

**I. OVERVIEW**

The City of Havre de Grace has a wealth of community facilities. These facilities can be grouped into five general categories: (1) Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, (2) Museums and Cultural Facilities, (3) Schools, (4) Public Buildings, and (5) Health Services. For the purpose of this comprehensive planning process, community facilities include all properties and buildings owned by and/or providing a service to the City. Community facilities are integral parts of the physical structure of a community. They influence the community's appearance and livability, and their availability and adequacy are a measure of the quality and desirability of a community.

This chapter is divided into sections based on the above-mentioned five categories. Each section includes a brief introduction of the topic, recommendations, and then a description of existing facilities for each category within the City. Related community facilities that are located outside of the City are addressed at the end of the chapter. These are community facilities that benefit Havre de Grace citizens by virtue of their proximity to the City, such as Susquehanna State Park, Swan Harbor Farm and other County-owned parks, adjoining emergency response teams, and Upper Chesapeake Medical Campus.

**II. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE**

Parks, recreation, and open space are very important components for a community in terms of people's physical health and mental well-being. Planning for parks, recreation, and open space are three distinct but related considerations in the Comprehensive Planning process. All involve the setting aside of land for use—whether it be for the protection of environmental or landscape resources, the active recreational use of ball fields and play areas, the more passive enjoyment of natural areas through hiking, or some combination of all of these. The issue of parks, recreation, and open space presents a challenge to community leadership because of the costs associated with land acquisition, the long-term planning and provision for changing recreational needs, and the intrinsic necessity but elusive value of preserving public open space.

Four different kinds of parks are described in this plan and are determined by their scale and use. These include the following: 1). Small Parks, which provide outdoor enjoyment and are often ornamental to residents in a densely populated community; 2). Neighborhood parks, which are larger and provide playing fields and active play space; 3). Playfields, which are often school/recreational complexes that provide a greater number of playing fields for more competitive sports events; and 4). Community Parks, which are large parks that serve an

entire city or a larger region and often have interesting topography and physical attributes such as lakes or rivers.

Extensive recreational programs for the City and all of Harford County are offered through the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. Programs range from youth sports programs such as soccer, tennis, basketball, lacrosse, youth football, dance, gymnastics, to adult aerobics and volleyball to senior activities as organized under the Havre de Grace Golden Age Club. The greater Havre de Grace region is organized under the Eastern District of the Department of Parks and Recreation, which also incorporates the Dublin/Darlington area within its district. In addition, Havre de Grace Little League, which is a federally chartered non-profit organization under Little League International, provides tee-ball, baseball, and softball to area youth. The Havre de Grace Boys & Girls Club and YMCA also offer limited recreational activities to youth in after-school programs.

Delineation of open space for the protection of environmental or landscape resources is often dealt with at the land subdivision stage of residential and commercial development. This is accomplished through environmental regulatory functions at both the local and State level, such as Forest Conservation, Natural Resources District (stream buffers), and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area requirements. In addition to lands immediately adjacent to streams, steep slopes or land areas that are subject to erosion are also protected under natural resources conservation. Open space and/or forest conservation areas are most likely deeded to the respective Home Owner's Association (HOA) of a subdivision and are the responsibility of the HOA for maintenance, liability, and resource management. Some designated open space in individual neighborhoods is dedicated as active open space, such as the small playground in Grace Harbour on Canvasback Drive. However, open space associated with subdivision activity is often environmentally constrained and limited to low-impact passive use, if any.

**A. Recommendations**

The following policies are recommended upon review of the existing recreation facilities in Havre de Grace:

- Support the Board of Education in the construction of the new high school football stadium in terms of funding for necessary components for the facility such as bleachers, lighting, and future outbuildings.
- Support the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation in the establishment of the Havre de Grace Youth/Senior Community Center at Lewis Lane behind the Havre de Grace Middle School. The facility will be a shared-use facility for youth and community recreation programs, expansion of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County, and senior activities through the Harford County Office on Aging.
- The City's Subdivision Regulations should be revised to provide more opportunities for both active and passive use. Possible options for achieving

this are to institute Open Space/Recreation fees or Open Space requirements in the development process.

- Continue to implement the concept designs that were endorsed in the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Management Plan and Heritage Corridor Management Plan. The Havre de Grace Heritage Corridor Management Council should continue working with the City to assure completion of the Promenade/signature sidewalk system to connect the City's waterfront from north to south. Consider the need to update the Havre de Grace Heritage Corridor Management Plan in relation to the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway planning and implementation efforts.
- Develop an identifiable trailhead for the North Park Loop Trail and the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway at the Havre de Grace Community Center located on Lagaret Lane.
- Through the LSHG effort, continue to work with Arundel Corporation on the development of hiking trails around the perimeter of the mining operation. These are to be located in their required buffer. In addition, work with Arundel Corporation over the long-term to establish a hiking trail along the shoreline after mining activities at the site cease.
- Expansion of the North Park Trail System should be continued as a component of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway within the City. In addition, the implementation of the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House concept plan should be encouraged and supported.
- Continue to explore ways to develop pedestrian trail connections from Havre de Grace to Swan Harbor Farm.
- The continued development of the Heritage Park area is encouraged to establish a cultural, educational, and recreational destination site at the southern point of the City overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. The City should continue to develop linkages from Heritage Park to the Downtown Business District, the National Register Historic District, and Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. It is recommended that a shared use parking area be established at the corner of Market and Lafayette Streets for the Heritage Park cultural attractions.
- Encourage the re-development of David R. Craig Park into an appropriate use for the location, such as a visitor information center, a waterfront observation area, or a native plant garden. Limitations of the site need to be taken into consideration, such as Chesapeake Bay Critical Area regulations, roadway/access difficulties, and current shoreline containment features. Future improvements to the park should preserve and incorporate the historic bridge abutments that are on the site.

