

Community Facilities & Services



CHAPTER 3

3. Community Facilities & Services

VISION

Plan, maintain, and enhance community infrastructure that enables the County to maintain present functions (e.g., quality of life, mobility, public safety, employment, environment, services), while accommodating existing needs and future growth. Potential new growth areas should only be considered when they can be adequately supported.

KEY ISSUES

Adequate Public Facilities

High-Speed Telecommunications

Pedestrian & Bicycle Linkages

Impact of Traffic on Emergency Services Response Time

Park & Recreation Facilities for All Ages & Abilities

PLAN THEMES



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Outlines regional collaboration to provide solid waste and recycling services



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Directs growth to areas of the County with adequate public infrastructure



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

Encourages deployment of high-speed broadband to underserved areas



PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

Discusses strategic use of limited water and sewerage resources



HEALTH & RESILIENCE

Encourages utilization of County park and recreation facilities

RELEVANT STATE VISIONS



GOALS

The overarching goal for community facilities is to meet the current and future facility and service needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

3-1 Reduce environmental impacts associated with community facilities.

3-2 Provide sustainable growth management inside and outside Growth Areas.

3-3 Provide infrastructure and services to support economic development.

3-4 Provide appropriate services, facilities, and amenities.

Community facilities and services play a vital role in meeting County health, safety, and welfare issues of both its current and future populations. The Community Facilities & Services chapter guides facility and service establishment and programming to serve the County's current and future population as efficiently as possible. This chapter addresses key issues related to providing adequate public facilities and services over the life of **PlanQAC**. This chapter addresses governance and administration; public safety; energy and utilities (including broadband access); education; libraries; social and human services; and open space and recreation. Land use development policy advocated by **PlanQAC** provides a rational basis for effectively providing community facilities and services: by directing future development toward designated growth areas, existing facilities can be maximized and new and improved facilities provided. **Maps 3-1** through **3-7** contain inventories of various community facilities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & LEGISLATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The County's sustainable growth management strategy is supported by providing adequate community facilities to meet the needs of current and future populations. The following guiding principles provide a framework for planning and providing community facilities.

- Facility design meets current needs with the ability to easily expand to meet future needs;
- Facility design and location serve concentrated populations in Growth Areas
- Facilities utilize innovative technology and sustainable design to minimize environmental and fiscal impacts of long-term maintenance
- Facility improvements utilize public-private partnerships and public-public partnerships between the State, County, and towns.

ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES

The premise of Adequate Public Facilities (APF) regulations is that growth should be directed to suitable areas where facilities are adequate, by restricting it in areas where certain public facilities are inadequate, basing development approvals on defined public facility capacity standards to curtail development in areas where they are inadequate, and to delay development in Growth Areas until adequate service levels are in place or reasonably assured.

The County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) (see **County Code Chapter 28**) governs the guiding principles and includes standards and criteria for public facilities, adequate capacities, improvement programs, acceptable levels of service, and capital improvement programs for public facilities. The APFO's purpose and intent are to:

- Establish APF application review procedures
- Discourage sprawl and inefficient development

- Ensure public facilities needed to support development meet level of service standards and are available to address impacts
- Ensure capital improvement programs are maintained to accommodate reasonable growth and development
- Ensure that no development proposal is approved that would cause reduced levels of service below established standards unless mitigation measures are provided
- Encourage development in designated growth areas with existing or planned public facilities
- Implement the Comprehensive Plan's policies
- Ensure applicable legal standards are followed
- Ensure that proposed development will not adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare of existing and future residents

IMPACT FEES

The County originally adopted Development Impact Fee legislation in 1991, which it revised in 2004 and amended in its entirety in 2007. Impact fees require that each development pays its proportionate share of the cost to provide off-site public services and facilities that are needed as a result of new development. The current Development Impact Fee Ordinance (see **County Code §18:3 Development Impact Fees**) assesses impact fees based on the demands of development for schools, parks, and fire and emergency medical services, with impact fee calculations based on projected population growth.

The County assesses impact fees when issuing building permits to help fund capital improvements and public facilities needed to serve the growth associated with new development. Impact fees provide a means to raise additional funds for capital projects, but do not guarantee that sufficient funds will be available and themselves have no effect on the pace of development.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The State of Maryland allows for three different structures that counties may follow: Code Home Rule, Commissioner, and Charter Counties. Queen Anne's County is a Code Home Rule County.

