

VI. COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bayonne has entered a period of renewed growth and revitalization characterized by redevelopment, infrastructure renewal and population stability. This trend is projected to continue into the future as major projects are implemented including the redevelopment of MOTBY and Texaco and the completion of the HBLRTS. Despite the changes that have occurred since the 1990 Master Plan, Bayonne has maintained its unique character as a close-knit community with an outstanding quality of life. One of the most significant factors influencing the City's quality of life is the availability and high quality of community facilities. These facilities include schools, emergency services, libraries, hospitals and community centers. Community facilities have a direct relationship to the adequacy of public services and, therefore, to the quality of life experienced by residents, workers and visitors. The Community Facilities Plan recognizes the importance of community facilities and the contribution that they make to the City's reputation as a good place to live and work.

The City of Bayonne has an extensive system of community facilities befitting its status as a major urban center and the second largest municipality in Hudson County. Bayonne's community facilities make an important contribution to the quality of life and are generally adequate to serve existing residents, businesses and visitors. There are, however, facilities that are aging and in need of improvement. The 1990 Master Plan included the goal of promoting the preservation and expansion of community facilities to serve the needs of the population. This recommendation remains valid and is incorporated into the current Master Plan.

The Community Facilities Plan provides an evaluation of the public facilities and services in Bayonne. Existing conditions have been analyzed through discussions with the Master Plan Task Force, City officials and information supplied by various departments. Recommendations for facilities and services are made at the end of the Plan.

SCHOOLS

The City of Bayonne's public school system has an outstanding reputation and is one of the highest performing school systems in Hudson County. Bayonne's school system has experienced relative stability over the past ten years characterized by level enrollment, improvement of existing facilities and the introduction of new programs. The school system currently has 12 facilities consisting of 10 primary schools, 1 high school and 1 specialized school, as shown in Table VI-1. In addition, there is an Adult

High School at Bayonne High School for older students seeking to complete their secondary education. The schools are located throughout the City, which reflects its status as a fully developed community with dense pattern of residential development.

Public School Facilities

The City of Bayonne's public schools were constructed in the early twentieth century when the City was experiencing rapid development and population growth. As shown in Table VI-1, the majority of Bayonne's schools were constructed between 1903 and 1935 and have an average age of 75 years. Many schools, however, have been expanded and renovated over the years to meet the changing needs of the student population and support curriculum advancements. There are 10 primary schools that enroll students in kindergarten through grade 8 (K to 8). The primary schools operate as neighborhood schools that serve Bayonne's various residential areas. There are 3 schools located in the uptown section of the City including Horace Mann School Number 6, Washington School Number 9 and Woodrow Wilson School Number 10. The Walter F. Robinson School Number 3, Philip G. Vroom School Number 2 and Midtown Community School are located in the midtown section of the City. There is one school, John M. Bailey School Number 12, located downtown on West 10th Street. The east side of Bayonne is served by Lincoln School Number 5 and Bergen Point is served by Mary J. Donohoe School Number 4 and Henry E. Harris School Number 1.

The City of Bayonne has one secondary school, Bayonne High School, that serves the entire City. The High School enrolls students in grades 9 to 12 and is located on Avenue A at West 29th Street. It was constructed in 1935, as shown in Table VI-1.

Bayonne also has one gifted and talented school, School Number 14, that is located on Avenue E and East 24th Street. School Number 14 enrolls students in grades 4 to 8 and provides specialized educational programs.

