

4 | COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES

Overview

This Comprehensive Plan element focuses on the following community services and facilities:

- **Municipal Facilities (see Map CSF-1):** Town Hall, Peck Center (Senior Center & Public Library), Public Works, Public Safety Building, public school buildings and Bay Spring Community Center.
- **Municipal Operations:** Town administration, police and fire protection, emergency management, harbormaster, public works, library services and senior services.
- **Municipal Infrastructure:** stormwater, water and sewer facilities

Certain municipal functions are discussed elsewhere in the Plan: transportation facilities (Circulation), parks and recreation services (Open Space & Recreation), energy (Energy) and emergency management (Hazards). School operations are not a Comprehensive Plan issue.

Existing Conditions

Town Hall

Town Hall houses Town administrative offices, the School Department and meeting rooms. Since 2005, renovations to Town Hall have included: replacement of the slate roof, improvements to offices on the first and second floors, and refurbished office space in the lower level (basement), including a new conference room. The basement renovations enabled the Town to relocate the Recreation Department from the Peck Center, improving public access to that department, and to provide space for support the Bay Team, supporting the work it does to support local youth.

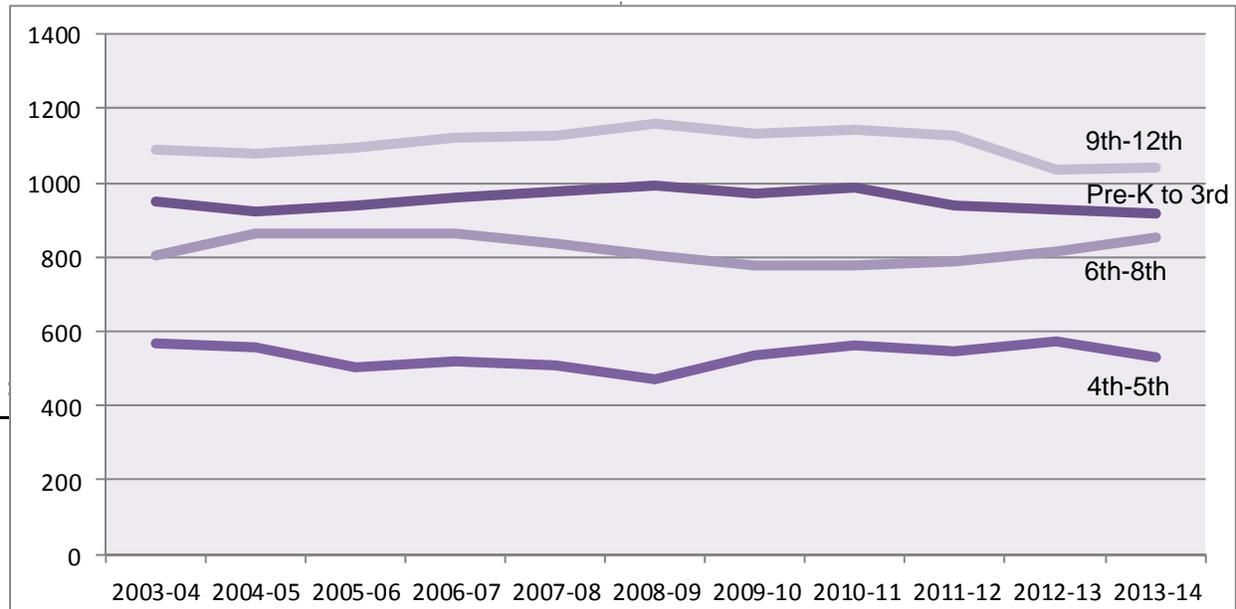
Public Schools

The Town owns and maintains six school buildings; school administration is housed in Town Hall. The School Department is contin-



Public Safety Building, 100 Federal Road

Figure 1: Enrollment History: Barrington Public Schools, 2003-04 to 2013-14



Source: Barrington School Department

ually monitoring the condition and needs of its facilities, and has recently identified a series of short-term updates. These include about \$2.4 million in near-term safety improvements that will be implemented by the end of 2015.

Public school enrollment fell by approximately 70 students over the last decade. There was a peak in the 2006-07 year, with 3,464 students, and again in 2010-11 with 3,466 students (see **Figure 1** for enrollment by grade level from 2003-04 to 2013-14). Another relatively large class is moving through the middle school, yet is not large enough to offset an overall trend to-

wards lower enrollment. This trend corresponds with an overall drop in Barrington’s population —by 509 people, or 3.0 percent, between 2000 and 2010, according to census data.