- Develop the concept of a Downtown waterfront promenade to connect public park area at the north end of the City with the Downtown Business District and expand the public accessibility to the Susquehanna River.
- Support the development of a water taxi shuttle service or an acceptable river-crossing alternative to Cecil County to ensure improved linkages with the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway.
- Designate bikeways through the historic areas of Havre de Grace to allow for the safe flow of bicyclists from the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway bike paths through the City to Heritage Park and Swan Harbor Farm. The bikeways should be marked with signs or pavement stencils so that they are clearly identified for bicyclists and motorized vehicles for increased safety.
- A small, ornamental park should be established behind Citizens Care Center. The park would serve the residents of Canvasback Cove, Citizens Care Center, The Graw, and Log Pond communities and would provide a rest stop for those travelling the signature sidewalk through the City.
- Investigate the opportunity to develop a park/recreation facility at the Havre de Grace Community Center property on Lagaret Lane.
- Continue to implement improvements to the City's numerous parks, such as Tydings Park and Municipal Yacht Basin, Hutchins Park, Jean S. Roberts Park, Todd Field, and Bradford Green Park.
- In terms of marina facilities located in revitalization areas, it is recommended that some of the facilities be upgraded. The development of a waterfront jetty to create a safe harbor with additional private boat slips and transient slips should be considered.
- Determine the necessity of increased lighting of park facilities for evening use, public safety, and reduced vandalism. In addition, an effective crime and vandalism prevention program should be developed and enforced in parks throughout the City.
- All new parks and facilities must satisfy the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Review the number of baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, football fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts to determine if there is an adequate amount of these facilities based on the National Recreation and Park Standards with respect to recent population growth.
- An in-depth Parks and Recreation Needs/Demands Study should be conducted to determine space requirements and program demands. Relevant

information from the survey would include the number of times in which an activity is participated, preferred recreational activities, future location and preferred methods of financing new facilities, and maintenance of existing facilities.

- Proper and periodic maintenance of all facilities must be ensured. This can be accomplished by establishing regular maintenance schedules for City-owned properties and by working with the Board of Education and the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify maintenance needs of County-owned facilities.

## **B. Existing Facilities**

The following is a list of park and recreational facilities within the limits of the City. Each facility is under its respective heading of ownership—either by the City, privately, or by the Harford County Board of Education—and is described by location and recreational function.

### **1. City Facilities**

***The Promenade*** is located along the Chesapeake Bay from Tydings Park to the Concord Point Lighthouse. The Promenade consists of a handicap-accessible waterfront walkway (2,400 feet), constructed of wood decking and concrete with brick inlay sidewalk, with entrances at Tydings Park, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Lafayette Street and the Concord Point Lighthouse. Other facilities include observation decks along the promenade, a gazebo at the entrance of Tydings Park, two information kiosks, benches, trash receptacles, a lighting system and an emergency phone system. The Promenade is a component of an integrated community park— along with Tydings Park and Heritage Park — for City residents and the greater Harford County region.

***Heritage Park*** is approximately 8.5 acres in area and is located from Concord Point to Market Street, primarily along the south side of Lafayette Street. Facilities in this park include the Concord Point Lighthouse, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, a portion of the Promenade, an observation deck, a transient dock at the Lighthouse, an open play area at Lafayette and Market Streets, and the O'Neill House.

***Tydings Park*** is located south of Commerce Street along the Chesapeake Bay Waterfront and consists of 17 acres of park area and includes the Municipal Yacht Basin and Tydings Island. The park includes facilities such as a refreshment stand, two tennis courts, fishing area, picnic facilities (including grills), a 275-slip public marina with fuel and pump out facilities, a public boat ramp, parking facilities, and playground with multiple pieces of

equipment. The Municipal Yacht Basin is currently undergoing major renovation, with bulkhead replacement, pier reconstruction, and fuel dock, shower, and attendant booth improvements.

**North Park** is a large public park area located in the northern portion of the City along the Susquehanna River. It is comprised of a total of 46.9 acres, including the Lock House and McLhinney Park, and may serve as a Community Park for the City and greater Harford County region in the future as part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. Of this, 7.6 acres are owned by the City and the remaining 39.3 acres are leased by the City from the Exelon Corporation. North Park's facilities include the Lock House Museum, the Canal Lock and Swing Bridge, a transient dock, and a fishing area. North of the playground is the North Park Loop Trail which is a hiker/biker trail that traverses a large natural area that ends just south of the CSX Susquehanna River Bridge crossing.

**David R. Craig Park** is a small waterfront park (approximately 1.5 acres) at the northern end of Union Avenue. Located immediately adjacent to Legion Square at the primary entrance of the City's Downtown Business District, it is anticipated that a permanent Visitor Center will be constructed in this park in the future. The facility currently provides parking and excellent water-views of the Susquehanna River.

**Frank J. Hutchins Memorial Park** is a small waterfront park (approximately 2 acres), located at the foot of Congress Avenue at the Susquehanna River. It consists of a fishing pier that also serves as a transient dock for boats and ships, and is currently undergoing redevelopment to make it a more attractive waterfront park for residents and visitors. Hutchins Park is the home of the Skipjack Martha Lewis and Lantern Queen stern-wheeler, both of which are vessels that handle large numbers of the visiting public.

**Jean S. Roberts Park** is a small waterfront park (less than one acre) and is located at the foot of Otsego Street at the Susquehanna River. The facility includes a public boat launching ramp, transient slips, picnic facilities (including grills and a pavilion), a fishing area, and a parking area.

**Bradford Green Park** is a small park that is approximately two acres in area and includes the open spaces owned by the City across Village Drive. The park is located at the intersection of Battery and Village Drives in the Bradford Green neighborhood and includes a basketball court, a multi-purpose play system and an open play area.

**Todd Field** is a larger neighborhood park that is approximately twelve acres in size and located on both sides of Seneca Avenue between Bloomsbury Avenue and Deaver Street in the Concord Fields community. Its facilities include a baseball field, a basketball court, a skate park, and a playground.