Code Counties	Commissioner Counties	Charter Counties
Allegany	Calvert	Anne Arundel
Caroline	Carroll	Baltimore
Charles	Garrett	Cecil
Kent	St. Mary's	Dorchester
Queen	Somerset	Frederick
Anne's	Washington	Harford
Worcester		Howard
		Montgomery
		Prince George's
		Talbot
		Wicomico

Under the Code Home Rule structure, the following specifics apply:

- **Government Structure.** Commissioners determine the structure with local enactments.
- **Public Local Laws.** Commissioners can enact, amend, or repeal local laws on a variety of matters. The General Assembly may still enact public local laws covering the entire class of Code Counties.
- **Bonding Authority.** Commissioners authorize. There is not statutory maximum, but the General Assembly may establish a limit. Bonding is subject to local referendum if petitioned by 10% of voters.
- **New Taxes, License, or Franchise Fees.** General Assembly authorization required.
- **Tax Credits.** General Assembly authorization required.
- **Impact Fees.** Commissioners may establish.
- **Civil Infractions/Fines.** Commissioners may enact subject to limitations.
- **Separate Police Departments.** Local department requires General Assembly approval. Corrections Departments may be enacted by Commissioners locally.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Queen Anne's County is governed by its Board of County Commissioners, comprised of four District Commissioners and one at-large Commissioner. Commissioners are elected during the general election held every four years.

The County is divided into four County Commissioner election districts, and seven Election Districts as depicted on **Maps 3-1** and **3-2**.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The County has numerous boards and commissions.

- **Adult Public Guardianship Review Board.** Ensures that the public guardian is doing a good job for the disabled.
- **Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.** Advises County government on approval of easement purchases.
- **Agricultural Reconciliation Commission.** Formed when the County passed a "Right to Farm" law, the Commission is charged with this law's administration.
- **Alcohol & Drug Council.** Since 2004, each County in the State is required to have a local Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services.
- **Animal Control Commission.** Advises the County Commissioners on all questions of general policy relating to animal control in the County and, when appropriate, brings matters of public interest to the County Administrator's attention.
- **Bay Bridge Airport Advisory Committee.** Investigates, reviews, reports, and makes recommendations on the current and future use of the Bay Bridge Airport and its facilities. The Committee also periodically reviews the Airport's operating procedures to ensure their compatibility with the community's welfare and to uphold minimum standards.
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.** Advises and makes recommendations to the County on bicycle and pedestrian access issues.
- **Blue Heron Golf Course Advisory Committee.** Provides advice on issues and policies pertaining to the Blue Heron Golf Course.

- **Board of Building Appeals.** Established to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions, or determinations made by the Building Official, relative to the application and interpretation of the *Building Code*.
- **Board of Elections.** Conducts all elections (i.e. State, federal, and special) in the County.
- **Board of Electrical Examiners.** Responsible for examining the qualifications and capabilities of persons who are (or desire to be) engaged in business as a master or limited electrician.
- **Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board).** Responsible for reviewing alcoholic beverage license applications, issuing licenses, license renewals, enforcement of laws, and publishing and updating alcoholic beverage regulations.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals.** Holds public hearings on requests for variances, conditional uses, and appeals relating to the *County Code*.
- **Broadband Advisory Council.** Formed to advise and provide recommendations to the County Commissioners on the provision of broadband services and infrastructure in Queen Anne's County.
- **Climate Resilience Planning & Financing Workgroup.** This workgroup is tasked with the understanding of County assets, determination of goals and objectives, development of a plan, and establishing financing methods to implement resiliency planning review.
- **Commission on Aging.** Formed as an advisory body as required by the *Older Americans Act*.
- **Council for Children & Youth.** Promotes children's issues in the County.
- **Department of Emergency Services Advisory Council (DESAC).** Advises the Department of Emergency Services on matters of policy regarding the provisions for emergency services in the County.
- **Economic Development Commission (EDC).** Purpose is to develop a vibrant economy with the necessary human and business resources to provide the highest quality of life for all residents while preserving the County's distinctive cultural and environmental heritage.
- **Economic Development Incentive Fund Commission.** Provides economic development programs and initiatives to foster new commercial opportunities while continue to focus on development of existing business entities.
- **Employee Awards Committee.** Provides oversight for all County employee awards.
- **Ethics Commission.** Provides advisory opinions to persons subject to the *Ethics Code* and processes and makes determinations regarding complaints alleging *Ethics Code* violations.
- **Fire & EMS Commission.** Coordinates the activities of the volunteer fire and ambulance departments and advises the County Commissioners on matters regarding fire suppression, fire prevention, and rescue and volunteer emergency medical services within the County.
- **Housing Authority Board.** Provides decent, safe, and affordable housing for County residents.
- **Kent Narrows Development Foundation.** Facilitates the revitalization of Kent Narrows, a strategically important asset for the County's future.
- **Local Management Board (Community Partnerships).** Promotes a safe, healthy, and stable environment for all County children and families by achieving a comprehensive system of education, health, and human services whose effectiveness and responsiveness addresses the needs of children and families through public and private interagency collaboration.
- **Mid-Shore Behavioral Health Systems.** Continually improves the provision of mental health services through effective collaboration with consumers of service, family members, providers, and community leaders.
- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB).** Advises the Department of Parks and Recreation and the County Commissioners on all questions of general policy relating to parks and public recreation in the County.
- **Personnel Board.** Hears and decides all appeals by members of the classified service from personnel actions taken by the County.
- **Planning Commission.** Makes and approves plans they recommend to the County Commissioners for adoption.
- **Plumbing & HVAC Board.** Hears and attempts to resolve complaints, disputes, or questions regarding plumbing matters with property owners or their agents, licensed plumbers, or the plumbing inspector. This board reviews all plumber licenses.
- **Property Tax Assessment Advisory Board.** Hears appeals regarding property tax assessments.

