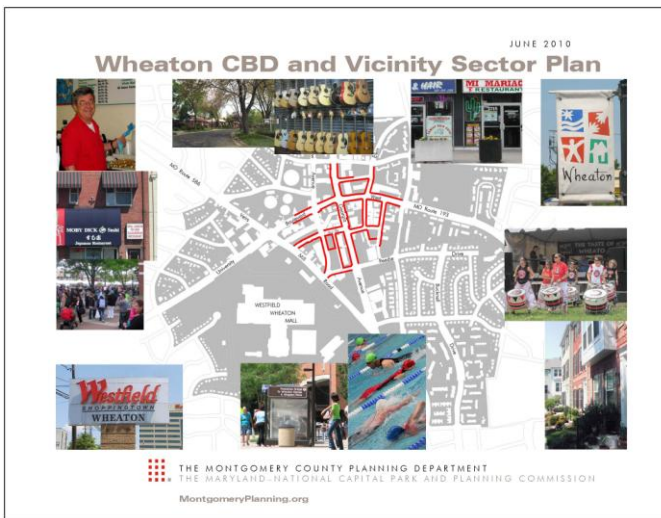


Appendix 5

Community Facilities

For more information, call the Community Based Planning Division at 301-495-4555



Wheaton CBD and Vicinity Sector Plan

Wheaton is served by a regional services center, public schools, a library, hospitals and health clinics, police stations, fire and rescue facilities, and family services. The Plan's goal is to provide safe and accessible services and facilities that meet the present and future needs of all residents.

The Plan recommends that the County create an overall plan for the four community facilities just outside the sector plan area to the north. The Wheaton Rescue Squad, Wheaton Regional Library, and the County Recreation Center sites should be connected across Arcola Avenue with shared parking and internal pedestrian paths and sitting areas.

Public Schools

The Wheaton Sector Plan area is within the Downcounty Consortium (DCC), which includes five high schools and their feeder middle and elementary schools—Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton . Four elementary schools that serve the Plan area: Arcola, Glen Haven, Rock View, and Oakland Terrace. All are projected to be over capacity in the future (enrollment at Arcola, Oakland Terrace, and Rock View already exceeds programmed capacity. Glen Haven is expected to be over capacity by the 2010-11 academic year). Arcola Elementary was opened in 2004, and a substantial classroom addition is planned for Rock View Elementary School, set to open in August. Kindergarten students from Oakland Terrace Elementary School will attend school in the lower level of Sligo Middle School for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.

Enrollment at all three middle schools that serve the Plan area—Colonel E. Brook Lee Middle School, Newport Mill Middle School, and Sligo Middle School—is projected to remain within capacity. At the high school level Einstein is projected to remain at full capacity, while Northwood, which was reopened in 2007, is projected to remain within its capacity. However, as a part of the Downcounty Consortium, these students may choose to attend other consortium schools—Blair, Kennedy, or Wheaton—depending on their choice of signature program.

Assuming that the low scenario is the worst case (slightly larger than the build out or the Round 7.1 2030 forecast) Planning staff provided development estimates for properties in the four elementary school boundary areas to MCPS staff, who then generated student population numbers at elementary, middle, and high school levels. Their analysis showed that the low scenario would yield 520 students at the K-5 level, 350 students in the 6-8 level, and 400 students in the 9-12 level. The level of development recommended by the Plan will require a new elementary school site.

The Plan therefore recommends that the former elementary school site now in County ownership and used by the Crossways Community, a non-profit provider of social services should be retained in County ownership. The site is adjacent to the Plan boundary and could accommodate increased population in the larger Wheaton area. It should be retained in County ownership at least until the 1989 Kensington/Wheaton master plan is revised in the future. The Plan also recommends if growth is greater than expected, and especially if a significant portion of it occurs on the Wheaton Plaza property, the possibility an elementary school on the Wheaton mall site should be kept open.

Libraries

The Wheaton Regional Library, at the corner of Georgia and Arcola Avenues, is the sixth-largest County library. With about 737,000 visitors annually, it is the County's second busiest. Besides books, the Library circulates videos and DVDs; and provides computers, Wi-Fi, language labs, and a Health Information Center. Educational and cultural programs are available for all ages, as well as rooms for quiet study, meeting and tutoring. The facility also has an early childhood literacy wall, a fish aquarium, a 24-hour book drop, and space for the Friends of the Library book sale.