**Havre de Grace Community Center**, located on Lagaret Lane, is an 11,000 square foot building situated on approximately fifty-three acres of City-owned land in the northeast corner of the City. Originally built by the Havre de Grace Law Enforcement Association, Inc. to serve as a police training center and community facility, this building was turned over to the City in 1995. The building consists of a banquet/conference room that can accommodate up to 600 persons, a small meeting room, restrooms, and kitchen facilities. The property, on which the community center is located, has some spectacular views of the Susquehanna River from its bluffs and could be developed into a park, recreational facility, or exhibition hall in the future.

## 2. Private Facilities

**Stancill Park** is a privately-owned baseball/softball facility of approximately fifteen acres which is located at the intersection of Old Bay Lane and Old Post Road adjacent to the Chesapeake Industrial Park. The facilities are owned by the Havre de Grace Little League Inc. and include four baseball fields, a softball field, a tee-ball field, a refreshment stand with restrooms, and League offices and storage.

**Somerset Manor Playground** is a small park (approximately one acre) located off Ohio Street in the Somerset Manor Neighborhood. The playground facilities include a basketball court, picnic facilities, a play field, and a playground.

**Bayland Condominiums** has a small private recreation facility (less than one acre) that is located on Bayland Drive in the Grace Harbour neighborhood. This facility includes a clubhouse, a gazebo, and a swimming pool.

**Chesapeake Swim Club** is a private swimming facility that is less than an acre in size and is located on Bayview Drive.

**Canvasback Cove Condominiums** has a private swimming facility consisting of a swimming pool, dressing area, picnic tables, and 73 private boat slips for the residents of this development. The Canvasback Cove recreation area is 2/3 acre in size and is located between Fountain and Revolution Streets along the Susquehanna River.

**Seneca Pointe Condominiums** has a private swimming facility with a bathhouse located on Seneca Way.

**Grace Harbour** recreational facilities are located on various sites in the Grace Harbour community. Small play facilities include a tot lot at Remington Court and Canvasback Drive, a tot lot at the end of Hunter Court,

an open play area at the end of Heron Court, and a multi-purpose play area on Canvasback Drive near Brant Court.

**Bayview Estates** has a tot-lot area with playground equipment on Roosevelt Court which can be accessed from Tidewater Drive, Katherine Way, and Mallard Court within the community.

**Private Marinas** operate within the Havre de Grace City limits. The Havre de Grace Marina and Yacht Sales is located on Water Street. It consists of 1.3 acres and contains 58 slips. The Tidewater Marina is approximately twelve acres, contains 175 slips, and is located at the foot of Bourbon Street at the Susquehanna River. The Havre de Grace Marina at Canvasback Cove is located on Girard Street and contains 68 slips. Currently being redeveloped, Penns Beach Marina is located on Concord Street. The facility is over six acres in area and is expected to contain approximately 100 slips upon completion. This facility will be built with a public pedestrian access and fishing pier which will be constructed similar to the Promenade. The public access structure will be deeded to the City after the property owner builds it.

### 3. Board of Education Facilities

The City's schools, as with most of Harford County school facilities, have been developed in recognition of the "park school" concept. Presently, schools afford most of Havre de Grace's recreational outlets in terms of gymnasium space and playing fields. A wide variety of recreational programs are offered in the City for children, adults, and senior citizens through the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. All recreational activities are supervised by Department of Parks and Recreation staff or its extensive base of volunteers.

**Meadowvale Elementary School** is located on Graceview Drive on the east side of the Meadowvale Neighborhood. The total area including school buildings and parking areas is 13 acres. Facilities include a softball field, two basketball courts, and a playground. Ballet, tap, and jazz dancing classes are offered between September and April.

**Havre de Grace Elementary School** is located on South Juniata Street and encompasses a total area of 10 acres including school buildings and parking areas. Facilities include a softball field, two basketball courts, and a playground. Youth basketball and aerobic classes are offered September through June. The Department of Parks and Recreation also sponsors the summer recreation center at this site.

**Havre de Grace Middle School/High School Complex** is located between Havre de Grace Middle School and High School, from Lewis Lane to

Juniata Street adjacent to the AMTRAK Rail Line. Its total acreage is 61.8 acres, including all Middle and High School buildings and parking areas. Major portions of this site are being reconfigured to accommodate a new football stadium/track facility that will be located immediately adjacent to Juniata Street. Tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, soccer and field hockey fields are also being reconfigured at this time due to the substantial grading and soil replacement that is currently being performed. Outdoor activities through the Department of Parks and Recreation are proceeding by stretching available space. Indoor activities will proceed and include bluegrass concerts, gymnastics, adult basketball, coeducational volleyball, cheerleading, karate, indoor soccer, square dancing, summer basketball, and fitness programs.

#### 4. Facilities That Serve the Region

***Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG)*** is a project currently under development but will consist of a series of trails and pathways beginning at Conowingo Dam and which traverse both shores of the Susquehanna River to the Chesapeake Bay. The Greenway connects a number of key cultural, historical, and natural features along the Susquehanna, such as Susquehanna State Park, the City of Havre de Grace, and the Towns of Perryville and Port Deposit in Cecil County. All three municipalities have waterfront pathways, such as the Promenade in Havre de Grace, to lend to the connectivity of valuable waterfront areas. It is desired that the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway eventually provide a river crossing to link eastern and western shores and extend to Swan Harbor Farm in Harford County.

***Susquehanna State Park*** is a large Community Park located just north of the City and is part of the State Park System. This extensive park area incorporates vast natural areas along the western shore of the Susquehanna River and serves the Lower Susquehanna/Upper Chesapeake Bay region. The park consists of 2525 acres in Harford County and has a boat launch ramp, fishing pier, camping and picnicking facilities, the historic Rock Run Mill, and Steppingstone Museum, which is an interpretive farm and agriculture/cultural museum. Most of the parkland is forested and ranges from gently rolling hills to steep slopes and deep narrow stream valleys. The Deer Creek State Scenic River meets the Susquehanna River in Susquehanna State Park. Shoreline and small craft fishing are extremely popular here.

