

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Town of Poolesville places a high priority on quality community facilities, both those under direct control of the Town and those overseen by the County. Community facilities consist of schools and park / recreation venues. The following sections describe the current inventory and future needs for public school facilities and park / recreation sites.

Schools

The Town of Poolesville is served by four public school facilities:

Poolesville Elementary School,
Monocacy Elementary School,
John Poole Middle School, and
Poolesville High School.

These schools comprise the Poolesville Cluster of the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS). Except for Poolesville High School, the majority of the students reside within Poolesville or the surrounding Western Montgomery County area.

Since the adoption of the Master Plan in February 2005, a number of changes have occurred, particularly at the high school level. The Poolesville High School (PHS) curriculum expanded from offering a Global Ecology Studies Program to a Whole School Magnet Program in August 2006. Rigorous and challenging courses are taught by small teams of inspired teachers from multiple disciplines and organized around instructional “houses” focused on:

Global Ecology,
Humanities,
Science, Math,
Computer Science, and
Independent Studies.

Newsweek Magazine’s June 27, 2011, edition ranked Poolesville High School the #1 school in the State of Maryland and DC Metropolitan area and #64 in the US on their list of 100 top high schools in the nation. High schools are selected based on their ability to provide all students with access to Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate classes.

Poolesville High School was established in 1911. The current facility was built in 1953 and was expanded and partially modernized in 1978. A new two story science wing was added in 2008 to support the magnet program. The school reflects its age and needs to be modernized. MCPS policy requires schools to be evaluated and ranked every 30 years for modernization. In 2000, a Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) evaluated the school’s physical condition, compliance with current educational standards, and long term enrollment projections; however, no modernization date has been assigned. Although MCPS conducted site evaluation with the community for the construction of a new high school, MCPS’s modernization schedule for Poolesville High School currently reflects “to be determined”; and no planning/construction



funds are contained in the Superintendent's Recommended FY2013 Capital Budget and the FY 2013 - 2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Based on the 1988 Poolesville Cluster Task Force's recommendation and intensive Poolesville and Western Montgomery County lobbying efforts, John Poole Middle School opened in September 1997. The effort continued and resulted in the school receiving a full size gymnasium. Restroom renovations are scheduled for John Poole Middle School in 2015 - 2016.

Poolesville Elementary School was constructed in 1960 and it too only received a partial modernization in 1978. Recently, its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, bus/student drop-off and parking area was reconfigured and its flooring was replaced. In 2011, a Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) was performed and the school was ranked 10th out of 34 schools evaluated.

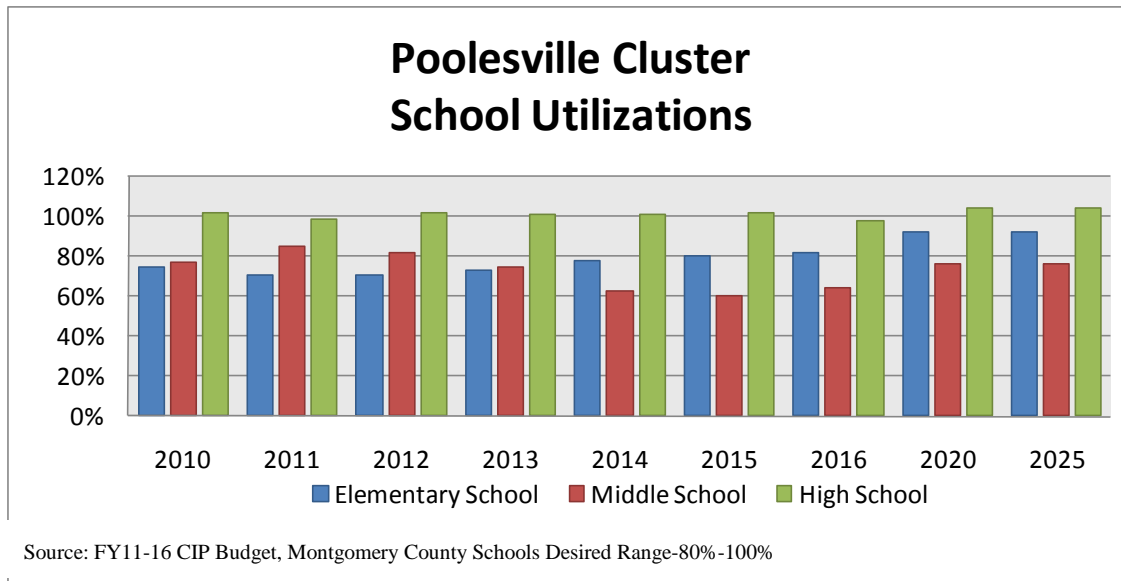
Due to the small size of the Poolesville Cluster and its rural location, distant from large population centers, Poolesville's schools have faced challenges in sustaining an adequate student population to support diverse program offerings and extracurricular activities.

