

Chapter Seven

Community Facilities and Services Inventory

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an inventory of the community services and facilities most relevant to regional planning. Those facilities that are either shared on a regional basis or which could be provided or planned for cooperatively are emphasized. Areas where regional planning or cooperation could improve the provision of facilities or services are identified in the planning implications.

Community facilities and services inventoried in this chapter include:

- Sewage Facilities
- Water Facilities
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Emergency Services
- Library
- Schools
- Recreational Facilities
- Cooperative Purchases

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- ❑ **Water Facilities** - The Region's dependence on groundwater for their domestic water supplies emphasizes the need to protect this valuable resource. The vulnerability of certain groundwater aquifers to contamination, particularly the Cockeysville Marble formation, indicates that groundwater protection measures should be incorporated into land use ordinances and made consistent within the Region. Because water resources are shared between municipalities, there is a need for cooperation in the use of this resource. The Region should also review its options for preventing the export of groundwater out of the area by large water companies. (See also Chapter 4, Environmental Resources.) The extension of public water lines into areas where open space preservation is a goal should be avoided so as not to encourage higher intensity uses in inappropriate places.
- ❑ **Sewage Facilities Planning** - The municipalities in the Region have relatively current sewage facilities plans or are in the process of the updating their plans. Ensuring that sewage facilities planning is consistent with the identified policies of this plan will be important in implementing future regional land use goals. The extension of public sewers into areas targeted for preservation should be avoided; however, alternatives for smaller community systems to allow for cluster development should be an option in areas where open space preservation is a goal and pumping stations are not practical. Coordination in the provision of larger public facilities should be considered where it is the most cost effective approach to meeting sewage facilities needs.
- ❑ **Solid Waste Disposal** - The possibility of regional contracting for solid waste collection should be explored to address the inefficiencies created by individual contracting for haulers and to determine

if cost savings to residents might be possible. East Marlborough currently meets, and Kennett Township is likely to soon meet, the minimum population and density criteria mandating the provision of curbside recycling. This may not be of significant concern since private haulers now provide curbside recycling service.

- ❑ **Police Coverage** - Although increased staff levels were approved, the Avondale State Police barracks has not maintained the approved staffing levels. The Region should continue to monitor the State Police staffing situation and communicate their concerns to the appropriate agencies. Other municipalities may want to create a Town Watch program similar to that implemented in Pennsbury.
- ❑ **Fire and Ambulance Coverage** - The ability to maintain adequate 24-hour coverage, particularly during daytime hours, is a primary concern with most volunteer emergency service organizations. As the needs of the Region continue to evolve, volunteer staffing may need to be supplemented with additional paid personnel to ensure adequate coverage is maintained at all times. It is too early to determine the full implications of recent changes to ambulance coverage territories and the closing of two ambulance companies; this situation should continue to be monitored for potential negative affects to the provision of the Region's emergency services.
- ❑ **Library** - The Region should consider how libraries can most equitably be funded by those municipalities that are using their services.
- ❑ **Schools** - Future growth in the districts should be carefully monitored to best anticipate the need for new facilities. Trends in family size, in-migration of families with children, and the decreasing number of new students per household should be factored into these projections. School districts planning for the future need to monitor birth data, conduct school censuses to ascertain school age populations per household, and secure information on future residential construction to best determine future enrollment trends. The Region could assist the school districts by keeping them apprised of proposed developments and zoning changes. The impacts on the Region's school districts created by the immigration of farmworkers and their families create additional concerns that should be addressed by the schools, particularly in the Kennett District.
- ❑ **Recreational Facilities** - The Region could benefit from coordinating recreational programming and facilities between member municipalities. Duplication of efforts could be avoided and recreational programs and facilities could possibly be provided more efficiently through regional cooperation. A more detailed analysis of recreational needs on a multi-municipal basis could help determine where regional cooperative efforts would be most useful.
- ❑ **Cooperative Purchases** – The Region could realize additional cost savings and efficiencies by exploring other potential areas of joint purchasing and provision of services.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Sewage Facilities

Sewage facilities in the Region consist of a mix of the following types of systems:

- Individual on-lot systems;
- Small community systems (both public and private) serving specific residential developments, areas, or non-residential uses;
- One large public system operated by Kennett Square; and
- Two smaller public systems operated by East Marlborough.

In 1997, approximately 6,700 residents in the Region, or 28 percent of the population, were served by the Kennett Square sewage system.¹ The remainder of residents in the Region rely on individual on-lot systems or community and small public systems.

