

The crowning achievement of the Gaithersburg Police Department in 1998 was its re-accreditation. The accreditation process ensures the department will continue to meet all standards of professional police service.

PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS MAINTENANCE, AND ENGINEERING

800 Rabbitt Road

The Department of Public Works, Parks Maintenance, and Engineering (DPWM&E), located along Rabbitt Road in the Pheasant Run Community, provides a variety of services, such as street and sidewalk maintenance/repairs, snow removal, and street sweeping; maintenance of public buildings; landscaping and care of public areas, parks, and streets; recycling for single family homes and townhouses; City vehicle maintenance; and storm water management. This department also maintains all City facilities, including custodial services, utilities, and repairs, and supervises the construction of all major City projects. Engineering functions of the department include review of storm water management, sediment control, storm drainage, paving, and a variety of site plan reviews.



The Public Works facility,
built into the hillside to camouflage the storage and auto-related uses

The facility includes one large building that houses staff offices, maintenance facilities, storage facilities for all department-associated equipment, and provides gasoline for all city vehicles. Parking is ample, with the street level lot of 15 spaces, a lower level lot of 21 spaces, and a bottom lot of 50 spaces. The original building, which was constructed in 1981, was designed to camouflage most of the auto-related and storage uses that are conducted on the site. This building's section is virtually hidden from sight due to planned topographic design. An addition was put on in 1995. A salt storage building was constructed at the rear of the site in 1991 and will receive an addition in 2001. A new oil recycling building and truck/car wash are also in the planning stage.

About 60 full-time employees work for DPWPM&E. During the summer months this increases to 70 to 80 workers.

Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center, a joint city, county and state project

SENIOR CENTER, GAITHERSBURG UPCOUNTY

80A Bureau Drive

In May of 1990, the Quality Inn Hotel, built in 1983 and located on a 2.2319-acre site, was converted to apartments and to the Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center. With funds from the City of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, and the State of Maryland, this joint venture between Gaithersburg and Montgomery County got underway via purchase of the site. The upper floors were modified into small apartments for low-to-moderate income people. These 120 apartments are known as Diamond Square Apartments at 80B Bureau Drive.

The first floor of the building is divided into a Senior Center side and an apartment complex side. The Senior Center side consists of a dining room, card room, lecture room, craft room, and multi-purpose room. The 2,841 square-foot addition (1996), which expanded the dining room to seat 140 people, also provided more lobby and recreational space as well as offices. The first floor of the apartment side contains three of the apartments, a family room, and office.

The Center hosts an active and ethnically diverse population of senior citizens (anyone over 55 is eligible) who enjoy many programs, activities, and services which range from social and recreational to educational and health. The varied program includes fitness, support groups, dancing, genealogy classes, trips, wellness days, medical news, driving for mature drivers, tax assistance, computer classes, and many more. The registered participants number 650, with 40 to 100 attending daily. Visits from citizens to the Center numbered 32,931 during fiscal year 1999-2000. Door-to-door transportation is provided for senior citizens by City of Gaithersburg vans supplemented by Montgomery County buses which are part of the Senior Transportation Program.

Program space needs continue to grow as the Center develops, both in the building and with the parking. The current 45 spaces allotted for the Center's use (the remainder are assigned to the apartment dwellers) have proven to be inadequate on a number of occasions.

The Teen Center, just a short walk from Gaithersburg Middle School in Olde Towne, is an important asset for the City's youth

TEEN CENTERS

402 B East Diamond Avenue

The Center is run as a "Drop In Program" after school for students in grades 6-8. During summer months, the Center is open to youths grades three and up. The 2,200 square-foot, one-story facility is sited on a one-acre lot and has an office, kitchen, and three bathrooms. The high level of usage can be attributed to the Center being located close to Gaithersburg Middle School, i.e., within walking distance. The Teen Center is dedicated to providing the youth of Gaithersburg with safe, positive, weekend and after school activities.

An expansion project has been under consideration for some time. The current space is inadequate to the needs of active adolescents (primarily between the ages of 11-13) who spend their after-school hours at the Center. The project will include a 1,000-square foot addition as well as a new roof, upgraded plumbing, new fire system and sprinklers, and heating/air conditioning systems. This will be accomplished through CDBG funds in FY 01.

Funding in the approved budget supports facility planning for a new teen center on the west side of the City. FY 01 funding supports design of the facility and FY 02 funding supports the construction of the facility. The youth center is planned to be approximately 8,000 square feet, with several rooms to accommodate various activities, and should have access to outdoor field space and safe roads for both walking and bus/car drop off. The programs will be comparable to those of the teen center in Olde Towne.

The Wells/Robertson House, a successful adaptation for use as a transitional housing facility

WELLS/ROBERTSON HOUSE

1 Wells Avenue
Historic Resource

This residence, at 1 Wells Avenue, was built in 1885 by W. T. Hilton for Henry Miller, co-founder of the Gaithersburg Milling and Manufacturing Company. The house is named for Mary Wells Robertson, who owned the house for 62 years before selling it in 1987 to the City who undertook its restoration to provide a 14-resident transitional home for homeless drug and alcohol addicts in recovery. The exterior restoration and interior renovation of the Victorian home took place in 1988 using 80 percent community donations and 20 percent federal/state/local government funds. The operation of the Wells/Robertson house is not only a community asset, but serves as a national model for both the transitional program as well as a demonstration of how a group home can gracefully integrate into the surrounding neighborhoods. The facility is currently funded in a joint partnership with monies provided by the following sources: the Department of Housing and Urban Development—46 percent, state and county—6 percent, client rents—6 percent, and City of Gaithersburg—42 percent.

A 1,911-square foot addition, scheduled for construction in the fall of 2000, will include two handicap suites, three offices (one for the Human Services office planned to be relocated here), one conference room, and a storage area. Another house at 50 DeSellum Avenue serves as the permanent housing component of the program.