Enrollment projections suggest a continued decline in total school enrollment in the coming years. The projections, generated for the Barrington Public Schools by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), are shown in **Table 1**. In 2023-24, school enrollment is projected to total just 2,687 students, or 636 fewer than in 2013-14—a 19.5 percent decrease.

Table 1: Barrington Public Schools - Enrollment Projections: 2013-14 to 2023-24

Grade	School Year											2013-14 to 2023-24	
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Change	% Change
Pre-K to 3	912	880	828	759	730	730	726	748	738	737	739	(173)	-19.7%
4 - 5	531	501	511	526	496	441	413	387	392	416	406	(125)	-25.0%
6 - 8	854	829	825	777	770	776	765	706	650	596	601	(253)	-30.5%
9 - 12	1026	1048	1016	1078	1091	1052	1040	1012	1001	980	941	(85)	-8.1%
TOTAL	3323	3258	3180	3140	3087	2999	2944	2853	2781	2729	2687	(636)	-19.5%

Source: New England School Development Council—Enrollment projections prepared for Barrington Schools

Emergency management is discussed in greater detail in the Natural Hazards element.

Emergency Management

Barrington, like all Rhode Island communities, has an Emergency Management director responsible for developing the local emergency management program, and coordinating the program in the event of an emergency.

The Town has formed a staff committee to work with the local Emergency Management director on emergency / disaster planning and departmental response during emergencies. The Town has worked to secure interagency agreements with adjoining communities to strengthen response capabilities. An agreement with East Providence was recently secured to establish public shelters during hurricanes, if needed, as all but Primrose Hill Elementary are in zones with high potential for flooding.

Public Safety

The Existing Services and Facilities Map (Map CSF-1) shows one major addition in the past 20 years: the Public Safety Building on Federal Road, completed in 1999. The facility serves as headquarters for both the Police and Fire Departments.

The Police Department has 24 sworn police officers and a staff of seven civilian personnel. Crime statistics for 2007 through 2013 are shown in **Table 2** on the next page. Crime has declined steadily in recent years, with 130 fewer reported offenses in 2013 (a total of 428) than in 2007 (a total of 558) — a 23 percent decrease.

The Town's full-time Fire Department has 25 trained firemen, including the fire chief. The paid department was previously assisted by the Hampden Meadows Volunteer Department, but the organization disbanded in 2014.

The harbormaster and emergency management director, both part-time positions, have access to an office at the Public Safety Building. The harbormaster dock, adjacent to a public boat ramp scheduled for reconstruction, is located at the Police Cove site on the Barrington River.

Barrington Public Works

The Barrington Public Works Department operates out of a facility on Upland Way, which includes offices, parking for DPW vehicles, a maintenance garage, storage sheds and the Town's Recycling Center. The department is responsible for maintaining Town owned-facilities and infrastructure, including local roads, storm drainage system, sewer system, sidewalks and municipal buildings.

Public Works also provides a variety of services, including maintenance of all School grounds, Parks, Town Beach, lining and grooming of all playing fields, snow plowing, salting and sanding, mosquito control, refuse collection and recycling.

Refuse Collection and Recycling

Collection of refuse, recycling and yard waste is on a weekly basis and is provided by a private collection company. Recyclables may also be brought to the Town's Recycling Center adjacent to Public Works located on Upland Way. Refuse is only collected curbside; it is not accepted at the Recycling Center.

Recyclables that are accepted at the Town's Recycling Center, in addition to standard curbside recycling, include: vegetable oil, rigid plastic, fluorescent bulbs, textiles, white goods, computers, televisions, scrap metal, leaves/grass, anti-freeze, motor oil/filters.

White goods collection is also provided curbside one week a month; residents must call for an appointment. Brush chipping takes place six weeks in the spring and fall. Brush is chipped curbside by Public Works crews. Residents must call for