- **Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee.** Advises County and State officials on the needs of citizens with mental illness and identifies ways to meet these needs.
- **Social Services Board.** Serves in an advisory capacity to the director and members act as liaisons to bring concerns from their communities and to take back information.
- **Spending Affordability Committee.** Established to provide recommendations in connection with the development of capital and operating budgets by the County Commissioners.
- **Travel and Tourism Advisory Committee.** Established in September 2020 as a public-private partnership with travel and tourism stakeholders representing their specific industries to provide countywide leadership in policy development, management, and competitiveness to ensure that the County enjoys greater economic benefits from travel and tourism spending.
- **Upper Shore Mental Health Advisory Board.** Exercises the power of the corporation, controls its property, and conducts its affairs.
- **Upper Shore (Local) Workforce Investment Board.** Responsible for setting policy for the portion of the statewide workforce investment system within the local area.
- **Economic Development.** Supports and enhances the existing business base and attracts new businesses to the County.
- **Emergency Services.** Comprised of Animal Control, Communications, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Office of the Fire Marshal, and Support Services.
- **Human Resources.** Oversees County employment and benefits.
- **Information Technology.** Committed to securing and managing the collection and distribution of information, communication, and data resources.
- **Parks & Recreation.** Provides quality programs and attractive recreational facilities and leads collaborative efforts to develop the County's Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP).
- **Planning & Zoning.** Implements the goals and objectives of the County's Comprehensive Plan through the administration of the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, critical area ordinance, and forest conservation regulations.
- **Public Works.** Comprised of six divisions: Administration, Engineering & General Services, Property Management, Roads, Sanitary, Solid Waste.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

- **Administrator's Office.** Provides oversight to all operating departments and agencies in the County, as well as the staff of the County Commissioner's Office.
- **Budget & Finance.** Maintains the County's sound financial position by providing financial accountability, operational support, reporting, services, and analysis for the citizens, officials, and employees of the County in a timely, accurate, and professional manner.
- **Community Affairs.** Gathers and disseminates information internally (for Commissioners and employees) and externally (for the public).
- **Community Services.** Comprised of the Area Agency on Aging, the Local Management Board (Community Partnerships), and the Division of Housing.
- **Detention Center.** An adult facility serving local detention services for the courts, local, and state police agencies.

COURT SYSTEM

APPELLATE COURT

Queen Anne's County is part of the 1st Appellate Circuit, which includes Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester County. The Court of Appeals is located at 361 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis. It hears cases almost exclusively through a discretionary review process. A party may file a petition for review of any case or proceeding pending in, or decided by, the Court of Special Appeals, an orphans' court, or the Maryland Tax Court. It also hears cases after an initial appeal is heard in the circuit court, to obtain uniformity of decisions or where special circumstances make review desirable and in the public interest.

The Court of Special Appeals is Maryland's intermediate appellate court. It considers appeals from almost any case that originates in a circuit court or an orphans' court. The Court of Special Appeals is also located at 361 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

CIRCUIT COURT

Queen Anne's County is part of the 2nd Judicial Circuit, which includes Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. The court is located at 200 N Commerce Street, Centreville; the courthouse opened in 2019. Circuit courts are where jury trials are held. They generally handle more serious criminal cases and major civil cases, including juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody, and child support.

DISTRICT COURT

Queen Anne's County is part of the 3rd District, which includes Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. The District Court is located at 120 Broadway, Centreville. District courts hear landlord/tenant cases, replevin actions, traffic violations, criminal cases classified as misdemeanors and certain felonies, and civil cases no greater than \$30,000.

ORPHANS' COURT

The County's Orphans' Court is located at 107 N Liberty Street, Centreville. Orphans' courts serve as Maryland's probate courts, presiding over the administration of estates. These courts supervise the management of estates of people who have died (with or without a Will) while owning property in their sole name.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A variety of police protection and emergency services are provided by County, State, and municipal agencies and volunteer organizations. This section provides key information for these services. All public safety facilities are shown on **Map 3-4, Public Safety**.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The organization of the County's Department of Emergency Services (DES) is different than most other traditionally organized public safety structures. In many jurisdictions, several of these functions are split among different departments, creating competition among the functions. In others, one function may be subservient to another within the same organization. In 2004, the County approved *Ordinance No. 04-09*, creating a department that brings together closely tied yet distinct divisions, operating under one umbrella.