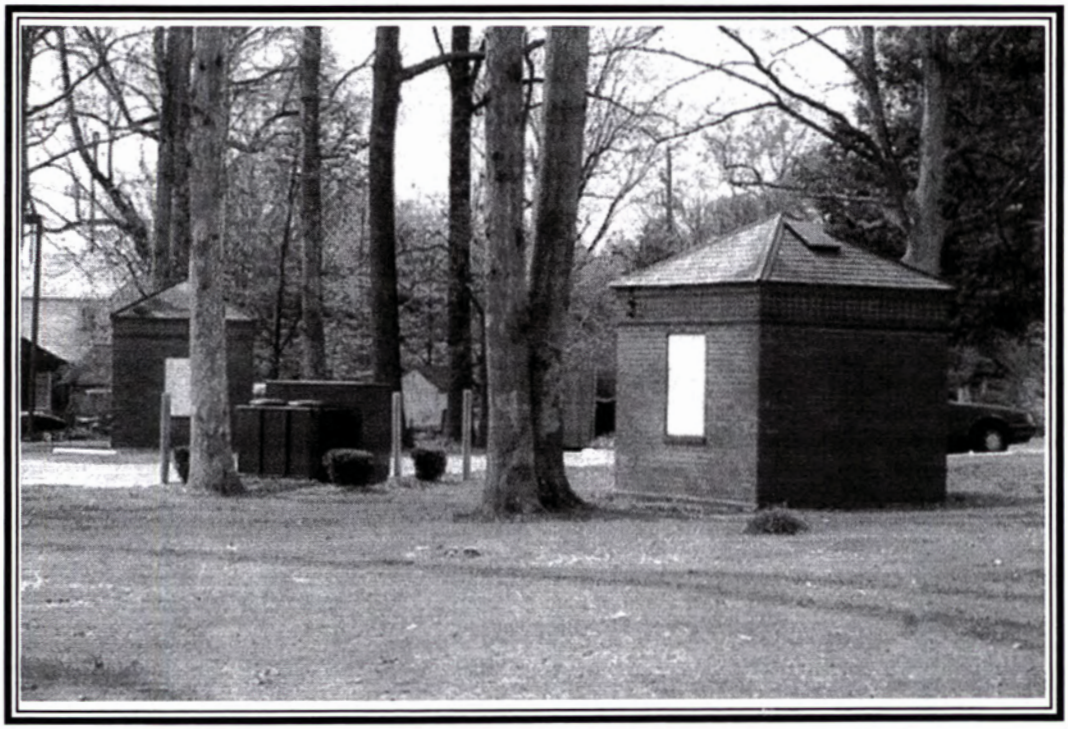
WEST SIDE DRIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITY

Funding in FY 01 supports siting and design of a recreational facility in or near Malcolm King Park. FY 02 funding supports construction of the facility. The activity center will provide needed space and programs for this part of the City, especially after school youth programs, community meeting space, and summer camps for children.

WSSC SITE

112 West Diamond Avenue
Designated Historic Resource

Located in the Chestnut/Meem Historic District, along West Diamond Avenue, this site retains several of the original buildings from the City's first water plant which was built in 1926-1928. The site currently consists of a water tank and three small buildings that were pump houses. A large brick pumping house was demolished in 1988 for the widening of West Diamond Avenue. A second water tank was removed for a parking area for the day care housed on the property, currently operated by a private provider. The buildings, presently used for storage, have been included in the walking tour of the Chestnut/Meem Historic District. Over the long term, a plan for historic interpretation could be developed and public access enlarged to expand appreciation of the mechanical systems contained in the finely-detailed brick buildings.



The pump houses at the WSSC site, part of the City's first water plant

The parking lot built on the Wye Site to serve commuters using the trains

WYE SITE

Frederick Avenue at Cedar Avenue
Designated Historic Resource

In 1888, the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad purchased a 2.16-acre tract from the Fulks-DeSellum family and constructed the turning "wye," an arrangement of railroad tracks resembling the letter "Y," which enabled the early steam locomotives to turn around to reverse their direction. Later, the Gaithersburg wye was used to turn "helper" steam locomotives, which were used to push trains coming from the west up the grades to Gaithersburg where they were uncoupled from the eastbound trains and could return west again. In later years, reversing diesel engines made the wye superfluous for the railroad, and the site became a siding for a lumber yard and the location of other light industrial uses.

Locally designated as a historic site in 1986, the Wye Site was documented in 1997, prior to having the rails lifted for paving for an interim commuter lot of 220 parking spaces.

The plan for the revitalization of Olde Towne calls for the extension of West Diamond Avenue through this site to connect with Cedar Avenue. Future development could memorialize its history.

OTHER CITY-OWNED OR OPERATED BUILDINGS

The City also owns several other structures which do not come under the category of community facilities, but are mentioned here for reference purposes.

The buildings are: 2 James Street, 208 North Summit Avenue, 307 South Frederick Avenue, 315 East Diamond Avenue (Fishman Building), and 300 Dogwood Drive.

CITY-OWNED OR OPERATED FACILITIES

FACILITY	LAND AREA (ACRES)	BUILDING SQ. FT.	NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES	NUMBER OF STAFF FT/PT	OTHER AMENITIES	YEAR BUILT	COMMENTS
Aquatic Center, Olde Towne	1.5		share 81	1		1977	
Aquatic Center, Lakelands							TBD
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm	57.6956		share 418				
Activity Center		49,000	share 418	28	VA, PA, GA	1998	
Historic Farm Complex:							
Manor House*		3,944				1783	1840, 1886, 1937 additions
Tenant House*		1,836				1868	
Barn*		4,662				1887	
Smokehouse*		196				1700	
Rambler		4,830				1953	
Miniature Golf	2.5		share 418			1994	
Skate Park		12,300	share 418		lockers	2000	
Water Park	2.5		share 418	2/100		1991	
B&O Station*	1.24545	54,252	9		ticket office, shop	1884	1985/86 restored
and Freight Shed*		1,008			museum	1884	
Casey Community Center*†	6.0	14,000	145	4/10		1938	1971 deeded to City 1977 remodeled
City Hall/Schwartz House*†	5.2	27,900	share 48	67	VA, GA, PA	1895	1958 purchased, 1988-89 addition
City Hall Concert Pavilion	–	1,329	share 48		PA	1998	
De Sellum House	0.21	1,092	2	1		1981	1983 group home
Firehouse, Old Station Eight*		4,000	27	volunteers		1927	
Kentlands:							
Barn*	0.13	9,350	on street		VA, GA, PA	c.1900	
Firehouse*		7,818	on street			c.1940s	
Mansion*	0.95	8,000	on street	2/15	VA, PA	1900	1991 converted to community use
Building on the Green*		400	on street			c.1900	
Mills/Nash House*	0.287	1,746	7	volunteers	museum	1889	1990 purchased, 1993 restored
Latitude Observatory*	2.3	169				1899	1988 restored
Caretaker's House		2,005	on street			1947	
Garage		384					
Parking Facility	0.8416	35,421	727			2000	5-level parking garage
Police Station	0.39	9,857	17	36/4			1993 purchased
Public Works Maintenance Bldg	17.09	27,305	86	64/3 70-80 summer		1981	1995 addition 1991 salt storage building
Senior Center, Upcounty†	2.2319	60,891	45	5		1983	1990 purchased, 1996 addition
Teen Center, East Side	1.0	2,200	28			1930	1936 addition, 1992 remodeled
Teen Center, West Side							TBD
Wells/Robertson House*	2.05	4,000	share 48	4		1885	1987 purchased, 1988 restored 2000 a 11,911 sq. ft. addition
West Side Dr. Recreational Facility							TBD
WSSC Site*	1.03	3 bldgs @ 100			one-50,000 gal tank	1926-28	1987 purchased
Wye Site*	2.16		220			1888	commuter lot 1997

* Historic Resources Council for the Arts: *VA - Visual Arts (galleries)* *PA - Performing Arts*
GA - General Arts (e.g,. book fair) † *Proposed Arts Programming*

FUTURE PUBLIC FACILITY NEEDS TO BE ASSESSED

NIKE SITE

This property is located on Muddy Branch Road and is currently owned by the Federal Govenment. The City would like to acquire this property to evaluate its best use for the local and larger communities, keeping in consideration its historical nature. Residential development is currently under construction immediately surrounding this site.