In 2009, the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools recommended closing Monocacy Elementary School and consolidating it with Poolesville Elementary School because enrollments were projected to decline at both schools. The Montgomery County Board of Education rejected this recommendation and unanimously voted to convene a roundtable discussion group to further consider the situation. On October 15, 2010, the Superintendent recommended to keep Monocacy Elementary School for the foreseeable future. The decision was based on the roundtable's recommendation and inputs from the Town of Poolesville concerning the potential enrollment increase from two housing developments under construction within Town. The Board of Education endorsed the Superintendent's recommendation in November 2010.

This most recent challenge to the Poolesville Cluster and the chart showing current and predicted future usage of Poolesville Cluster schools illustrate the continuing challenge the Poolesville Cluster will face in years to come. These school usage predictions show why the population of Poolesville is a key to the success of our schools as well as our community. Protecting and enhancing the schools in the Poolesville Cluster is a major goal of the Town leadership. It will require continuous, dedicated effort to ensure adequate enrollments and a quality academic curriculum. Good schools are a major factor in the Town's prosperity and protecting them from losing student enrollment is a major goal of this Master Plan. To this end, the Town, with other Western Montgomery County communities and civic/professional organizations should vigorously continue to lobby the Montgomery County Board of Education to adopt the following policies that:

1. Recognizes and accepts lower student enrollments for schools located in the Agricultural Reserve which includes Poolesville Cluster Schools,
2. Allows a liberal student transfer policy allowing students from adjacent clusters to enroll in Poolesville Cluster elementary and middle schools.
3. Create special programs at Poolesville Cluster elementary and middle schools, related to Agricultural Science and Global Ecology.
4. Create a math/science theme at Poolesville Cluster elementary and middle schools.





Parks and Recreation

The goals listed below have been established by the Parks, Recreation and Streets Board. They form a framework upon which the general guidelines in this plan were developed.

- Provide park facilities and open space adequate in both location and size to serve the needs of Town residents.
- Provide diverse recreational opportunities within a reasonable distance for all Town residents.
- Preserve adequate open space within the Town.

A number of residents have expressed a desire for a public facility that would provide various opportunities for additional recreation activities and programs. The availability of property in the commercial zone (Dr. Dillingham Park) provides an adequate location that is in concert with the Land Use implementation guidance and Parks and Recreation goals.

The Town should consider appointing a citizen steering committee to undertake a feasibility analysis of the need for a community center. This study would include a detailed examination of construction costs, operational costs, programming, partnering, and similar due diligence activities prior to any action by the Town. The development of this Feasibility Study is one of the first steps in a process that, if deemed to proceed, will require much more need for community input and assurances that adverse impacts do not occur to existing programs and/or businesses within the community.

An inventory of Town park facilities begins on page 39.



County Facilities

There are also a number of County public facilities and parks located within Poolesville and the surrounding area.

- Western Montgomery County Swimming Pool - Lap pool, recreation pool, kiddie pool, and bathhouse / snack bar
- Owens Park in Beallsville - softball field, 3 tennis courts, tot lot, and multi-purpose building
- Poolesville Public Golf Course - 18 hole course, pro-shop, driving range, picnic pavilion, and soccer field
- Poolesville Elementary/Middle/High Schools - 5 softball/baseball fields, 3 soccer fields, 8 tennis courts, and a football/soccer/lacrosse/track stadium
- Equestrian Park in Beallsville - bridle trails and jumps

Multi-purpose Trail System

A comprehensive multi-purpose recreational trail system was first proposed in the Town's 1990 Master Plan. Because the Master Plan guides development in Poolesville, subdivisions have included dedicated land and/or right-of-ways for the trail system. Currently, there are approximately 7 miles of trails located in Hunter's Run, Tama, Woods of Tama, Elizabeth's Delight and on Fisher Avenue. Several segments such as Collier Circle Pond to L.M. Stevens Park, Whalen Commons to Tama, and Tama to the Woods of Tama include a pedestrian bridge and a section of raised boardwalk across wetlands.

