

# CHAPTER 5: Community Facilities & Public Safety Services (text only)

Ocean City's public services and utilities are of vital importance to ~~the continued health, safety and well being of present and future Town residents and visitors alike~~ all aspects of daily life. The provision of water supplies, wastewater treatment facilities, solid waste disposal services, libraries, parks and recreation areas as well as police, fire, ~~and~~ medical and emergency management services ~~and facilities~~ are essential to the health, safety and welfare of the community. ~~Expansion of certain basic economic activities can be more readily accomplished provided that public and private utility and services systems are adequate for the existing and projected Town population~~ Other functions of local government such as planning, zoning, engineering, building permit review, construction inspection, licensing, hazard mitigation and floodplain management support property investment and growth of the local economy. Adequate maintenance and expansion of ~~such public~~ community facilities is ~~therefore~~ necessary to ~~the physical, economic and social well being of the Town~~ meet peak seasonal demands while allowing for incremental growth and redevelopment. ~~Therefore, the major goal of the Town is:~~

## Goal:

To provide for the continued maintenance, operation and expansion of community facilities along with ~~and~~ a complete and efficient system of public services necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors and the economic prosperity of the community.

## Objectives

In order to achieve the community facilities and public services goal, the following objectives are adopted.

- 5.1 A full range of services will be provided to meet the needs of year-round residents and seasonal visitors.
- 5.2 City-wide water, sewer, and solid waste systems will be expanded and improved when necessary to provide cost efficient service for planned growth.
- 5.3 Public safety services will meet the year round needs of the resident population, and ensure the health and safety of residents and vacationers expand to meet peak seasonal demand.
- 5.4 Provide a high quality public beach, boardwalk, parks, water access boat launch, and other sport facilities will be provided to meet the recreational needs of year-round residents and vacationers.

5.5 A variety of recreational outlets will be provided to meet the needs of all age groups, including special events and free programs to promote family oriented activities.

5.6 Ocean City will cooperate with the Worcester County school district to provide high quality education that is able to prepare students for a rewarding and productive future.

5.7 Ocean City will ~~cooperate~~ coordinate with Worcester County to maintain and enhance the    library system.

5.8 Sufficient resources will be allocated to plan for and implement necessary    emergency management measures. Community resilience in post storm/disaster recovery will be developed to quickly restore community facilities and infrastructure.

5.9 Ocean City will cooperate with state and county officials to ensure a complete    range of social and human services.

5.10 Developer-constructed infrastructure will be constructed to appropriate City    and State standards. Adequate performance bonds will be required from developers as needed.

5.11 Use of community facilities to support special events will be coordinated with public services to actively manage and minimize impacts to the community. ~~Adequate performance bonds will be required from developers as needed.~~

## Water System

The following section provides an overview of present conditions and current plans regarding various aspects of the Town Water System including discussion of current and planned water system demand and supply, water treatment and water supply storage facilities and capacity.

### Water Demand ~~and Supply.~~

A review of the Comprehensive Water Supply Study was made by Whitman Requardt & Associates (WR&A) in 2014 in order to update the plan for implementing improvements that will enable the Town's water system to meet the following primary objectives:

- Meeting the projected water system demands at least to the Year 2025
- Compliance with current and proposed regulatory requirements
- Continuing to provide a safe and affordable drinking water for its customers
- Extension of the useful life of the facilities
- Conceptual planning for possible future desalination

The Town's water system must have adequate capacity to serve the seasonal peak weekend population. The Year 2025 Peak Summer Seasonal Population, as projected in Chapter 1 is 381,114. Based on an average usage rate of 44 gallons per capita per day (gpcd), the corresponding maximum day system demand for the Year 2025 is projected to be 16.8 million gallons per day (MGD).

## Figure 5-1 Water Use

### Water Supply

The existing raw water supply for Ocean City, MD consists of 17 groundwater wells in the Ocean City Aquifer and 9 wells in the Manokin Aquifer. The location of the wells have been spread out to the extent possible to reduce the effects of seasonal draw down and to minimize the potential for increased salt water intrusion by up-coning in specific areas. The current available raw water supply safely exceeds the treatment capacity of each associated treatment plant. The ongoing well testing and rehabilitation program should be maintained in order to ensure that the current well capacities will continue to be available. The current permitted allocation (8 MGD annual average/17.6 MGD daily average in the month of maximum use) is more than adequate to meet the projected water demands to the Year 2025.

Table 5-1 identifies water supplies pumped monthly to serve the Town for the years ~~1999 through 2003~~2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015.

#### Table 5-1

Figures shown reflect the great seasonal variability of demand for water supplies in a single year. Through the five year periods shown, annual pumpage has ~~ranged~~remained relatively constant from just over **1.7** billion gallons to **1.97** billion gallons.

#### Table 5-1

The reduced levels of water consumption in 2003 likely reflects a number of factors including levels of seasonal visitation, use of more efficient fixtures in new construction and redevelopment in recent years, and a growing use of water conservation measures.

~~Evaluation of the Town's water demand and supply was conducted in 1997 and is currently being updated concurrent with this Comprehensive Plan update. Much of the description of the water supply system which follows is extracted from the "Comprehensive Water Supply Study—1997 Update", prepared by Whitman, Reardon and Associates, consulting engineers. This study should be consulted for more information or greater detail.~~

~~The Ocean City water system must have adequate capacity to serve the peak seasonal population. The 1997 Water Supply Study based its projections for future demand for water on the projected seasonal peak weekend population of **277,499** residents and visitors contained in the Ocean City Comprehensive Plan (1997).~~

The maximum day per capita demand for water in 1997 was approximately 60 gallons per day based on review of historical data and an anticipated 3 percent increase in future consumption due to a greater number of plumbing fixtures in modern units and the requirements established in the Town's Landscaping Ordinance which applies to all new construction. The corresponding maximum day system demand at build-out was projected in 1997 to be 16.6 million gallons per day (MGD). Hence, future water system requirements were evaluated in 1997 on the projected Year 2020, 16.6 MGD maximum day demand. Recent evaluation of demand by Whitman Requardt indicates that adding allowance for additional development at year 2005 may place demand in the year 2020 somewhat higher at 17.12 MGD.