Table VI-1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2000 City of Bayonne			
<i>School</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Year Constructed</i>
<i>Primary</i>			
John M. Bailey School No. 12	West 10 th Street	K to 8	1909
Mary J. Donohoe School No. 4	East 5 th Street and Dodge Street	K to 8	1920
Henry E. Harris School No. 1	Avenue C and West 5 th Street	K to 8	1921
Lincoln School No. 5	Prospect Avenue and East 30 th Street	K to 8	1919
Horace Mann School No. 6	Broadway and West 38 th Street	K to 8	1914
Midtown Community School No. 8	Avenue A and West 24 th Street	K to 8	1992
Walter F. Robinson School No. 3	J.F.K. Boulevard and West 31 st Street	K to 8	1903
Philip G. Vroom School No. 2	Broadway and West 26 th Street	K to 8	1914
George Washington School No. 9	Avenue B and West 47 th Street	K to 8	1917
Woodrow Wilson School No. 10	Avenue B and West 56 th Street	K to 8	1931
School No. 14 (Gifted and Talented)	Avenue E and East 24 th Street	4 to 8	1921
<i>Secondary</i>			
Bayonne High School	Avenue A and West 29 th Street	9 to 12	1935
<i>Source:</i> Board of Education, City of Bayonne			

Recent Facility Improvements

The City of Bayonne school district has initiated and completed a series of facility improvements since the 1990 Master Plan. As shown in Table VI-2, these improvements include a new school and the expansion of several existing schools. They are intended to upgrade aging facilities and accommodate enrollment growth, curriculum requirements and new programs.

The most significant facility improvement in Bayonne since the last Master Plan is the Midtown Community School, which was completed in 1992. Midtown Community School is a state-of-the-art facility that replaces the former Roberson and Roosevelt Schools, which were aging and in need of replacement. It offers a full range of curricular and program spaces for students in kindergarten through grade 8.

Several schools in Bayonne are also being improved through the construction of additions and the renovation of existing space. These improvements are necessary to accommodate the Early Childhood

Program, which will provide full-day kindergarten and half-day preschool in all primary schools. Henry Harris School Number 1 was expanded in 1999 with 9 new classrooms, a speech room, faculty room and multi-purpose room. Three other primary schools are currently being expanded for the 2000-2001 school year. Mary J. Donohoe School Number 4 is being expanded with 4 new classrooms, a library/media center, computer room, faculty room, nurse office and multi-purpose room. An addition is also being constructed to George Washington School Number 9 containing 7 new classrooms, a computer room, faculty room and multi-purpose room. In addition, John M. Bailey School Number 12 is being expanded with 4 new classrooms, 2 group instruction rooms, multi-purpose room and renovated restrooms.

Table VI-2 PUBLIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS, 1991 TO 2000 City of Bayonne			
<i>School</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
<i>New Facilities</i>			
Midtown Community School	Avenue A and West 24 th Street	New school	1992
<i>Expanded Facilities</i>			
Henry Harris School No. 1	Avenue C and West 5 th Street	9 classrooms, faculty room, speech room, multi-purpose room	1999
Mary J. Donohoe School No. 4	East 5 th Street and Dodge Street	4 classrooms, library/media center, computer classroom, faculty room, nurse office, multi-purpose room	2000
George Washington School No. 9	Avenue B and West 47 th Street	7 classrooms, computer room, faculty room, multi-purpose room	2000
John M. Bailey School No. 12	West 10 th Street	4 classrooms, 2 group instruction rooms, multi-purpose room, renovated restroom	2000
<i>Source:</i> Board of Education, City of Bayonne			

Enrollment Trends

Over the past 10 years, the City of Bayonne school district has experienced a significant increase in enrollment. The number of students attending public school increased from 6,736 in the 1991-1992 school year to 7,657 in the 1999-2000 school year as shown in Table VI-3. This represents enrollment growth of 921 students or 13.7 percent during the decade. The increase in enrollment has occurred at all grade levels, however, it is most pronounced in kindergarten through grade 8 (K to 8). This is primarily the result of the demographic trend known as the “baby boom echo.” This refers to adults born between 1946 and 1964, who are in their prime child-bearing years, and whose children are enrolled in the lower

grade levels. This trend is expected to continue over the course of the next several years. In order to accommodate enrollment growth at the elementary level, the Midtown Community School was opened in 1992, Henry Harris School Number 1 was expanded in 1999 and three other primary schools are currently being expanded.