Table 2: Crime Statistics, Barrington: Total Offenses, 2007-2013

Description	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Homicide: Murder/Nonneg. Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide: Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide: Justifiable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping / Abduction	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offense, Force: Rape	1	1	0	1	1	2	0
Sex Offense, Force: Sodomy	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Sex Offense, Force: Object	0	1	0	2	2	0	0
Sex Offense, Force: Fondling	3	2	0	2	2	1	0
Robbery	1	0	0	2	0	3	1
Assault: Aggravated	2	1	2	2	7	1	1
Assault: Simple	59	56	39	44	42	25	18
Assault: Intimidation	9	10	10	8	14	14	16
Arson	4	3	0	3	2	1	1
Extortion / Blackmail	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Burglary / Breaking And Entering	35	35	38	41	43	30	49
Larceny: Pocket-Picking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny: Purse-Snatching	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny: Shoplifting	5	11	7	7	5	6	6
Larceny: From Bldg	21	13	18	16	11	16	28
Larceny: From Coin Operated Machine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny: From Mv	71	50	43	54	28	36	45
Larceny: Affixed Mv Parts/Accessories	1	1	3	2	0	1	2
Larceny: All Other	113	107	103	81	95	89	82
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	2	4	13	3	3	4
Counterfeiting / Forgery	5	9	11	9	6	3	7
Fraud: False Pretenses	27	25	21	16	21	31	39
Fraud: Credit Card/ATM	13	17	26	18	20	14	8
Fraud: Impersonation	0	0	2	1	1	0	2
Fraud: Welfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud: Wire	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Embezzlement	4	0	5	0	3	3	2
Stolen Property Offenses	2	5	3	6	1	4	8
Destruction / Damage / Vandalism	145	123	106	99	118	80	47
Drug/Narcotic: Violation	24	31	22	23	37	42	51
Drug/Narcotic: Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offense, Non Force: Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offense, Non Force: Statutory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pornography / Obscene Material	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Gambling: Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling: Operate/Promot/Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling: Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling: Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution: Engaging	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution: Assist/Promoting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	3	5	4	9	5	6	8
TOTAL OFFENSES	558	508	469	463	468	413	428

Source: Crime in Rhode Island 2013 report (March 2014 / RI State Police)

Table 3: Public Works Department Activities, 2011-12 to 2013-14 Fiscal Years

Activity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Refuse and Recycling			
Refuse - tons	5,929	5,766	5,567
RI Resource Recycling - tons	2,225	2,306	2,388
RI Resource Recycling Rate	27.29%	28.57%	30.02%
Other Recycling - tons	3,470	4,058	3,639
Total Recycling - tons	5,695	6,364	6,027
Overall Recycling Diversion rate	48.99%	52.47%	51.99%
Per Capita Waste Generation Rate (tons)	0.713	0.744	0.711
Other Activities			
Snow Plowing - miles	1,620	5,717	8,229
Salting / Sanding - miles	565	1,700	2,912

Source: Barrington Public Works Department

an appointment; brush is not accepted at the Recycling Center. The brush chipping program is for small residential use and is not intended for commercial and landscaper use.

Table 3 includes data on refuse and recycling tons. Rhode Island Resource Recovery recycling tons are collected curbside as well as from the Town's Recycling Center and brought to the Johnston Facility. Other recycling includes all the material listed above that is not accepted at the Johnston facility but recycled elsewhere. Total recycling is a combination of material recycled at the Johnston Facility as well as elsewhere.

For municipalities providing curbside collection of refuse and recycling the Town's overall diversion rate of 51.99 percent ranks first in the State.

Winter Storms—Plowing, Sanding/Salting

Table 3 also provides mileage logged by DPW trucks in plowing snow and salting/sanding streets. The numbers can vary greatly each year. For example, total miles in 2013-14 were more than five times that of 2011-12. The uncertainty affects DPW's yearly operating budget. Trucks and other equipment used to plow and sand/salt streets represent the majority of capital funding budgeted each year for DPW, which typically ranges from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Water Supply

Barrington's public water supply, along with that of Warren and Bristol, is provided by the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA), a public water authority which has been operational since 1984. As **Map CSF-2** shows, most of Barrington has access to public water, with one notable exception being the George Street area. The BCWA purchases 100 percent of its water from a single source: the Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB).

Water is delivered from the Scituate Reservoir via the East Bay Pipeline under the Providence River. Completed in 1998, the pipeline provides the system with a supply of up to 7.5 mgd of treated water. The primary main runs under the East Bay Bike Trail, with six pump stations in Barrington.

The Water Authority does have an alternate surface water supply consisting of the Shad Factory Reservoir and Anawan Reservoir in Rehobeth, Mass., the Swansea Reservoir in Swansea, Mass., and the Kickamuit Reservoir in Warren. All of these are currently off-line.

The Authority's Child Street Treatment Plant in Warren, that was used to treat water from the BCWA's various surface sources, has also

*Drought mitigation is discussed in the
Natural Hazards element*

been taken out of operation. It is presently maintained as an emergency supply until an alternate supply is obtained.