The projected year 2020 demand of 17.12 mgd is currently planned to be distributed along the length of Ocean City corresponding to the distribution of existing housing units and hotel/motel units by census tracts in the Town combined with anticipated demand in key areas identified in 1997 where redevelopment could be expected due to the construction of new hotels and renovation of older hotels/motels. Table 5-2 illustrates the distribution of demand for water supply by census tracts for the 1994 maximum day demand of 14.41 MGD as well as the projected year 2020 maximum day demand of 17.12 MGD.

The existing water supply is provided by a total of 23 production wells. These include 14 wells in the Ocean City Aquifer and 9 wells in the Manokin Aquifer.

The water supply sources are illustrated in Figure 5-1. It shows the location of the 23 production wells currently in operation; 13 in the Ocean City aquifer and 9 in the Manokin aquifer. Two of these wells have been constructed since 1997. The 1997 Water Supply Study called for 4 additional wells over the next 25 years.

Ocean City appears to have more than ample quantities of groundwater resources available in the Ocean City and Manokin aquifers for its projected growth and development. This is substantiated by extensive water level monitoring by the Town and other agencies. Despite withdrawal of approximately 55 billion gallons of water from the Ocean City and Manokin aquifers since 1955, with continued annual increased pumping, water levels still recover to nearly original levels when water demand diminishes in the winter.

### **Figure 5-2 Well Map**

### **Figure 5-3 MGS monitoring**

Evaluation of the Town's water demand and supply is described in the "Comprehensive Water Supply Study", prepared by Whitman, Requardt and Associates, consulting engineers, and the Town of Ocean City "Water and Wastewater Comprehensive Rate Study", dated February 24, 2015. Improvements to the water system will likely include the addition of a new well to meet future increased demand. An analysis of water system demand and supply is currently being updated by Whitman Requardt & Associates. Since the forthcoming update of the Town's water supply study will be based on recommendations contained in this 201605 Comprehensive Plan,

information concerning current plans and water supply requirements may change as part of the systems re-evaluation.

## Water Treatment

Ocean City's water supply system includes 3 water treatment plants which treat raw water to remove iron, manganese, and chlorinate the water. The Town of Ocean City's water treatment and distribution system has several unique physical and operational characteristics as follows:

- Three separate water treatment facilities that supply water to south, central and north portions of the system with only one facility typically operating during the low water demand months
- Relatively long (10 miles) and narrow (0.2 to 1.0 miles wide) configuration
- Six elevated water storage facilities spaced along its length at same overflow elevation of approximately 118'
- Dramatic seasonal water demand fluctuations due to differences in population served (7,000 full-time residents and over 300,000 visitors during a peak summer weekend)

The 15th Street plant was constructed in the mid-1990's and replaced two old plants. It has a treatment capacity of 6 mgd. The plant at 44th Street has a 4 mgd capacity, and the Gorman Avenue plant has a capacity of 8 mgd. The total treatment capacity of 18 mgd is adequate to meet the maximum day capacity. The 44th Street plant was upgraded in 2000/2001 and the Gorman Avenue plant is scheduled for upgrade in FY2020. There are three ground water treatment facilities owned and operated by the Town of Ocean City Department of Public Works. They include the 15th Street Water Treatment Plant, 44th Street Water Treatment Plant and the Gorman Avenue Water Treatment Plant. These facilities receive ground water pumped from the various wells, treat the water to comply with USEPA drinking water regulations and convey the finished water to the water distribution system. The treatment primarily consists of the oxidation and removal of dissolved iron, adjustment of pH and disinfection.

The current treatment capacity is based upon the following:

<u>15th Street WTP</u>	<u>6 MGD*</u>
<u>44th Street WTP</u>	<u>4 MGD</u>
<u>Gorman Avenue WTP</u>	<u>8 MGD</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>18 MGD</u>

\*Current treatment capacity is down-rated based upon Town's concerns regarding performance at higher rates (Actual design filtering capacity for 15th Street WTP = 8 MGD)

The existing water treatment facilities are producing an excellent quality potable water meeting all regulatory requirements. Improvements completed at the plants over the past several years have improved operations, improved reliability and extended the useful life of the facilities. Each of the facilities was inspected and no significant concerns or issues were observed.

## Figure 5-4 Water Use and Capacity

The current design treatment capacity of 18 MGD is based upon 6 MGD from the 15th Street WTP, 4 MGD from the 44th Street WTP and 8 MGD from the Gorman Avenue WTP. That capacity is more than adequate to meet the projected 2025 maximum day demand of 16.8 MGD.

Allowing for an estimated 4% waste as typically required for filter backwashing of the iron removal filters, the current 18 million gallons per day (MGD) treatment capacity will support a maximum water demand of approximately 17.3 MGD (18.0/1.04).

The 17.3 MGD maximum available treatment capacity that may be delivered to the water system is slightly less than the 18 MGD projected maximum day water demand for the Year 2030. However, since the projected 18 MGD maximum day water demand (at Year 2030) includes a 20% allowance for planning purposes, there is no immediate concern that there is a 0.7 MGD deficit (18.0 – 17.3) between projected water demand and deliverable treatment capacity.

This projected water delivery deficit can be addressed by the continued periodic review of actual and projected populations and water demands to confirm future water supply needs; conceptual planning for future expansion or enhancement of the water treatment capacity; along with the subsequent implementation of necessary treatment expansion or enhancements when required. In addition, the potential need for desalination facilities in the future to address salt water intrusion must also be factored into water treatment facility planning since desalination facilities typically involve an additional waste component that would further reduce the delivery capacity of the water treatment facilities.

The Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) continues to include allowance projects for planned infrastructure upgrades such as the replacement of aging and obsolete equipment in order to maintain its current high level of operational reliability.