OLDE TOWNE AS A CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT

Developing the cultural arts as a strategy for revitalization has been highly successful in cities such as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; New Haven, Connecticut; Tucson, Arizona; Alexandria, Virginia; Providence, Rhode Island; and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Through legislation designating areas as Cultural Arts Districts, revitalization can be further empowered through the issuing of bonds, grants, and tax incentives. The legislatures of the State of Maryland are currently considering such a bill.

Most Cultural Arts Districts are designed to take advantage of existing city attractions such as historic features, cultural facilities, parks, and other amenities. Through the enhancements and expanded efforts currently underway with the museums of Olde Towne, the existing City Hall Concert Pavilion, the Art in Public Places projects planned in Olde Towne, and the efforts to develop artist studio space in this historic area, Olde Towne Gaithersburg is well suited to utilizing the cultural arts as a prime component in the City's efforts to revitalize this district.

NEW SCHOOL AND PARK SITES

As development continues in the City through annexations, consideration needs to be given to new school and park sites with particular focus on such sites as the McGowan Tract and the Crown Farm.

OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The public school system serving Gaithersburg is administered by the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system. The Board of Education creates and carries out the policies and programs for students and teachers as well as sets boundaries for attendance. As a result, Gaithersburg residents may be required to attend a school outside the City limits. The City, always alert to meet the needs of its residents, confers closely with MCPS on school issues. The City is also in the process of formally adopting residential development standards relating to public school adequacy as part of the Smart Growth program in Maryland.

The schools are grouped by "clusters" equating to the high schools and their feeder schools. The clusters serving Gaithersburg residents are the Gaithersburg Cluster, the Quince Orchard Cluster, Watkins Mill Cluster, Wooten Cluster, and Northwest Cluster. The chart on the next page provides more information on the size of buildings and school sites, and other facilities connected with a particular school.

School facilities are publicly owned and, after hours, the facilities can be used for recreational, civic, and educational purposes. Schools provide recreational facilities including ball fields, playgrounds, and quarter-mile running tracks as well as gyms and auditoriums. The high schools have large, well-equipped auditoriums for public performances. The Interagency Coordinating Board (I.C.B.), for Community Use of Public Facilities provides for the rental and liaison work of the use of the schools.

The City of Gaithersburg continues to supplement the county's efforts with several far-reaching programs. These include an annual educational grant program for those schools with at least ten percent Gaithersburg residents; the Adopt-a-School Program in which the Mayor and City Council and other staff serve as liaisons for school events and needs; the Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, a fifth-grade drug prevention education effort; the Read Aloud Program; Arbor Day Celebrations; family fun nights; and the CHARACTER COUNTS! training for students, teachers, and staff.

Planned improvements to schools within the City limits include changes to the traffic circulation pattern at Gaithersburg High School, and proposals for additions to Gaithersburg Elementary, Rosemont Elementary, and Gaithersburg High School. At present, the MCPS is seeking an appropriate site for a new middle school to serve the Quince Orchard Cluster.

Local colleges include Montgomery Community College, with campuses in Rockville and Germantown; Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland via satellite campuses in the Shady Grove Road area; and Columbia Union College, recently located in the City.

SCHOOLS SERVING GAITHERSBURG RESIDENTS CHART

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT % OF TOTAL GAITHERSBURG RESIDENTS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT 98-99	CAPACITY	DATE ORIG CONST	YEAR MODERN-IZED	SITE SIZE (ACRES)	TOTAL SQ. FT.	EXISTING SPORTS* FIELDS S - Soccer BB - Baseball SB - Softball F - Football
Gaithersburg Cluster								
Gaithersburg HS†	35.8 %	1860	1868	1951	1978	39.0	280,688	Stadium Field*, 1 S, 2BB/SB
Forest Oak MS†	36.4 %	923	959	1995		20.0	129,206	2 BB/SB with 1F/S overlay
Gaithersburg MS†	25.7 %	964	1160	1960	1988	24.2	157,694	2 BB/SB, 1 F/S
Gaithersburg ES†	96.6 %	597	474	1947	1982	8.0	60,908	1 BB/SB
Goshen ES	> 1.0 %	765	771	1988		10.5	76,740	2 BB/SB with 1 F/S overay
Laytonsville ES	> 1.0 %	589	576	1951	1989	10.5	64,160	3 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Rosemont ES†	70.1 %	465	447	1965	1995	8.0	54,950	2 BB/SB
Strawberry Knolls ES	2.4 %	578	694	1988		10.8	78,723	1 SB, 1BB/SB, 1 S
Summit Hall ES†	66.4 %	577	557	1971		10.2 PK	64,618	2 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Washington Grove ES	43.1 %	418	461	1956	1984	10.9	50,526	1 BB/SB/FB/S
Northwest Cluster								
Northwest HS	14.2 %	880	1238	1998		34.5	217,047	Stadium Field*, 1 BB Regulation, 3 BB/SB with 1 lacrosse overlay
Roberto Clemente MS	> 1.0 %	763	1092	1992		20.0	148,246	3 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Kingsview MS	34.8 %	974	1009	1997		30.8	118,964	5 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Ridgeview MS	46.6 %	907	1011	1975		20.0	136,379	4 BB/SB with 3 S overlays
Clopper Mill ES	> 1.0 %	526	637	1986		9.0	64,851	2 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Darnestown ES	> 1.0 %	306	344	1954	1980	7.2	37,685	2 BB, 1 S
Diamond ES†	87.1 %	466	606	1975		10.0 PK	64,950	2 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Germantown ES	> 1.0 %	448	400	1935	1978	8.0	57,668	1 BB/SB, 1 S
Ronald McNair ES	> 1.0 %	792	719	1990		10.0	78,275	1 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Quince Orchard Cluster								
Quince Orchard HS	51.8 %	1782	1831	1988		31.8	284,912	Stadium Field*, 3 BB/SB
Kingsview MS	34.8 %	974	1009	1997		30.8	118,964	5 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Ridgeview MS	46.6 %	907	1011	1975		20.0	136,379	4 BB/SB with 3 S overlays
Brown Station ES†	84.3 %	496	561	1969		9.0	58,338	2 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Rachel Carson ES†	58.8 %	697	739	1990		12.0	78,547	1 BB/SB
Fields Road ES†	95.9 %	441	431	1973		10.0	47,140	2 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Jones Lane ES	4.3 %	536	574	1987		12.1	60,679	1BB/SB, 1 F/S
Thurgood Marshall ES	25.6 %	544	626	1993		12.0	73,059	2 BB/SB with 1 S overlay