The plant was designed and constructed in 1908 to treat up to 4 million gallons (mgd) of surface water per day, but due to changes in regulations it was only capable of 1.5 mgd when it was taken off-line in 2011. The BCWA has determined the limited quantity and quality of the supplies, along with the need to replace most of the infrastructure — including the treatment plant — made the continued use of the supply to be unreasonable.

A former 0.65 mgd groundwater source, located on Nayatt Road in Barrington, was taken out of service in 2001 due to significant reductions in flow capacity and increasing iron, manganese and salt contamination. The treatment plant consisted of an iron and manganese removal system designed for 2 mgd that treated groundwater from a 12-inch gravel-packed well located at the facility. There are no plans for it to be returned to operation. The property is also the location of the Nayatt Road booster pump station, which is a component of the East Bay Pipeline.

Average daily demand for BCWA water has dropped, from 3.65 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2005 to 3.12 mgd in 2014. Today, average household demand is 47,140 gallons per year, or 40.5 gallons per person per day. According to the BCWA, consumption has decreased significantly over the past 10 years due to conservation, slower growth rates, the loss of industry and smaller family size.

BCWA is undergoing a major water main rehabilitation project to improve water quality and the structural integrity of the system, including the cleaning and lining of pipes in Barrington — part of a 10-year, \$37 million capital program.

Wastewater Treatment

Public Works is responsible for maintenance of the town wide sewer system including the force mains, laterals and pumping stations. The Town has six major sewer pumping stations, located at Police Cove, near the Barrington River Bridge, on County Road near Prince's Pond, Freemont Avenue, Legion Way near Brickyard Pond, Walnut Road and Bay Spring.

The pump stations at Police Cove, Prince's Pond and Freemont pump into the Brickyard Pond station on Legion Way. This station, along with Walnut Road and Bay Spring, pump into a sewer force main located adjacent to the East Bay Bike Path. There are also smaller ejector stations and sewer grinders that pump and move the wastewater along into the system into the various pumping stations (see **Map CSF-3**).

The force main connects to the treatment facility in East Providence. The Town shares the cost of upgrades to the East Providence treatment facility based upon the percentage of Town's flow through to the plant. The sanitary force main connection with East Providence failed in December 2006. In response, the Town replaced the force main, a \$5 million-plus project. The cost was covered through the sewer enterprise fund, which is also the mechanism for covering future multi-million-dollar improvements at the East Providence plant. The Town also undertook upgrades to the six major stations as well as improvements to the ejector stations and grinders.

Since 2008, upgrades to the six major stations as well as improvements to the ejector stations and grinders have taken place at a cost of more than \$9 million, bringing the Town's wastewater infrastructure into good condition. Ongoing long-term investment in sewer infrastructure is required. Costs of monitoring the entire system as part of the Town's preventative maintenance program include video cameras checking sewer lines, jet-rodding and cleaning of the lines, up-

grading of pumping station components and computers, and monitoring of nitrogen.

Stormwater Management

The Town's requirements for stormwater management within new subdivisions and land development projects are detailed in the Land Development & Subdivision Regulations. Drainage plans are reviewed by the DPW director and, when required, a peer review engineer, subject to Planning Board approval. Additional requirements—such as prohibitions on draining to public roadways and on connecting sump pumps to the sewer system—are covered in the Code of Ordinances (Chapter 91).

The Town maintains drainage systems within the public rights of way, including the use of a street sweeper to keep catch basins clear of debris. There are a few isolated stormwater detention basins that, in general, are maintained by homeowners associations, required through the subdivision approval process. The Town has easement rights to access stormwater facilities on private land, to complete maintenance as necessary. Funding for personnel and equipment comes from property taxes (there is no stormwater utility).

The roadway stormwater system maintained along State and local roads includes total of 521 catch basins (see **Map CSF-4**) and 347 manholes. Most of this drainage infrastructure is along major roadways such as Wampanoag Trail/County Road and the mixed-use sections of Maple Avenue. Several State roads have no stormwater facilities along significant stretches of roadway—including sections of New Meadow Road, Sowams Road, Massasoit Road, Middle Highway, Nayatt Road and Washington Road. New Meadow Road near Christine Drive in particular has had flooding issues during heavy rains.

Most residential streets lack drainage structures. Exceptions include Mathewson Road,

Broadview Drive, south of Brickyard Pond, and several neighborhood streets off New Meadow Road and Sowams Road and near the Zion Bible Institute.

Map CSF-5 depicts impervious coverage in town. Most of these surfaces—roads, parking lots, rooftops, paved driveways, sidewalks, etc.—are concentrated around the Village Center, Maple Avenue, and large non-residential sites that have large buildings and/or large parking lots, such as schools, marinas and churches. The map shows the densest residential neighborhoods, such as Bay Spring, with a significant percentage of impervious coverage.