Table VI-3 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS, 1991 to 2000 City of Bayonne			
Year	Enrollment	Change, 1991-2000	
		Number	Percent
1991-1992	6,736	--	--
1992-1993	6,997	261	3.9
1993-1994	7,509	512	7.3
1994-1995	7,663	154	2.1
1995-1996	7,728	65	.80
1996-1997	7,548	-180	-2.3
1997-1998	7,682	134	1.8
1998-1999	8,036	354	4.6
1999-2000	7,657	-379	-4.7
CHANGE, 1991-2000		921	13.7

Source: City of Bayonne, Board of Education.

Projected Enrollment

The City of Bayonne's school system is projected to experience continued enrollment growth over the next several years. Current enrollment for the 1999-2000 school year is 7,657. This is projected to increase to 8,410 students in 2000-2001, as shown in Table VI-4. This represents a gain of 753 students or 9.8 percent during the next year. A significant portion of this growth is the result of the new Early Childhood Education Program, which provides full-day kindergarten and half-day preschool for all age eligible children in the City. This program will begin in the 2000-2001 school year and is expected to attract several hundred new students into the school system. Additional enrollment increases are projected over the next several years as a result of residential redevelopment, housing turnover and an increase in the school-age population resulting from the "baby boom echo."

Table VI-4 PROJECTED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, 2000-2001 City of Bayonne			
		<i>Change, 1999-00 To 2000-01</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1999-2000	7,657	---	---
2000-2001	8,410	753	9.8

Source: Board of Education, City of Bayonne

Private Schools

The City of Bayonne's public school system is complemented by numerous private schools that provide a broad range of educational instruction and programs for children and their families. Bayonne has a tradition of strong support for private schools, many of which are parochial or religious schools affiliated with churches, temples and houses of worship in the City. As shown in Table VI-5, there are 9 private schools in the City with a total enrollment of 1,700. They provide an alternative to the public schools for families who desire a specialized or religiously-oriented education. The City's private schools also provide additional educational capacity, which is especially important in light of recent public school enrollment growth.

Table VI-5 PRIVATE SCHOOLS, 2000 City of Bayonne	
<i>School</i>	<i>Address</i>
Beacon Christian Academy	100 East 22 nd Street
Holy Family Academy	239 Avenue A
Marist High School	1241 Kennedy Boulevard
Messiah Christian High School	100 East 22 nd Street
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School	23 East 22 nd Street
Saint Andrew's School	126 Broadway
Saint Mary, Star of the Sea School	19 West 13 th Street
Saint Vincent DePaul School	80 West 47 th Street
Yeshiva Gedolah of Bayonne	735 Avenue C

Source: Board of Education, City of Bayonne

LIBRARY FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne Free Public Library has facilities located in the northern, southern and central sections of the City to serve residents, schoolchildren and visitors. As shown in Table VI-6, the Bayonne library system consists of a main facility and two branch facilities. The Main Library and Cultural Center is located in midtown at 697 Avenue C. The Story Court Branch is located in Bergen Point at West 4th Street and Story Court while Branch Number 2 is located uptown at 1055 Avenue C. The City's library facilities are considered adequate to meet the needs of current residents.

The Main Library and Cultural Center is one of Bayonne's major educational and cultural facilities. It is also an historically significant Carnegie library that was constructed in 1903. In addition to its book collection, the Main Library provides a broad range of educational and cultural programs in the M.E. O'Connor Gallery. The administration of the Free Public Library has identified the need for a modern and technologically advanced auditorium, possibly at the rear of the Main Library. There is also a need for a long-range facilities plan to identify necessary facility improvements. According to the Library Director, such a plan is currently in the early stages of preparation.

Table VI-6 PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES, 2000 City of Bayonne	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
Main Library and Cultural Center	697 Avenue C
Story Court Branch	West 4 th Street and Story Court
Branch Number 2	1055 Avenue C
<i>Source: Bayonne Free Public Library</i>	

The Bayonne Free Public Library has an extensive collection of books, newspaper and periodicals and electronic media as shown in Table VI-7. The collection currently consists of 189,283 book titles and 265,214 book volumes; 234 periodicals and newspapers; and 6,857 audio-visual materials and 439 electronic media. The City's Free Public Library has a total annual circulation of approximately 170, 884.

