

Parks and Recreation

Goals

The City will:

- Ensure that new parks and recreation facilities are designed and located to reinforce and support the goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide parks that meet the needs of special needs citizens and youth.
- Create more recreational facilities sufficient to meet the City's adopted service standards.
- Develop parks and open space on existing city lands.
- Provide trails and bikeways to link parks and neighborhoods.



Overview

Chesapeake residents value highly their outdoor environment and its quality. The quality of life enjoyed by City residents is enhanced by the wealth of natural, cultural, historic and open space resources. They cherish the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors by visiting parks, participating in activities at community recreation centers, traveling scenic roadways, viewing farms and forested land, and enjoying a myriad of educational programs. The benefits of parks and recreational areas associated with physical and mental health are substantial - from the personal physical fitness gained through active outdoor recreation to the mental benefits of passive recreation, parks and open space. Community design which allows for adequate recreation facilities ensures that Chesapeake neighborhoods are attractive places to live with parks and open spaces for exercise, recreation, and enjoying nature. Finally, local economies prosper as businesses and economic investments are drawn to attractive, high-quality living environments that utilize sustainable design and carefully manage future growth.

A recent study by the Chesapeake Health Department found that unplanned suburban-style development is associated with high levels of driving, which contributes to air pollution and its associated health risks, as well as increased back pain, cardiovascular disease and stress levels among commuters. Suburban residents drive twice as far, walk and cycle one-third as often, consume twice as

much energy and produce twice as much air pollution as their urban counterparts who live where land use tends to be mixed. The Surgeon General of the United States cites a correlation between obesity and lack of exercise and high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart attacks and calls for increased recreation opportunities close to home where all Americans can play, exercise and improve their health.

Topping the list of benefits provided to us by natural areas, parks and open spaces are those associated with health, fitness and wellness. When parks and recreation areas are close to home, physical activity can become part of daily life, and enhance everyday living. Individuals and families can be active, both safely and conveniently. Local parks and recreation areas are home to many opportunities. From jogging and walking to playgrounds, athletic playing fields and tennis courts, parks support a variety of activities which contribute to the City's quality of life.

Planning for the City's parks and recreational programs is important to its overall quality of life. The City adopted its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1991, with an update to the implementation section in 1998. The basic objectives of the Plan include:

- Acquire land for parks and open space.
- Plan for and construct a comprehensive trail system.
- Construct additional athletic fields to meet existing and projected needs.
- Phase the development of park sites in relation to service demands.
- Enhance and expand existing facilities.
- Increase utilization of existing athletic fields.
- Maintain parks and facilities in good repair.
- Provide diverse indoor recreation and leisure opportunities.
- Develop a tournament-quality tennis complex.
- Increase the availability of water-related recreation.