Community systems in the Region are listed in Figure 7-1. They are divided into three basic types of systems: spray irrigation or land application, on-lot (sub-surface) systems, and package treatment plants with stream discharge. Most of the residential community systems serve less than 70 dwellings (the range is about 25 to 150 connections). Most of the community systems are privately owned and often maintained by homeowners associations. Exceptions are those operated by the school districts, the county system in Pocopson, and the Dalkeith Farm system in East Marlborough. Kennett Township is also a co-permittee on several community systems. If the system is not properly maintained, this allows the township to take over, operate, and repair the system and to charge the users for the cost of the work. Other municipalities in the Region should consider adopting a similar strategy to oversee the maintenance of community systems and ensure they are functioning properly.

Figure 7-1: Community Sewage Systems in the Region

Type of System	Area Served	Location of System
Spray Irrigation System	Unionville-Chadds Ford Middle and High Schools	East Marlborough
	Longwood Gardens	East Marlborough
	New Bolton Center	East Marlborough
	Hamorton Village	Kennett Township (uses Longwood System)
	Kendal-Crosslands-Cartmel ²	Kennett Twp./Pennsbury
Community On-Lot Sub-Surface System	Chester County Prison/ Pocopson Home	Pocopson
	Unionville Elementary School	East Marlborough
Community Sub-Surface Systems (cont.)	Dalkeith Farm	East Marlborough

¹ This figure includes Kennett Square and Kennett Township residents. If New Garden were included, it would add approximately 750 residents (280 connections). Source: Borough of Kennett Square, Act 537 Official Plan Update, July 1997.

² Crosslands and Cartmel are located in Pennsbury Township, but the sewage system is located in Kennett Township. This system is currently in need of expansion.

Figure 7-1: Community Sewage Systems in the Region

Type of System	Area Served	Location of System
	Upland Country Day School	East Marlborough
	Ponds of Woodward	Kennett Twp.
	Village of Ponds Edge	Pennsbury
	Hillendale Elementary School	Pennsbury
	Lenape Forge	Pocopson
	Tullamore	Pocopson/Pennsbury ³
	Balmoral	Kennett Twp.
	Deerfield	Kennett Twp.
Package Treatment Plant	Thomforde	East Marlborough
(stream discharge)	Hillingham I	Kennett Twp.
	Mendenhall	Kennett Twp.
	Chadds Ford Elementary School	Pennsbury

Source: Sewage Facilities Inventory, CCPC, 1991; Municipal Act 537 Plans (most current date available).

Sewage Facilities Planning

Sewage facilities planning in Pennsylvania is governed by the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. A primary purpose of the plan is to determine how sewage facilities can best be provided to the meet anticipated future land use needs of the municipality. The plan can also be used to establish the most preferred methods of sewage treatment for new development. The degree of such planning undertaken in the Region ranges from very current planning efforts to ones that are extremely outdated. Most sewage facilities planning efforts have been undertaken independently, but the Region could be better served if these efforts were coordinated. A brief overview of sewage facilities planning and policies in each municipality is outlined below. Where available, the municipal sewage facilities information has been updated.

East Marlborough Township - The East Marlborough Sewage Facilities Plan was adopted in 1989 and last amended in 1995. Although the majority of residents rely on individual on-lot systems, there are several community sewage systems in the Township plus three municipally owned and operated systems. The municipal systems consist of two smaller public systems and one community system. The public systems include the Baltimore Pike Wastewater Treatment Plant, a stream discharge system serving areas along Route 1 in the southeastern corner (commercial and residential properties) of the township and Longwood Crossing in Kennett Township; and the Wollaston Road Facility, a spray facility which came on line in 1996 and serves Unionville, Willowdale, Willowdale Crossing, La Reserve, and Longview Lane. Current plans are to close the Baltimore Pike system, using it as a pumping station, and redirecting the wastewater to an expanded Wollaston Road facility. This change should occur within the next year. The community system operated by the township is the Dalkeith Farms Wastewater treatment plant at the corner of School House Road and Country Club Road, a sand mound system serving the Dalkeith Farms development.

East Marlborough sewage facilities policies are to encourage individual on-site treatment and disposal wherever feasible and upgrade existing systems where conditions require. Where on-lot sub-surface disposal systems are infeasible, alternative community systems may be used with land application (spray

³ The development is located in Pocopson Township while the open space and community system is located in Pennsbury Township.

irrigation) being the preferred method of treatment. Current wastewater facilities needs identified include long-term management of the growing number of community disposal systems, elimination of older failing septic systems in Unionville and Willowdale, correction of failing community system at Longview Lane, and correction of scattered failing on-lot sewage disposal systems throughout the township. Many of these identified needs were addressed through connection to the Wollaston Road Spray Facility.