## Water Storage and Distribution System

The water distribution system includes 8 water storage tanks; 7 elevated tanks and 1 ground level tank. There is a total useable storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. The present storage tanks have adequate capacity to support a maximum day demand of over 16 mgd. ~~The estimated maximum day demand at build-out of 18.1 mgd is projected to occur in the year 2015.~~ The new west elevated storage tanks, constructed at 66<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street have increased storage capacity to satisfy demand for the next 10 years. Needs for additional storage capacity beyond that period will need to be assessed as part of the 201705 water system plan update. The location and capacity of both existing water storage and treatment facilities are shown in Figure 5-5. The chart illustrates size and length of the distribution system which totals over 96 miles



2of water pipe.

## Figure 5-5 Water Storage and Distribution2

### Saltwater Intrusion

An area of concern to Ocean City’s water supply is saltwater intrusion, which is the horizontal movement of saltwater into the freshwater aquifer from under the ocean or the bay. It could also occur from a vertical movement by downward leakage from the ocean or bay, or upward leakage from lower aquifers.

Testing in the past had shown a rise in chloride levels in the 44th Street area. This is caused by heavy year round water use in the area and leakage between the Ocean City aquifer and the saltier Manokin aquifer in this area. The upconing of salt water at the 44<sup>th</sup> street plant stabilized after much of the pumpage was shifted to the Gorman Avenue Plan in 1989 and 1990, indicating a state of equilibrium may have been reached. Salt water intrusion is occurring in localized parts of the unconfined Columbia Aquifer, but it is not considered a major threat. ~~However, it is still possible that a salt front is moving in from the oceanside or bayside near 44th Street.~~

The “Comprehensive Water Supply Study”, prepared by ~~Whitman, R&equardt and Associates,~~ recommends spacing future wells to distribute drawdown from the aquifers and relieve the salt intrusion in any particular area. The study also notes that any future water supply production wells should probably be located in the northern part of the Town where the hydrogeologic conditions are more favorable with respect to available drawdown and salt water intrusion. The Study also states that future planning must recognize the possibility of saltwater intrusion, and flexibility in design of the water supply system must be provided so that the problem may be addressed if and when intrusion occurs. ~~An increasingly attractive solution to salt intrusion is the dequate area has been allocated at the WTPs to install rapidly developing technology treatment systems for the and operating methods of~~ desalination of brackish water if needed in the future. ~~Desalination could be accomplished as needed by converting existing water treatment plans. By employing desalination, the salt water intrusion could be contained at the coastline indefinitely.~~

### Water System Improvement Needs

The “Comprehensive Water Supply Study—~~1997 Update~~” ~~, prepared by Whitman, Requardt and Associates,~~ contains an extensive list of planned system improvements. Many of these improvements have been implemented by the Town through the Water Fund. The study is currently being updated and will be based on pertinent growth policies and projections in this Comprehensive Plan. Future monitoring and system evaluation should include annual and long groundwater recharge rates relative to other Comprehensive Plan goals for year round tourism marketing and growth of the permanent resident population.

## Wastewater Treatment

In 1994, the Town of Ocean City assumed control of the Ocean City wastewater system from the Worcester County Sanitary Commission. The system has collection, treatment and disposal capabilities. The treatment plant at 64th Street was constructed in 1969, with expansions and secondary treatment upgrades completed ~~in 1974, 1981, 1990 and 1992, and 1998~~ at regular intervals.

The Ocean City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) currently has a rated capacity of 14 MGD based on average daily flow. The WWTP service area includes the entire Town of Ocean City as well as a portion of wastewater flow (1 MGD) from West Ocean City, conveyed to the Town by a Worcester County pump station located in West Ocean City.

The wastewater collection and conveyance system consists of sewers ranging in size from 6 inch to 48 inch diameter which convey wastewater from the north and south along Coastal Highway to the wastewater treatment plant located at 64th Street. The conveyance system includes eleven pumping stations which lift wastewater flows into the interceptor in areas where gravity flow is not possible.

Sewer lines and manholes that are worn and failing require repair or replacement in order to avoid blockages, structural collapse, sanitary sewer overflows, etc. The current inventory of sanitary sewer pipes known to need repair or replacement that are beneath the streets that have recently been paved is approximately 10,000 linear feet. Sewers north of 26th St are 40 to 45 years old. Sewer lines south of 26th Street are older including sections of old asbestos concrete pipes underground which need to be lined or replaced.

Treated wastewater is discharged to the Atlantic Ocean via an ocean outfall discharge. The Ocean outfall for treated effluent was constructed in 1968 and is regularly inspected for any needed repairs or maintenance. The portion of the pipe that lies to the ocean side of the air release valve (ARV) at the east end of 64<sup>th</sup> street consists of approximately 4,200 linear feet of 30 inch pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). The current ocean outfall capacity will continue to create an ultimate limit on future growth and development along with determining required treatment technologies.

The WWTP produces Class A biosolids which are disposed of by Enviro-organic Technologies or at the county landfill. In addition, biosolids that do not meet Class A requirements (i.e. “off spec” biosolids that meet Class B requirements) are also disposed of at the landfill. Pending regulations may restrict the ability of the plant to dispose of biosolids at the current locations, resulting in increased cost for disposal of all biosolids in a landfill. Based on these significant potential cost increases, it is recommended that a thorough survey of other available disposal options be conducted including other viable disposal locations, or improvements to the biosolids process which would allow for wider distribution of the end product.

Because of the seasonal nature of the influent flows, the plant's treatment capacity is based on maximum monthly flows, which occur only during the summer months.

~~The plant's Wastewater treatment design capacity is currently 14 million gallons per day (gpd). Additional sludge handling capabilities constructed in 1998 increased the capacity from 12 to 14 mgd.~~

Figure 5-6~~3~~ shows the actual maximum month wastewater flows for the period from 1990 through ~~2003-2015~~ and provides projections for maximum month flows to the year 2020.

### Figure 5-6 Historic Wastewater Flows

~~Maximum month wastewater treated has ranged from 10.4 to 11.6 MGD for the period 1990 through 2003. The available, or unused treatment capacity has fluctuated between 2.4 MGD (17% of the total capacity) in 1994 and approximately 3.59 MGD (25% of the total) in 2003. The average flow treated during the maximum month through the period was 11.2 MGD representing roughly 80 percent of total capacity.~~

Year 20~~32~~0 maximum wastewater treatment flows are projected to increase to approximately **12.14** MGD for the Town of Ocean City and West Ocean City combined. Work is currently being conducted by the City to evaluate needs for future wastewater treatment plant improvements to meet future peak demand, new technology and water quality standards. Additional information is available in the 2015 Water & Wastewater Comprehensive Rate Study.