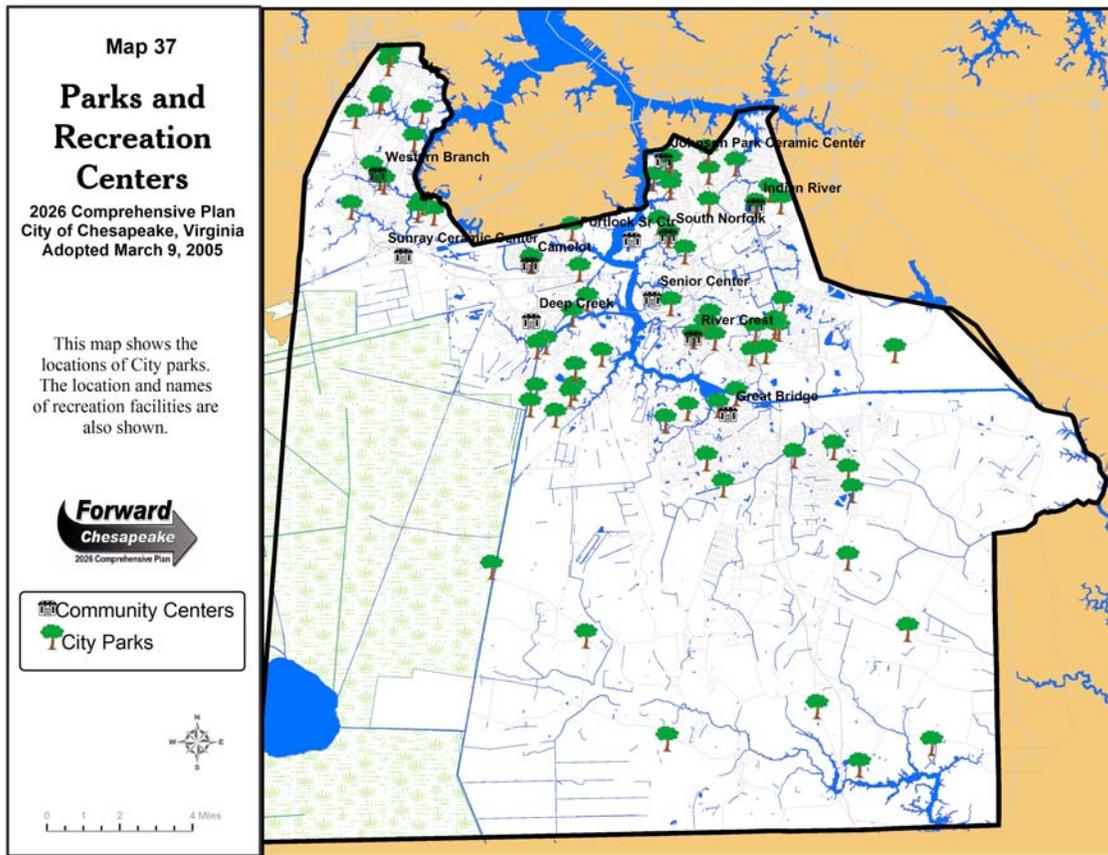
Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

The area standard for local park sites is 10 acres per 1,000 population. The City of Chesapeake currently has 65 local parks consisting of approximately 2,042 acres serving its current population of 214,759. Local parks are divided into three major classifications based on size: neighborhood, community and district parks. All three types are used to meet park standards.

Neighborhood parks range in size up to 10 acres with a primary radius of ½ mile to 1 ½ miles or 5-15 minutes walking distance. The area standard is 3 acres per 1,000 population. Currently, the City has a total of 52 neighborhood parks with a collective acreage of approximately 237 acres.

Community parks range in size from 20-50 acres with a primary service radius of 5 miles or 15 minutes driving time. The area standard is 3 acres per 1,000 population. Chesapeake currently has five community parks with a collective acreage of about 163 acres.

District parks have a minimum size of 50 acres with a primary service radius of 5-15 miles and 15-25 minute driving time. The area standard is 4 acres per 1000 population. The City currently has eight district parks with a total acreage of about 237 acres.



The Open Space Ordinance

City Council recently revised fees charged to developers for the provision and development of open space for new subdivisions when public parks are not provided by the developer. The fee amount per recorded lot increases from \$50 to \$500 if a park site is provided within the subdivision and increases from \$100 to \$1000 per lot if no park site is provided within the subdivision. This change was necessary as the original fee had not been revised since it was adopted in 1989. The Open Space Ordinance addresses primarily neighborhood parks and there is also a need for development of more district and community parks.

As Chesapeake's population increases and demographics change, planning for the manner in which future parks and recreational services are provided is essential to maintaining the City's high quality of life. In this regard, it will be essential to provide new and different opportunities to all segments of Chesapeake's population while maintaining and enhancing existing facilities.

Issue One: Impact on Quality of Life

City parks and recreation services and facilities are a significant element of what defines quality of life for Chesapeake residents.