Kennett Township - The Kennett Township Sewage Facilities Plan was adopted in 1988 and last amended in 1993. The majority of Kennett residents rely on individual on-lot systems. Existing larger facilities in the township include the Kendal-Crosslands spray irrigation system and several community on-lot systems. Portions of Kennett Township near the borough are served by the borough treatment plant. Wastewater from Hamorton Village is treated by the Longwood wastewater treatment plant in East Marlborough. The 537 Plan proposed that Kennett and East Marlborough townships construct a stream discharge treatment plant to serve the Route 1 Corridor. This facility (the Baltimore Pike Wastewater Treatment Plan described under East Marlborough) has since been completed.

Policies outlined in the township sewage facilities plan are to: provide centralized wastewater collection facilities where intensive development is planned compatible with the township comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance; encourage continued use of sewage systems that recharge groundwater; adopt regulations to enable the township to exercise adequate control over the management of community systems; and develop an education program for the management of on-lot disposal systems. Individual on-lot systems are the preferred method of treatment where they are feasible. Where community systems are proposed, the preferred method of treatment is land application (spray irrigation) followed by subsurface disposal. As noted earlier, Kennett is also the co-permittee on new community systems and can take over or repair systems that are not being properly maintained or are malfunctioning.

Kennett Square Borough - The borough is in the process of updating their sewage facilities plan. (Currently, their only “official” plan is the County’s 1970 Plan.), The borough is looking at alternatives to replace the current treatment plant which discharges into the West Branch of the Red Clay Creek to address violations to their NPDES⁴ permit. According to a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) administrative order, these violations must be corrected by the year 2000. It has been determined that replacing the system with a new plant is more cost effective than upgrading the existing system. An initial proposal was to create a lagoon/land application treatment plant using land the Borough owns in Kennett Township. This plan was set aside for a variety of reasons. The Borough has decided to upgrade its current stream discharge facility, using an activated sludge system. This upgrade will meet current needs and regulations and there is also space available to construct an additional system if future needs require the additional capacity. As of this writing, the Borough’s Act 537 Plan has not received final approval by PADEP.

Pennsbury Township - The Pennsbury Township Sewage Facilities Plan was adopted in 1995. The majority of residents use on-lot sewage systems and much of the plan focused on addressing problems with existing on-lot systems. The plan recommends implementation of an on-lot management program to require pumping of all individual on-lot systems. The use of a “wastewater system selection strategy” is also recommended to be applied to all new sewage facility proposals to ensure the most cost effective and environmentally responsible wastewater technology is proposed. The continued use of individual on-lot systems is emphasized with township ownership/operation recommended if community facilities are constructed. Where community systems are proposed, a lagoon/pond system with spray irrigation is the preferred system. Land based alternatives (whether spray or sub-surface) are preferred over stream

⁴ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

discharge to promote the recharge of groundwater and protect stream and groundwater quality. No areas are planned for public sewage in the next ten years.

Pocopson Township - Pocopson Township does not have a municipal Sewage Facilities Plan, but has relied on the County's 1970 Plan. The County Plan endorses a continued reliance on individual on-lot systems for Pocopson. While individual systems are adequate for lots of one acre or larger, they are not useful for alternative designs, such cluster development, in areas where preservation of open space is a goal. Also, if there are any areas in the township where more intensive types of development are allowed, suitable alternatives for sewage treatment other than individual systems need to be considered. The township is considering developing a Sewage Facilities Plan consistent with the recommendations of current planning efforts.

Conclusion - The municipalities in the Region have relatively current sewage facilities plans or are in the process of the updating their plans. Ensuring that sewage facilities planning is coordinated and consistent with local and regional planning policies is important in implementing future land use goals. In particular, the extension of public sewers into areas targeted for preservation should be avoided. On the other hand, alternatives for smaller community systems to allow for cluster development should be an option in areas where open space preservation is a goal. Other municipalities in the Region should consider implementing the co-permittee strategy used by Kennett Township to oversee the maintenance of community systems and ensure they are functioning properly.

Coordination in the provision of larger public facilities should be considered where it is the most cost effective approach to meeting sewage facilities needs. Finally, groundwater recharge, rather than the export of water out of the Region, and the correction of existing failing systems is a common theme in several of the most current sewage facilities plans.

Water Facilities

With the exception of the Borough, the majority of the Region's residents depend on private wells for their water supply. (See Figure 7-2) Groundwater, even for those served by public systems, is the major source of drinking water in the Region.

