

CHAPTER M
COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

1. Introduction

One of the most important contributions to the quality and vitality of the social environment in a community is the extent and location of community facilities. Lower Merion Township is fortunate to be well supplied with all types of facilities, including churches, parks, post offices, libraries, schools and institutional buildings. Therefore, very few major facilities need to be added in the future to keep the township a first class community. The additional facilities recommended here are in response to the developments shown in the land use and housing plan, and reflect the shifts in population compositions expected to occur in the future.

2. Sewerage Services

In the community facilities background report it was noted that about one-third of the township still remains without community sewers. This is the Gladwyne area from Upper Merion Township to a point on River Road near Mill Creek Road. A study prepared under the guidance of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, called COWAMP/208 Water Quality Management Plan, recommended the installation of sewerage systems to the remaining parts of the township. The Comprehensive Plan concurs with that recommendation, but only if there is no cost to the township and only if the project is performed by agencies other than the township. The township is not in the sewerage utility business, and should not become involved in order to service this one part of the township. Therefore, some of the land use and housing proposals have been prepared with the understanding that the recommendations could be implemented only when future sewerage systems become available.

3. Post Offices

At the time of preparation of the Comprehensive Plan it became known that the Bala Cynwyd Post Office was going to build a new facility at the corner of Conshhocken State Road and Union Avenue. This is an excellent location, since the new site is large and can accomodate on-site parking which is not now available. However, the post office is also used by the nearby Bala Cynwyd Office Center which adds considerably to the traffic congestion around the post office. To alleviate this stress it is recommended

that a separate post office substation be located within the Bala Cynwyd Office Center to service just those business users. It is also recommended that the existing post office be converted to office uses, provided the needed zoning change can be obtained. Consideration for a zoning change would include the provision for additional parking and safe ingress and egress at the site.

4. Community Centers

The four community centers existing or under construction are in Belmont Hills, Bryn Mawr, South Ardmore and Spring Avenue. The Comprehensive Plan recommends that two more facilities be added to the inventory. The new locations come within the major recreation centers described previously in the Park and Recreation section of the plan. These two new sites will be located in the Penn Wynne Park, and in the newly proposed Harriton Park.

5. Historic Sites

In the background report on community facilities 75 historical structures were identified in the township. This plan recommends that all 75 sites be preserved for posterity. A review of the sites indicates that creation of an historical district may not be appropriate because there are too many sites spread across the township. Rather, each structure should be designated as historical to prevent future demolition. It should be noted that local civic groups are currently recommending the creation of historical districts for Gladwyne and the Mill Creek area.

6. Public Schools

Figure M-1 lists all public schools now operating in the township, as well as private facilities. Because of declining enrollments the School Board has voted to close certain schools. The new uses to which these facilities will be put is of concern, since they should support the objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. There should not be any reuse of a school for commercial or office functions. This is because such uses would be an intrusion into the residential character of each neighborhood, and most schools are located in residential areas.

7. Other Facilities

Listed in Figure M-1 are various institutions and libraries. All of these uses are part of the community facilities plan, as

are parks and recreation, which should be continued for the benefit of the entire community.

FIGURE M-1
COMMUNITY FACILITIES¹

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Code #

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| S1 | Lower Merion High |
| S14 | Harriton High |
| S2 | Ardmore Junior High (1) |
| S7 | Bala Cynwyd Junior High |
| S12 | Welsh Valley Junior High |
| S3 | Merion Public School |
| S4 | Wynnewood Road School (1) |
| S5 | Penn Wynne School |
| S6 | Bala School (1) |
| S8 | Cynwyd Public School |
| S10 | Belmont Hills Elementary |
| S11 | Penn Valley Elementary |
| S13 | Bryn Mawr School (2) |
| S15 | Gladwyne Elementary |
| S35 | Narberth School (1) |

(1) Closed in 1978

(2) Scheduled for closing in 1979

PRIVATE SCHOOLS- HIGHER EDUCATION

Code #

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| S27 | Haverford College |
| S30 | Bryn Mawr College |
| S33 | Rosemont College |
| S31 | Harcum Jr. College |
| S36 | Northeastern College |
| S20 | St. Charles Seminary |
| S23 | St. Joseph's College |
| S19 | Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary |

¹ Excludes Parks and Recreation - See Chapter L for complete listing of these facilities.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

CODE #

| | |
|-----|--|
| S24 | Akiba Hebrew Academy |
| S31 | Harcum Jr. College Nursery |
| S25 | St. Mathias School |
| S26 | Waldron Academy |
| S28 | Haverford School |
| S29 | Baldwin School |
| S32 | Shipley School |
| S16 | Montgomery County Day School |
| S17 | Presbyterian BVM School |
| S18 | Friends Central School |
| S22 | Episcopal Academy |
| S21 | St. Catherine's Day School |
| S34 | Childrens House |
| S26 | Merion Mercy Academy |
| R22 | Bala House (St. Asaphs Church) |
| S33 | School of the Holy Child |
| R55 | St. Thomas School (St. Thomas Rectory) |
| R47 | St. John Vianney Church |