As discussed in the Natural Hazards element, the Town has worked to reduce impervious surface where feasible. For example, the Town in 2014 took advantage of financing from the State's Clean Water Fund to complete drainage improvements at the Town Beach, a project that involved the removal of excess asphalt, the installation of rain gardens to capture runoff, and the replacement of an asphalt swale with a rip-rap swale in Water Way, eliminating a point source discharge.

The Town in 2014 also rebuilt the shoreline section of Latham Park, including the reconstruction of the parking lot featuring a new rain garden within a new center landscaped island.

Barrington Public Library

The Public Library is in the Peck Center building at the Town's government center on County Road. The early 1900's school building adjacent to Town Hall also houses the Barrington Senior Center as well as the Barrington Preservation Society. The first floor of the library underwent a major renovation in 2005. Renovation of the second floor of the library/Peck Center is being planned for 2015-16.

The library's collection consists of over 129,000 print titles and 9,600 non-print titles. The library

Figure 2: Peck Center

The Peck Center, 281 County Road, houses the Senior Center, TAP-IN and the Preservation Society on the ground floor; and the Public Library on the first and second floor.

also participates in the statewide circulation of books through Ocean State Libraries, the statewide consortium of public libraries in Rhode Island. Circulation (check outs) is close to 400,000 a year, making the Barrington Library the fourth busiest public library in the state, with the highest per capita circulation.

The library offers a number of programs for children and teenagers, including story hours, films, live performances and a full summer reading program. For adults, it offers films, speakers, discussion groups, and play and poetry readings. It is governed by a seven member board of trustees, appointed by the Town Council, with a staff of 14 full-time and 16 part-time people.

The library has a fully computerized card catalog and circulation control system which is tied into the statewide network. The library can also communicate with college and special libraries through a national online network. These net-

works are expected to expand, with the vision of “one catalog for all Rhode Island libraries” considered achievable in the near future.

The library also is working on a new five-year plan for 2015-2020. In the future, the Board of Trustees expects a gradual increase in services and materials offered, with emphasis on public library programming, readers’ advisory and online services.

Barrington Senior Center

The Senior Center, located on the ground floor of the library building, provides opportunities for social and recreational activities, personal enrichment, wellness, advocacy and volunteerism for citizens who are 55 years and older as well as for younger persons with disabilities. It is a nationally accredited center managed by a full-time director, seven part-time staff members, and a nine-member advisory board.

Services include Emergency Dialer System installations, health insurance counseling, RIPAE (RI Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly) application assistance, income tax preparation, flu clinic, various health screenings, and a Senior Companion visitor program. Programs and activities (most at no charge) include educational programs, discussion groups, health promotion, and exercise classes.

Many programs are done in collaboration with other Town departments and local organizations such as VNA of Newport County, Bay-side Family YMCA, Barrington Community School and AARP. Additional financial support is received from the Friends of the Barrington Senior Center organization which has provided a small fitness room, computer lab, the Senior Van and the redecorated restrooms.

Bay Spring Community Center

In 2013, the Town completed renovations to the 1910 two-story building on Narragansett Avenue—work that included the installation of a lift providing ADA access to the large meeting room on the second floor. The Town in 2010 completed first-floor renovations, addressed fire code issues and replaced an inefficient boiler system. The two phases, which cost approximately \$200,000, have added to the Town's inventory of available meeting spaces. The building can be reserved through the Clerk's office. The Town's Recreation Department is also working with a Bay Spring neighborhood association to help coordinate activities and provide additional programming to residents.

Cemeteries

The Cemetery Commission manages Town cemeteries, which include the Forest Chapel and Prince's Hill cemeteries. The Commission has a self-sustained budget. Recent projects include the addition of a columbarium at Prince's Hill Cemetery, and the acquisition of more than seven acres on George Street as a future cemetery site.

Issues and Opportunities

Facility Needs

Future of the Middle School

The School Department is continually monitoring the condition and needs of its facilities, and is in the process of completing \$1.9 million in short-term safety improvements. An additional \$10 to \$15 million in facility needs has also been identified for all schools (not including the Middle School) as part of a recent Stage II improvement assessment. These include efforts to keep the facilities in a state of good repair (e.g. roof replacement), as well as projects to reflect evolving curriculum needs (e.g. separating the cafeteria and auditorium functions at the elementary level).