Chesapeake will provide a parks and recreation system that will serve all segments of its population with a variety of facilities and programs necessary to meet expressed needs.

Strategies:

- The City will develop a phased program to provide additional park facilities to meet park standards as demand increases.
 - Continue efforts to develop existing park sites.
 - Prioritize the neighborhood park sites obtained through the Open Space and Recreation Ordinance for development based on the funds provided by the ordinance along with neighborhood needs.
 - Continue efforts to purchase land of sufficient size to develop regional and district parks including the following types of amenities:
 - Regional community centers
 - Multi-purpose fields
 - Nature Trails (walking/biking/canoe)
 - Equestrian facilities
 - Passive activities
 - Other types of recreational facilities, such as athletic fields and recreation facilities, must also be built as demand increases.
 - The City will explore all possible funding options for district and community parks including opportunities for public-private partnerships.
- The location of local parks to serve residents should be consistent with sound neighborhood planning principles.
 - Opportunities to co-locate parks and other recreational facilities with other public facilities should be pursued where practical.
 - Park facilities should be designed as an integral component of the community and should be accessible to the residents.
 - Opportunities to link park facilities to the community through sidewalks, bikeways, and trails should be sought.
 - New park sites that are a part of new developments which are surrounded by existing development, should be located in such a manner that the park site is accessible to and convenient to those living in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- The City or developers should provide a variety of recreational amenities to address the needs of a diverse population.
 - The City should consider including municipal swimming pools, teen centers, and equestrian facilities as alternative forms of recreational amenities.
 - A Feasibility and Program Development Study should be conducted as a prelude to developing a plan to construct mega-recreation centers. These centers could include a variety of amenities such as game rooms, swimming pools, fitness facilities, conference rooms, basketball courts, and day care facilities and could be incorporated as elements of the larger recreational complexes.
 - Citywide senior, therapeutic, and prevention programs should be developed to accommodate special population needs.

- Construct a comprehensive “connected” multi-purpose trail system by continuing to work with Planning and Public Works to implement the City’s Trails Plan as an element of the Master Transportation Plan (see also Transportation section of this Plan).
- Construct athletic facilities (softball, baseball, soccer fields, field hockey, etc.) in conjunction with park development plans to meet minimum athletic facility standards for Chesapeake.
- Existing parks and recreation facilities must be maintained as an integral part of the overall recreational network, and existing facilities should be enhanced as possible.
- Chesapeake’s unique environmental features and extensive waterways should be considered for their vast recreational opportunities (see also ‘Waterways’ in the Transportation element of this Plan).
 - A Scenic Waterway designation should be sought for certain key recreational waterways such as the Northwest River and the North Landing River.
 - Develop public waterway properties for boat ramps and canoe launch areas.
- As a means of enhancing economic development while providing for the recreational needs of Chesapeake citizens, the City should endeavor to develop world class sports facilities which may include multi-use playing fields built to tournament standards for local and regional tournaments.



Libraries

Goals

The City will:

- Provide adequate public facilities and services for all services which the City provides.
- Coordinate the location and design of all City public facilities with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.



Overview

The Department of Libraries and Research Services is responsible for the operation of the Central Library, five area libraries, and a bookmobile. As an educational and cultural repository for the City, the library serves citizens of all ages and interests by providing free access to a wide range of materials, programs and services. The library strives to select, preserve, and make accessible a balanced collection and programs which stimulate an interest in literature, reading and lifelong learning. Responding to the needs of the Chesapeake community, the library focuses on its primary roles of formal education support center, popular materials library, reference center, preschoolers' door to learning, and independent learning center. A City Council-appointed Library Board advises City Council regarding community library issues.

Within the Chesapeake Public Library System, the Central Library contains the most comprehensive collection and serves as the reference resource center, including computerized information services. The area libraries and the bookmobile assist in serving the citizens of this large city. The area libraries contain current and popular books, as well as a basic reference collection, newspapers, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, and a computerized information service.