Table VI-7 PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION, 2000 City of Bayonne	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Book Titles	189,283
Book Volumes	265,214
Periodicals and Newspapers	234
Audio-Visual Materials	6,857
Electronic Materials	439
Circulation	170,884
<i>Source: 1999 Public Library Statistical Report, Bayonne Free Public Library.</i>	

The Bayonne Free Public Library provides numerous services to the community in addition to its basic function as a place to read, conduct research and borrow books. The Main Library and Cultural Center has a meeting room for the use of community groups. The Free Public Library also provides computers and internet access to residents of the City. There are currently 34 computer terminals for public use in the 3 library facilities. In addition, the Public Library has reciprocal borrowing agreements with over 73 libraries in Hudson, Bergen, Passaic and Essex Counties. This provides expanded access to books, periodicals and other library holdings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne is a fully developed, urban community with diverse residential neighborhoods, multiple commercial districts and large industrial areas that require fire protection. As a result, Bayonne has an extensive network of fire facilities and a broad range of equipment to serve residents, businesses and visitors. There are 7 fire stations with various types of fire fighting apparatus as shown in Table VI-8. These facilities are geographically distributed so that every section of the City is within 1.5 miles of a fire station, providing outstanding coverage. This is a standard used in assessing fire protection systems by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Bayonne's water flow for fire-fighting are rated highly and response times are consistent with an adequate level of fire protection.

Bayonne's Fire Department is a full-time professional force that provides 24 hour service and fire protection. In addition to local fire protection services, the City maintains several mutual aid agreements with adjacent municipalities and governmental agencies. These include a written agreement with the Jersey City Fire Department, the Military Ocean Terminal Bayonne and verbal agreements with the North

Bergen Fire Department, the Port Authority Police and the City of Newark. In the event of an emergency, the Bayonne Fire Department provides fire coverage and fire fighting assistance in these communities.

Table VI-8 FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES, 2000 City of Bayonne	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
Headquarters/27 th Street Station	1,250 GPM Pumper, 95' Telescoping Platform, Hazardous Materials Response Unit, Rescue Trailer and Shift Commander Vehicle.
4 th Street Station	1,250 GPM Pumper, 75' Telescoping Platform.
16 th Street Station	1,250 GPM Pumper w/50' Telescoping Boom, 18' Boston Whaler, 12' Inflatable Raft
34 th Street Station	1,250 Pumper with Foam System, Mobile Air Unit
57 th Street Station	1,250 GPM Pumper w/54' Articulating Boom, 100' Telescoping Ladder, 1,250 GPM Pumper (Reserve)
Hook Road Station	1,250 GPM Pumper, 6,500 Gallon Water Tanker, 2.5 Ton Foam Truck, 1,250 GPM Emergency Water Pumper, Decontamination Trailer
MOTBY Station	2,000 GPM Pumper, 1,000 GPM Reserve Pumper, 100' Elevating Platform, Ambulance, Reserve Truck
<i>Source:</i> Bayonne Fire Department	

The majority of Bayonne's Fire Department facilities are aging and many are in need of repair or renovation. This problem is compounded by the often obsolete design of older facilities since many are relatively small and were intended to accommodate horse drawn apparatus. The Fire Department has identified the need for reinforced floors at the 4th Street and 57th Street Fire Stations as well as a new roof at the 16th Street Fire Station. In addition, the Fire Director has indicated that future consolidation, relocation and construction of new fire facilities should be considered. There is also the need for a fire apparatus replacement plan to upgrade equipment and fire fighting capabilities. This is particularly important as redevelopment at MOTBY and Texaco commences.

Bayonne's unique geography as a peninsula makes emergency access to the water an important issue. The Fire Department will be able to launch a boat from the 16th Street Boat Launch when it is completed for fire fighting and rescue purposes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne Police Department is responsible for law enforcement and public safety throughout the City’s diverse residential neighborhoods, multiple commercial districts, large industrial areas and busy highway corridors. The Police Department provides services to residents as well as the thousands of employees and visitors who work or pass through the City each day. The Department has multiple facilities to support its operations, as shown in Table VI-9. The majority of these facilities are considered adequate to meet the needs of the City and Police Department.