Figure 7-2: Percentage of Population Served by Public and Private Water Sources

Municipality	Domestic Connections to Community or Public Water Systems	Percent of Population Served by Community or Public Water Systems	Percent of Population Served by Private Wells
East Marlborough	215	13%	87%
Kennett	358	19%	81%
Kennett Square	1,912	99%	1%
Pennsbury	450	39%	61%
Pocopson	166	22%*	78%
Region	3,101	39%	61%

*Excludes group quarters population of Pocopson Home and County Prison.

Source: Chester County Water Resources Management Plan, CCPC, 1996, original data used in Water Resources Plan is from 1990 U.S. Census and 1990 Annual Water Supply Reports

For the provision of public water, the Region is covered by the three water suppliers described below.⁵ This listing does not include the water system serving self-supplied institutions, mobile home parks, or apartment complexes. The location of these territories is shown on Map 7-1. Franchise areas, such as those of Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, are established by request to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). The PUC evaluates the application based on need and whether the utility has the capability to adequately serve the area. Expansion of the franchise area can occur through a request to the PUC or through the purchase of an existing water system (such as the purchase of the La Reserve system in East Marlborough). Once the franchise is established, only that water company may provide water service in the franchise area. The water company is obligated to provide water to anyone within the franchise area that requests such service.

Municipal water authorities do not require PUC certification, nor do municipal water departments unless they provide water service beyond their municipal boundaries. Therefore, while the Chester Water Authority could potentially serve the southern area of the county, it does not have an “official” franchise territory granted by the PUC in the same sense as Philadelphia Suburban Water Company.

Kennett Square Borough Water Department - The Borough began water supply operations in 1934 and now serves portions of New Garden and Kennett townships. Sources of water are a well in East Marlborough in the East Branch Red Clay watershed and an interconnection with the Chester Water Authority. The Chester Water Authority is the source of about half of the borough’s water needs. Expected future capital expenditures include replacement of old water distribution lines, storage facilities, leak detection equipment, and development of new wells. A back-up well or greater allocation from the CWA will enable this system to serve both the borough and surrounding areas into the future.

Chester Water Authority (CWA) - The CWA could potentially service Pennsbury Township and the majority of Kennett Township and East Marlborough. Areas currently being served by the CWA include the central portion of Pennsbury, south of Route 1, continuing in a line through Mendenhall and passing south of the Borough through Kennett Township. The Chester Water Authority is one of the largest suppliers in Chester County, also serving portions of Delaware and Lancaster counties. It sells bulk water to Kennett Square Borough. The major source of water is the Pine Grove Reservoir on the border between Chester and Lancaster Counties, which includes a 50 inch supply line from the Susquehanna

⁵ Descriptions of water companies are taken from the publication, Water Resources Use and Service in Chester County, Chester County Water Resources Management Plan - Phase 2, Chester County Planning Commission, 1996.

River. The system has sufficient supply sources to serve the needs of southern Chester County communities into the future.

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company (PSWC) - The PSWC franchise area was recently expanded to include the southeastern area of Pocopson, including the Home and Prison and extending into a section of East Marlborough and Pennsbury. Other areas served include the Beversrede subdivision in Pocopson and East Marlborough. In 1994, PSWC purchased the La Reserve Water Company located in East Marlborough on Route 82, north of Willowdale. Philadelphia Suburban Water Company is an investor-owned utility and the largest water supplier in the Philadelphia metropolitan area outside of the City of Philadelphia, serving more than 800,000 people. The company currently provides service to 90 communities in Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties. The system consists of a vast network of supply sources, treatment facilities, storage facilities, and distribution mains. The company has bought and continues to buy smaller water companies throughout the Philadelphia region and is interconnected to a number of other public water systems in the area. Surface water sources of the PSWC are Crum Creek in Delaware County, Pickering Creek in Chester County, Perkiomen Creek in Montgomery County, Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County, and the Schuylkill River near Phoenixville. Continued improvements and additions to the water supply infrastructure will enable this system to serve Chester County into the future.

Conclusion - The Region's dependence on groundwater for their domestic water supplies emphasizes the need to protect this valuable resource. This is also true for the Borough which, although served by a community water supply, depends on groundwater for approximately half its water needs. The vulnerability of certain groundwater aquifers, the Cockeysville Marble formation in particular, is discussed in Chapter 4, Environmental Resources. Because water resources are shared between municipalities, there is a need for regional study and cooperation in the use of this resource. The Region should also review its options for preventing the export of groundwater out of the area by large water companies. As with sewage facilities, the extension of public water lines into areas where open space preservation is a goal should be avoided.

Solid Waste Disposal

Kennett Square is currently the only municipality in the Region that provides refuse collection as a service to its residents. The Borough contracts with a private hauler and also provides curbside recycling pick-up. In all other municipalities, individuals are responsible for contracting with private haulers for the collection and disposal of solid waste. Because trash is collected by several different haulers, there would seem to be considerable inefficiency caused by the current method of individual contracting. The possibility of regional contracting should be explored to address these inefficiencies and determine if cost savings to residents might be possible.