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT % OF TOTAL GAITHERSBURG RESIDENTS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT 98-99	CAPACITY	DATE ORIG CONST	YEAR MODERN-IZED	SITE SIZE (ACRES)	TOTAL SQ. FT.	EXISTING SPORTS* FIELDS S - Soccer BB - Baseball SB - Softball F - Football
Watkins Mill Cluster								
Watkins Mill HS	9.4 %	1925	1778	1989		32.0 PK	297,846	Stadium Field*, 2 BB/SB
Montgomery Village MS	19.5 %	712	756	1968		15.1	129,229	2 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Neelsville MS	> 1.0 %	765	901	1981		31.6	124,337	4 BB/SB
Capt. James Daly ES	> 1.0 %	687	726	1989		10.0	78,210	1 SB with 1 S overlay
South Lake ES	6.2 %	535	526	1972		10.2	50,246	2 SB
Stedwick ES	> 1.0 %	628	631	1974		10.0	84,335	1 SB
Watkins Mill ES	48.2 %	531	501	1970		10.0 PK	44,510	1 BB/SB with 1 S overlay
Whetstone ES	> 1.0 %	617	694	1970		10.0	44,510	1 SB
Wootton Cluster (partial)								
Thomas S. Wooton HS	3.5 %	1725	1535	1970		27.5	226,545	Stadium Field*, 3 BB/SB, 1 F/S
Robert Frost MS	4.9 %	980	824	1971		24.8	117,035	1 BB/SB, 2 S
Dufief ES	22.2 %	414	481	1975		10.0	59,013	2 BB/SB with 2 F/S overlay
Stone Mill ES	3.1 %	639	748	1988		11.8	78,617	2 BB/SB with 1 F/S overlay
Other								
Mark Twain	> 1.0 %	372	405	1971	1973	22.6	85,400	1 SB, 1 S
Oakmont School	25.0 %	36	40	1996		3.5	18,000	
Phoenix II	10.0%	48	30	1988		0.5	4,050	1 SB
Private								
St. Martin's		290	290	1925	1988	3.86	26,297	

Notes: † *Building is located within City limits*
* *Stadium Field - football, lacrosse, soccer, track*
PK denotes adjacent park site

Source: Montgomery County Public Schools for FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
School Field Inventory 1999, Interagency Coordinating Board, Rockville, Maryland

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The City is served by the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department (GWGVFD) and Station 31 of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD). These companies are part of the 19 Fire/Rescue Corporations which serve the citizens in 33 fire stations throughout Montgomery County. The county-wide system is run by the Fire and Rescue Commission, a seven-member board appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The Fire/Rescue Commission is supported by the 19 corporations, which collectively have about 1500 volunteer members, and the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, which has approximately 900 employees in the County.

The GWGVFD, formed in 1927, operates three facilities, two of which provide fire and rescue service. They are Station 8 at 801 Russell Avenue (within the Gaithersburg City limits) and Station 28 (built in 1967) at 7272 Muncaster Mill Road (in Montgomery County). The third facility, "Old" Station 8, a 4,000-square foot building at 13 East Diamond (in Olde Towne Gaithersburg) served the City and adjacent area from 1927 to 1978. It is still in use to store apparatus, equipment, and supplies for the two active stations. It is currently being renovated to include a fire museum and public assembly hall (see also Fire Museum, p. 20). The new Station 8, on 1.5 acres, is about 19,000 square feet; and Station 28, on 1.3 acres, is 7,100 square feet. The GWGVFD currently operates four engines, one aerial ladder tower, one medic unit, four ambulances, and a brush truck at the two stations.

The RVFD was organized in 1921. Since then, the department has grown from a few volunteers with one fire engine to a four-station operation, one of which, Station 31, serves Gaithersburg residents on the western side of the City. Originally established in 1978 at Shady Grove and Darnestown Roads, Station 31 was later moved to 12100 Darnestown Road, right outside the edge of the City limits. It is home to Engine 311 and 312, Truck 31, Ambulance 319, Utility 31 and Brush 315. It is also home to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Group, one of the 26 units in the United States. About a quarter of the building holds a large portion of their equipment.

The fire companies have a number of community programs. These include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for citizens, fund raising, training sessions on fire safety, i.e., the Fire Safety house for children and Safety in Our Neighborhood Program, and ride-along opportunities for citizens.

The GWGVFD plans to open the Fire Museum in Old Station 8 in 2001, along with the assembly hall; add a third maintenance shop to Station 8 in the next 3 to 5 years; add a new fire station at Rio, west of I-270 in the next 10 years; and move Station 28 to the Airpark and combine with FAA approved fire service in the next 10 to 20 years.

LIBRARIES

Gaithersburg is currently served by a county library located at the corner of Montgomery Village Avenue and Lost Knife Drive outside the City limits. The Gaithersburg Regional Library, built in 1981, is a 6.2-acre site, with a library building of 35,314 square feet and associated parking. It is operated by the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries. A recent "mini-renovation," which included carpeting and shelves, took place in the summer of 1998. The library is one of the ten busiest libraries in the United States, with a circulation averaging over a million materials a year and 100, 000 a month. Over 176, 000 volumes are in the library and are cared for by a staff of 33 people with an additional 21 part-time staff who shelve the books. The library has two meeting rooms, one of which is the largest meeting room in county government buildings holding 300 people.

The library works cooperatively with the City, particularly with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, the Council of the Arts, and the Economic Development Committee. Among the City sponsored activities at the library are an arts program and a City information rack. The City has also donated computers to be used by library patrons. The library offered its meeting rooms for citizens running for City offices to conduct their debates.

A variety of special programs occur at the library, among which are: computer training; book discussions—held in English, Chinese or Spanish; a "Language Discovery Center," for parents and their children; and an ongoing book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library who also held a Family Fun Day and Kite Flying Day.