These divisions are led by Assistant Chiefs who oversee complex organizations, have equal rank, and manage their divisions as separate operations, while enjoying a close partnership with the other Chiefs sharing ideas and resources. One Division does not take higher priority over the other; each has an equal voice in the Department's decision-making process. Budgets are prepared independently, forming a Department budget with five components, while distinct needs may be met by transferring funds as needed across the Divisions.

This model creates a functioning team of emergency services providers under a common infrastructure. Administrative and support costs are shared, providing for economies of scale and Division staff are cross trained to better serve the community.

The Department is served by an Advisory Council (DESAC) whose function is to advise the Department on matters of policy regarding the provision of emergency services within the County. To carry out this mission, there are four standing committees: Law Enforcement, EMS and Public Health, Communications, and Public Information and Education. DESAC provides a forum for all public health and safety departments and agencies to discuss issues of mutual concern, as well as to advise the Department on how best to serve them.

The Department's mission is to preserve lives and property of the citizens and visitors of the County through provision of efficient and effective communication resources, emergency medical services, emergency preparedness, and fire prevention and education, with these critical services provided with pride and compassion.

The Department's vision is to create and maintain a leading emergency services organization of highly trained, technologically driven, competent career and volunteer professionals dedicated to exceeding expectations through time honored values of commitment, community involvement, integrity, pride, compassion, and a duty to excel.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division strives to provide the most technologically advanced, efficient, and effective communications system in the County. It provides effective and responsive 9-1-1 and emergency dispatch services to County citizens and visitors, with emergency service personnel that utilize their expertise and systems in the most efficient, effective, and professional manner.

DES, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, replaced the HVAC system and completely remodeled the 9-1-1 center, expanding it from six to ten workstations with fiber optic infrastructure to support new and emerging technology. DES also replaced its outdated legacy Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) program that was costly to maintain and did not meet existing needs. The new CAD links all County public safety entities.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

This Division collaborates with colleagues in healthcare, emergency services, and government to provide County citizens and visitors a premier community-based emergency medical services system through dedication and the desire for excellence. The Division is committed to providing the County's citizens and visitors an unparalleled system of emergency medical services delivered through the devotion, compassion, and expertise of staff. It provides ambulance services throughout the County. There are six EMS stations in the County (see **Map 3-4, Public Safety**):

- **Station 100 (103 Davidson Road, Stevensville).** To fulfill the need to extend emergency services along the MD 8 corridor on Kent Island, the south county paramedic ambulance moved just south of the Matapeake School complex on Davidson Drive in October 2008. This move allowed a better response time to a larger population. Originally a home, the building was converted into an EMS Station that houses a paramedic ambulance crew. It is also the EMS training site used to test the skills of providers.
- **Station 200 (101 Medic Drive, Chester).** Dedicated in 1990, the south sub-station was only the second Advanced Life Support station in the County. It was originally manned by volunteer paramedics to cover the increasing need for Advanced Life Support in the southern part of the County. Prior to its opening, the nearest paramedic unit would more than likely respond from the Centreville area. This station evolved into a paid crew member in a lone chase vehicle in the early 1990s and was only manned during daytime hours until it was staffed around-the-clock in 1999. After Station 100 opened in 2008, Station 200 was renamed and, when staffing levels permit, this station is again home to a chase vehicle. When staffed, this unit provides additional skills and an extra set of hands for the most critical patients.
- **Station 300 (7110 Main Street, Queenstown).** In 2006, the members of the Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department partnered with DES to allow the County to house a single paramedic and to lease an ambulance to provide a 24-hour driver capable of teaming with any of its three chase vehicles to provide a full ambulance crew. This became a two-person crew in late 2007 and today a County-owned ambulance is stationed here.
- **Station 400 (302 Safety Drive, Centreville).** An opportunity became available in 2010 when the Maryland State Police Aviation Division moved their operation to the Easton Airport, and this Station moved across the street from its original location into the vacant helicopter hangar. This building was slightly modified by converting the hangar door into three separate vehicle bays to accommodate up to six vehicles and adequate room for storage. Currently, Station 400 houses a paramedic ambulance and a paramedic supervisor chase vehicle at all times.
- **Station 500 (123 Main Street, Church Hill).** In 2014, due to population growth, the County realized there was a need for an additional staffed unit in the northern part of the County and partnered with the Church Hill Volunteer Fire Department to staff one of their units for a portion of every day. Station 500 is home to Ambulance 5, which provides basic life support.
- **Station 600 (203 N Church Street, Sudlersville).** In July 2002, the County partnered with one of the volunteer companies, recognizing that although the call volume is relatively low in the northern part of the County, it can be challenging to make a timely response due to geographical challenges. That year, the members of the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Department opened their doors to house the

first County paramedic north of Centreville. Originally a paramedic chase unit, it was later replaced with a County-owned paramedic ambulance in 2008 where it still resides today.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

This Division operates the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), when needed. Depending on the reason the EOC is opened, the primary mission is to coordinate County, State, federal, and non-governmental partners and includes working with logistics, supply acquisition, site planning and operations, communications, food security, outreach to vulnerable populations, and public service announcements.

