

Community Facilities

Public schools, parks, libraries, community centers, and other public facilities should serve as “community magnets” to help provide a sense of community. Such facilities should be linked to the neighborhood by pedestrian and bicycle paths, and public transit and should be utilized to the greatest extent possible for local recreational, cultural, and civic activities.

The major community facilities proposed in this Plan are parks and schools. These facilities are critical to the neighborhood concept advocated by this Plan. They will help provide public meeting places for residents and workers and create community focal points within the neighborhood.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Plan Objective:

To provide conveniently located parks and other facilities for both active and passive recreation to meet the needs and interests of various segments of the community, including the handicapped.

Plan Recommendations:

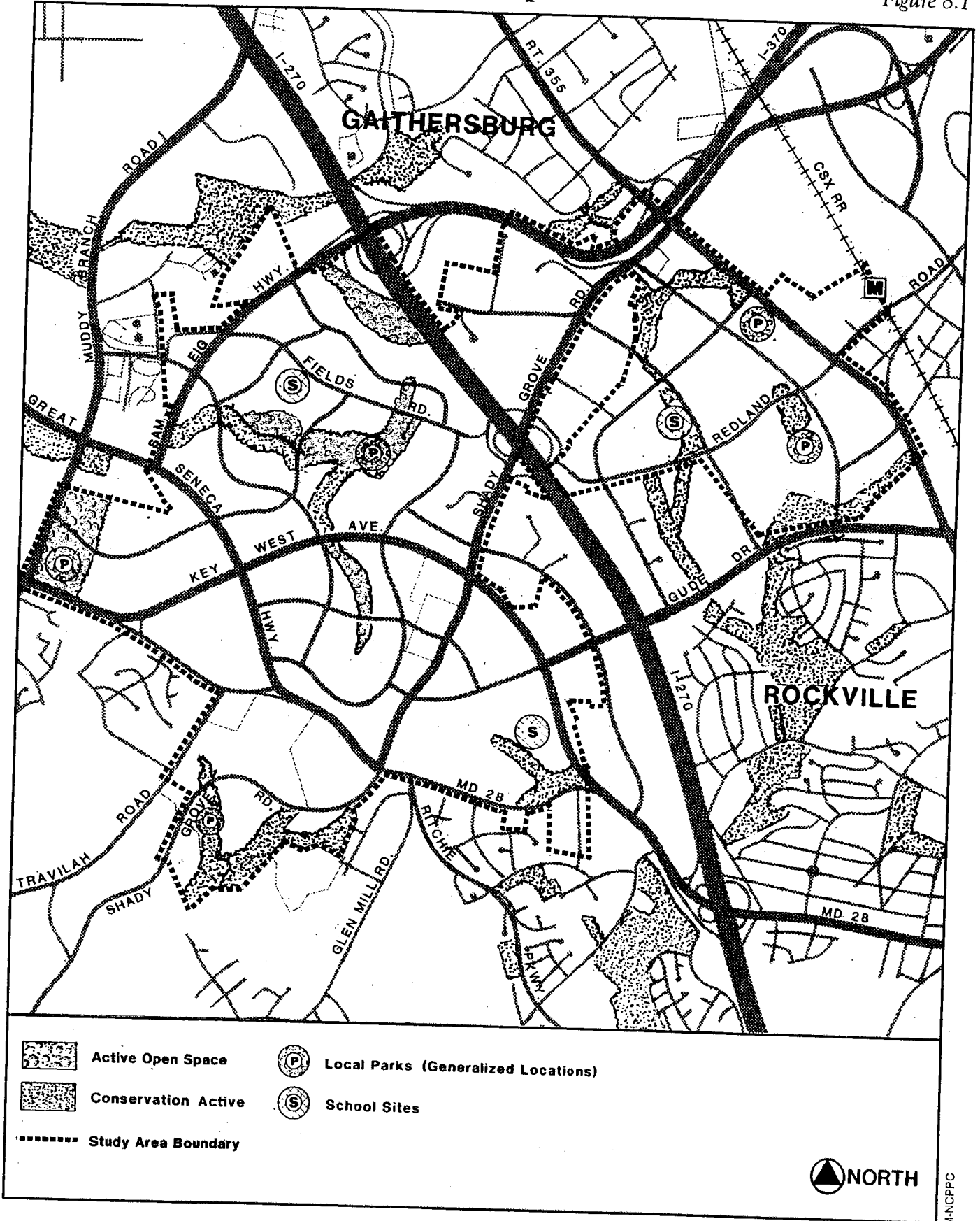
This Plan proposes three general types of park, recreation, and open space: (See Figure 8.1 and the fold-out Land Use Plan Map.)