A detailed description of each of the Library System components follows:

Library Administration plans and implements the strategies necessary to meet citizen expectations for innovative library service. Administration is responsible for financial/budget operations; personnel issues; strategic planning; promoting the services of the library; and for other management functions of the library system. The Library Director, with guidance from the Library Board and citizens, provides leadership to the library staff.

The *Central Library* houses a materials collection of over 289,000 items, including a Public Law Library and the Wallace Memorial Room, which is home to the local history collection. The library is also a partial depository for Commonwealth of Virginia and United States Government Federal documents. The library also houses a large periodicals collection and provides patron access to the Internet, typewriters, and computers. The enlarged and completely renovated 67,838 square foot Central Library opened in January 1993 and now has more than 500,000 visits annually. It has the largest circulation (over 662,000) and seats (342) of all library branches.

The 19,500 square foot *Greenbrier Library* has a collection of more than 87,000 items, including CDs, Videos, Audio books and Print books. The Reference Department includes an Online Database and Internet access. Other services provided by the Library include meeting room availability, typewriter and personal computer access, and an Adult Literacy Tutoring Room. A coin operated photo copier is also available. This library has a circulation of nearly 269,000 books and 160 seats.



Greenbrier Library

The 17,053 square foot *Russell Memorial Library*, originally known as the Western Branch Library, had its beginnings in a small room at the rear of A.W. Johnson's store in Churchland in the Fall of 1963 as an experiment. With the opening of the small stationary library, bookmobile service to the area was discontinued. About a year after the successful experimental library opened, a new branch was leased in the Churchland Shopping Center, replacing the small, one-room library. In January of 1968, 10 square miles of the Western Branch Borough became part of Portsmouth in the court annexation agreement and the Churchland Library became a Portsmouth library. Charles Russell, in memory of his late wife, Parthenis Russell, donated .73 acres at 2408 Taylor Road for the City's first new library building. The Russell Memorial Library quickly outgrew its new space, so a wing was added in the summer of 1984. Within a year, however, the library was again in need of expansion. A new Library was constructed at 2808 Taylor Road. The relocated and expanded library opened for business on September 4, 1992. It contains over 91,000 volumes, 115 seats, and has a book circulation of over 296,000.



Russell Memorial Library

The *Major Hillard Library* was opened on June 5, 1977 with a collection of 7,264 items. The 5,000 square foot building was named in honor of Judge Major Hillard, a long time Deep Creek resident and now holds over 53,000 items. The Major Hillard Library was later moved to a five acre site on Old George Washington Highway adjacent to the Washington Square Shopping Center. The new library comprises 22,430 square feet and maintains a volume of over 57,000 items. It will eventually hold a collection of 100,000 volumes. It has 126 seats and a circulation of over 168,000 books.

The first *South Norfolk Library* was sponsored by the Women's Club of South Norfolk and opened its doors with a donated collection in Lakeside Park in 1953. In May 1956, the library moved to a rented building at 1015 Chesapeake Avenue, where it remained until 1958 when the building at the corner of Poindexter and Decatur Streets was constructed. Linwood L. Briggs, Jr., as Mayor of South Norfolk, was instrumental in proposing construction of the South Norfolk Library as a memorial to those who lost their lives during World War II. During his years of dedicated service, Mr. Briggs collected historic photographs of South Norfolk. Renovated in 1989, the 6,946 square foot facility was the first Chesapeake Library to have a room solely dedicated to training. On September 26, 1997, the literacy room was dedicated to Mr. Linwood L. Briggs. Many of his collected historic photographs of South Norfolk are displayed in the room. First Lady of Virginia, Mrs. Lindsay Almond, Jr., dedicated the first South Norfolk Library building in 1958. First Lady of Virginia, Mrs. Jeannie P. Baliles, dedicated the renovated South Norfolk Library in August 1989. The library currently has a collection of more than 44,000 items, including videos, CD's, audio books and printed books. Other services provided by the library include patron access to the Internet, typewriters, and computers. The library also houses a periodical and newspaper collection. It has 50 seats and a book circulation of over 51,000.