The most current State legislation regarding solid waste disposal is Act 101, the Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Reduction Act. When this legislation was enacted in 1988, major issues concerning solid waste were closing down sub-standards landfills, ensuring there was enough capacity to meet municipal needs at landfills meeting current regulatory standards, and stabilizing rapidly escalating tipping fees. Since that time, costs have stabilized and, due to increased recycling and availability private facilities, landfill capacity is less of an immediate concern.

A significant change that occurred through Act 101 was that it placed the burden of solid waste planning and ensuring adequate disposal capacity on counties rather than municipalities. The Act does require that any municipality with a density of 300 persons per square mile and a population of 5,000 or more

provide for mandatory curbside recycling. Figure 7-3 indicates which municipalities in the Region met this criteria in 1990 and which may currently meet the criteria based on 1997 population estimates. Based on this information, it appears that East Marlborough now meets the curbside recycling criteria and that Kennett Township is likely to meet this criteria by the year 2000. If the year 2020 projections are low, as is currently expected, Pennsbury and Pocopson are also likely to meet curbside recycling criteria by 2020. Because most private haulers now provide curbside recycling pickup, this issue may be of less concern now than it was when Act 101 was first adopted.

Figure 7- 3: Solid Waste Service and Recycling Facilities

	Municipality Contracts for Service	Curbside Pick-up of Recyclables Available**	Recycling Facilities Available In Municipality	Population 1990 (1997)* 2020	Density (Persons per Square Mile) 1990(1996)
E. Marlboro.	No	Yes	No	4,781 (5,780) 6,830	299 (361) 427
Kennett Twp.	No	Yes	Yes	4,624 (5,560) 6,030	243 (293) 317
Kennett Sq.	Yes	Yes	n/a	5,218 (5,690) 5,650	5,218 (5,690) 5,650
Pennsbury	No	Yes	Yes	3,326 (3,630) 4,350	321 (350) 420
Pocopson	No	Yes	Yes	3,266 (3,590) 4,570	388 (427) 544

*1997 estimate, **Either through the municipality or private haulers.
Source: 1990 U.S. Census and CCPC population 1997 estimates and 2020 projections.

In terms of landfill capacity, the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) operates a 79 acre landfill in London Grove Township. This landfill is used by southern Chester County communities. It began operation in 1986 and should have sufficient capacity for another five to ten years at its current site of operation. SECCRA has acquired additional acreage for future expansion and plans to continue serving the area on a long-term basis.

Emergency Services

Police - Kennett Square is the only municipality in the Region with its own police force. The department is staffed with ten full-time officers and four part-time officers. The remainder of the Region relies on the State Police for protection. The regional State Police barracks is located in the Avondale station in London Grove Township. The southern Chester County area covered by the State Police is divided into six zones, each of which is patrolled on a 24-hour basis by no less than one police car.

The KARPC conducted a study in 1993 to determine if there was adequate police coverage in the Region. At that time it was determined that police activity did not warrant the creation of a regional or supplemental police force, although improved response times were desired. Further, the report found that the Avondale barracks was undermanned and an additional 14 staff positions were approved after the findings of the study were released. The report also indicated that townships could assist the State Police and improve their effectiveness by reducing the number of false burglar alarms and more clearly identifying residential locations. In response to the alarm problem, Kennett Township enacted an ordinance whereby a fine is levied if false alarms exceed two per six months. To date, it does not appear that the ordinance has significantly reduced the number of false alarms in the township.

Unfortunately, the full staffing approved at the increased level has not been consistently maintained and the issue of full police coverage remains a concern in the Region. A need to better anticipate attrition and possibly pay a premium to officers for the higher cost of living in this area could help to maintain

complete and adequate police coverage for the Region. The Region has communicated these concerns to the State Police Commissioner and should continue to monitor the situation. As development in the Region continues, baseline data from the original study will be useful for future analysis of police coverage needs. Pennsbury Township has a Town Watch program which provide patrols primarily at night. Volunteers can report problems or suspicious activity through a radio system that is directly tied to emergency services and the State Police.