- active recreation areas,
- neighborhood recreation areas and civic open spaces, and
- conservation areas.

A description of each of these elements and the Plan’s recommendations for each are contained in Table 8.1, page 113.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Figure 8.1



Summary of Parks, Recreation & Open Space Recommendations *Table 8.1*

Type of Park & Recreation Facility	Plan Recommendation	Discussion
ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS		
Local Parks	<p>This Plan designates local parks at the following locations (see Figure 8.1).</p> <p>Crown Farm: The proposed site includes a stormwater management pond with a pathway. This park is shown adjacent to the proposed transitway. Careful planning will be necessary to assure that the transitway does not impede access to the park. A park at this general location is already proposed in the CIP for acquisition and development.</p> <p>Banks Farm (Johns Hopkins University): This area will be a major employment center with some university housing. Active recreation facilities will be needed by both residents and workers.</p> <p>Traville: This site will include residential uses, a conference center and employment uses. A local park would provide recreational opportunities for residents, workers, and conference center visitors.</p> <p>King Farm: A local park is shown on the portion of the King Farm planned for higher density residential development. Additional areas for recreation activities are proposed on the King Farm south of Redland Road. These type of activities should be incorporated into the proposed elementary school/local park site.</p>	<p>A local park is generally 10 acres and includes ballfields, paved courts, playgrounds, picnic areas and landscaping. Local parks can be either public or private.</p> <p>The need for future local park facilities for the entire Gaithersburg Vicinity Planning Area was estimated in the 1988 <i>Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan</i>. These needs have been projected to the year 1995. Projections indicate that approximately seven additional basketball courts and six additional playgrounds will be needed by 1995 for the Planning Area. These needs will be met by recreation facilities at future public schools and local parks within the Shady Grove Study Area and the remainder of the Gaithersburg Vicinity Planning Area.</p>
School Sites	<p>Proposed school sites on the Crown, Thomas, and King Farms will provide recreational facilities such as basketball courts and ballfields. The King Elementary School should be combined with a local park.</p>	<p>Park and school sites have been dispersed (rather than combined) so that more area residents can have close-by recreational facilities.</p>

Summary of Parks, Recreation & Open Space Rec. (cont.)

Table 8.1

Type of Park & Recreation Facility	Plan Recommendation	Discussion
NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION AND CIVIC OPEN SPACES	<p>This Plan encourages developers to provide pedestrian-oriented private recreation facilities within individual neighborhoods. These would include open play areas (to throw a frisbee, play tag), playgrounds, tot lots, and sitting and picnic areas.</p> <p>This Plan also recommends that developers of office, commercial, and industrial projects provide urban parks and civic spaces for employees and customers.</p>	<p>Limited County financial resources generally prevent the provision of public neighborhood parks in new residential areas. Developers will be required to designate such areas on their subdivision plans and provide for their construction and future maintenance.</p> <p>In smaller projects, uses could include landscaped walkways and courtyards, sitting areas, and outdoor places.</p> <p>Larger projects should include some active recreation facilities (such as softball, small soccer fields, and basketball courts), as well as passive open spaces (such as stormwater management ponds with landscaping, pathways and picnic areas).</p>
CONSERVATION AREAS	<p>This Plan designates conservation areas, which include stream valley parks and private open space areas.</p>	<p>Conservation areas help assure permanent preservation of floodplains and adjacent steep slopes and wooded areas. They are instrumental in reducing sedimentation, flooding, and erosion, as well as preserving water quality. Additionally, they provide interconnected open spaces that weave through developed areas, offering visual relief and potential pathway connectors. These areas are predominantly undeveloped, but may contain a few picnic/playground areas and trails.</p>

Summary of Parks, Recreation & Open Space Rec. (cont.)*Table 8.1*

Type of Park & Recreation Facility	Plan Recommendation	Discussion
CONSERVATION AREAS (CONT.)		<p>At the time of development, stream valley areas should be either dedicated as public parkland or retained as private conservation areas. Public parkland is usually restricted to those areas which tie into the existing or proposed park system in some way as a connector to a stream valley, local, or other type of park. Where there is no potential connection to a public park, private conservation areas should be designated on subdivision plans. These areas would be owned and maintained by a homeowners associations. Several future developments in the Shady Grove Study Area have designated conservation areas. They include: Traville, Thomas, Banks, and King Farms.</p>

This Plan recommends all three types of park, recreation, and open space areas be provided as part of large development projects. This is especially important in higher density areas.