A second library, the Quince Orchard Community Library, has been recently built at 15831 Quince Orchard Road across from Quince Orchard High School. This 17,500-square foot building, located on a 2.7-acre site, opened in December 1999. This library will primarily serve the west side of the City and the surrounding community.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, known commonly as the "fairgrounds," was founded on its present site in 1948. This 59-acre site is home to the annual Montgomery County Fair that celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1998 and draws approximately 250,000 people annually at the August event. Outdoor facilities include two open-sided covered pavilions, a 5,200 seat grandstand, a 60' by 120' horse arena, thirteen 35' by 120' barns, and wooded areas for picnicking. Camping facilities are available to accommodate 30 water/sewer and electric hook-ups. Indoor facilities include a home arts/4-H building and an auditorium ideal for corporate training sessions, auctions or trade shows. Two oversized garage doors at both ends of the auditorium allow for easy access. There is also a semi-formal dining hall that is 50' by 100' and accommodates 360 seated guests or up to 800 people theater style for lectures, seminars, or the like. An addition of 6,900 square feet was completed prior to the 2000 fair. Events are held year-round and range from trade shows, craft fairs and flea markets to wedding receptions, training/speaking seminars, and company picnics. Overseen by a private, non-profit organization—the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc.—the program is dedicated to enhancing the experiences of and providing a platform for performance and achievement by the 4-H, FHA, FFA, and the community at large through its network of thousands of volunteers.

POSTAL SERVICE

The City is currently served by two post offices within the City limits. The Gaithersburg Main Post Office, approximately 9,600 square feet, on about half an acre, is located in Olde Towne Gaithersburg at 21 South Summit Avenue adjacent to City Hall and offers window service as well as the processing of passport applications, mail box rentals, and postal vehicular storage for 33 vehicles. There are about 75 employees. The future of this post office is uncertain given that the facility is located in a leased building which recently changed hands. The current operation at this location may change to window service with letter sorting being done elsewhere, thereby relocating vehicles currently stored on the premises. The concept of establishing a philatelic center at the Olde Towne Post Office has been discussed recently.

The second post office, known as Diamond Farms Branch of the Gaithersburg Post Office, having about 90-95 employees, is located at 23 Firstfield Road on the west side of the City. This office also provides window services for the large business population located in that area and provides for registration for the draft. The post office owns this property, but is considering a relocation due to increased space needs.

A new full service post office will be opening in the Kentlands Market Square Shopping Center. This 5,200-square foot postal retail store will provide a 24-hour lobby with stamp vending machines and 1,000 post office boxes. The facility will employ six people and is anticipated to open in late 2000.

The facility at 16501 Shady Grove Road, while outside the City limits, plays an important role in the mail processing for Gaithersburg residents. The site, a 160,000 square-foot facility on 13 acres, includes about 1,100 employees and is known as the Suburban Maryland Plant and Distribution Center. Connected with the mail processing center is an annex site off Gaither Drive which has 55,000 square feet of space.

POLICE

Citizens of Gaithersburg are served by two outstanding police departments: the Gaithersburg Police Department and the Montgomery County Police Department. The Gaithersburg Police Department (see page 24) is located at 7 East Cedar Avenue and provides protection 24 hours, 7 days per week. The Montgomery County Police Department, Germantown District, is located at 20000 Aircraft Drive in Germantown. The two police agencies enhance the ability of both the Gaithersburg Police Department and the Montgomery County Police Department to provide efficient and effective police service.

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) works in conjunction with the Gaithersburg City Police, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, to provide a full range of law enforcement services to the City. The City of Gaithersburg is located within the boundaries of the Germantown District of the MCPD.

The Montgomery County Police Department is a full service police agency, providing police patrol coverage to Gaithersburg 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The MCPD is a fully accredited law enforcement agency by the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The MCPD operates on a philosophy of Community Policing, with a stated mission: "to provide the highest quality of police services by empowering our members and the community to work in partnership with the goal of improving the quality of life within Montgomery County, while at the same time maintaining respect for individual rights and human dignity."

The officers of the Germantown District responded to nearly 69,563 calls for service in year 1999, of which approximately 21,355 (30%) were within the City limits of Gaithersburg. The most common types of incidents that officers handled were (in order of frequency), disorderly conduct, motor vehicle accident, larcenies, domestic violence incidents, vandalism, minor assaults, and burglaries. In addition, the Germantown District offers a wide range of programs aimed at the youth of the community. By involving them in crime prevention activities, and interacting with them in the schools in the district, it is the hope of the police force to forge relationships that will last into adulthood.

Due to the exceptionally high workload currently being carried by the Germantown District, the MCPD is presently making plans to create a separate police district that would incorporate the City of Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and other adjacent communities. This Sixth District would be created so as to increase the efficiency of police service delivery to these areas, and to provide a greater police presence in the greater Gaithersburg area. Current plans call for the implementation of the initial stage of the new district by late 2000 with the opening of the substation at 18749 North Frederick Avenue.

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Solid waste services for the residents of the City of Gaithersburg are maintained by private waste removal providers. Each community, or individual homeowner, in the City may contract for solid waste removal services. The City provides recycling services, both on a weekly and a monthly schedule. The weekly pickup services all single family homes and townhouses. This includes newspapers, other mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, recyclable cans, glass containers, plastic bottles, brush, branches, grass clippings, and other yard trimmings. A monthly bulk pick-up will remove large appliances and other large household items. Seasonal collections include fall leaves, storm damage, large amounts of brush, and holiday trees. The City also has a drop-off location for recyclables located at its Public Works facility (see page 25). The hours of this recyclable operation are every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This location also provides a 24-hour drop-off for oil and antifeeze.

Montgomery County maintains a solid waste transfer station on Maryland Route 355 which is free for residents. In addition to household refuse, residents may recycle such items as tires, appliances, newspapers, magazines, branches, grass clippings, leaves, bedding material, clothing, textiles, construction materials, glass objects, plastic bottles, etc. Accommodations for hazardous materials are provided twice a month to supplement the ongoing separate collection for batteries, antifreeze, and car oil. The waste transfer station is adjacent to the railroad for easy removal of the waste. A separate entrance off Shady Grove Road is available for waste collection companies who are required to pay a tipping fee.

WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

All water and sewer services are provided by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). WSSC is a regional bi-county, quasi-public agency which provides this important service. Currently there is capacity for the expansion of the system; however, continued building may limit carrying capacity. The WSSC maintains a maintenance yard along West Diamond Avenue which serves as an Up-County staging area for the Commission and its projects.