South Norfolk Library

The *Indian River Library* was first established in 1965, when the bookmobile could no longer keep up with the demands of the Indian River residents. A storefront library was opened on Sparrow Road in the Indian River Shopping Center in October 1965. In December of 1978, the present facility at 2320 Old Greenbrier Parkway was opened. Prior to its recent demolition, the library contained over 57,000 volumes, had a book circulation of over 104,000, and held 16 seats. An expansion of the library was completed in 2004. The new library now comprises 16,981 square feet and has a capacity of holding 70,000 items. It has 58 seats in the public area, 30 seats in the children's area, and 100 seats in the meeting room. Over 27,000 patrons visit the facility on a monthly basis. This library has one of the highest internet use rates of all the branch libraries, with over 7,000 internet customers using 22 computers in an average month. The average monthly book circulation is over 13,500.

The Chesapeake Public Law Library occupies a 600 square foot facility housed on the second floor of the Central Library. It affords a variety of seating in a quiet, comfortable environment conducive to research and study, as well as browsing. The library is self-sufficient with its own collection, online services, public access catalogs, photocopier, and fax machines. Its collection encompasses over 250 titles and 10,000 volumes which include federal law finding aids; legal encyclopedias, directories and handbooks; selected

state codes including the Code of Virginia; Supreme Court case records; and professional journals.

The Chesapeake Public Library System is also supported by two auxiliary organizations. The *Friends of the Chesapeake Public Library* is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the Library's services and resources. Members help support the Library through activities including volunteer service, cultural education and recreational events, and financial assistance for continuing improvements to library facilities and programs. The *Chesapeake Public Library Foundation* was established in 1997 to ensure the future provision of resource services at the libraries through building and managing endowment and capital funds, and providing grants to the Library System from these funds.

The Library System is recognized as an integral component of the overall fabric of the community. Chesapeake Public Libraries will continue to pursue its overarching goal of helping to improve the quality of life of Chesapeake citizens by providing the information and services that help them to manage and improve their lives. It will continue to adapt itself to remain a leading social institution in an ever-changing world. The Library System's current inventory of building square footages, volumes, seats and circulation have been compared with library standards from the Commonwealth of Virginia and have been found to exceed the state's minimum standards. It will strive to continue maintaining these high service standards.

In looking at future library needs based on anticipated growth in Chesapeake, certain planning standards should be kept in mind. According to the Development Impact Assessment Handbook published by the Urban Land Institute, for municipalities of 200,000 to 500,000, there should be 1.25 library seats per 1,000 population; 0.35 square feet of library space per capita; 7 book circulations per capita; and 1.25 volumes per capita.

In light of these standards, future challenges and needs identified by the Library System include: covering under-served areas of the City, including Crestwood, Bowers Hill, Campostella Square, and Southern Chesapeake (which are now being served by the Bookmobile); providing at least one library per borough, according to demand; remodeling or renovating the South Norfolk, Russell Memorial, Central, and Greenbrier Libraries; maintaining and enhancing (as needed) the in-house daily courier service that shuttles books and other materials between the branch libraries, ensuring adequate and balanced circulation; and continuing to promote technology as a tool to enhance access to library services by patrons. This final challenge includes continued efforts to enhance Internet access, such as the recent Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant that enabled the Library System to provide more Internet stations at all library branches.

Issue One: Impact of Growth on Services

Accessibility to library services is impacted by city growth and demographic changes. It is important for the Library System to consider trends in population growth patterns across the City, in order to plan for future library locations and services. For example, the Central Library currently serves the Southern Chesapeake Borough. Future growth patterns in this area will determine how long the Central Library will be able to serve that region.