INSTITUTIONS

CODE #

| | |
|-----|--|
| I1 | Township Building Police Station |
| I2 | Masonic Hall |
| I3 | Township Garage |
| I4 | Charles Knox Home |
| I5 | Lankenau Hospital |
| I6 | Merion War Tribute House |
| I7 | The Barnes Foundation |
| I8 | Womens Club of Bala Cynwyd |
| I9 | Mary J. Drexel Home |
| I10 | Buten Museum of Wedgewood |
| I11 | Memorial Home |
| I12 | American Legion Post 355 |
| I13 | American Legion Post 857 |
| I14 | Lower Merion Incinerator Police Range, Fire Tower |
| I15 | Penn Valley Womens Club |
| I16 | YMCA |
| I17 | Bryn Mawr Hospital |
| I18 | Lower Merion Water Tower |
| I19 | Veteran of Foreign Wars Post |
| I20 | Levering Mill Senior Center |

INSTITUTIONS CONTINUED

CODE

| | |
|-----|--|
| I21 | South Ardmore Community Center |
| I22 | Spring House Senior Recreation Center |
| I23 | 3 Township Acquired Properties-Ardmore |
| I24 | Belmont Hills Community Center |
| I25 | Appleford Building |

RELIGIOUS FACILITIES

CODE

| | |
|-----|--|
| R1 | St. Colemans Church |
| R2 | Methodist Episcopal Church |
| R3 | 1st Church of Christ Scientist of Ardmore |
| R4 | Ardmore First Baptist Church |
| R5 | Main Line Reform Temple |
| R6 | All Saints Episcopal Church |
| R7 | Temple Beth Hillel |
| R8 | Armenian Apostolic Church of Phil. |
| R9 | St. Paul's Cemetery |
| R10 | St. Paul's Lutheran Church |
| R11 | Wynnewood United Presbyterian Church |
| R12 | Christ West Hope Presbyterian Church |
| R13 | Convent of the Sacred Heart |
| R14 | Our Lady Help of Christians Convalescent House |
| R15 | Temple Adath Israel |
| R16 | Bala Cynwyd ME Church |
| R17 | St. Johns Episcopal Church |
| R18 | Lower Merion Synagogue |
| R19 | St. Mathias RC Church |
| R20 | Presbyterian Church of the Convent |
| R21 | Unevangelized Fields Mission |
| R22 | St. Asophs PE Church |
| R23 | Merion Meeting House |
| R24 | Merion Cemetery |
| R25 | St. Andrews Episcopal Chapel |
| R26 | St. Andrews ME Church |
| R27 | St Lukes Church |
| R28 | Westminister Cemetery |
| R29 | West Laurel Hill Cemetery |
| R30 | St. Justins Church |
| R31 | Lutheran Deaconess House and School |
| R32 | Har Zion Temple |
| R33 | St. Mary's Episcopal Church |

RELIGIOUS FACILITIES CONTINUED

CODE #

| | |
|-----|--|
| R34 | Zion Baptist Church |
| R35 | Ardmore Presbyterian Church |
| R36 | Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church |
| R37 | Our Mother of Good Counsel Church |
| R38 | St. Lukes Methodist Church |
| R39 | Church of the Redeemer |
| R40 | Church of the Good Shepherd |
| R41 | Convent of the Holy Child Jesus |
| R42 | Lower Merion Baptist Church |
| R43 | Private Cemetery |
| R44 | St. Chirstopher's Episcopal Church |
| R45 | LM ME Church and Cemetery |
| R46 | LM ME Presbyterian Church |
| R47 | St. John Vianney Catholic Church |
| R48 | St. John Baptist Church & Vianney School |
| R49 | St. John's Baptist Church & Cemetery |
| R50 | The First Presbyterian Church |
| R51 | Calvary Cemetery |
| R52 | 3rd Order of St. Francis |
| R53 | Beth Am Israel |
| R54 | Faith Bible Presbyterian Church |
| R55 | St. Thomas Rectory |

LIBRARIES

CODE #

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| L1 | Penn Wynne |
| L2 | Bala Cynwyd |
| L3 | Belmont Hills |
| L4 | Ardmore Free Library |
| L5 | Ludington |
| L6 | Gladwyne |

FIRE COMPANIES

CODE #

| | |
|----|-----------------------|
| F1 | Penn Wynne Company |
| F2 | Union Fire Assoc. |
| F3 | Belmont Hills Company |

FIRE COMPANIES CONTINUED

CODE #

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| F4 | Merion Fire Co. (Ardmore) |
| F5 | Bryn Mawr Company |
| F6 | Gladwyne Co. |
| F7 | Narberth Company |

POST OFFICES

CODE #

| | |
|-----|----------------------|
| PO1 | Wynnewood |
| PO2 | Bala Cynwyd |
| PO3 | Ardmore |
| PO4 | Gladwyne |
| PO5 | Haverford |
| PO6 | Bryn Mawr |
| PO7 | Villanova (Proposed) |

COMMUNITY CENTERS

CODE #

| | |
|------|--|
| C-1 | Belmont Hills Community Center |
| P-4 | Penn Wynne Park (Proposed) |
| P-16 | Ardmore Avenue Community Center |
| P-20 | Gladwyne Park (Proposed) |
| C-2 | Harriton Center (Proposed) |
| I-22 | Bryn Mawr Community Building (and Spring House) |

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