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## Storm Water Management

Three approaches are used in Ocean City to remove stormwater from City streets. Sheet flow is used on the ocean block and essentially it uses the street to conduct the water west to Coastal Highway and eventually to the bay. On Coastal Highway and the bayside, both a traditional stormwater ~~drainage~~ system and sheet flow with sediment basins are used.

The pipe and catch basin system suffers from the island's lack of ~~relief~~elevation change. Without the required ~~fall~~fall, water can back up. Several streets on the bayside are simply sloped toward the bay and canals. At the end of the street, a sediment or infiltration basin typically removes pollutants and debris.

Use of sheet flow on the ocean block results in regular ~~and severe~~shallow flooding of Coastal Highway. It is not uncommon for the eight lane road to be reduced to two slow moving lanes during a heavy rainfall.

Private and public development is required to meet all State and local stormwater management regulations. Typically asAs more development covers the land with concrete and black top, stormwater problems will increase. With redevelopment, Ocean City requires use of sSeveral

alternatives ~~\_exist~~ for controlling stormwater on site, including infiltration beds and trenches, pervious black top and open cored pavers. These items as well as “low impact” development techniques ~~should beare~~ used to the extent possible to attenuate stormwater flows, reduce sedimentation and improve the overall quality of stormwater discharges.

The environmental aspect of stormwater is further discussed in the “Sensitive Areas and the Environment” Chapter of this plan. Ongoing efforts to improve the Town’s stormwater management system include:

- Continue stormwater system improvements on Coastal Highway to reduce flooding.
- Continued improvements to the downtown’s storm sewer system including a demonstration project to install tide gate backflow preventers at the bayside outfalls.-
- ~~Reduction in volumes of stormwater generated through on-site controls.~~
- Requirements for on-site control measures when re-paving and landscaping installations present opportunities.
- Continuing evaluation of standards and requirements for open space and landscaping in Town ordinances and regulations.
- Measurement and management of water quality controls to meet adopted nutrient contributions to the coastal bays.
- Drainage system maintenance including street sweeping, catch basin inserts, and sediment basin clean outs.

Ocean City has 205,655 linear feet (over 40 miles) of pipes to channel the gravity flow of storm water. 82,974 linear feet (about 15 miles) of this pipe is corrugated metal pipe which is known to deteriorate in a salt-water environment. The stormwater system at risk was generally installed in the 1970’s and is overdue for replacement with an estimated cost of \$6.14 million (Source: EFC Feasibility Study for Stormwater Management, 2011). The system also includes approximately 318 outfalls, 1,794 inlet/catch basins and 86 manholes.

The EFC study identified approximately \$12 million in needed stormwater system improvements by 2020 in order to address an aging conveyance system (corrugated metal pipes), flooding, water pollution from urban runoff, and annual system maintenance. A dedicated funding solution was proposed but not adopted by the City. Incremental improvements are made as streets are reconstructed and paved and with individual site redevelopment.

Ocean City’s stormwater management program seeks to retrofit the system and use best management practices to improve natural drainage, reduce flooding and improve water quality

with new development or redevelopment.

## Solid Waste Management ~~& Recycling~~

The Town of Ocean City Solid Waste Department is responsible for collection of solid waste and the Town Recycling Program. Housed on 65<sup>th</sup> Street, the department currently establishes Winter and Summer waste collection schedules. Twice weekly residential collections are currently scheduled for Monday and Thursdays from 75<sup>th</sup> street to the Delaware line (Oceanside) and 75<sup>th</sup> to 135<sup>th</sup> street bayside and Tuesday and Friday from the Inlet to 74<sup>th</sup> street (ocean and bayside), and 136<sup>th</sup> to 146<sup>th</sup> street (bayside). Commercial collections (Front-end, 300 gallon containers, and containers with compactors) are provided throughout the Town five days a week.

~~The Town has operated the 65<sup>th</sup>-street Recycling Center since 1991. Recycling containers are made available on request for curbside residential pick-up at scheduled times in eight locations currently including Montego Bay, Caine Woods, Caine Keys, 94<sup>th</sup> street, Little Salisbury, 28<sup>th</sup> street, Mallard Island and downtown.~~

~~Recycling drop-off stations are also currently provided in a number of locations including:~~

- ~~■ Worcester Street Municipal Lot (under the water tower)~~
- ~~■ 2<sup>nd</sup>-street Trailways Bus Terminal~~
- ~~■ 28<sup>th</sup> street bayside,~~
- ~~■ the Convention Center satellite parking lot at 39<sup>th</sup> street,~~
- ~~■ 66<sup>th</sup> street (under the water tower)~~
- ~~■ 94<sup>th</sup> street parking lot (southwest side)~~
- ~~■ 130<sup>th</sup> street (behind Montego Bay Shopping Center), and~~
- ~~■ 137<sup>th</sup> street next to the water plant.~~

A new pilot program for Condo-side recycling has also recently been initiated. Ocean City has converted its former recycling program to an ‘energy from waste’ process. By contract with Covanta 4Recovery, a leader in the field of solid waste management ‘energy from waste’ facilities, municipal solid waste is transported by truck and repurposed. Residents and visitors generate roughly 34,000 tons of solid waste per year. Rather than send this to a landfill, the trash is utilized as an alternate fuel source to generate heat and produce steam. On average, 670 kilowatts of electricity are produced for every one ton of trash that is incinerated, or enough to power 75,000 homes annually. The ‘energy from waste’ process also includes post incineration metals separation to complete the recycling process.

Current initiatives by the Town Engineering department and partner organizations have focused on several clean-up programs to reduce litter on the beach, public streets, downtown areas and

the boardwalk. The Town's 'Green Team' members have also identified a goal to reduce the use of plastic and Styrofoam containers through cooperative purchasing of environment friendly products by the restaurant industry.