The largest facility need facing the School Department is the need to update or reconstruct Barrington Middle School. The School Department is working to follow State and Federal processes to qualify Middle School reconstruction for state and/or federal funding. The School Department in 2014 began the process of developing conceptual plans for a new building at the site.

Town Hall and Peck Center

Space at the Peck Center is in high demand. The building houses the Library on the first and second floors and the Senior Center, the Preservation Society archives, and TAP-IN in the basement (lower level). The second floor includes several community meeting spaces and an auditorium. All of these users lack room to expand. The Library, as discussed earlier, has a very high utilization rate and is currently updating its five-year plan.

The Town will need to continue to evaluate the adequacy of parking for Town Hall and the Peck Center (see **Figure 2**, previous page) given the importance of maintaining adequate public access to these two critical public facilities.

Strong bike and pedestrian connections should also be maintained to better connect these facilities to the downtown business district.

Senior Center / Community Center

The Senior Center also needs to adapt to changing expectations of the Baby Boomer generation, which is more technologically savvy and is expected to be more active than previous generations of retirees.¹ The Senior Services Advisory Board's review of census data found that over 4,000 Boomers currently reside in Barrington today, or one in four residents.

The Senior Services Advisory Board is in the process of evaluating its future needs and has concluded that the retiring Boomer generation will not only require additional but, in some cases, different programs and services. The facility has issues that will need to be addressed, according to the Board, including a lack of sufficient parking and program space, an ambience which is not welcoming due to an institutional feel.

Another factor is the potential for additional senior-oriented housing, as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan for the Zion Bible Institute site, and with the option added to the Zoning Ordinance in 2012 allowing cottage-style senior residential community developments. The redevelopment of the former Zion Bible Institute alone could add more than 200 senior-housing units and an assisted living facility with 50 to 75 units/rooms, according to conceptual plans the owner presented to the Town in 2014.

The Council-appointed Community Center Task Force has discussed options for a potential new senior center building—focusing on Town-owned land immediately to the west of the Bay-side YMCA, at Veterans Park. The plans have not proceeded past the conceptual stage, and the site for a new building remains an open question.

Other Facility Issues

Additional issues related to Town properties and facilities include:

- *Impact of Enrollment on School Facilities.* The projected school decline in enrollment will require evaluation of school facility needs to be factored in long term capital improvement planning.
- *Stormwater Facilities.* As demonstrated by the drainage improvements completed within rebuilt parking lots at Town Beach and Latham Park, infrastructure improvement projects provide an opportunity to retrofit sites with stormwater measures that improve water quality. The Town has an opportunity to complete stormwater improvements as part of a \$4 million streets, sidewalks and drainage bond—which is funding street resurfacing projects throughout town—as well as the \$1.6 million streetscape improvement bond for the Village Center. Conceptual plans for the streetscape project identified opportunities to reduce street widths to incorporate rain gardens and street trees along the street edge—benefitting water quality within the Brickyard Pond and the Barrington River watersheds. Other potential stormwater projects have been identified by Save the Bay, and discussed in the Natural Hazards element.
- *Stormwater Maintenance:* The Town also lacks GIS mapping data showing the location of all of the stormwater facilities in town—including retention basins and subsurface built as part of subdivision and land development projects. Improved GIS data would help the Town track maintenance of stormwater facilities, including those that are the responsibility of private parties such as homeowners associations.
- *Condition and use of docks at Town sites.* The Town is in the process of building a new park at the Police Cove site on the Barrington River; include in the plan, pending

¹ For more information, see <http://www.agingcare.com/News/Senior-Centers-Prepare-for-Baby-Boomers-146476.htm>

availability of funding, is a new transient boat dock near the boat ramp, which is scheduled to be replaced in 2015. The Town should evaluate whether the Harbor-master dock, also at the Police Cove site, should be modified to allow for public access in place of a new transient dock. Another dock facility that requires evaluation is at Walker Farm; that dock is also adjacent to a boat ramp that requires upgrades. Both ramps provide not only public access, but serve as critical emergency boat access for public safety purposes.

- *The Place.* The 5-acre site on Middle Highway, northeast of the Zion Bible Institute site, has remained vacant since the demolition of “The Place” in 2007. The building that once housed “The Place” teen center was demolished in 2007 due to structural concerns. The future use of the property has not been determined.

Future Water Supply

An ongoing, pivotal issue is one of future water supply. The East Bay Pipeline provides up to 7.5 mgd for Bristol County, more than sufficient to meet the current average daily demand of 3.12 mgd per day. However, the available capacity/cost is limited by contract with the Providence Water Supply Board, and BCWA is not fully prepared for a catastrophic event that could temporarily cut off the pipeline supply.