The traditional rule of thumb for locating libraries is that they be built near residential areas, shopping centers and transit lines, so as to be within walking distance of large segments of the population. This rule of thumb has not been applicable to Chesapeake,

due to its size and orientation toward automobiles. The use of the Bookmobile can help to address this issue, but the changing demographics of Chesapeake will dictate how the Bookmobile is utilized in the future, as it strives to continue serving areas in need where transportation and poverty are issues, as well as serving growth areas.

Accessibility of library services is a big issue for the Library System, particularly for lower income citizens who face the biggest challenge in going online, buying books, and owning computers. The Library System continues to be on the lookout for underserved areas of the City as it relates to accessibility of library services, such as Campostella Square or Crestwood.

The City of Chesapeake will endeavor to develop a Library System that is sized adequately to serve a growing population, and that is accessible to the all citizens of Chesapeake regardless of age, handicap, location, or socio-economic status.

Strategies:

- Planned future development will be considered when determining the future location of library facilities.
- The impact on libraries will be evaluated as a component of new development requests.
- Public-private partnerships will continue to be pursued.
- Libraries should be considered for co-location with other municipal facilities in order to increase their accessibility and functionality.
- The Library System should continue to develop multi-year capital project plans in anticipation of future growth.

Issue Two: Technological Advancements

Changes in technology have had a profound effect on the manner in which library services are delivered. These changes will continue and libraries will have to adapt to these changes. Public computer access is vital in an age where computers are used for many routine activities, such as searching/applying for jobs, shopping, paying bills, and doing research. Finding the right balance between online library services and “bricks and mortar” libraries to best meet the changing needs of the citizenry is a big issue. The Library System must make sure that future trends for library services, such as kiosks in malls or mini-branches in shopping centers, are meeting citizens’ needs and not just creating a presence.

The City of Chesapeake will endeavor to utilize advancements in technology to improve the quality and availability of library resources wherever practical.

Strategies:

- The Library System will continue to position itself to be a preferred location for conducting community surveys and forums.

- The Library System will increase its use of online services.
- The Library System will continue to explore new trends for reaching the community with its programs and services, such as online kiosks in malls and mini-branch libraries in shopping centers.

Issue Three: Library Funding

Limited funding resources will make construction of future library branches a major challenge. As the City's population continues to grow, the daily demands on existing library buildings will continue to grow, causing accelerated wear and tear. Unless a strategy is developed for routine maintenance and upkeep, the buildings will fall into disrepair and citizens will become disenchanted with the facilities.

The City of Chesapeake will pursue alternative funding opportunities to provide funding for the construction and maintenance of Library facilities.

Strategies:

- When considering possible funding sources for public libraries, opportunities for creative funding sources should be sought including possible public/private partnership options.
- In order to reduce costs, opportunities to co-locate library facilities with other public facilities should be considered when determining future library locations.



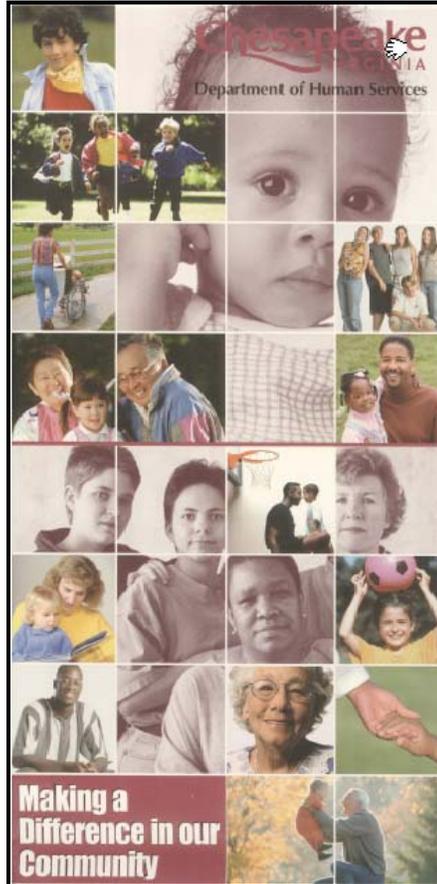
Major Hillard Library

Human Services

Goals

The City will:

- Provide adequate public facilities and services for all services which the City provides.