## Recreation and Parks

Ocean City offers a variety of recreational opportunities and services to its year-round residents and visitors. In addition to the opportunities provided by a 10 mile long public beach, recreational pPrograms offered include camps, classes, clinics, sports, events and tournaments. Lessons in exercise, fitness, dance, and gymnastics, creative arts, swimming, first aid and CPR, boating and seamanship to name a few, are given. Programs are structured to support the needs and interests of adults, seniors, and youth of all ages. Special events and outings round out the spectrum of recreational program offerings.

A wide range in the nature and type of park and recreation facilities ~~provided~~managed by the Town support the broad range of program offerings. These facilities include:

**Ocean City Beach** – The number one attraction for Ocean City is the ocean beach. Extending from the Inlet north to the state line, the beach is the largest public use area (331 —acres) providing recreational open space within short walk from every resident and visitor in Ocean City. Beach use is being expanded to include special events, sport tournaments, and recreational structures such as Wally the Whale and a new playground at Somerset Street. Construction of a new public restroom at Caroline Street includes a performance stage facing the beach that supports a free summer concert series.

\* ~~————~~**Inlet Park** - A small recreation facility, Inlet Park is located at the ~~Southernmost~~southernmost end of Ocean City. The facility provides a boardwalk complete with viewing binoculars and information signs overlooking Assateague Island. The park is approximately 1/5th acre in size and serves as the first link of a future bayside boardwalk. The park is marked by the presence of a large Native American ~~sculpture~~structure and is home to Ocean City's marble topped time capsule.

~~————~~**Entry Park -** - Another small park and open space located on North Division Street directly at the foot of the Harry Kelley Bridge (Route 50 entry to the Town). Entry Park is just under one acre in size and is home to the Marlin Sculpture and is in an excellent location to inform visitors and promote awareness of seasonal Town sponsored events and activities like Winterfest.

\* **Sunset Park** -- Located on South Division Street west of South Philadelphia Avenue, Downtown. Amenities include restrooms, stage, exhibits, crabbing & fishing. Ocean City's newest park is a promenade with native shore planting areas with a panoramic

view of the Atlantic Ocean, Assateague Island, the Sinepuxent Bay and Ocean City Commercial Harbor. The stage at Sunset Park is home to concerts and gatherings in the summer and early fall.

\* ~~————Dorchester Beach~~ **Beach Volleyball Courts Park - :-** Located just off the boardwalk between ~~Dorchester and Talbot~~ **Third and Fourth** Streets this facility provides ~~10 public courts for summer use.~~ 4 public courts available for pick up play during summer daylight hours.

\* ~~————~~ **Third Street Park - :-** Located in the Downtown Recreation Complex, this 2 acre park facility includes basketball courts, a small ballfield for softball play, as well as playground facilities. The facility includes the Ocean Bowl Skate Park, with facilities for skateboarders and in-line skaters, and includes a pool bowl, vert ramp, mini ramp, and concrete street area. Across the street two hard tennis courts have been constructed. Lighting is provided for evening use at this facility.

\* ~~————~~ **Fourth Street/Chicago Avenue Park - :-** Located in the Downtown Recreation Complex this 2 acre park facility hosts a multipurpose lighted ball field and accommodates bay-front fishing and crabbing on Chicago Avenue's Victorian themed "Promenade" area.

\* ~~————~~ **Ninth Street Fishing Pier - :-** This fishing access location includes maintained pier facilities and fish cleaning tables with hoses for cleaning.

\* ~~————~~ **Robin Park - :-** A small neighborhood park, located on Robin Drive, which is approximately 1/4 acre in size. Park improvements include Picnic tables, landscaped open spaceing, and playground facilities for younger ages.

\* ~~————~~ **Convention Center Park - :-** Located on 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Bayside, Convention Center Park provides a pier along the bay offering fishing and crabbing opportunities.

\* ~~————~~ **Ocean City Tennis Center - :-** Located on 61<sup>st</sup> street bayside, the Ocean City Tennis Center is the Town's largest and most actively used tennis facility. The site consists of approximately 2.5 acres. The facility features six premier courts and three Lee Fast Dry Clay courts. Leagues, junior tennis, and clinic play are centered in this location.

\* ~~————~~ **Little Salisbury Park - :-** Located on 94<sup>th</sup> Street and Bayside, this Park facility is home to the Ocean City Art League. Approximately 1.36 acres in size, improvements include two hard tennis courts, one playground, and a basketball court.



Ocean City's first 'dog park' has been added in an adjacent area of open space.

\* ~~————~~ **Jamestown Park** ~~- :-~~—Located at Jamestown Road is the Town's newest landscaped promenade.

\* ~~————~~ **Northside Park** ~~- :-~~—Northside Park is Ocean City's largest and most popular park facility, located on 125<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bay. The facility is headquarters to the Park's Department's administrative offices and is 58 acres in size. Improvements include three lighted softball/baseball fields, a lighted soccer field, multipurpose field, a fishing lagoon, a foot bridge, concession stands, playgrounds, picnic shelter, two piers, a gazebo, and walking/jogging paths. Indoor facilities include a large building with a 14,200 square foot gymnasium, kitchen, community room, conference room, patio, sitting areas and a sports center annex with a 21,000 square foot multi-sport arena. The park is home to Winterfest, Sundaes in the Park and Arts Alive special events, and supports year round team sports competition.

\* ~~————~~ **Gorman Park** ~~- :-~~—Located at 136<sup>th</sup> Street and Bayside, just off Derrickson Avenue, Gorman Park is improved with one tennis court, one three wall racquetball court, and playground. The park is approximately 1.8 acres in size.

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\* ~~————~~ **Fiesta Park** ~~- :-~~—A wooded, neighborhood park facility Fiesta Park is located on 141<sup>st</sup> Street and Bayside. 2.96 acres in size, improvements include nature trails and picnic area.

\* ~~————~~ **North Surf Park** ~~- :-~~—This neighborhood park is approximately 1.96 acres in size. Located adjacent to North Surf Road (left off 142<sup>nd</sup> Street), this park facility includes a playground and facilities to support picnicking. Rolling turf and scattered trees make this one of the more attractive park facilities in the community.