***Swan Harbor Farm*** is another large Community Park facility located just southwest of Havre de Grace on the Oakington Peninsula. Located on the Chesapeake Bay, Swan Harbor Farm is owned and operated by the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation and it is the only park owned by the County with direct Bay access. The park contains a beautiful mansion house which is available for receptions, main offices for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, large meadow areas, farm fields,

vineyards, a field for radio controlled aircraft, and exhibit area for agricultural education.

**C. Proposed Facilities**

*Havre de Grace Activity Center* is a shared use activity center which will be located on the Board of Education Middle School/High School Complex directly behind Havre de Grace Middle School. This project will be developed through a partnership between Harford County Government, the City of Havre de Grace, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County. The facility will be used for recreational programs (for all ages) and offices of Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation, youth activities through the Havre de Grace Branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County, and senior programs through the Office on Aging. The first phase of construction is to relocate and stabilize the existing recreational fields during the year 2004. It is anticipated that actual building construction for the Havre de Grace Activity Center will occur throughout the year 2005.

**III. MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES**

Within the City, a number of museums and cultural attractions have developed to the good fortune of the City. These include facilities owned by the City, developed by non-profit organizations, and those of the Harford County Board of Education.

**A. Recommendations**

- Support the implementation of the various museums' development plans, as the museums are very important attributes within the City in terms of cultural recollection, education, and archival knowledge.
- Support the professional staff members and large base of volunteers for each museum as they carry out the missions of their respective museums.
- Support the Havre de Grace Museum Alliance in its ability to work collectively for integrated cultural programs for tourists visiting the Havre de Grace region, school children, and residents of the City and Harford County. The Havre de Grace Museum Alliance consists of representatives from the Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's House, Decoy Museum, the Maritime Museum, The Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House, The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc., and Steppingstone Museum, which is located in nearby Susquehanna State Park.
- Support the advertisement of the cultural museums and their programs through the newly established Havre de Grace Visitor Center located on Pennington Avenue.

- Encourage the development of the Heritage Park and Ecology Center partnership as a cultural and ecology interpretive center and aid in the development of a shared parking facility for the museums established in the Heritage Park setting.
- Conduct a demand and site analysis to determine the most suitable location for the construction of a permanent band shell/concert facility for the City's Arts Commission Summer Concert Series and other outdoor musical events.

## **B. Existing Facilities**

***Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's House*** are among the most interesting and unique historic structures in Havre de Grace. Built at a cost of \$3,500 in 1827 by John Donohoo, this thirty-seven foot stone masonry structure is the oldest, continuously operated lighthouse in the State of Maryland. The Friends of Concord Point Lighthouse, Inc., a non-profit organization, have been maintaining the lighthouse and its grounds, located east of the intersection of Concord and Lafayette Streets, on behalf of the lighthouse's current owner, the City, since 1979. The Friends have undertaken another major project, the restoration of the lighthouse keeper's house. Built in 1829 and named for the keepers of the lighthouse from its inception to its automation in the 1920s, the Keeper's House, or O'Neill House, is located at the northwest corner of Concord and Lafayette Streets. Plans have been developed to restore the structure to its appearance in 1892, which was just after its last renovation as the keeper's house. The plans also include replicating the outbuildings and gardens of the property. Upon completion, the complex will serve as a period museum.

***The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum*** is a 15,000 square foot facility established to document and interpret waterfowl through this genuine American folk art form as it applies to the heritage of Havre de Grace and the Chesapeake Bay. After months of renovating the former Bayou Hotel 's power plant facility, the Decoy Museum, which overlooks the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay, was opened to the public on November 4, 1986. The Museum grew rapidly and completed a second floor and elevator addition to achieve its present size. The Decoy Museum contains extensive display areas of local decoy carvers, watercraft, the R. Madison Mitchell workshop, an archival resource library, a gift shop and a small conference space. Long-term plans for expansion of the Decoy Museum include: a 125 seat auditorium for school groups and special programs; an addition to house the Mitchell Workshop so it can be properly preserved and interpreted; an addition to create a living exhibit entitled "Susquehanna Flats - A Changing Environment"; and a new visitor entry area facing Lafayette Street with additional restrooms and an enlarged gift shop.

***The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum*** was incorporated in 1988 to preserve the maritime heritage and lifestyle of the Upper Chesapeake Bay Region. In 2001, the Maritime Museum completed the construction of a two-story building on pilings on the south side of the 100 block of Lafayette Street in Heritage Park. In the future,

the ground floor will be enclosed and will serve as a wooden boat building school in cooperation with Harford Community College. Currently, the school operates out of the main portion of the building until permanent displays are completed. It is anticipated that the second floor would serve as a traditional museum, with state-of-the-art interactive and virtual reality displays to present the Museum's message in a contemporary fashion. In addition to the recently completed building and developing display area, the Maritime Museum: sponsors lectures on local maritime-related topics; provides educational programs on local maritime history; co-sponsors the wooden boat building class with Harford Community College; hosts the Annual Classic Boat Show; and facilitated the restoration of the Skipjack Martha Lewis.

***The Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace at the Lock House*** is located in the historic lock house at the southern terminus of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal near Erie and Conestogo Streets. Typically known as the Lock House Museum, the Museum was incorporated in 1972 to collect, preserve, and disseminate data touching the history of the Havre de Grace area and its people, with special emphasis on the southern terminus of the Canal. In 1976, the Susquehanna Museum restored the 1840-era Lock House in North Park and uses it as its base of operations. The Lock House serves as the display area, educational facility, and archival storage center for the Museum. The organization has restored the Outlet Lock and reconstructed the Pivot Bridge across the lock since that time. The Museum is presently restoring the working gates in the Outlet Lock. Short-term and long-term goals for the museum include: completion of the reconstruction of the working gates; construction of a new 5,000 square foot display building to house the original working gates, which are presently in storage, and other canal artifacts; construction of a model to explain how lift locks work; construction of an authentic, full-scale canal boat; and restoration of the canal and towpath from Havre de Grace to Deer Creek.