Fire and Ambulance - Fire protection in the Region is provided by the volunteer fire companies shown in Figure 7-4. The areas covered by each fire company are shown on Map 7-1. Ambulance coverage in the Region had been provided by the Unionville Community Ambulance, Kennett Fire Company #1, and Longwood Ambulance companies. However, due to redistricting of the ambulance service areas by the County, the Kennett and Unionville companies lost a large portion of their territories. As of September 1999, both companies indicated that it was no longer profitable to remain in operation and planned to close by the end of the year. As of February 2000, Chester County returned control of ambulance territories to local municipalities. However, it is too early to tell what, if any, affect this will have on the future of ambulance coverage in the Region. Additional coverage to most of the Region is provided through the Southern Chester County Rescue Association and Medic Alert operating out of the Southern Chester County Medical Center in Penn Township. Good Fellowship Ambulance Club also covers a small portion of Pocopson Township.

Figure 7-4: Fire Companies in the Kennett Region

Fire Company	Location	Coverage
Kennett Fire Company #1	Kennett Square Borough	Kennett Square and Kennett Township west of Bayard Road
Longwood Fire Company	Route 1 and 52, Kennett Township.	Pennsbury and portions of Kennett, East Marlborough, and Pocopson
Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company	Unionville, East Marlborough Township	Most of East Marlborough and portions of West Marlborough, Newlin, and Pocopson

Source: Community Facilities Inventory: Government and Emergency Services, Vol. 7, CCPC, 1988; and municipal comprehensive plans.

All emergency services can be contacted through the Chester County 911 system. The ability to maintain adequate 24-hour coverage is a primary concern with most volunteer emergency service organizations. Daytime hours are typically the most difficult to cover because many volunteers are at work, often at jobs outside of the immediate area. As the needs of the Region continue to evolve, volunteer staffing may need to be supplemented with additional paid personnel to ensure adequate coverage is maintained at all times. Both Kennett and Longwood currently have some paid personnel.

Library

Library service is primarily provided to the Region through the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library located in Kennett Square. The library was founded in 1896 and operated as an independent facility for many years before joining the Chester County Library system in 1990. The library is supported through endowments and the financial support of member municipalities including Kennett Square Borough and New Garden, Pennsbury, East Marlborough, and Kennett townships. Through a referendum vote, East Marlborough, Kennett Square, Kennett Township, and Pennsbury agreed to pay an extra three mills of taxes to support the library. Not all the surrounding municipalities that use the library contribute financially to its support and some do not contribute in proportion to their use of the library. The library receives minimal financial support from the State and County. As part of the County Library System,

residents of the Region have access to publications within the entire library system. Because the library receives state aid, it must meet the minimum standards and guidelines established by the Pennsylvania State Library.

Public Schools

The Region is located within two school districts: the Kennett Consolidated School District and the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District. (See Map 7-1) The Kennett School District is comprised of Kennett Square, Kennett, New Garden, and the southeastern corner of East Marlborough. Facilities consist of a high school, middle school, and three elementary schools. The Unionville-Chadds Ford District consists of West Marlborough, Newlin, Pocopson, Birmingham, Pennsbury, most of East Marlborough, and Chadds Ford Township in Delaware County. Facilities consist of a high school, middle school, and three elementary schools. Interestingly, because of the configuration of the school district, the majority of East Marlborough’s commercial tax base (along Route 1) is located in the Kennett School District, although the majority of the township is located in the Unionville District.

The student enrollment of the Kennett Consolidated School District has increased dramatically (over 50 percent) since the 1988-1989 school year. (See Figure 7-5) The Kennett School District enrollment had previously peaked at 3,182 in 1969-1970. After 1970, the district’s enrollment continuously declined, reaching its lowest point in 1986-1987 with an enrollment of only 2,018. This downward trend in school enrollment was generally experienced county-wide and resulted from a decline in new family formations and a lower birthrate. However, beginning in 1989, the trend in the Kennett District has been one of steady upward growth until enrollment has now surpassed the 1969-1970 peak.

The Unionville-Chadds Ford School District has seen some fluctuation in enrollment over the years, but the trend has generally been one of a steady upward increase from 1,959 students in 1967-1968 to its current peak of 3,527 students in the 1997-1998 school year. This continuous upward trend in Unionville’s enrollment has not been true for most school districts in the County and, in fact, overall school enrollment in the County reached its peak in the 1971-72 school year at 63,438, fell to a low of 50,030 in 1985-1986, and is currently at 61,403 students in 1998. The growth in the Unionville District and more recently in the Kennett District is most likely the result of increased development in the Region and the “baby boomlet” as baby boomers moved through their childbearing years.

Figure 7-5: School Enrollments - 1988 to 1998

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
Kennett Consolidated	2,034	2,018	2,081	2,221	2,334	2,480	2,673	2,855	3,036	3,179	3,196
Unionville-Chadds Ford	2,989	2,947	2,887	2,964	2,808	2,920	2,992	3,091	3,266	3,368	3,527
Chester County	51,268	51,149	51,543	52,361	53,326	54,688	56,339	57,830	59,733	60,685	61,403

Source: Chester County Intermediate Unit, 1987-1998.