~~All told, these many and varied park facilities are located on approximately 80 acres of public lands dedicated to park and recreation use.~~

The location and distribution of these park facilities is shown on Map 5-1. Park facilities are located on approximately 80 acres of public lands dedicated to park and recreation and park use in addition to the Ocean Beach. DGenerally speaking they are well distributioned throughout the community means that at least 50% of all residents are within a 5-to-10 minute walk (1/4 mile radius) from parks and recreation and parkna facilities and everyone is. People are linked to other facilities in the community by the transit bus system and a network of sidewalks and bike routes.-

~~Because of the unique nature of Ocean City, with a smaller year-round population as well~~



~~as a much larger seasonal population, State guidelines, typically used to assess the adequacy of existing park land and facilities to serve community population needs, cannot be strictly applied. Maryland guidelines for the provision of park and open space lands are 30 acres per 1,000 residents. Although a strict application of these State guidelines indicates a shortfall in available land and recreational improvements, this is, in part, due to a large percentage of the seasonal population that increases seasonal demand for recreation improvements. It should be noted that the beach, ocean and bays as well as a number of privately owned recreational areas, provide recreational opportunities that are not counted in this inventory. Facilities are however nearly adequate to support the needs of the year-round population. For these reasons, any shortfall of recreational land and improvements evident in the inventory is not as extreme as it may appear.~~

~~It is the Town's policy to meet the recreational needs of the seasonal and year-round population. Demand is monitored and, as facilities approach capacity, new ones are planned and constructed.~~

~~It is important to note that given the high land costs in a Oceanfront community, utilization of existing parkland more efficiently is often more cost effective than public acquisition of additional parkland to satisfy demand for recreation facilities. Nevertheless, land acquisition for parks should remain a planning objective and existing parks should not be converted to non-recreational uses.~~

~~Several potential additions to recreational facilities present opportunities for increasing and diversifying Ocean City's recreational offering. Golfing has become a major draw for the area with construction of a number of new courses over the past 15 years.~~

~~Construction of several quality courses in the area, including the city owned and operated Eagle's Landing Golf Course, and aggressive marketing have transformed the Ocean City area into a regional golf destination. These facilities have also contributed substantially to increased shoulder season visitation and spending in the community. The continued growth of golf in the area should be encouraged.~~

~~Ocean City is a water-oriented community. Unfortunately, when cold weather arrives there is no indoor swimming facility available to the general public. An indoor facility in or near Ocean City should be developed to meet this need.~~

#### Map 5-1

One of Ocean City's strategic plan priorities is to prepare a Recreation and Parks Master Plan which will inventory existing facilities, identify recreational needs and new opportunities, and propose management actions for the future. This Plan will be completed in 2017.

Ocean City has also joined with nearby communities to promote a sports marketing partnership which will encourage economic development and a regional approach to meeting demand for land intensive recreational facilities such as ball fields, indoor pools, etc.

Recommended improvements to the recreational opportunities in Ocean City include:

- ~~\* Continued Improvement's to Northside Park such as rest rooms, nature walks, athletic fields, basketball courts and event venues.~~
- ~~\* Expansion of the Beach Patrol facilities.~~
- ~~\* Development of Sunset Park in the Downtown.~~
- ~~\* Additional playgrounds to serve local neighborhoods and replacement of older existing equipment.~~
- ~~\* Development of Recreation amenities on the Beachfront or Bayside.~~
- ~~\* Construction of an additional indoor recreational facility for soccer, lacrosse, tennis, etc.~~
- ~~\* Re-design and Reconstruction of the Skate Park downtown.~~
- ~~\* Additional biking/hiking/jogging trails that permit user interaction with natural wetland environments that can be used to augment fishing/crabbing opportunities or to develop natural environmental interpretive facilities to increase appreciation of the region's environmental resources.~~

## ~~Other~~ Public Safety Services

The Town of Ocean City government provides a full array of public safety services to meet the needs of its residents and visitors. Due to the resort nature of the Town and the swings in seasonal population and demand for services, the government is challenged to scale the level of service to meet seasonally dynamic needs and provide 24 hour staffing. As with other community facilities, the physical location and support facilities for public safety services are sized for peak demand, and co-located where possible with other uses. .

Public safety services are described below. More detailed on each is available in specific departmental plans, mission statements, and budgets.

### Ocean City Police Department

The Ocean City Police Department (OCPD), as part of and empowered by the community, is committed to a safe and peaceful environment, rendering aid to those in need and protecting the lives, property and rights of residents and visitors.

~~enforces the criminal and traffic portions of the Code of Ocean City. The OCPD's enforces the criminal and traffic portions of the Code of Ocean City within its jurisdiction including the corporate limits of Ocean City to three miles off-shore. The bays and ocean are not regularly patrolled, but the department has jurisdiction to continue pursuit in these areas.~~

The OCPD is located in the ~~state-of-the-art~~ Public Safety Building on 65th Street adjacent to the District Courthouse. Also located in the Public Safety Building are the Communications Center, ~~the~~ Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management. The OCPD enforces the criminal and traffic portions of the Code of Ocean City within its jurisdiction including the corporate limits of Ocean City to three miles off-shore. The bays and ocean are not regularly patrolled, but the department has jurisdiction to continue pursuit in these areas.

~~Staffing of the Department varies with the season. The OCPD provides 24-hour service with 132 full-time employees augmented by 154 temporary employees during the summer season full-time, year-round force includes 10598 full-time sworn officers and 270 civilian personnel. During the visitor season, approximately 158120 seasonal police officers and fifty non-sworn members of the department augment the core year-round staff. The Office of the Chief is supported by three divisions: Support Services, Criminal Investigation, and Patrol. A seasonal substation is located on Worcester Street on the boardwalk. In addition to regular patrol assignments, police support units function for training; records; detention/ K-9; traffic; equestrian unit; animal control; a quick response team, and narcotics enforcement. The department staffse figures includes public safety aides, who are responsible for processing and transporting prisoners, enforcing parking laws, directing traffic and generally assisting visitors.~~

In 1996 the OCPD ~~received~~ responded to 18,690 calls for service. By 2001 calls for service more than doubled growing to 52,110. Calls for service in 2003 totaled 54,198 reflecting more moderate increases in number of calls during the past three years. By 2015, total calls for service reached 76,750. A call for service is generated for nearly anything that an officer does while on duty including traffic stops, residential security checks, lost child, or major criminal event just to name a few. Figure 5-74 illustrates a peak in calls for service in 2013 and a steady reduction in recent years.