First constructed in 1962 and remodeled in 1985, the library is experiencing aging and moisture problems. Library staff anticipates increased demand for computers and other technical services such as laptops with Wi-Fi and early language labs. Other likely demands are for new or increased services for immigrants and drive-by customers, and increased space for teenagers and comfortable reading. The Plan recommends retaining the library at its current location and upgrading it as needed. If Wheaton's growth creates demand for a new library for its downtown residents the County should evaluate the need for additional library services in the urban district.

Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services

The Wheaton CBD Sector Plan area is primarily served by two fire-rescue stations, including the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad (WVRS) Station 42 at the intersection of Blueridge Avenue and Grandview Avenue and the Kensington [Wheaton] Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) Station 18 (Glenmont Station) at the Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road intersection. Nearby fire-rescue stations that respond into the Wheaton CBD when needed include KVFD Stations 5 (Town of Kensington), 21 (Veirs Mill Village), 25 (Aspen Hill) as well as the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department Stations 16 (Four Corners) and 19 (Montgomery Hills). Apparatus from more distant stations also respond when needed.

While existing fire suppression and heavy rescue resources serving the Wheaton CBD area should remain adequate for the foreseeable future, an EMS unit will likely be needed at Station 18 to serve future additional residents, including those with special needs (such as immigrants and seniors). By about 2014 or soon thereafter, Station 18 will be relocated due to the planned grade separation of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road, which will utilize the existing site. The new station will be about 20,000 square feet with four apparatus bays to hold frontline and reserve apparatus. Also within the early time frame of this Sector Plan, WVRS Station 42 will be relocated to the corner of Georgia and Arcola Avenues. The new station will be about 28,000 square feet and have four apparatus bays, capable of holding a fleet of ambulances, medic units, and heavy rescue apparatus. The new locations of Stations 18 and 42 will provide adequate response time throughout the Wheaton area. No new public safety facilities would be needed for this sector plan's projected growth.

Regional Services Center

The Mid-County Regional Services Center is one of the County's five regional satellite service centers representing the County Executive in Wheaton and the Mid-County Region. Located at 2424 Reddie Drive since 1978, the Center occupies a part of the Wheaton METRO station and

the WMATA block. The Center serves an area stretching from the Beltway to Howard County and includes such communities as Kensington, Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Layhill, Sandy Spring and Olney.

In addition to housing the offices of the Mid-County Regional Service Center and the Wheaton Redevelopment Program, the following groups meet and/or have office in the Center: the Mid-County Regional Citizens' Advisory Board, the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Board, Conflict Resolution, Adult Behavioral Health, Health Promotion and Substance Abuse Prevention, Information and Referral Services, Projecto Salud Health Clinic (Montgomery Cares), multicultural Mental Health/Adult Behavioral Health, Community Police Resource Center and the Mid-County United Ministries.

Since the Center's current structure is approaching obsolescence, the Center's managers are examining possible options for its replacement in the near future. This plan recommends keeping the center in its current central location but rebuilding it as part of a public/private partnership project to redevelop the WMATA block, or its relocation to another redevelopment site near Metro as a part of the County's potential redevelopment of its parking lot 13.

Public Safety

The Fourth District Police Station, serving the Wheaton, Glenmont, Aspen Hill and some areas extending to Howard County, is located at 2300 Randolph Road at the intersection of Randolph Road and Georgia Avenue. Originally constructed in 1958, the facility is the oldest County police station but was recently renovated and modernized. (A District satellite office, only used for the officers' writing of reports, is located at the Westfield Mall.) The Planned grade separation of the Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road intersection (in 2014 or afterwards) will, in addition to requiring demolition of the Fire Station 18, will located the east-bound Randolph Road ramp about ten feet from the Fourth District Station's front door. Due to the Station area's growing diverse population, and work load (District has the County's highest arrest record) the District has over 16 Spanish-speaking officers, and more learning Spanish.

Despite the expected disruption caused by the interchange project, the facility station is sufficient to accommodate additional police personnel to serve the area in the future.