Figure 7-6 shows the school enrollment in 1997-1998 for the schools in each district and their design capacity. In Kennett, the middle and high school enrollments are still within their design capacities, but the elementary schools are over 100 percent capacity despite expansions to the Greenwood and New Garden elementary schools. As these students move into the secondary schools, their capacity is likely to be stressed as well. In the Unionville-Chadds Ford district, only the middle school is currently functioning within its design capacity. Both districts are planning on adding new elementary schools

(one in Pocopson and one in New Garden). Expansion of the Unionville-Chadds Ford high school is also planned in the next five years to accommodate the growing student population.

Figure 7-6: School Enrollment and Design Capacity

School District	1997-1998 Enrollment	Design Capacity	Percent of Capacity
Kennett Consolidated			
Elementary Schools	1,982	1,760	113%
Middle School	435	650	67%
High School	779	1,050	74%
Total	3,196	3,460	92%
Unionville-Chadds Ford			
Elementary Schools	1,620	1,600	101%
Middle School	854	1,100	78%
High School	1,053	1,035	102%
Total	3,527	3,735	94%

Source: 1998 School Directory, Chester County, PA, Chester County Intermediate Unit; Kennett Consolidated and Unionville-Chadds Ford School Districts

Future growth in the districts should be carefully monitored to best anticipate the need for new facilities. Trends in family size, the decreasing number of new students per household, and in-migration of families with children should be factored into projections. The number of school age students per household has steadily fallen in the County and in the two Kennett Area school districts. However, these two districts and Unionville in particular, have a somewhat higher average than the County as a whole. (See Figure 7-7) School districts planning for the future need to monitor birth data, conduct school censuses to ascertain school age populations per household, and secure information on future residential construction. Finally, the immigration of farmworkers and their families into the Region have had impacts on the schools, particularly in the Kennett School District. English as a second language is being addressed by the schools, while cultural assimilation requires further action on the part of the schools.

Figure 7-7: School Students per Occupied Housing Unit

School District	1970	1980	1990
Kennett Consolidated	.83	.50	.42
Unionville-Chadds Ford	.80	.67	.47
Chester County Average	.81	.51	.38

Source: Chester County Planning Commission, Planning Bulletin #52, Trends and Relationships between Occupied Housing Units and School Enrollment, 1996.

Recreational Facilities

Figure 7-8: Municipal Recreational Facilities

Municipality	Facility	Ownership	Area	Facilities
East Marlborough	Unionville Recreation Association Ballfields	Township	7 acres	baseball fields
	Unionville Elementary School	School District	36 acres	multi-use fields
	Unionville Middle School	School District	70 acres	multi-use fields
	Unionville High School	School District	42 acres	multi-use fields
Kennett Township	Pennock Memorial Fields	Borough	10 acres	baseball fields
	Rosedale Triangle	Township	9 acres	potential park location
	Anson B. Nixon Park	Kennett Area Park Authority	82 acres	ball field, playground, trails, picnic areas, passive open space
	Greenwood Elementary School	School District	24 acres	softball, baseball, soccer, football, basketball, play equipment
Kennett Square	Anson B. Nixon Park	KAPA	6 acres	(See Above)
	Kennett Community Park	Borough	5 acres	swimming pool, volleyball and basketball courts, picnic area
	Kennett High School and Middle School	School District	36 acres	baseball, soccer, football, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis
	Greenwood Elementary School	School District	24 acres	softball, baseball, soccer, football, basketball, play equipment
	Mary D. Lang Elementary School	School District	4 acres	play equipment, badminton court, indoor basketball
	YMCA	Borough	7 acres	fitness center, weight room, gymnasiums, pool, locker rooms, teen center, administrative offices
	Pennsbury	Pennsbury Township Building/Recreation Area	Township	54 acres
Chadds Ford Elementary School		School District	10 acres	multi-purpose playfield, playground, basketball court
Hillendale Elementary School		School District	38 acres	multi-purpose playfield, playground, basketball courts
Pocopson	Corrine Tracts	Township	29 acres	potential park and recreation area
	Route 52 Tract	Township	8 acres	passive recreation, potential park
	Myrick Farm	BVA	314 acres	trails/nature study

Source: Municipal Open Space Plan Inventories, 1993; Chester County Planning Commission, 1996 Inventory of Municipal Park Land

Figure 7-8 provides an inventory of the public and quasi-public recreational facilities available within the Kennett Region. In addition to these local facilities, larger parks and recreation areas are available to the Region’s residents. (See Figure 7-9)