***The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc.*** is a non-profit organization that owns and operates the Skipjack Martha Lewis, which is located in Frank J. Hutchins Park at the foot of Congress Avenue. Providing an experiential learning environment on an authentic Chesapeake Bay working Skipjack, the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy is dedicated to educating school children about Bay ecology and wildlife, maritime history, and navigational skills. Sailing on the Skipjack, staff members and volunteer crew also participate in oyster dredging in months in which it is allowed, events around the Bay, public cruises and private charters.

***The Havre de Grace High School Auditorium*** is the primary, indoor, cultural facility for the City. Located in Havre de Grace High School and accessed from Congress Avenue, the auditorium has excellent acoustics, viewing, and stage area capacity. With seating capacity for 999 persons, the auditorium has been the venue of the Havre de Grace Arts Commission's fall, winter, and spring presentations, Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation dance recitals, Miss Teen Harford County pageants, Havre de Grace High School concerts and shows, and numerous cultural presentations.



*Old City Hall* at 121 North Union Avenue, formerly an opera house, is the home of the Tidewater Players and Tidewater Teens, two community theatrical groups based in Havre de Grace. Using the second floor as a theater, the groups present approximately four productions a year. The building also houses the office of The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc., which operates the Skipjack Martha Lewis, and a medical office.

*Tydings Park* is the venue of the Havre de Grace Arts Commission's Summer Concert series. Using the open area along Commerce Street and Harford County's mobile stage, many Friday evening concerts have been performed at this location. Tydings Park also serves as home for the Havre de Grace Art Show in August, the Children's Art Festival in September, and numerous other festival events.

#### **B. Enhanced Facilities**

*Heritage Park and Ecology Center* is the continued creation of a public and private partnership to organize, interpret, communicate, coordinate, protect, and publicize the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Chesapeake Bay Region. The partnership would be realized through the coordinated and connected use of a "gallery" of existing and new public buildings, sites, and spaces in the Heritage Park area of Havre de Grace located at the southern end of the City. Potential components of this "gallery" include the Concord Point Lighthouse, the restored Keeper's House with outbuildings, Decoy Museum, Promenade, the Maritime Museum, and all of the public park lands between. The existing interpretive signs along the Promenade are the initial components to this integrated cultural and ecology education center. Other concepts have included public art displays, parking areas, landscaping, and signage for the Heritage Park area.

### **IV. SCHOOLS**

Public schools are an extremely important component of any community. They are the center of a great number of public activities, whether it be the education of school children and citizenry, centers for recreational programs, or public meeting space for events or discourse. In terms of community development, the expanded use of public buildings for these community-related activities is effective in establishing the school as a "central place". This results in a greater participation of neighborhood residents with respect to issues that affect the public school system. All the schools in Havre de Grace are used as multi-use buildings for these activities. School operations and functions are administered by Harford County Public Schools and the all-volunteer Harford County Board of Education.

#### **A. Recommendations**

- Support Harford County Public School staff and the Harford County Board of Education in their service in bringing excellent public education to the County's school children.

- Work with the Harford County Board of Education to expand existing facilities or redistrict attendance areas prior to constructing new school facilities.
- Work with the Harford County Board of Education to locate new schools so that they successfully relate to both existing communities and new planned neighborhoods. Consideration for adequate playing fields, site design, and location to neighborhoods (while avoiding commercial areas) is important.
- Encourage the establishment of a local culture/history component in the Harford County curriculum in conjunction with the local museums, such as the Maritime Museum, Decoy Museum, Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House, Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc., and Steppingstone Museum.
- Work with the Harford County Board of Education on the construction of a shared-use community recreation facility on Lewis Lane behind the Havre de Grace Middle School. The center would be used for youth and community recreation through the Department of Parks and Recreation, expansion of facilities for after-school programs offered through the Havre de Grace Boys & Girls Club, and senior activities through the Harford County Office on Aging and Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Work with the Harford County Board of Education and its staff members to successfully redevelop playing field areas for the maximization of the Havre de Grace High School/Middle School recreational fields complex. Consideration for strengthening this site and the existing public use buildings, such as the US Post Office, Havre de Grace Municipal Complex (City Hall and Police Department), schools, and proposed shared-use community recreation facility into an identifiable civic “hub” for the greater Havre de Grace community is desired. Integrated pedestrian routes, lighting, parking, pedestrian crossings, and appropriate traffic signals may be components of this concept.
- Expand informational resources to Havre de Grace residents about available higher education programs within Harford County.

**A. Existing Facilities**

**1. Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12**

The Harford County Board of Education administers the educational system in Havre de Grace. Thus, the expansion or renovation of these facilities depends on the Board. Havre de Grace has four public schools serving its needs: two elementary schools (pre-kindergarten to 5th grade), one middle

school (6th through 8th grade), and one high school (9th through 12th grade).

Havre de Grace is very fortunate to have schools which are of very high quality and have facilities that are under capacity in terms of their enrollment. Havre de Grace Elementary is well under capacity at its current 72%, with enrollment projected to increase slightly over the next five years to 75% in 2005-2006 (from Harford County 2001 Annual Growth Report). Meadowvale Elementary is at 90% of its building capacity, with projected capacity expected to decrease over the next five years to 84% in 2005-2006. Havre de Grace Middle School is also well under capacity at 79%. Expected enrollment in the next five years is expected to increase to 85% for the 2002-2003 school year and then decrease over the following four years to 70% in 2005-2006. Havre de Grace High School is currently at 78% capacity, with anticipated enrollment steadily increasing over the next five years to 87%. Table 5.1 indicates the current enrollment and capacity of each of the four schools.