### **Figure 5-74**

Table 5-83 provides a profile of the serious crimes experienced in Ocean City as identified in the OCPD's "Uniform Crime Report" for ~~1996-2015~~ as well as the more recent ~~three-five~~ year period (2010~~04~~ through 2014~~03~~). Uniform Crime Report / Part 1 crimes in Ocean City are reduced 11% from the previous year and hit the lowest mark in 25 years. Other crime statistics are available in the Police Department Annual Report.

### **Table 5-83**

Overall, Ocean City experienced a 3.39% increase in serious crime from 2002 to 2003. For the same period crimes against persons decreased by 12.14% while crimes against property increased by 7.31% in 2003.

Community policing is at the core of the Department's commitment to provide quality police services and assistance to the community. ~~Several current~~ ~~ome noteworthy~~ initiatives by the OCPD include:

- Flex Patrol – Officers on a specialized shift focused on addressing neighborhood issues held flexible hours that allowed them to effectively prevent or enforce incidents such as bicycle theft and burglary.
- Special Enforcement – Plain-clothes officers with specialized training concentrate on enhancing the overall safety on the Boardwalk and throughout downtown areas.
- Auxiliary Officer Program – Civilian volunteers receive training and provide valuable service in support various administrative and community relations functions of the department.
- ~~R.A.A.M. (Reducing the Availability of Alcohol to Minors), which is a community policing initiative addressing underage drinking and its related unacceptable behavior.~~
- ~~R.A.D. (Rape aggression Defense) System, which is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women with focus on awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance.~~
- ~~radKIDS, which provides children with skills to recognize, avoid, resist and, when necessary, escape physical violence and/or harm.~~
- ~~Neighborhood Watch~~
- ~~Citizen's Police Academy which enables citizens to learn more about the OCPD.~~
- ~~Reserve Officer Unit. This unit, established in 1999, is trained to support the Police Department by providing volunteer services to supplement regular law enforcement personnel. Reserve Officers are typically tasked with civilian and/or administrative functions and are also vested with the authority to issue parking and municipal citations. Members of the Reserve Unit have volunteered over 19,115 hours of service to the Town since 1999.~~
- ~~Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), which are be shared with the Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Marshal's Office, Communications and Management Information Systems.~~

## Emergency Management and Communications

The Office of Emergency Management and the Emergency Communications Center is located in the Public Safety Building on 65th Street. The Communications Center answers calls and dispatches for the Ocean City Police Department, Emergency Medical Services, and the Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to traditional civil defense activities, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides preplanning and coordination for localized emergencies and large special events. This work requires assessing potential hazards, determining appropriate responses, and providing for recovery.

The OEM Director is responsible for the Town's compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster guidelines. This four phase approach contains elements of:

- Preparedness: anticipating problems and their severity.
- Mitigation: pre-emergency actions to reduce hazard impacts.
- Response: planned procedures and actions during the emergency.
- Recovery: post disaster rebuilding and re-establishment of keys services.

These functions are detailed in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan. The plan covers hurricanes, storms, floods, fire, building collapse, chemical incidents, accidents, plane crash, rip tides and oil spills.

The Town's OEM Director, in cooperation with FEMA, has prepared a Hurricane Evacuation Plan. This plan provides estimated damages and flood elevations for a variety of storm paths and intensities. This work also makes recommendations for emergency evacuation procedures.

~~A third all-weather access in the northern end of Town would greatly improve the capacity to evacuate the island during an emergency. Delaware Route 54 is in a good location, but it floods easily. Improving this road may be the most cost-effective approach. Increased capacity for evacuation would decrease the lead time for the decision to evacuate.~~

A "Post-Disaster Recovery Plan" prepared in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Community Development should be periodically updated to accomplish the following:

- Expedite community recovery by outlining procedures and requirement for repairs and reconstruction before damages occur.
- Establish procedures for putting hazard reduction measures into effect after disaster strikes while buildings and utilities are being repaired and rebuilt.
- Gather and analyze information about the potential location and extent of damages.

- Assess the vulnerability to damage and guide reconstruction to reduce future damages.

### Wireless Communication

~~During the past year (2004), the Town upgraded its existing frame-relay/ISDN network with a converged network that provides voice, data and video services over wireless connections. The phone and data network equipment was replaced with wireless equipment at 17 Ocean City local government sites, providing a private, consistent phone system with centralized phone directory and call accounting.~~

~~For a cost of \$1.5 million, the new system provides enough bandwidth for a geographical information system, video and future projects such as an automatic vehicle locator system, and cost savings for general maintenance that can now be administered by Town staff. This system of design, equipment, and service was chosen to provide a solid means of communication that will enable optimal performance between all general administrative and public safety departments.~~

## Beach Patrol

The Beach Patrol provides emergency ocean rescue and beach safety services from the Inlet to the Delaware Line, seven days a week from Memorial Day to late September. The seasonal staff of about 200~~over 150~~ man are stationed at lifeguard stands -distributed along the beach. These stations are typically located based on the intensity of beach use.

Beach Patrol Headquarters was reconstructed in 2015 as a downtown landmark building on Talbot Street and also supports the OCPD bike patrol. The Patrol

is equipped with four-wheel drive trucks, ATVs, personal watercraft, 800 mhz radios, and the familiar semaphore flags. It is estimated that in a typical season, the Patrol goes to the rescue of about 2,500 bathers, handles 1,000 lost children, and is called on for first aid about 500 times. The most common occurrences requiring assistance are swimmers near rock groins and individuals caught in rip currents. Drownings or serious injuries are very rare. In addition to rescue work, guards are responsible for enforcing beach rules. These rules regulate alcohol, noise, ball playing, pets, and glass containers. Recent efforts to educate the public about beach and ocean dynamics have proven very popular.