Water from the East Bay Pipeline is purchased from Providence and rates have almost doubled since 1998 when the pipeline was constructed. Most recently, a 33.8 percent rate increase was requested for 2014, but was denied by the State Public Utilities Commission and limited to 2 percent. It can be assumed that Providence will be looking to increase rates significantly over the next few years.

There is also little redundancy or emergency back-up built into the current supply infrastructure. Water from the pipeline is pumped

to the BCWA’s system via the Barrington Booster Pump Station.

Should the service from Providence be interrupted, or the cross-bay pipeline or Nayatt Road pump station fail, the BCWA would need to reactivate the Child Street Water Treatment Plant. However, the treatment plant is not sufficient to meet the total demand of the service area. In addition, the treatment plant would be classified as non-potable until full testing determined compliance with the drinking water regulations, which would take several days.

To address the lack of sufficient alternative supply, the BCWA Board is looking to develop an interconnection with the Pawtucket Water Supply Board in partnership with the City of East Providence Water Department, with matching funds from the State of RI Water Interconnection program. The General Assembly did not include matching funds for the project in the State’s FY2015 budget.

The BCWA Board intends to pursue funding for the project in the next General Assembly. The Authority’s current 10-year, \$37 million capital plan includes funding for the project based on the contribution from East Providence and the state matching funds. There will be pressure to raise water rates as the BCWA advances these plans, should the state not provide the matching funds.

Another issue is water pressure, and whether the local water distribution system is adequate to meet needs of future growth. The development of the Zion Bible Institute site as well as other sites, including Sowams Nursery in Hampden Meadows, will need careful evaluation to ensure water pressure is maintained.

Regional Planning Issues

The Town works with adjacent communities on regional issues, including emergency response, public safety, provision of emergency shelters,

Energy issues related to municipal and school facilities are discussed in the Energy Element.

purchasing and harbor management. Additional coordination with adjacent municipalities would help address regional planning issues such as:

- The use and management of public parcels adjacent to adjoining towns—such as open space/conservation properties on Wampanoag Trail near East Providence.
- Amendment of the State’s Urban Services Boundary—which includes the George Street area, where there is no water or sewer, and adjacent agricultural lands in East Providence. The Future Land Use Map (Map LU-6) calls for relocating the boundary, which will require coordination with the State as well as East Providence.
- Planning for natural hazards, energy, transportation and other issues. For example, the Town should engage East Providence, in addition to the State, on issues related to the effects of sea level rise on Wampanoag Trail (see also the Natural Hazards element) There also are opportunities – as discussed in the Energy element – to work with East Providence, Warren and Bristol on energy issues such as streetlight maintenance, should the Town acquire the streetlights from National Grid.

Sustainability

Barrington has historically embraced sustainability issues, as residents see the benefits of taking action to ensure the long-term sustainability of Town services and to make sure Town activities are carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner. The success of these efforts can be demonstrated by the Town’s high rate of recycling, which minimize the environmental impact of household waste and reduces the costs paid for refuse collection, and by the Town Council’s approval of a permanent ban

on the distribution of plastic bags by retail and commercial businesses. Also, as described in the Energy element, the Town has made great strides in energy efficiency, reducing overall energy use in Town owned buildings by 14 percent since 2009.

In 2007, the Town Council charged the Conservation Commission to develop recommendations to “green” the Town. The Commission that year issued “Barrington Goes Green,” a report outlining strategies the Town and Schools could explore for enhancing the community’s overall sustainability, including expanding recycling efforts, instituting an environmentally preferable purchasing policy and replacing vehicles with hybrids or electric vehicles as part of the vehicle replacement schedule (an action considered under the Energy element).

Increasing the rate of recycling, as well as increasing overall energy efficiency, are environmentally responsible actions that also have a positive financial impact on the Town’s budget. The Town should continue to make further progress on both issues.

The State Rhode Island Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, released in April 2007 presented recommendations for managing solid waste and increasing the recycling rate. The State is now in the process of updating this plan, but recommendations outlined in 2007 included:

- Adopting a “Pay as You Throw” program whereby residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste based on the amount they throw away.
- Instituting a “No Bin, No Barrel” program requiring residents to set out at least one recycling bin along with their trash or their trash will not be picked up.

Other actions to be considered to enhance the long term sustainability of our community include continued efforts to preserve agricultural land (an issue addressed in other elements of

this plan), and preparation for potential future state legislation that has recently passed regarding the compost of food waste.

Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

Goal CSF-1: Maintain high quality public facilities and services to meet the evolving needs of our residents of all ages.