Overview

The mission of the Department of Human Services is to provide a holistic approach to prevention, intervention, and appropriate sanctions for people considered impoverished, those with special needs and juvenile delinquents. The Department achieves this through an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and proactive process supported by public and private partners. The Department's guiding principles are as follows:

- To strengthen its customers by providing effective, timely and high quality services using innovative approaches;
- To listen empathetically to its stakeholders and to be honest and forthright in its responses to them;
- To respect, value and serve its stakeholders and the community; to be concerned about and contribute to their well being; and to operate with integrity so as to be deserving of their trust;

- To strive for excellence by aligning its policies and procedures to match its mission and core values;
- To provide meaningful work, fair compensation, and a safe, healthy work environment that encourages openness, creativity, self-discipline, and growth; and
- To build stakeholders' relationships by including full and honest dialogue, responsiveness to needs and concerns through the exchange of accurate information, skills and talents.

A primary goal of the Department of Human Services is to improve the quality of life in Chesapeake by helping people help themselves, helping those incapable of acting on their own behalf, and ensuring that every citizen has an acceptable standard of living. The Department serves more than 77,000 of Chesapeake's most vulnerable citizens, including:

- Abused and neglected children;
- Troubled youth;
- Families in need of food or shelter;
- Individuals and families facing a crisis; and
- Neglected or exploited adults and senior citizens.

One of the largest agencies in City government, the Department of Human Services has more than 352 employees with an operating budget of \$27 million. The Department is organized into several divisions, as follows:

Social Services – offers income support and social services in a professional and caring manner through the following programs:

- Adoptions and Foster Care;
- Child Protective Services;
- Family Services;
- Adult Services;
- Employment Services in the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) and Welfare to Work (WtW);
- Benefits: i.e. Food Stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), General Relief;
- Fatherhood Initiative; and
- Mentorship.

Tidewater Detention Home (TDH) – a short-term, regional facility dedicated to providing secure detention services to the children of the cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Franklin, Portsmouth and Suffolk and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton. TDH averages a daily population of 128 youth. Programming includes education, group counseling, medical services, mental health assessments, behavior management and recreational activities.

Chesapeake Interagency Consortium (CIC) – operates the State Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) program. The CIC provides high quality, child-centered, family-focused, and cost-effective community-based services to high-risk youth and their families.

When considering the future human services needs in Chesapeake within the context of a growing city, certain planning standards should be kept in mind. According to the

Development Impact Assessment Handbook published by the Urban Land Institute, it can be expected that 23.6 welfare workers will be needed for each 10,000 population for municipalities between 200,000-299,999 in size. Chesapeake's projected population in 2026 will be nearly 265,000.

Issue One: Department Facilities Needs

The City's most vulnerable citizens often have multiple services needs that require assistance from several different agencies or organizations. Accessing these various services can be a challenge, particularly if the individuals and/or families have transportation issues.

The Human Services Department will work with other human services providers, including non-City entities, to fulfill the vision of creating a human services campus.

Strategies:

- Relocate to a building that could better serve the Human Services Department's needs for enough space for its programs and services, as well as to utilize current and emerging technologies to facilitate service to clients.
- Facilitate a "one-stop shop" approach to various human services, which would promote economies of scale in terms of buildings and other operational costs, especially benefiting non-profit entities.
- Opportunities for co-location of human services facilities should be sought to reduce public facility and operational costs.

Cultural Facilities

Goals

The City will:

- Foster the development of a performing arts school.
- Foster the development of an independent cultural arts center that is accessible by highway and transit.
- Foster the development of satellite cultural arts centers.
- Foster international cultural exchanges.