MASTER PLAN
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

APPENDIX A
Chart
(Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for 21st Century)

EXISTING CITY PARKS
City of Gaithersburg, Maryland
1998

NAME	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE (Including Structures)	AMOUNT / NUMBER OF FACILITIES																								OTHER FACILITIES OR COMMENTS	SUPPORT FACILITIES							
			Baseball/Softball Field	Soccer/Football Field	Outdoor Basketball Court	Indoor Basketball Court	Gymnasium	Outdoor Volleyball Court	Badminton Court	Playground, w/Equipment	Play Area, No Equipment	Tot-lot	Track/Field Facilities	Indoor Pool	Pool, Adults	Pool, Children	Tennis Courts	Weight Room	Passive Open Space	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Hiking Trail/Path (in miles)	Benches	Club House/Comm. Room	Ponds		Drinking Water	Restrooms/Concessions	Trash Receptacles	Indoor/Undercover Areas	Outdoor Lighting of Facilities	Lighting for Security	On-site Parking	Telephone
City Hall/Civic Center Park	1	7.8			1					1		1					2			1		0.4						2						
Constitution Gardens	1	0.5			4					1																Rose gardens								
Duvall Park	1	3			1					1										1								1						
Kelley Park	1	27.7	3	1						1		1					2			2						Concessions, press box, score boards	1							
Olde Towne Park	1	1.2																			1					Train station, train display, shed								
Victory Farm Park	1	33.1																																
Casey Community Center	2	6.1																																
Christman Park	2	4.3																			1				2	Inversion systems	1							
Morris Park	2	37.2	2	1						1		1					3			1	5					Storage grill, concessions, score board								
Observatory Historic Site	2	2.3																																
Summit Hall Farm Park	2	57.7								1		1			1	1				2	30	1.3			2	Activities center, barn, miniature golf		2						
Walder Park	2	2.3			0.5					1		1								1		0.3				Multi-purpose court, access. table								
Green Park	3	13.7								2																								
Malcolm King Park*	3	72.9			1					1		1					2				1	2.1												
Kentlands Lakes	4	40																				1.5			2	Includes lakes, wetlands								
Kentlands Mansion	4	2.3																																
Lakelands Park**	4	20																																
Lakelands Stream Valley**	4	105																																
Little Quarry Park	4	5.7																			5				1									
Washingtonian Woods Park	4	22.3			0.5					1							2					1												
Diamond Farms Park	5	23.4			1.5					1		1					3					0.3												
Robertson Park	5	8.9	2	2								1														Concessions, press box, score board	1	2						
Seneca Creek State Park***	5	29																																
Neighborhood Six Park	6	25																																
TOTALS		551.4	7	4	9.5	0	0	0	0	12	0	8	0	0	1	1	14	0	0	8	43	6.8	0	0	7		3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Includes 13 acres the City is currently acquiring to add to this park.
** Refers to land the City is now in the process of acquiring.
*** While not City-owned, a 29-acre portion of Seneca Creek State Park is located in Gaithersburg.

MASTER PLAN
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

APPENDIX B
Ad Hoc Committee Report

Report to the Planning Commission Identifying Issues regarding

Community Facilities

serving the City of Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

May, 1997

Community Facilities Issues Report
to the Planning Commission of the City of Gaithersburg

May, 1997

Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan

Committee Members:

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Background

By Resolution No. R-88-96, adopted October 21, 1996, the Gaithersburg City Council established the Ad Hoc Committee for the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan. The purpose of the Committee was to provide a forum for the discussion of issues, goals, strategies and new ideas for improving the public facilities used by City residents and to make recommendations for the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan. Public participation in the revision of the various elements of the Master Plan has enhanced communication between City officials, staff and Gaithersburg residents and in the case of the Community Facilities Element, has helped all of those involved to take a citywide view while at the same time thinking about the particular issues and characteristics of individual neighborhoods. Topics discussed by the Committee ranged from parks and recreational programs to cultural opportunities and governmental services.

The membership of the Committee comprised representatives from all six neighborhood planning areas in Gaithersburg as well as liaisons from the City's Economic Development and Beautification committees. Beginning with an organizational meeting on November 26, 1996, the Committee met during December of last year and January, February and March of 1997 to review and discuss community facilities serving Gaithersburg and to prepare recommendations for this report. In addition to the comments and suggestions from Committee members, the report also benefited from having input gathered from a survey on parks and recreation that was mailed to all City residents via the "Leisure Times" publication. Focus group sessions were also conducted with teenagers and with senior citizens regarding recreational facilities and programming.

Introduction

The major focus of the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Facilities report is parks, open space, recreational programs and the future utilization of City-owned buildings and sites. Public services that are not directly provided by the City such as schools, libraries, post offices and utilities are noted briefly in the report for informational purposes.

Gaithersburg has experienced extraordinary growth in the recent past and the need for a wide

range of convenient, high quality and easily accessible public facilities has grown with the City. The basic outline of subject areas to be addressed in the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan provided a framework for the work of the Committee. The report is organized in the following manner:

Parks and Open Space

Recreation

Cultural Resources

Government Facilities

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Educational Facilities

Solid Waste Services

Water and Sewerage Systems

Parks and Open Space

The last comprehensive plan for parks was completed in 1978. There is an existing 363 acres of municipal park land in a city with a population approaching 50,000. With approximately 25 percent of Gaithersburg's land area currently vacant but under increasing pressure for development, the opportunity for obtaining additional public parks and for the preservation of open space and wooded areas with the City is diminishing rapidly.

New Parks, Open Space and Facilities

The Committee strongly supports the open space provisions of the Lakelands development plan in Neighborhood Four and the purchase by the City of additional open space adjacent to the school site for recreational use. The Committee endorses the designated green space areas in the concept plan for the Casey Tract, located between the CSX rail line and Interstate 270, which is described in the Neighborhood Five Land Use Plan, an element of the Master Plan..

The Committee also endorses the further development and enhancement of Kelley Park in Neighborhood One and calls for the City to work closely with the Montgomery County Board of

Education to develop a new soccer field at Gaithersburg Middle School and new soccer and ball fields at the future Forest Oak Middle School, to be located at the Casey Goshen tract adjacent to the Saybrooke community.

A high priority for the City should be the acquisition of land and the development of a long awaited park and playground in the vicinity of Watkins Mill Road to serve Neighborhood Six.

The Committee strongly supports the concept of the Gaithersburg Greenways system, a proposal outlined in the Sensitive Areas Element of the Master Plan which envisions an interconnected system of linear green areas and trails connecting various destinations within Gaithersburg and linking the City to regional trails and parks. Committee members suggested that consideration be given to placing public water fountains at convenient and highly visible locations along the future trail system.

Summit Hall Farm Park

Gaithersburg's major municipal park and a facility that is building a regional as well as local customer base, Summit Hall Farm Park (S.H.F.P.) is an impressive jewel in the City's crown. The park has wide open spaces, historic buildings that are central to the understanding of Gaithersburg's evolution, active recreational facilities ranging from a miniature golf course to a swimming complex and passive recreational facilities such as walking paths and picnic areas.

The Committee spent a great deal of time reviewing past plans for S.H.F.P., its existing features and the opportunities for enhancing the park. Recommendations for the park include preservation of the open space between MD 355, South Frederick Avenue, and the manor house (Summit Hall) along with additional landscaping. Along with the construction of the Activity Building which will be under way shortly, future projects at S.H.F.P. should include an expansion of the outdoor pool. After the offices for the Parks and Recreation Department are relocated to the new Activities Building, the rambler (its current home) should retained temporarily as an "arts incubator." The building could be made available for use by artists and craftsman as studio space. The Committee envisions the historic buildings at S.H.F.P. such as the manor house, the tenant house, the smoke house and the barn as eventually being developed as an interpretive farm attraction with the artists in residence.