The Bayonne Police Department operates from a centrally located headquarters facility at the Municipal Building on Avenue C and West 27th Street as shown in Table VI-9. In addition, the Police Department has substations at Bayonne/Stephen Gregg County Park, the Bayonne Housing Authority complex on Avenue E and East 18th Street and MOTBY. A Police Garage and Impound Lot are located in Constable Hook. The Department also has access to a firing range operated by Policeman’s Benevolent Association Local 7, however, it does not own the range. The only new facility under development is a substation planned by the developer of the former Maidenform Building on Lexington Avenue in Bergen Point, known as Senior Horizons of Bayonne. It is scheduled for completion by 2002 when the senior independent living project is completed.

Table VI-9 POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES, 2000 City of Bayonne	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Existing</i>	
Police Department Headquarters	Municipal Building, Avenue C and West 27 th Street
Bayonne County Park Substation	Bayonne/Stephen Gregg County Park at J.F.K. Boulevard
Community Oriented Police Field Office	Bayonne Housing Authority, East 18 th Street and Avenue E
MOTBY Police Office (Temporary)	MOTBY
Police Garage	Bayonne Central Garage, Hook Road
Police Impound Lot	OENJ Cherokee, Constable Hook
<i>Proposed</i>	
Senior Horizons of Bayonne Substation	Maidenform Building, Lexington Avenue and East 3 rd Street
<i>Source:</i> Bayonne Police Department	

The Bayonne Police Department has identified several recommended facility improvements as part of the Master Plan process. According to the Law Enforcement Director and Police Chief, there is a need for additional office space, increased storage space, a new Impound Lot and a permanent substation at

MOTBY. The Police Department has plans for these improvements with the exception of a MOTBY substation, which is contingent upon the pace and scale of redevelopment under the guidance of the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Prior to 1960, Bayonne government functions were located in various facilities throughout the City including the old City Hall on Avenue E, the Finance Office on 8th Street, Fire and Police headquarters on Avenue C and Parks and Public Buildings within City Park. In order to consolidate municipal functions and provide office space for the various City departments, a new municipal building was constructed in 1972 between 27th and 28th Streets on a 2.14 acre site. The building consists of 162,550 square feet on two floors and a mezzanine level. This total also includes a Fire and Police Department headquarters and a 130 parking space garage on the basement level. There may be a need to expand a portion of City Hall in order to ease crowding and meet the need for additional office space.

HOSPITALS

The City of Bayonne has one major medical facility, Bayonne Hospital, that serves the entire City and is a significant community asset. Bayonne Hospital is located on East 30th Street between Broadway and Avenue E. The Hospital offers comprehensive medical services including an emergency room, acute care and outpatient services. Due to the City's relatively isolated location, Bayonne Hospital makes an important contribution to the health and safety of residents. It also functions as an engine of economic development, especially for office space and health related services. In recognition of its importance to the community, Bayonne Hospital should be supported and encouraged to expand in appropriate locations.

MAJOR PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne has a strong tradition of civic involvement and public service by private institutions and organizations, especially in areas that improve the local quality of life such as recreation and schools. The City has numerous private institutions and organizations that provide recreation facilities and programs for residents. Foremost among these are the Jewish Community Center and YMCA, as shown in Table VI-10. They contain facilities for active recreation such as gymnasiums, pools, health and fitness centers, exercise rooms and a running track. They also operate numerous recreation programs ranging from athletic leagues to fitness programs. The important contribution that the Jewish Community Center and YMCA, as well as other such institutions and organizations, make in meeting the recreational needs of residents is recognized and encouraged.

Table VI-10
 MAJOR PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES, 2000
 City of Bayonne

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
Jewish Community Center	1050 John F. Kennedy Boulevard	Gymnasium, pool, health and fitness center, aerobics room, track
YMCA	Avenue E and East 22 nd Street	Gymnasium, pool, weight room, track, exercise room
<i>Source:</i> Jewish Community Center, YMCA		