Overview

The City's cultural and artistic endeavors are coordinated under the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission. The Fine Arts Commission serves as a vehicle for educating the public about the significance of the arts. The Commission also ensures that the arts are accessible to citizens and are reflective of the City's ethnically and socially diverse constituencies. The Commission operates under the auspices of the Department of Economic Development because of perceived congruencies in their respective roles relating to improving economic, social, and cultural opportunities in the City. These objectives lead to improved overall quality of life and to the perceived attractiveness of the City as a place to live, work, and play.

As the City continues to grow and mature, the presence of cultural facilities/amenities will become increasingly important. The 2026 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement affirms this, stating that "As the City continues to grow, it will be a progressive community of vibrant residential and commercial neighborhoods...each with their own identity yet interconnected culturally, economically, politically, and physically." International cultural exchanges between the City and other communities around the world have been occurring for a number of years and should continue. These exchanges are good for facilitating awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity and also augment economic development efforts.

As the City looks to the future in providing adequate cultural facilities that contribute to the overall quality of life, certain planning standards should be kept in mind. According to the Development Impact Assessment Handbook published by the Urban Land Institute, there should be 23.6 full-time municipal employees devoted to health/welfare/recreation/culture activities for municipalities between 200,000-299,000. Chesapeake's projected population in 2026 will be nearly 265,000.

Issue One: Need for Cultural Facilities

The typical suburban-style development pattern that has characterized growth in Chesapeake over the past several decades has not been conducive to the maintenance and enhancement of cultural facilities in the City. The ability to interact on a human scale is important to the social fabric of a community. As Chesapeake matures, it should continue to view itself as not just a bedroom community, but as a city in its own right, complete with cultural and artistic diversity. Critical to this transition is the presence of accessible public gathering places, as well as recreational and leisure activities that give people opportunities to congregate.

Future land use planning decisions and development review processes should, to the maximum extent feasible, promote the expansion of cultural facilities throughout the City.

Strategies:

- A variety of funding options should be explored for the provision of cultural facilities.
- Cultural diversity could be fostered by devoting a segment of the City to creating specialty/ethnic restaurants and eateries, with outdoor dining as appropriate.
- Art and culture can be a vital tool to address the needs of these children, by providing them with outlets to express themselves (e.g. public murals), thereby building self-esteem and pride in their community.
- The City may consider accepting cultural facilities or sites or funding for such facilities that may be proffered by developers.

Issue Two: Need for Performing Arts Center in Chesapeake

The City does not have a dedicated performing arts/cultural center to serve Chesapeake residents. A small to mid-size performing arts/cultural center would be a tremendous asset for the City, both from a quality of life standpoint and for economic development purposes.

The City will continue to study the feasibility of establishing a performing arts/cultural center in Chesapeake, including building public support and identifying proposed funding mechanisms.

Strategies:

- The City should continue the pursuit of the development of an Arts Education Center. A study to assess the feasibility of constructing an arts performance center, to research locations, and to provide conceptual drawings has been initiated.

- Satellite performing arts centers should be considered for other areas of the City. These venues would primarily host community-based programs.
- Opportunities to co-locate cultural facilities with other facilities should be considered as a means of reducing overall costs. For example, opportunities to combine the City's cable channel, WCTV-48 with the performing arts facility should be explored.

Issue Three: Provision for Public Art

Chesapeake suffers from a shortage of public art in its public spaces, office buildings, parks and other community venues. More public art in parks, public spaces, road medians, and in front of public buildings would contribute to the City's cultural identity.

The City will strive to expand the use of public art in a variety of settings throughout Chesapeake, utilizing public, private, and public/private mechanisms.

Strategies:

- The City should explore the feasibility of placing thematic public art at strategic locations around Chesapeake, which could contribute to a sense of unity and common community. Public art can and should be promoted in all areas of the City, not just urban areas.