A multi-purpose trail system provides Town residents with:

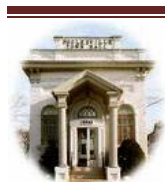
- healthy transportation alternatives independent of the automobile
- safe off-road transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists to access community schools, facilities, and businesses
- wide-ranging active and passive recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities

The Town should continue to pursue grant funding currently available for transportation alternatives, such as trails, through the Maryland State Highway Administration. A map of the existing and proposed trail system is included in Appendix E, Map 11.

Priority Areas for Community Facilities

The areas identified below should remain major community facility priorities for the foreseeable future:

- Continue to nurture a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system representatives, elected officials, and residents to engage them in maintaining or enhancing schools in the Poolesville cluster.
- Pursue the accelerated construction and completion of the new Poolesville High School in the MCPS modernization program to support the whole school magnet program.
- Work with MCPS to establish a whole school magnet program for John Poole Middle School.



- Work with MCPS to develop a timetable for expanding and modernizing Poolesville Elementary School.
- Finalize the alignment, design, and phase-in schedule for the multi-purpose trail system and prioritize its funding and completion.
- Monitor recreational and other community activities to determine if additional programs, partnerships, and/or buildings are needed.
- Evaluate the disposition of small parcels of open parkland in Town.
- Continue to develop and maintain small play areas (tot lots) within a reasonable distance of all Poolesville residents.
- Continue an active program of tree planting along all major thoroughfares.

Park Facilities Inventory

Name	Location/Acres	Amenities
Beaver Pond	Hoskinson Rd across from Halmos Park 2 acres	Fishing and open space
Bodmer Park	Bodmer Ave and Chiswell Rd 1 acre	Playground Picnic area Small multi-purpose field
Brooks Park	Wootton Ave south of townhomes 1 acre	Playground Open space
Campbell Park	Wootton Ave and Kohlhoss Rd 2 acres	Small multi-purpose field Open space
Collier Circle Park	Wootton Ave between Collier Circle and Dowden Circle 4 acres	Recreation trail Fishing Open space
Dr. Dillingham Park	Wootton Ave and Hoskinson Rd 4 acres	Skatepark Playground Pavilion Picnic tables
Dry Seneca Creek Park	Between Tama and Woods of Tama 24 acres	Recreation trail Open space Forested stream buffer
Elgin Park	Elgin Rd and Jerusalem Rd 4.3 Acres	Soccer/lacrosse field Recreation trail Basketball Court Restrooms Playground Pavilion Picnic tables



Name	Location/Acres	Amenities
Halmos Park	Between Hoskinson Rd and Hughes Rd 15 acres	Softball field 2 baseball fields Soccer field Playground Restrooms Basketball court (Lighted) Tennis courts (lighted) Recreation trail Pavilion Picnic tables Concession stand
L.M. Stevens Park	Seneca Chase Park Rd 7.5 acres	Baseball field Soccer field Tennis court Basketball court Recreation trail Restrooms Pavilion Picnic tables Playground Concession stand Fishing
Lori Gore Park	McKernon Way .5 acres	Small Playground
Old Methodist Church Property	West Willard Rd .65 acres	Civil War Memorial Cemetery
Perkins Park	McNamara Rd 4 acres	Multi use field Playground Recreation trail
Westerly Ave	North corner of Westerly Ave and West Willard Rd .5 acres	Open space
Whalen Commons	Fisher Ave 3.76 acres	Bandshell Restrooms Pathways Open space
Willard Practice Field	South corner of Westerly Ave and West Willard Rd 2 acres	Practice soccer field
Wootton Heights	Lilli St .5 acres	Small playground