Figure 7-9: Parks Accessible to the Region

Park	Location (County/Municipality)
Brandywine Battlefield State Park	Delaware County
Brandywine Creek State Park	New Castle County
Embreeville County Park	Newlin & West Bradford Twps.
Evansburg State Park	Montgomery County
French Creek State Park	Warwick & North Coventry Twps.
Hibernia County Park	W. Caln & W. Brandywine Twps.
Marsh Creek State Park	Wallace & Upper Uwchlan Twps.
Nottingham County Park	West Nottingham Township
Ridley Creek State Park	Delaware County
Springton Manor County Park	Wallace Township
Valley Forge National Park	Schuylkill & Tredyffrin Twps.
White Clay Creek Preserve	London Britain Township

Source: Chester County Planning Commission

Extensive analyses of park and recreational needs were completed in the four 1993 Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plans completed for each municipality in the Region. (Kennett Township and Kennett Square Borough adopted a joint plan.) A summary of the major conclusions regarding recreational facility planning in each municipality is provided below.

East Marlborough - The amount of active recreational lands are adequate when the school district properties are included. Currently, residents do not place a strong importance on the acquisition of more land for recreational uses. As the population grows and the existing facilities become insufficient, there will be a need for more active recreational land in the township. The Plan recommends that as future developments are proposed, consideration be given to obtaining land as part of the open space requirements. This land could be reserved for active recreational uses as the need arises. Ideally, the lands obtained through this method should be adjacent to each other to form a critical land area for a township-wide park facility. The plan also recommends initiating a model trail experiment by exploring possible routes, designs, and strategies with landowners.

Kennett Township and Kennett Square Borough - The Joint Open Space Plan recommends that the Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) continue to develop Anson B. Nixon Park in accordance with the park master plan. Also, the master plan should be updated as needed to address the changing needs and issues of the community. Preserving the natural resources of the park should remain a priority. The acquisition of a new community park along the proposed east/west greenway system and the development of a neighborhood park in the Rosedale triangle were also recommended.

Other recommendations of the plan include: construction of improvements to the Kennett Community Park; development of a full service indoor recreational facility; acquisition of a facility to serve as the Kennett Youth Center; development of mini-parks within neighborhoods; establishment of mandatory dedication of recreation lands or a fee-in-lieu of such lands in the subdivision and land development ordinance; establishment of a greenway trail system for walking, hiking, jogging, and biking. The YMCA was opened in 1988 at the location of the former Race Street Park.

Pennsbury Township - Recommendations of the Open Space Plan include: acquisition and development of a township community park; development of recreational facilities at the township building grounds; acquisition of parkland through the development process; development of a public access plan for Brandywine Creek; monitoring potential cooperative efforts with neighboring municipalities for the development of community park facilities; exploring the establishment of a township-wide trail system; and seeking coordinated use of private and quasi-public sites which might help meet community recreational needs.

Subsequent to the completion of the Open Space Plan, a park facility is in the process of being developed on 54 acres adjacent to the township building. A natural area with trails, picnic areas, and benches are in place and future plans include a playground and ballfields. The township is currently applying for a grant to fund a park master plan.

Pocopson Township - The township does not have any municipally owned community parks or recreational facilities. Passive use of trails is available at the Brandywine Valley Association's 314 acre Myrick Farm. Recommendations of the plan for recreational facilities include: planning for future community park facilities, focusing on the township owned Corrine tract; considering potential cooperative efforts with neighboring municipalities; continuing the formal establishment of the township trails system, particularly missing links in established corridors; monitoring the need for neighborhood park development using designated open space in residential developments; and seeking developer contributions for park development through the subdivision ordinance.

Conclusion - The Region could benefit from coordinating recreational programming and facilities between member municipalities. The Region could coordinate efforts to create a regional greenways/trail network. Also, duplication of efforts could be avoided and programs could be provided more efficiently through regional cooperation. A more detailed analysis of recreational needs on a multi-municipal basis could help point out where regional cooperative efforts would be most useful.

Cooperative Purchases

The Region works together on cooperative purchases to reduce expenses. Currently, municipalities cooperatively purchase road materials and services required for the maintenance of municipal roads. The purchase of bulk items offers municipalities lower unit process on materials through the purchase of large quantities. Joint purchasing can include 1) the purchase of capital goods; 2) purchase of bulk goods; and 3) the provision of joint municipal services. The joint purchase of services, such as a common code enforcement officer, zoning officer, or building inspector can provide the benefit of consistent service and the elimination of duplicate services between municipalities. The Region should consider if there are other areas where they might benefit from joint purchases of goods or services.