**TABLE 5.1  
SCHOOL CAPACITY, FROM HARFORD COUNTY 2001 ANNUAL GROWTH REPORT**

School	Current Enrollment (2001-2002)	School Capacity	% of Capacity	Capacity Available	120% of School Capacity	Capacity Available at 120%
Havre de Grace Elementary	447	625	72	178	750	303
Meadowvale Elementary	517	575	90	58	690	173
Havre de Grace Middle	624	785	79	161	942	318
Havre de Grace High	663	849	78	186	1019	356

**Table 5.2  
PROJECTED SCHOOL UTILIZATION, FROM HARFORD COUNTY 2001 ANNUAL GROWTH REPORT**

School	Capacity	2001/2002 Actual	2002/2003 Projected	2003/2004 Projected	2004/2005 Projected	2005/2006 Projected
Havre de Grace Elementary School	625	72%	71%	71%	74%	75%
Meadowvale Elementary School	575	90%	85%	83%	85%	84%
Havre de Grace Middle School	785	79%	85%	83%	77%	70%
Havre de Grace High School	849	78%	79%	83%	83%	87%

## 2. Higher Education

Numerous opportunities for higher education are available to Havre de Grace residents through enrollment at community colleges, colleges, and universities in the nearby Baltimore and larger Tri-state area. However, Harford Community College (HCC) addresses the diverse educational needs of the City's residents locally.

Founded in 1957, HCC occupies a 211-acre site on Thomas Run Road, ten miles west of Havre de Grace. The extensive grounds include a handsome stone mansion built in 1808, which houses the administrative offices, while fourteen additional buildings grace the campus, providing athletic, classroom, cultural and laboratory space. To meet the educational needs of the community, HCC, a public, two-year coeducational institution, offers programs with six specific educational functions - general education, college/university transfer programs, career education, continuing education/community service, transitional studies, and student development services. As the only public college located in the County, it serves as the coordinator of post-secondary education in Harford County, including the HEAT Center.

The Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) Center provides an opportunity for expanded higher education access to the citizens of northeastern Maryland. The HEAT Initiative is a concept that brings the finest of Maryland's institutions of higher education together to offer programs that are in demand by residents and businesses in the region. The programs have been selected to articulate with associate degrees offered by Harford and Cecil Community Colleges. Students can earn an associate degree at either community college in programs such as business administration, teacher education, criminal justice, nursing, and engineering, and proceed to a bachelors degree, and in some cases, a masters degree program, without leaving the County.

The HEAT Center is located in Aberdeen, Maryland, at the juncture of I-95 and Route 22. The recently completed 10,300 square-foot academic building is the first phase of an overall 152-acre research and development park on State-owned land. The building houses a computer lab, three large classrooms, seminar rooms and offices, and incorporates the latest technology with the capability to interact with lectures being given on the university campuses at a distance.

## V. PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Since the publication of the 1996 Havre de Grace Comprehensive Plan, there have been many accomplishments in the way of public buildings, at the

municipal, County, and even Federal levels. Public buildings can bring a sense of public purpose and civic pride to a local community, and the recent improvements within the City exemplify the role of the City as an important center of public activity within Harford County. New or renovated public buildings within the City include: the new Havre de Grace Police Department, expanded Havre de Grace City Hall, Havre de Grace Waste Water Treatment Facility, renovation of old Police Department structure for new Havre de Grace Visitor Center, completion of Susquehanna Hose Company Fire Station #5 on Chapel Road, new Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps facility on MD 155, and the new US Post Office facility on Juniata Street. These are all significant public projects from which City residents will benefit for years to come.

Population growth in Havre de Grace has been accompanied by increasing demands for new and augmented public services and requirements for increased public building space. Due to good planning and valuable opportunities, the City has the great majority of its public buildings centrally located within the City, making them easily accessible to both older and newer communities. These improvements in conjunction with the Board of Education buildings and recreation complex create a strong, identifiable civic ‘hub’ of activity which will prove advantageous for the public in terms of convenience, efficiency, economy in government affairs, and enhancement of the appearance of the community.

**A. Recommendations**

- Support and strengthen the concept of a strong civic hub located in the center of Havre de Grace which includes all public lands, such as the Havre de Grace Middle School and High School, Board of Education Recreation Complex, Havre de Grace City Hall and Police Department buildings, U.S. Post Office, and Susquehanna Hose Company buildings. Develop this planning concept through signage and enhanced pedestrian connections, and recognize it as an asset that contributes to the City’s sense-of-place and community.
- Continue to work toward the development of a permanent building for the Havre de Grace Visitor Center which will be in close proximity to the City’s Downtown Business District and Waterfront. The utilization of the Joseph L. Davis, Post #47 American Legion building as the future Visitor Center would be ideal as it would preserve a historically significant structure and expand public access to the City’s excellent waterfront.
- Expand the dialogue between the citizens and professional library staff to ensure an adequate selection of materials in the public library.

- Emphasize close cooperation between the City Police Department and the Harford County Sheriff's Office in order to reduce crime in Havre de Grace. High crime areas should be targeted for intensive prevention programs and innovative patrol strategies, such as increased patrolling, foot patrols and surveillance.
- Develop a community-oriented policing concept, with emphasis on education, crime prevention, drug awareness, and organized street watches.
- Support the strong volunteer organizations of the Susquehanna Hose Company and the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps in providing emergency response services to the residents, property owners, and businesses within Havre de Grace and the region.

## **B. Existing Conditions**

The City has numerous facilities within its municipal limits that support community service needs. Some facilities are owned by the City; others are operated by Harford County Government, such as the Havre de Grace Branch of the Harford County Public Library, or the Federal Government, such as the US Post Office.