There are numerous park and recreation facilities outside the Study Area, but close enough to be easily accessible to Study Area residents. They include:

- Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park (located south of the Shady Grove Study Area), which contains over 800 acres for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study.
- The Seneca Creek State Park along Great Seneca Creek. The M-NCPPC owns the land upstream from MD 355, and the State of Maryland owns 5,600 acres along both sides of Great Seneca Creek, downstream from MD 355, to the Potomac River. A lake, built on Long Draught Branch in the State Park, provides water-oriented recreational opportunities.
- Two recreational parks (Gude and Muncaster), which will be constructed adjacent to the Study Area and will serve Shady Grove Study Area residents. These parks will provide a large number of active recreation facilities, such as ballfields, to help meet County-wide needs. They will also include other specialized facilities, such as large picnic areas and playgrounds.

Public Schools

The public school is an essential component of community life and, therefore, must be an integral part of community design and development. The need for new schools is determined by both the capacity of existing schools and the projected increase in student enrollment.

Plan Objective:

To provide appropriate school facilities to meet the general and specialized educational needs of area residents.

Existing and Programmed Facilities:

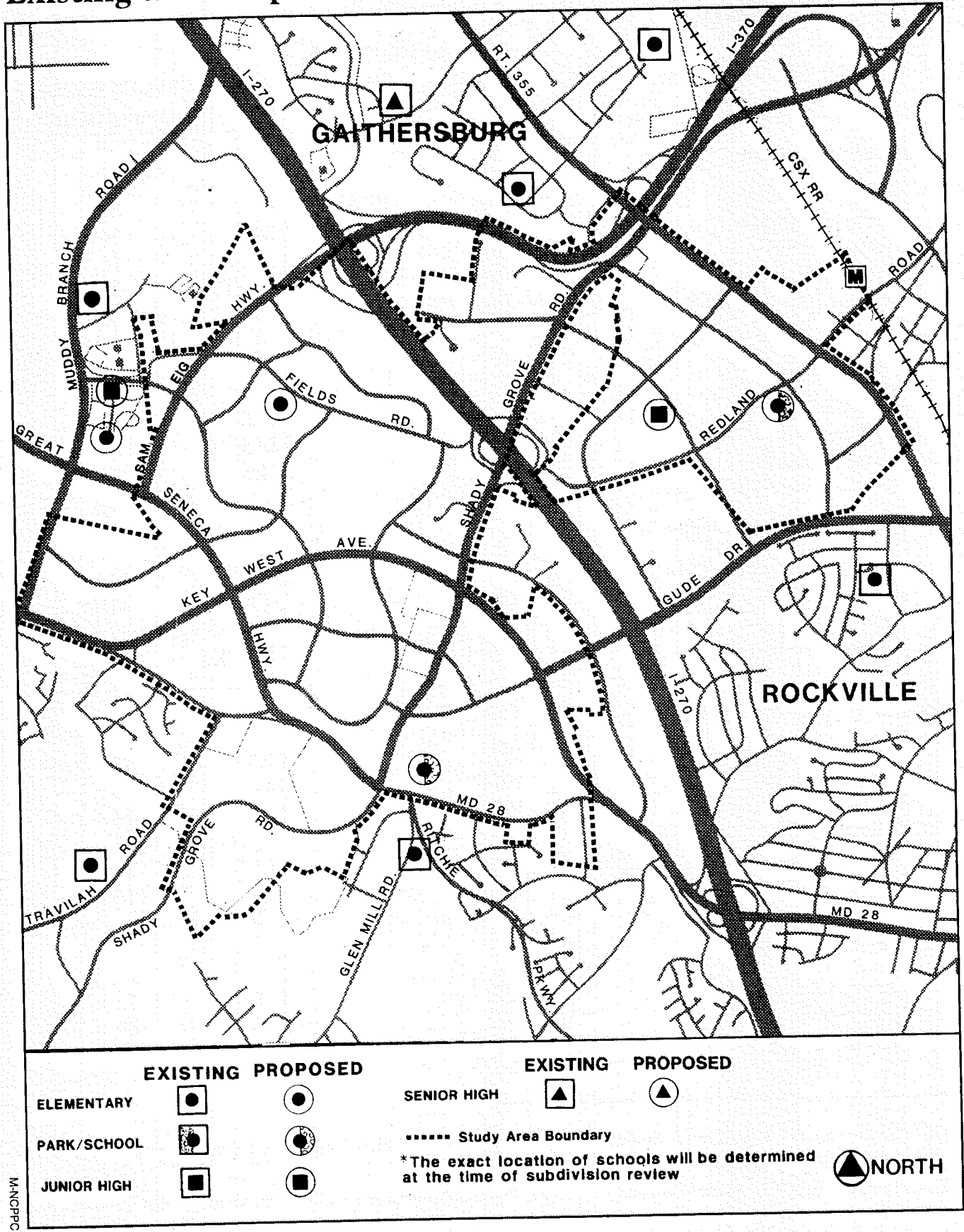
While there are no existing public schools located within the Shady Grove Study Area, there are several schools in the immediate area which serve the Shady Grove Study Area. (See Figure 8.2, page 117.)