This Division also coordinates emergency service-related planning operations. It led efforts to update the County's *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* in 2018. Additional information on hazard mitigation can be found in **Chapter 5—Environmental Resources**. Recently, it also developed a *Nuisance Flood Plan*, required under HB 1427, and is updating the County's *Continuity of Operations Plan* (COOP) to address emergencies from an all-hazards approach to establish guidance ensuring continuation of critical functions and relocation of personnel and resources in the case of an emergency.

Animal control also falls under the Special Operations Division. Animal Control Officers enforce laws regarding licensing and treatment of domestic animals, according to State and local laws. Officers patrol the entire County, collecting stray, unleashed, and non-licensed animals roaming at large. The Officers have received specialized training in the care, treatment, and handling of both wild and domestic animals.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

The County's Office of the Fire Marshal is committed to establishing and maintaining a progressive education and protection organization that is based on the principles of teamwork, cooperation, mutual respect, and an awareness of the needs of the County's community and its citizens.

The Division is committed to providing the community with a professional fire and life safety program through comprehensive fire protection plan reviews, informative occupancy inspections, and effective fire and life safety code enforcement to reduce the loss of life and property of the County's citizens.

SUPPORT SERVICES

This Division provides support services to all DES divisions. Recently, they deployed security cameras in multiple locations throughout the County, registered with the State's system, so public safety staff can review and react with up-to-the second information. Staff also work to prevent, solve, and investigate cybersecurity issues and challenges, recently establishing stronger security protocols to protect infrastructure and conduct proactive, continuous vulnerability scanning.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Office of the Sheriff provides police services for all of the County, patrolling approximately 392 square miles from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to the Delaware State line and providing police services to over 50,000 residents, tourists, and commuters every day of the year. The Sheriff's Office is located on Railroad Avenue in Centreville, with substations on Piney Narrows Road in Chester and South Church Street in Sudlersville (see **Map 3-4, Public Safety**). Substations are not staffed but are utilized by deputies as a place to conduct investigations, interview individuals, complete paperwork, and make phone calls. As of 2020, the Office of the Sheriff employed 64 sworn law enforcement officers, 3 K-9 officers, 12 civilian staff, and 12 volunteers.

The Office's vision is to maintain a safer Queen Anne's County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together, the rights of all persons are respected, and community values are reflected. Its mission is to protect life, property, and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

This office has four divisions: Administration, Patrol, Support Services, and Criminal Investigations. It also has a number of specialized teams and units:

- Drug Task Force
- SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team
- K-9 Unit
- School Resource Unit
- Auxiliary Unit
- Volunteer Bike Patrol
- Court Services
- SCOPE Unit

The Department also operates a number of community policing initiatives, including public presentations on crime prevention, and a prescription drug turn-in program.

The County Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) Community program is administrated through the Sheriff's Office to provide a variety of community-based services designed to improve the quality of life of County residents through community safety. Formerly known as the HotSpot Initiative, CSAFE includes the communities of Grasonville, Chester, and Stevensville. In connection with CSAFE, the Natural Resources Police, the Maryland State Police, and the County's Department of Animal Control have partnered with the Sheriff's Office to better provide law enforcement services.

Law enforcement in the County is also provided by the Maryland State Police, which patrols State Routes and State Highways, such as US 50/301. The State Police also provide back-up assistance to the Sheriff's Office as needed. The MDTA Police, whose office is located in Anne Arundel County, serves as the primary law enforcement for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The MDTA Police patrols and assists the Sheriff's Office along US 50/301 on Kent Island from the Bay Bridge to the Kent Narrows. The Centreville Police Department serves the Town of Centreville. Of the eight municipalities in the County, only the Town of Centreville has its own Police Department.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The County's size, population clusters, and seasonal traffic present a challenge to emergency services. Fire protection in the County is provided by nine volunteer companies. Each facility is independently owned and managed by a Board of Directors and has oversight and reporting responsibilities to the County's Office of the Fire Marshal. The County

provides annual financial assistance that is distributed to the fire stations based on their property tax assessable base value. The volunteer fire stations are listed in **Table 3-1, Fire Stations** and shown on **Map 3-5, Fire Districts**.

- **Station 1 (Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department)** is a volunteer department that houses nine pieces of apparatus, including a water rescue boat.
- **Station 2 (Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department)** is a fire and rescue station comprised 100% of volunteers that predominantly respond to fires, vehicle/equipment crashes, hazardous conditions, and medical incidents.
- **Station 3 (Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department)** houses seven pieces of apparatus and is an all-volunteer force.
- **Station 4 (Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company)** maintains firefighting and rescue apparatus that are staffed by a 100% volunteer force and is one of QAC's two companies with a paid ambulance crew.
- **Station 5 (Church Hill Volunteer Fire Company)** houses nine pieces of apparatus staffed by a 100% volunteer force, providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. The Company provides safety education, fire prevention, disaster management, firefighting, and rescue and emergency medical services.
- **Station 6 (Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Department)** is a volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue company.