### 1. Harford County Public Library, Havre de Grace Branch

The Havre de Grace Branch of the Harford County Library System is located on North Union Avenue and is approximately 8,520 square feet in area. This library has approximately 176,000 volumes available for circulation, with 2.8 million volumes available County-wide. Harford County library resources are available through all branches of the Harford County Public Library, which now includes eleven facilities including administration and support services.

### 2. Fire Protection

Fire protection in the City is provided by the Susquehanna Hose Company, a volunteer company with over 120 active volunteers spread through five divisions at five station locations.

- **Fire Station #1** consists of two bays and is located on the southeast corner of Warren and Juniata Streets. This building was constructed in 1982. It has the capacity to house two fire department vehicles, office space, and modern communications equipment.
- **Fire Station #2** consists of a single bay and is located at the intersection of Pennington and Union Avenues. This two-story building was constructed before 1900.

- **Fire Station #3** consists of two bays and is located at the intersection of Fountain and Market Streets. This single-story building, which replaced the original structure in 1989, also contains a training room with seating for fifty, lounge with a kitchenette, and offices.
- **Fire Station #4** consists of three bays and is located at the corner of Revolution Street and Bloomsbury Avenue. Built in 1994, in place of the original one bay structure, this station serves as the headquarters for the Susquehanna Hose Company. In addition to the bays, the building contains offices for both administrative and line officers, a board room, lounge, and a 1,000 square foot meeting room with kitchen facilities.
- **Fire Station #5**, which is the newest station built in 2002, consists of two equipment bays and is located on Chapel Road near Bayview Estates. It is a single story structure with a crew kitchen and recreation room for its volunteers.

The volunteer emergency response fire and rescue units are well coordinated in Harford County, and are dispatched from a central location in Hickory near Bel Air. The Harford County Fire and Ambulance Association determines policy and governs operations of all volunteer divisions. The Susquehanna Hose Company is unique in some of its equipment and rescue abilities, to include a 20-member volunteer dive unit with a fire/rescue boat for water-related emergencies, a ladder truck, and a heavy rescue truck. The City has a class “C” fire rating, with 223 fire hydrants spaced throughout the City. The existing fire stations are well dispersed throughout the City and are sufficient in terms of building space.

### 3. Ambulance Services

New Havre de Grace Ambulance Corp facilities are located on MD 155 across from the community of Grace Harbour. The new building consists of a five bay equipment area, two large meeting rooms, and commercial kitchen. Over sixty volunteers provide emergency medical response, to include a paramedic unit.

### 4. Police Protection

Located on the corner of Pennington Avenue and Juniata Street, the Havre de Grace Police Department provides police protection for the entire City. This new 10,000 square foot Police Department building was opened and became operational in January 2001. The building is equipped with: auxiliary generators for emergency power to continue police and government functions; radio capabilities to operate the Police Department and the City’s Department of Public Works, and communicate with four other law

enforcement agencies; a community meeting room which can be converted to an emergency operation center in the event of an extreme emergency or natural disaster; and intra- fiber-optic network with access to high speed internet cable. The Havre de Grace Police Department is working with the Harford County Sheriff's Office to enhance communication interoperability between local jurisdictions.

The Police Department is comprised of three Department Divisions: Administrative, Operations, and Criminal Investigations. The Department consists of 36 employees, with twenty-six sworn officers and ten civilian personnel. A Police Shooting Range with observation tower is situated on James Earl Walker Drive near Arundel Quarry.

5. City Hall

City Hall, located at 711 Pennington Avenue, was constructed in 1992 and opened in March of 1993. Expansion to the City Hall building was completed in March 2001. Havre de Grace City Hall is the main government building for the City, and holds activities for the City's elected Mayor and City Council and all administrative functions. Public areas consist of reception, bill payment, and permits areas, Council Chambers, and one conference room. Administrative offices for the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance, the Department of Administration, and the Department of Economic Development and Planning, and Mayor and City Council offices are also located in this building.

6. Havre de Grace Visitor Center

The Havre de Grace Visitor Center opened August 2002 in the former Police Department building located at 450 Pennington Avenue. This facility provides a location for information for visitors to Havre de Grace through printed material, staff, and volunteer staff assistance. The Havre de Grace Visitor Center is expected to be a platform for promoting the City's and the surrounding region's many attributes. It is intended that this current facility be a temporary location for the Havre de Grace Visitor Center. A future permanent facility is to be located at the entrance to the Downtown Business District at David R. Craig Park or, possibly, in the historic Joseph L. Davis, Post #47 American Legion building (formerly the Lafayette Hotel; HA-790 Abraham Jarrett Thomas House, Maryland Historical Trust Historic Site Inventory).

7. Water Treatment Plant

The City's 4 million gallon per day water treatment plant is located on St. John Street in the Downtown Business District of Havre de Grace. The plant is a "Class IV" level plant as categorized by the Maryland Department of the

Environment. The water treatment plant is staffed by nine employees and is operated 24 hours a day. Immediately adjacent to the City's water treatment plant is a Harford County water treatment plant. The City currently sells 2 million gallons of treated water to Harford County per day, which is pumped from this adjacent facility to Harford County's primary Abingdon Water Treatment facility.

8. Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Wastewater Treatment Plant for Havre de Grace is located on City-owned property adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay and the Maryland National Guard Reservation, and is accessible through Wilson Street and Jerry Foster Way. Besides this 1.9 million gallon per day treatment plant, there are also eight sewer pumping stations distributed throughout the City, with large ones located on Erie Street and Lafayette Street. Modification to the wastewater treatment plant to accomplish biological nutrient removal has been completed and it will give the City the ability to handle 2.3 million gallons per day. Nine employees operate the wastewater treatment facility, which also runs 24 hours a day.

9. Department of Public Works Shop

This facility is located on Jerry Foster Way adjacent to the Maryland National Guard Reservation and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The shop building consists of a 4,000 square foot repair garage and storage building with office space and locker room, a 3-pump gas facility, an open storage area for construction and snow removal materials, and a parking area for the Department of Public Works' vehicle fleet. It is anticipated that a new storage and office facility will be built in the near future. There are 24 employees for the Department of Public Works, Streets and Facilities division.