The enrollment policy for elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Vicinity Master Plan area has changed since the adoption of the 1985 Master Plan. Elementary school capacity at individual schools has increased from 400-500 students to approximately 690-740 students. This increase requires greater building area and more parking spaces. Also, additional classrooms are needed for specialized programs.

The Superintendent for Montgomery County Public Schools has indicated that the need for a proposed up-County mathematics/science program will be studied in FY 1991.

Existing and Proposed School Sites

Figure 8.2



MAN/CPPC

Public Schools by High School Criteria Serving Shady Grove Study Area

Table 8.2

High School Cluster/ School Name	Date Orig.	Year Modern	Site Size (Acres)	No. Of Teaching Stations/Classrooms
Gaithersburg Cluster				
Gaithersburg HS	1951	1978	42.1	89
Gaithersburg JH	1960	1988	24.2	54
Rosemont ES	1965		8.0	16
Summit Hall ES	1971		10.2 PK	20
Washington Grove ES	1956	1984	10.9	20
Magruder Cluster				
Magruder HS	1970		30.0	63
Redland MS	1971		20.5 PK	36
Candlewood ES	1986		11.8	22
Richard Montgomery Cluster				
Richard Montgomery HS	1942	1976	25.7	72
Julius West MS	1961		21.4	41
Beall ES	1954	1970	7.4 PK	27
College Gardens ES	1967		7.9 PK	23
Thomas S. Wootton Cluster				
Thomas S. Wootton HS	1970		27.5	73
Robert Frost IS	1971		24.8	38
Dufief ES	1975		10.0	24
Fallsmead ES	1974		9.0 PK	22
Lakewood ES	1968		11.5	22
Stone Mill ES	1988		8.9	16
Quince Orchard Cluster				
Quince Orchard HS	1988		31.8	72
Ridgeview IS	1975		20.0	49
Fields Road ES	1973		10.0	20

NOTE: Schools are not located inside Study Area, but service area falls within Study Area. PK denotes an adjacent park site; park acreage is in addition to that shown.

SOURCE: Approved FY 90 Master Plan and FY 90 - FY 95 Capital Improvements Program, Montgomery County Public Schools, June 1989.

M/CPPC

Plan Recommendations:

This Plan estimates that four public schools (three elementary and one middle school) are needed to serve the projected public school age population of the Shady Grove Study Area. The proposed general locations for these schools are shown on Figure 8.1, page 112. The specific location of schools should be determined at the time of subdivision review. Elementary schools are generally 12 acres in size, while middle schools are 20 acres.

Human Services

As the Shady Grove Study Area grows, the demand on social services, particularly in the area of child day-care, will increase.

The programming and delivery of human services are the responsibility of the County government and private service organizations. It is appropriate, however, for this Plan to recommend locations at which these services might be provided. Human services, such as elderly day-care, teen programs, child day-care, and recreation, should be provided throughout the Shady Grove Study Area.