Objective CSF-1.1: Make cost efficient and needed upgrades to enhance town and school facilities and municipal services.

Policy CSF-1.1.1: Maintain our facilities in a state of good repair to ensure reliable operations and limit unplanned expenses or investments.

Policy CSF-1.1.2: Follow federal and state policy and processes in order to preserve all options to use federal/state funds for school facility improvements.

Actions

- A. Initiate and complete design of a new Middle School, through a process that engages the public. Emphasize energy efficiency and sustainable design.
- B. Identify and secure available state and federal funding to support Middle School upgrades and for Stage II facility improvements as identified by the School Department.
- C. Provide adequate capital funding through the sewer enterprise fund to provide financing to maintain and improve wastewater infrastructure. Investigate potential for establishing a capital reserve fund for other public works maintenance needs (sidewalks, stormwater, etc.)
- D. Incorporate best management practices, where feasible, by retrofitting outdated drainage facilities within municipal and school parking lots and local streets, to lim-

it stormwater runoff and enhance water quality. Develop watershed plans as needed to prioritize projects.

- E. Continue to develop GIS data and provide necessary software and technology to allow Public Works to monitor the wastewater infrastructure to avoid disruptive failures, as well as assist with maintenance of stormwater facilities, to include information on maintenance responsibilities.
- F. Evaluate the Harbormaster's dock at Police Cove and the public dock at Walker Farm to determine whether it needs to be upgraded or replaced.

Goal CSF-2: Anticipate long-term community needs, and advance facility expansion and enhancement efforts and additional services as needed to meet future demand.

Objective CSF-2.1: Complete assessments of long-range trends and needs for facilities and services, including schools, with public and other stakeholder input, every five years

Policy CSF-2.1.1: Determine long term operational and maintenance funding needs prior to advancing the enhancement or expansion of town facilities.

Policy CSF-2.1.2: Make optimum use of existing public facilities and land. Combine/incorporate facilities when practical (e.g. Senior Center with housing, or intramural gym space or large town auditorium with Middle School, etc.)

Policy CSF-2.1.3: Work with adjoining East Bay communities to achieve efficient and cost effective solutions to regional concerns.

Actions

- A. Support development of alternative water supply sources for the Bristol County Water Authority water supply that are independent of the East Bay Pipeline.

- B. Complete the Library 5-year master plan.
- C. Re-evaluate recommendations for a new community/senior center, including whether to renovate the existing senior center or to construct a new facility, and evaluate potential for efficiencies by combining with other efforts (such as the Middle School project, the proposed senior development at the former Zion Bible Institute campus, the planned YMCA Phase 2 expansion)
- D. Determine impact of declining school enrollment on K-5 school facility needs, as part of the development of the capital improvement program.
- E. Coordinate with abutting communities as part of the annual review of Comprehensive Plan implementation, on land use, transportation, open space, natural hazards and other multijurisdictional planning issues.
- F. Work with State, in coordination with East Providence, to amend State's Urban Services Boundary as shown on Maps LU-6 and LU-7 [see Land Use element]
- G. Evaluate and rezone, as appropriate, public and quasi-public properties in transition, including the Town-owned land formerly occupied by "The Place," the Bristol County Water Authority facility on Nayatt Road, and the Hampden Meadows Volunteer Fire Department station.

Goal CSF-3: Limit the community's environmental impact through reductions in solid waste disposal and other sustainable activities.

Objective CSF-3.1: Reduce solid waste disposal volumes by 10 percent by 2025.

Policy CSF-3.1.1: Employ strict recycling policies at Town facilities and schools.

Policy CSF-3.1.2: Encourage residents and commercial businesses to increase recycling rates through incentives and education.

See the Implementation element for information on implementation schedule, priorities, estimated costs, responsibilities and action types.

Policy CSF-3.1.3: Maintain the town-wide ban on plastic bags at commercial establishments.

Actions

- A. Periodically evaluate total solid waste amounts and recycling rates for Barrington to determine whether additional measures are needed to meet the Town's goals.
- B. Expand efforts to encourage recycling at Town and School facilities.
- C. Prepare for the new state law on composting. Assist commercial owners with compliance by 2016.
- D. Develop a pilot program to encourage residential composting to limit solid waste (as this may be future state requirement)
- E. Evaluate programs or incentives (such as a "no-bin, no barrel" policy) and implement if feasible and cost-effective.
- F. Assign responsibility for sustainability efforts to the Conservation Commission or a new committee with the charge to encourage/educate residents about sustainability, conservation, etc.