Table 3-1. Fire Stations

Station #	Name	Location
QAC Station 1	Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department	1610 Main St, Chester
QAC Station 2	Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department	4128-4132 Main St, Grasonville
QAC Station 3	Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department	7110 Main St, Queenstown
QAC Station 4	Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company	212 Broadway, Centreville
QAC Station 5	Church Hill Volunteer Fire Company	316 Main St, Church Hill
QAC Station 6	Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Department	203 N Church St, Sudlersville
QAC Station 7	Crumpton Volunteer Fire Department	300 3 rd St, Crumpton
QAC Station 8	Queen Anne—Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company	13512 1 st St, Queen Anne
QAC Station 9	United Communities Volunteer Fire Department	9406 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville

Source: Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services. Note: The Town of Millington is home to the Community Fire Company of Millington; however, the Fire Company is located in Kent County, MD and serves Queen Anne's County.

- **Station 7 (Crumpton Volunteer Fire Department)** is a 100% volunteer station, providing fire, rescue, and EMS services to Crumpton and the surrounding areas as well as providing mutual aid to Kent County with eight pieces of apparatus.
- **Station 8 (Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company)** houses seven pieces of apparatus staffed by a 100% volunteer force, providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.
- **Station 9 (United Communities Volunteer Fire Department)** is a 100% volunteer service department with eight pieces of apparatus, although the fireboat is docked offsite.

DETENTION CENTER

As a result of a 1981 trial in connection with a class action lawsuit on behalf of inmates regarding poor conditions of an old Eastern Shore jail, counties began the planning process of designing and constructing new local detention centers to avoid potential future civil litigation.

In Queen Anne's County, Sheriff Mel Sewell closed the old Queen Anne's County Jail following discussions with the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards, County Commissioners, and the County Administrator, due to the inability of the facility to meet standards. All sentenced inmates were transported to other jurisdictions for housing, except for those serving weekend sentences, who were permitted to stay in the old jail.

Planning of the new detention center began in 1983. After community opposition to the first proposed site in Centreville, the current location was selected near the edge of the Town limits, at 500 Little Hut Drive (see **Map 3-4, Public Safety**). The Detention Center's design and capacity used a similar blueprint to the one in Somerset County. The original design had 40 beds but was doubled to 80 beds. While initial plans intended to house the Sheriff's Office, County Communications and the Corrections Department, these were revised and the Sheriff's Office remained in the old jail location until it was later demolished and a new Emergency Operations Center was constructed not far from its former location. The Queen Anne's County Detention Center began reclaiming all the sentenced inmates housed in other jurisdictions on April 25, 1988 and officially



began its operation. It is an adult facility serving local detention services for the courts, local, and state police agencies, provided a number of services to its inmate population:

- Drug and alcohol addiction classes
- GED classes
- Healthcare services
- Library and legal services
- Meals three times daily
- Recreational opportunities
- Religious services

The facility operates 24 hours per day due to the custodial responsibilities associated with prisoner maintenance.

UTILITIES

WATER RESOURCES

An adequate supply of water is vital for economic development, industry, energy use, population growth and distribution, agriculture, fish and wildlife, transportation, and waste disposal. Population growth depends on the availability and quality of local water sources. The ability of the County's aquifers to accept recharge from infiltration and subsequently discharge this water to streams and supply water to pumping wells, determines the location and quantity of water available for use.

Additionally, the environmental impacts of protecting water resources become important when discussing plant and animal life and habitats, recreation and tourism, and the County's impact on water bodies and communities outside of its boundaries. The County's land use regulations play a significant role in protecting these resources, including impervious cover limits and buffers that are just two tools used to protect important water resources.

Groundwater is the sole source for municipal, industrial, and private water supplies in the County. This is due to the availability of groundwater of good to moderate quality and the lack of suitable surface impoundment sites. In the Aquia Aquifer, little treatment is required for potable water supplies, although water quality can vary. The Magothy Aquifer can have high iron content that may require much more extensive treatment. The next available aquifer is the Patapsco aquifer; however, it is so deep, only municipalities are likely to utilize it in an attempt to find less iron.

The County currently operates 11 water treatment plants combined to form 6 distribution systems providing municipal services. Many of these treatment systems are operating at or near actual treatment capacity or are constricted by inflexible Groundwater Appropriation Permits into the Aquia aquifer.

The principal mission of a central wastewater system is to efficiently and effectively collect and treat wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial customers within established sewage disposal districts. The County's Department of Public Works plans, administers, operates, and maintains sewer collection and transmission, pump stations, and wastewater treatment facilities. The County's sewer infrastructure is comprised of a series of gravity sewer pipes, pumping stations, force mains, and treatment facilities.