This Plan identifies appropriate locations for the provision of human services facilities. These sites are identified because of their accessibility by public transit as well as automobile, and because of the ability of an appropriately scaled facility to be compatible with proposed land uses in the immediate area. This identification of locations is made to encourage the provision of facilities needed to meet the needs of the Shady Grove Study Area's residents.

Elderly

Needs:

Although the Shady Grove Study Area's elderly population is modest, it is expected to increase as the Shady Grove Study Area continues to grow, its population matures, and housing opportunities are broadened. Demographic modeling for the County indicates that the percentage of individuals in the 20-30 age group will decrease in the future, and the total number and the percentage of people over 65 will increase. This outlook for an accelerated rate of increase in the elderly population indicates a potential for a population group whose prospective needs will provide a substantial challenge to a caring community.

Housing for the elderly will be needed in the Shady Grove Study Area, as will nursing homes. Programs and day care centers for the elderly parents of Shady Grove Study Area residents may also be needed. The existing and planned elderly facilities in and near the Shady Grove Study Area are summarized below:

- Shady Grove Adventist Adult Day Care and Nursing Center
- National Lutheran Home for the Aged

- Collingswood Nursing Center
- Rockville Nursing Home
- Ring House Senior Housing (open 1989)

Plan Recommendations:

- Support the provision of adult day care facilities.
- Encourage the location of elderly housing and elderly support services along designated bus routes.
- Encourage the provision of housing for the elderly at appropriate locations in the Shady Grove Study Area.

Child Day-Care

Needs:

The number of working parents and the projected increases in the number of children of appropriate ages in the Shady Grove Study Area indicate a need for additional child day-care facilities and opportunities.

Facilities:

The Shady Grove Study Area is served by a wide variety of child care centers, programs, and arrangements. There are currently 18 licensed group child care centers. They are listed in Appendix C. The County Government (as part of a County-wide program) provides a site at the Life Sciences Center for a modular child care facility. The Life Sciences Center site was selected based upon criteria such as adequate parking, ease of drop-off for parents, potential for development of the Plan area, and access from major transportation arteries.

Plan Recommendations:

- When appropriate, consider day care centers as an amenity associated with applications for optional zones (such as MXP and PD).
- Encourage the provision of child day-care facilities at appropriate locations in the Shady Grove Study Area.
- Consider the feasibility of locating day-care facilities at proposed Park-and-Ride lots.
- If the Shady Grove Metro station area redevelops, require the provision of day-care facilities as part of the redevelopment process.

Housing for Special Populations

People who are physically and mentally handicapped can often be cared for best in a noninstitutional setting such as home communities with others with similar special needs. Such people generally are those who need supervision or assistance to function in a larger community. As long as the parking does not create an adverse impact on the adjoining neighbors, such homes should be appropriate for any residential community. Efforts, however, should be made to avoid an over-concentration of such homes.

Other Community Facilities

Library Services

The Shady Grove Study Area is served by the Gaithersburg Regional Library, the largest of the County's four regional libraries. The 30,000-square-foot facility is located outside the Study Area in Montgomery Village and houses the County's visual and performing arts specialty collection.

There is a small library collection managed by the County at the Public Service Training Academy (PSTA) that supports police and fire and rescue training. This collection is available for public use.

New specialty collections and services are not planned at this time, with the possible exception of one related to biomedical sciences. This might be planned in cooperation with the University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University, either in place of, or in addition to, the present small library shared jointly between the County and the Shady Grove Campus of the University of Maryland, which is located at the PSTA.

A small County branch library should be located on the King Farm. The facility is intended to provide limited service, such as check-out and drop-off of high circulation books and materials for transit passengers and residents of the surrounding high density employment and residential neighborhood. Therefore, it need not be a freestanding building, but could instead occupy space in a shopping area along the designated main street.

Shady Grove Life Sciences Center

The Shady Grove Life Sciences Center contains a variety of public and private hospitals and institutions, such as Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, outpatient services, physicians' offices, and mental health services. The educational facilities of the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University are an important part of the Center.

Public Safety

Police protection is provided by the County and the City of Gaithersburg. Fire protection to the Study Area is currently provided by Stations 8 and 28 of the Gaithersburg Fire Department and Station 31 of the Rockville Fire Department. A fire station may be needed on the King Farm to serve the high density employment and residential community to be developed there. The need and location will be determined at the time of subdivision review. Other facilities may be necessary as development occurs.