After the manor house and grounds become available for use by the City, consideration should be given to using the landmark farm house to house the local history museum, which is currently housed in the small B & O Freight House in Olde Towne. Once the Summit Hall Farm buildings are developed for cultural and educational uses in the future, the Committee agreed that the rambler should be razed in order to improve the appearance and function of the grounds around the older buildings and to create an appropriately landscaped buffer between them and the new Activities Building.

Improving Existing Parks

There was general agreement on the Committee that the City's existing parks are attractive and well maintained. Continued maintenance of park facilities and landscaping, along with the installation of additional trash receptacles and the consistent enforcement of the "pooper-scooper" regulations will increase the level of enjoyment of these public areas for residents and visitors.

Looking at ways to improve and enhance the park system in Gaithersburg, the Committee noted that amenities such as benches, shelters and more shade trees are needed, especially in parks with ball fields such as Morris and Kelley parks. New directional, identification, and informational signage is needed to help citizens locate and utilize the parks in the City. Such signage should be part of a comprehensive Gaithersburg signage system that is coordinated with the existing street signs and the proposed entrance and gateway features earmarked for prominent locations on major thoroughfares such as MD 355 (Frederick Avenue).

Vandalism

The subject of providing safe and convenient public restrooms in parks developed into a general discussion of vandalism. The Committee members agreed that as the park system grows and is enhanced in the future with new buildings and landscaping, the City's *CHARACTER COUNTS!* program may be an effective vehicle to help build pride and ownership in public facilities among Gaithersburg's youth. This effort could be expanded by inviting schools and civic associations to "Adopt a Park" or greenway trail. Another opportunity to prevent or at least reduce the amount of vandalism is to wisely design new facilities for ease of surveillance by neighbors and the police and to design structures and landscaping with low maintenance and practicality in mind.

Private Sector

The Committee considered how the private sector could become an active partner in developing improved public recreational facilities in Gaithersburg. One of the ideas included building playgrounds with the sponsorship of the local Saturn automobile dealership, taking part in a corporate program of that company that has resulted in playgrounds being constructed across the country. With the assistance of the City's Economic Development Director and the Economic Development Committee, Gaithersburg could be marketed to private developers and operators of facilities for activities ranging from in-line skating (roller-blading) and ice skating to health clubs and fitness centers.

Recreation

In addition to reviewing the results of the survey of City residents and the teenager and senior citizens focus group sessions, the Committee also did some brainstorming of its own to generate ideas for recreational priorities.

The Committee members agreed that the most pressing need for recreational activities is to provide more opportunities for teenagers. After school programs such as the ones currently sponsored by the Gaithersburg Teen Center in Olde Towne should be expanded to include athletic and cultural events and regularly scheduled social gatherings, perhaps with music and refreshments, in convenient locations throughout the City. Other recreational programs that would enhance the quality of life in Gaithersburg would include the availability of nature and hiking trips for families, organized educational programs for children such as computer training and providing time and access to computers after school, and opportunities for spontaneous adult athletic activities such as pick-up games, rather than just having formal league sports with teams. The Committee was encouraged that with the construction of the Activities Building at Summit Hall Farm Park, many of the recommended recreational programs could be accommodated.

City Survey

The City-wide Parks and Recreation survey indicated that the leading recreational programs and opportunities desired by residents include:

- Ice skating
- A second teen center, on the west side of the City
- Health and wellness (fitness) programs
- Cultural programs
- Aquatic classes and programs
- Youth activities for after school, weekends, holidays and during the summer

The survey also indicated strong support for the new Activities Building and highlighted the need for new lighted ball fields, bike trails, acquisition of new parkland and open space at Kentlands/Lakelands and elsewhere in the City, expansion of the Summit Hall Farm Park pool and the development of a cultural and performing arts center in Olde Towne.

Focus Groups

The results of the focus group session with teenage residents of the City indicated that there is strong interest in entertainment activities. One popular suggestion was that could be a place to hang out at night such as a coffee house, with billiards, non-alcoholic refreshments and performances such as music and readings. The teenagers stated that this would give them a place to go and socialize while they are too young to go to bars. The teenagers also stated an interest in art classes and field trips to out of state locations. In regards to recreational facilities, there was general agreement that Gaithersburg needs the following:

- Additional gymnasiums
- Lighted basketball courts and better maintenance of the rims and baskets at the outdoor courts
- Lighted football/soccer field
- Lacrosse league
- Three-on-three basketball league
- An outdoor pool with deep water.

Three focus group sessions were held at the Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center to collect ideas and suggestions from senior citizens that use this regional facility regarding recreational services and programs offered by the City. The participants expressed interest in expanding programs including the following:

- Bowling lessons and league
- Swimming programs
- Indoor shuffleboard
- Performing arts programs
- Walking club
- Expand the existing bingo program

- Intellectual seminars and workshops
- Volunteer-led discussion groups
- An elder hostel program
- Art and music appreciation classes
- Book groups
- Low impact fitness and aerobic classes
- Trips to places of interest
- Consider extending a senior discount fee to nonresidents for City programs

Private Sector

The Committee noted that recreation is an area that the private sector can be an active participant. For example, the coffee house concept for teenagers with entertainment and refreshments (non-alcohol) is a logical undertaking for an entrepreneur experienced in such an operation. The City could assist with helping to find a location and possibly offering start up funding, as well as assisting with programming and marketing.

Cultural Resources

Reaffirming Olde Towne's evolution as the cultural, social and civic heart of Gaithersburg, the Committee strongly supports the construction of the Concert Pavilion on the grounds of City Hall and the future development of a performing arts center in the vicinity of South Summit Avenue. The concept of the performing arts facility should be similar to the Weinberg Center in Frederick or perhaps the Olney Theatre. This recommendation is consistent with the Downtown Plan for Gaithersburg, which is referenced in the Neighborhood One Land Use Element of the City's Master Plan.

In addition to the temporary use of the current Parks and Recreation Department administration building as an "arts incubator" (low-cost space for artists and craft persons) after the department moves to the new Activities Building, a long term land use goal should be the adaptive re-use of older industrial buildings for artist studios and lofts.

The Committee strongly agreed that public display areas for art should be established throughout the City, in such locations as the new S.H.F.P. Activities Building and possibly in public areas of Lakeforest Mall and other private developments. This would be in addition to the existing spaces in the City Hall Gallery and the Kentlands Mansion which have limited hours of operation and are not area of high visibility and foot traffic.