The Commissioners determined that it was in the County's best interest to plan and provide sewerage treatment capacity within designated service areas over a period of time. The designated service areas include the Chester/Stevensville, Grasonville, and Kent Narrows Growth Areas and regions outside of the Growth Areas identified with a public health concern. This permitted orderly expansion of the County system consistent with capital budgeting, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan.

During this planning cycle, the community finds itself nearing the limits of adequate public facilities, including transportation infrastructure on its state and local roads, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, local school capacity, and sewerage capacity permit restrictions at the County's Kent Narrows/Stevensville/Grasonville Wastewater Treatment Plant (KNSG). The existing 3 MGD capacity at KNSG is now nearly fully obligated by estimated existing and future capacity commitments. These commitments, also known as 'Schedule A,' are estimated using a combination of the reported actual hydraulic flow through the plant and the reserved flow allocations for unbuilt development. The resulting estimates conclude that there is an insignificant amount of the estimated remaining capacity available.

KNSG's maximum discharge or capacity is restricted by nutrients allocated by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and a State issued NPDES permit (see **Chapter 5—Environmental Resources** for additional information

and history). Specifically, KNSG may only discharge 36,547 pounds of nitrogen and 2,741 pounds of phosphorous per year. Nitrogen is the primary constraining factor, and the existing plant is operating with the best available nitrogen removal technology. The NPDES permit is the subject of Federal and State review and renewal every five years. See **Appendix D—Water Resources Element** for a detailed analysis of the KNSG and municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

In addition to infrastructure challenges, the County must contemplate sustainable and resilient land use policies in the face of necessary hazard planning.

The Kent Narrows/Stevensville/Grasonville (KNSG) wastewater treatment plant is currently permitted for a total discharge capacity of 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The plant went into operation in May 2007 and was designed for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR); it has demonstrated outstanding operating performance, specifically a superior nitrogen removal record.

A plan to meet the County's public water and sewer needs is contained in the *2011 Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan*. This Plan contains information describing existing conditions, issues, and solutions to meet the needs of both current and future populations.

In addition, the County completed the *2010 Southern Kent Island Sanitary Study* to evaluate the extension of public water and sewer to nine subdivisions located south of the US 50/301 and MD 8 interchange. The study consists of preliminary engineering, environmental impacts, and growth issues. A cost/benefit analysis to provide public water and sewer is also part of the study. Since the study was conducted, two of the four phases have been completed.

Each January, the County Commissioners, sitting as the Sanitary Commission, may reevaluate treatment capacity consistent with the Water and Sewerage Allocation Policy and the adopted Capital Improvement Program. This process could result in a proposal to reclassify, amend, or exchange properties between various priority service areas, as detailed in the *Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan*, to be consistent with treatment capacity availability, timing of future expansions, and to meet the overall objectives of the *Comprehensive Plan* and the *Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan*.

In previous *Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plans*, the County recognized two sewerage Public Health Areas of Concern (PHAC). Many of the septic systems existing in the two areas of concern were not operating correctly and were discharging septic effluent directly into the groundwater on a seasonal basis, typically the spring. This ongoing, direct seasonal penetration of groundwater did not conform to the Code of Maryland Regulations' (COMAR) requirement for unsaturated soil treatment zones. In addition, many of the properties lacked sufficient land area for a replacement system regardless of groundwater penetration violations.

The two PHACs consist of nine communities known as Southern Kent Island (SKI) along the mid to lower extents of MD 8 (Romancoke Road) and the two communities at the end of MD 552 (Dominion Road), consisting of the Marling Farms and Dominion (MFD) communities. The SKI area has been the primary concern, given the greater incidence of failure, the hydrogeological nature of the area, its poorer surface drainage, and the typically smaller lots sizes. All efforts over the past several decades have focused on this area.

It was the County's intent to move forward to serve the MD 8 corridor with a sewer service area that excludes large blocks of contiguous vacant lots within the communities from the proposed service area in accordance with a 2005 Attorney General's opinion. The service includes the existing dwellings as well as the commercial areas in Queen Anne Colony and Kentmorr, as well as vacant lots of record in the service area.

A lot consolidation ordinance was adopted by the County (Ordinance 13-24), which required adjacent vacant lots in common ownership to be combined to meet the overlying zoning of the service area, to effectively reduce the maximum number of vacant lots. It was anticipated that additional voluntary consolidations would occur.

The County initiated the Southern Kent Island Sanitary Project in 2016 to service nine existing communities along MD 8 that were suffering from failing septic systems. The entire project will permanently retire 1,518 septic systems. The project was split into four phases with Phase 1 (Kent Island Estates and Romancoke subdivisions) recently completed and Phase 2 (Tower Gardens subdivision) currently underway. All four phases are anticipated to be complete by 2027. The

Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan recommends construction completion for the MFD project by 2030.