~~While it is the policy of the Town to provide the highest quality beach safety services, it should be recognized by those who bathe in the ocean that risk is associated with such activity. Individuals should take care to assess the surf conditions and their ability to deal with conditions.~~

## Emergency Medical Services

The Town of Ocean City Emergency Medical Division provides pre-hospital emergency medical services to residents and visitors. Personnel provide emergency medical services and fire suppression/rescue services in conjunction with the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. The Fire/EMS division is staffed with 34 full-time and 27-63 part-time ~~filed~~ personnel. The full-time staff consists of 3233 ~~Nationally~~ nationally registered Paramedics/Firefighters and 2one Maryland Cardiac Rescue Technician-Intermediate/Firefighter. The part-time staff are certified as Emergency Medical Technician-Basic/Firefighters and Nationally Registered Paramedic/Firefighters.

A number of the staff have specialized training in rescue diving and hazardous materials management. In addition to field personnel, the Fire/EMS Division is supported by the Department of Emergency Services Administrative Office Associate.

Ocean City EMS personnel cover an area from the inlet north to the Delaware line and all, of West Ocean City. EMS units will also travel into southern Delaware and other portions of Worcester County if requested.

During the summer, certified EMS crews staff all fire department stations 24 hours a day. Stations are located downtown at Dorchester Street, 15th Street, 74th Street and 130th Street.

~~During the winter months the~~ Dorchester Street station is not staffed during the period from November to March each year.

Ocean City Fire/EMS has nine mobile medic units, three command vehicles and a special operations trailer. All ambulances are equipped to provide life-support medical services and are ready to respond year-round.

In 2015~~04~~, the Ocean City Fire/EMS division responded to 5,056,327 calls, a 2520% increase from 1996 when the department responded to 4,212 calls. The average response time per call is approximately four minutes. This is the amount of time between when the 911 call is received to when the ambulance arrives on the scene.

### Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal is responsible for enforcing local and state fire codes and investigating hazardous materials emergencies, bomb threats, and fires. Building plans are reviewed and structures are inspected to ensure code compliance. Seven full-time employees are included in this division and are located in City Hall. -

### Fire Department

The Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department consist of 200 + volunteer members along with 100+career employees (including the Office of the Fire Marshall) and who provides fire protection to Ocean City and West Ocean City from 5 (five) stations. In addition to the volunteers, The town's emergency medical personal are stationed at each of the fire houses in the town limits. The fire stations and their equipment are inventoried below:

#### Stations

#### Equipment

Headquarters (15<sup>th</sup> Street)

1 – 95' Tower Truck  
1 – Rehab/Canteen Truck  
2 – Pumpers  
1 – Heavy Rescue Truck  
1 – Utility Truck  
1 – Brush Truck  
1 – Special Hazards Truck  
1 – Utility Van  
1 – 20' Rescue Boat

Station #2 (Dorchester Street)

1 – Pumper  
1 – Special Hazards Trailer



Station #3 (74<sup>th</sup> Street)

1 – 105' Tower Truck

1 – Pumper

1 – Rescue Truck

Station #4 (130<sup>th</sup> Street)

1 – Pumper

Station #5 (Keyser Point Road)

2 – Pumpers  
1 – 85’ Snorkel Truck  
2 – Tankers  
1 – Air Cadet Truck  
1 – Utility Van  
1 – Pumper  
1 – Pumper Foam Unit

~~In 2004, the OCVFC responded to 1390 calls for service (fires, silent alarms, medic assist and rescues). In partnership with the Fire/EMS division, the OCVFC responded to 1,400 calls for service in 2015.~~

Ocean City maintains an ISO fire rating of 3.8, a rating of one is excellent with ten being the bottom scale. Only one other city in Maryland has a higher ISO rating. There are four basic factors affecting a municipality’s ISO rating: 1) water supply, 2) the fire company capabilities, 3) emergency communication system, and 4) the extent of the town’s fire safety/prevention programs.

~~Replacement of Station 4 in 2014, renovation of the Fire Department Headquarters in 2016, and a planned capital improvement to relocate and replace Station 3 at 65<sup>th</sup> Street will complete the final phase of the improvements recommended in the 2002 Fire Station Location Study. Needs identified for OCVFC include:~~

- ~~▪ A training facility on the mainland.~~
- ~~▪ A computerized building data base identifying the configuration, construction characteristics, and location of power and gas shut-offs for all buildings in Ocean City.~~

## Recommendations

- Complete Public Works Campus Master Plan design, and begin phased implementation of facility improvements to consolidate and centralize municipal operations.
- ~~Establish an~~ Evaluate impact fee or excise tax to confirm its use to offset costs associated with provision of infrastructure and delivery of public services prompted by new development or more intense re-development over time.

- ~~Finalize-Complete~~ update of ~~2005~~-Water and Sewer ~~system-evaluation~~master plan to determine need or demand for upgrade of components of the Water supply and Waste treatment systems and how any needed improvements should be staged over time.
- Continue with improvements to Northside Park including renovation of facilities, rest rooms, nature walks, athletic fields, basketball courts and event venues.
- ~~Complete development of Sunset Park and assess potential to utilize site to support water taxi service functions.~~
- Re-design and re-construct Skate Park downtown.
- Establish additional biking/hiking/jogging trails that ~~permit user interaction with natural wetland environments that can be used to augment fishing/crabbing opportunities or to develop natural environmental interpretive facilities to~~ increase appreciation of the area's environmental resources and provide alternate routes to the busy Coastal Highway corridor.
- Construct an additional indoor recreational facility for soccer, lacrosse, or other activities.
- Develop additional playgrounds to serve local neighborhoods and replace older existing equipment where needed.
- ~~Work with Worcester County toward construction of new library facilities.~~Improve integration of planning documents such as the Capital Improvement Program, Hazard Mitigation Plan and Comprehensive Plan.
- Support the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Department to develop a training facility in the West Ocean City Area.