Private Sector

The City should also explore partnerships and opportunities for establishing cultural and educational programs with private enterprises such as the Summit Art Group in Olde Towne. The City of Rockville has the "Rockville Art Place" in its Town Center which has programs for young adults and this might be a good model for Gaithersburg.

Other cultural programs and activities discussed by the Committee included the previously mentioned gallery space for local artists, which could be provided in such areas as the atrium and corridors of Lakeforest Mall, in restaurants and stores and in new developments such as the retail center at Washingtonian Center and the Kentlands/Lakelands town center. There was also interest among the Committee members in having local live theater for children and dinner theaters in the City.

Government Facilities

The Committee discussed the present use of the following City facilities and made these recommendations for the future:

City Hall - 31 South Summit Avenue. Current use should continue and the present vista from South Summit Avenue as well as the historic exterior of the original house should be preserved. The Committee acknowledged the need for additional seating capacity in the Council Chambers and noted that a future nearby performing arts center could be used when large audiences are anticipated. If an addition is to be added to City Hall, the recommendation is to place the addition on the southerly side of the building and make the exterior of the new construction look like an enclosed version of the original side porch of the house, which was removed many years ago.

Casey Community Center (Casey Barns) - 810 South Frederick Avenue. Preservation of the

former dairy barn complex was seen as a priority by the Committee since it is an important link to the City's rural past and it is an attractive gateway feature along South Frederick Avenue. The Casey Center in its current role as a multi-use community center demonstrates Gaithersburg's evolution from a farming community to a modern city. The building's current function should continue, perhaps with the addition of a private sector tenant such as a small eating establishment to increase the profitability of the center. The Committee strongly agreed that if the use of the Casey Community Center changes after the opening of the new Activities Building or in the event of any new use of the site in the future, the distinctive roof and front facade should be preserved.

Department of Public Works and Engineering Center - 800 Rabbit Road. The Committee was informed of the expansion under way at the Public Works Center and did not have any recommendations for this facility.

Kentlands - Mansion, Barn, Firehouse and the village green. The City-owned buildings at the Kentlands are an important public resource and deserve careful analysis to determine their future use. The Committee noted that the mansion has been impressively restored and maintained and that its current use as a conference and events center is appropriate and should continue. The Committee envisions the remainder of the public buildings and spaces, including the firehouse, the barn and the village green as the setting for community meetings, social activities and an arts center similar to Glen Echo Park. A recommendation is that the City hire a consultant to develop and analyze such a concept and to make specific recommendations for each of the buildings. The Committee also noted that there has long been interest in the Kentlands community to have a pub or other such gathering place in one of the historic buildings.

Gaithersburg Aquatic Center at Gaithersburg Middle School. The recommendation is that this facility is in need of being improved and updated in appearance in order to attract new users and that the pool facility should be expanded to meet present and future demand, since the City has grown significantly in population since the Aquatic Center opened 20 years ago.

Gaithersburg Train Station and ***Freight House*** (also plaza and grounds). The Committee stated its strong support of the present use of these buildings and public spaces for transportation, civic and accessory retail uses and noted that the City has done an exemplary job of restoring and maintaining these historic landmarks.

Gaithersburg Latitude Observatory - 100 DeSellum Avenue. This National Historic Landmark currently has low visibility, is little known and is difficult to find. The Committee recommends

that the Observatory be seriously studied for development into an easily accessible tourist attraction for visitors, students and other interested citizens. The Observatory should be tied in with the Olde Towne redevelopment effort and convenient parking and pedestrian linkages are needed. Improved directional, informational and identification signage for the historic site should be coordinated as part of the plan for comprehensive signage throughout Gaithersburg which will be addressed in the future Urban Design Element of the Master Plan. Committee members proposed that development of the Observatory as a major scientific, historical and educational attraction of the City should be done in conjunction with the marketing of Gaithersburg as a center of technology. The Observatory could become the focal point or symbol for the City's high technology activities since it was an early technological and scientific advancement here. It could be tied in with meeting space for conferences and seminars in and around Olde Towne, utilizing the assembly space and meeting rooms in the proposed performing arts center to be located along South Summit Avenue.

Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center - 80-A Bureau Drive. The Committee discussed the recent improvements made to the Senior Center and had no additional recommendations for the site.

2 James Street. Known locally as "the smallest house in Gaithersburg," the Committee concluded that the current residential use is appropriate but that in the future, the house could be incorporated into the Observatory site as a entrance/information building.

Mills/Nash House -18 E. Diamond Avenue. The recommendation for this attractive house in Olde Towne is to continue its use as a railroad museum. If the building is expanded in the future, the new construction should be only at the rear of the building and the front and side elevations should be preserved.

Wells/Robertson House - 1 Wells Avenue. In reviewing the Wells/Robertson House and its activities, the Committee concluded that the current use should continue and was very impressed with the City's sponsorship of the rehabilitation center and with the sensitive preservation of the building.

WSSC Site and buildings, Northerly side of W. Diamond Avenue, across from current WSSC facility. A concept for the future development of the old WSSC site for recreational purposes is to establish a "waterworks park." The interiors of the existing structures could be opened to the public and any items that have been buried could be dug up and put on display. Interpretive plaques and signage could be installed to explain the importance of the site to the early growth of the City. The information on the site could also describe the history of the water towers that used

to be along the nearby railroad tracks.

Wye Site, railroad turnaround - South Frederick Avenue at Cedar Avenue. The Committee strongly recommends the extension of West Diamond Avenue through the Wye Site to Cedar Avenue as proposed in the Downtown Plan. A suggestion is to include an interpretive element on the history of the site in any new development along West Diamond Avenue Extended and the ends of the wye should be preserved.

Public safety and emergency services

The Committee was briefed on the police service provided to Gaithersburg by the Montgomery County Police Department and by the City Police Department. The only recommendation is that if the City's Police Headquarters on Cedar Avenue is expanded in the future, it be extended towards Cedar Avenue as suggested in the Downtown Plan.

The Committee also reviewed the functions of the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Fire Department and the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in providing emergency services to the community but made no recommendations.

Educational facilities

The Committee discussed the limited role that the City has in the planning and administration of the Montgomery County schools serving Gaithersburg residents. The future enhancement or possible replacement of the aging physical plant at Gaithersburg High School should be a serious consideration for the future. The Committee is pleased that the City has worked with the developer of the Lakelands in Neighborhood Four to preserve an adequate site for a new school if it is needed in the future. The Committee suggested that the Community Facilities Element of the Master Plan include a map of the schools that enroll Gaithersburg students and should indicate any improvements or changes to the school sites contemplated by the Board of Education.

Solid waste services

Staff briefed the Committee on the City's solid waste services, including private contracting for individual homeowners, municipal contracts for curbside pick up service (recycling), curbside