10. Postal Services

The Havre de Grace Post Office is a 16,100 square foot brick structure located on the northeast corner of Green and Juniata Streets. Built in 1996, this new structure consists of a postal retail store and large postal handling operation. There are presently thirty-five employees working in the Havre de Grace branch.

## **VI. HEALTH SERVICES**

The citizens of Havre de Grace and Harford County are fortunate to have a new state-of-the-art community hospital and medical facilities located at the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air and the convenience and continued excellent service of Harford Memorial

Hospital in Havre de Grace. An acute care facility, Harford Memorial Hospital continues to serve residents of Harford and western Cecil Counties for medical and surgical inpatient needs, intensive/progressive care, rehabilitation, emergency care, surgery, behavioral health, dialysis, and cardiopulmonary, imaging, and laboratory services. In addition, Upper Chesapeake Health includes a wealth of affiliated practitioners and support staff, a large concentration having medical offices in Havre de Grace. Other medical care facilities located within the City are the Citizens Care Center for comprehensive nursing care and a public Health Clinic operated by the Harford County Health Department.

A. **Recommendations**

- Support the strong community health services provided by Upper Chesapeake Health and assist in marketing the expanded programs at Harford Memorial Hospital.
- Continue to work with Upper Chesapeake Health to develop new service initiatives at Harford Memorial Hospital.
- Continue to assist in the attraction of private medical affiliates to available office space in Havre de Grace through the Department of Economic Development and Planning.
- Develop strategies to strengthen Union Avenue as a Medical District through identification, marketing, and land use policies.
- Explore the concept of Havre de Grace as a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) because of its strong medical presence and available facilities, increased attraction of active senior and waterfront communities, existing senior residential complexes, convenient shopping areas, and pedestrian and transit access.
- Continue to support Citizens Care Center as a comprehensive nursing care facility.
- Work with the Harford County Health Department to ensure that public health services are maintained in the City to serve its special needs population.

B. **Existing Conditions**

1. **Health Care, General**

Medical facilities and services in the City are generous, especially for a city of this size and population. Havre de Grace has approximately forty private practice medical, and dental offices. The offices are largely centered around Harford Memorial Hospital and are located along Union Avenue and

Alliance, Commerce, Girard, Green, Lewis, and Revolution Streets. Primary care and preventive medicine are provided mainly by private physicians, although there is a Family Care Center across Lewis Street from Harford Memorial Hospital operated by the Upper Chesapeake Health System. Numerous specialist practices are available, to include orthopedics, ophthalmology, pediatrics, oncology, allergy, cardiovascular, gastroenterology, obstetric/gynecology, dermatology, physical therapy, and chiropractic medicine.

2. Harford Memorial Hospital

Located within the center of the older portion of Havre de Grace, Harford Memorial Hospital is part of the not-for-profit Upper Chesapeake Health System. The hospital fronts South Union Avenue and occupies one city block bounded by Union Avenue, Lewis, Revolution, and Washington Streets. With approximately 725 staff members, this facility provides necessary medical services for Harford County and western Cecil County. Harford Memorial Hospital services are extensive and include: medical and surgical inpatient, intensive care and progressive care, transitional care, 24-hour emergency care, surgical, behavioral health, dialysis, sleep disorders, cardiovascular, and imaging. With 102 licensed beds, this facility is an integral part of Upper Chesapeake Health System, with 33,000 outpatient visits and more than 30,000 Emergency Department visits in the year 2002.

Harford Memorial Hospital is a general acute care hospital with a Level II Emergency Department with associated ancillary and support services. Emergency services include trauma, cardiac observation, expedient care, and SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) services. Recent renovations have improved the facilities of the Emergency Department, Imaging Services, and the Intensive Care and Coronary Care Units. Additional renovations were made for the establishment of a 25-bed Behavioral Health unit managed by Sheppard Pratt Health System.

3. Upper Chesapeake Medical Center

The Upper Chesapeake Medical Center is centrally located in Bel Air at MD 24 and MacPhail Road, and provides county-wide medical services in a modern campus setting. The campus includes the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Upper Chesapeake Family Birthplace, Upper Chesapeake Cardiovascular Institute, Ambulatory Care Center of Harford County, and Harford Surgery Pavilion. The Upper Chesapeake Medical Center offers 120 private rooms with a 24-hour visitation policy, medical and surgical inpatient services, pediatric services, the Family Birthplace, emergency department, intensive and progressive care units, surgical services, dialysis, and cardiopulmonary, imaging, and rehabilitation services.

The Ambulatory Care Center of Harford County houses the Upper Chesapeake Cardiovascular Institute, the Harford Surgery Pavilion, as well as ambulatory care imaging services and diagnostic testing. Services through the Cardiac Institute are provided in conjunction with St. Joseph's Medical Center's Heart Institute. Multi-specialty surgeries not requiring a hospital stay are performed in the Surgery Pavilion of this building. In addition, there is a medical office building located on the campus.

4. Citizens Care Center

Citizens Care Center is a non-profit, comprehensive nursing care facility located on Market Street near the City's waterfront. As a nursing care facility, Citizens Care Center provides 24-hour long-term care and can accommodate up to 180 residents. In addition, it provides shorter-term services for occupational, physical, and speech rehabilitation. The facility employs approximately two hundred staff members, with a nursing staff of 110. The modern facilities include private and semi-private rooms, planned activities, and a fully-equipped pharmacy.

5. Public Health Services

The Harford County Health Department has one of its four Health Clinics in Havre de Grace. Leasing a building on Pennington Avenue, the Health Department sponsors clinics for cancer screening, child health care, family planning, hypertension screening, immunizations, maternity care, and pregnancy testing. The Health Clinic in Havre de Grace also provides information and referral services, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, medical assistance screening for pregnant women, social work services and the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program.