While this section provides a brief overview of the County's water resources, this subject is discussed in more detail in **Chapter 5—Environmental Resources** and also relates very directly to **Chapter 4—Land Use**.

BROADBAND

In January 2018, the County established a Broadband Advisory Council (BAC); since then, the BAC interviewed every internet service provider (ISP) in the area to discuss their possible involvement in expanding broadband in the County. This process resulted in hiring an outside consultant to develop a high-level understanding and estimated cost to serve unserved and underserved areas. It found:

- Most residents have access to a mix of internet services, but many locations do not have robust broadband services.
- Because of the challenging economics of broadband deployment in rural areas, private ISPs likely will not invest in ubiquitous broadband infrastructure in currently unserved parts of the County absent some sort of financial support. State and federal funding programs may present the County and its potential partners with opportunities to fill some broadband gaps.

The Broadband Strategic Plan identified currently unserved or underserved areas of the County, prepared a high-level design and cost estimate for both fiber optic network deployment and fixed wireless network deployment to fill the identified gaps, analyzed a range of federal and state funding opportunities to identify potential sources to support expansion of broadband services in unserved areas, and developed a series of potential strategies the County could pursue to leverage federal and state funding to meet its broadband goals.

The BAC estimates that approximately 4,000 residences in the County are unserved or underserved. There are many reasons why an area does not have broadband access, but the three most common are funding, geography, and density. ISPs will only provide service in the areas where they can get a return on their investment. If housing is not dense enough in a particular area, it may not be fiscally responsible for them to provide their

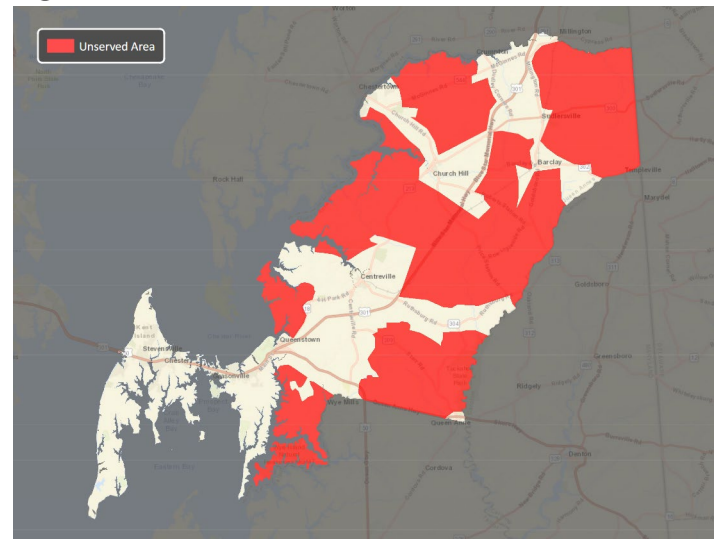
services. The rougher the terrain, the higher the installation cost. The County has no jurisdiction over what companies do; however, the County works with companies on public-private partnerships to expand broadband access countywide.

Prior to the completion of the strategic plan, the County partnered with Atlantic Broadband on a State grant application to provide service to the underserved neighborhood of Bulle Rock, referred to as the Grove Creek Project. The project was completed in December 2020.

In January 2021, the BAC submitted nine applications for a federal grant to expand existing broadband networks for the County's three fiber ISPs: Atlantic Broadband, ThinkBig, and Talkie Communications. In July 2021, the County was notified that the grant applications were successful with several areas selected for expansion. In addition to expanding into some of the County's underserved areas, the County will also focus on upgrading equipment within some of the already served areas to meet future needs.

The BAC meets monthly to review areas appropriate for fiber and wireless projects, meet with ISPs, evaluate contracts, and apply for grants. All meetings are open to the public.

Figure 3-1. Unserved Areas



Source: Queen Anne's County Broadband Strategic Plan

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

The County Department of Public Works (DPW) has primary responsibility for solid waste management within Queen Anne's County. DPW's Solid Waste Division operates all five residential drop-off centers located within Queen Anne's County. This includes

administration, supervision, collection, and transport of materials to the Midshore Regional Solid Waste Facility, the R.B. Baker Rubble Landfill, and recycling operations.

Table 3-2. County Transfer Stations

Name	Location
Batts Neck	422 Batts Neck Rd, Stevensville
Centreville	401 Harper Rd, Centreville
Church Hill	110 Price Station Rd, Church Hill
Glanding	223 Glanding Rd, Millington
Grasonville	401 Gravel Run Rd, Grasonville

MIDSHORE REGIONAL SWF

The Midshore Regional Solid Waste Facility (MRSWF) is not physically located in Queen Anne's County at this time; however, it is a critical element in the County's solid waste management system. The original Midshore regional agreement was between three counties (Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES). Kent County joined the agreement in May 1992.

The Midshore project has its origins in the early 1980s when Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties asked MES to investigate a waste-to-energy facility. Rising energy prices and new State and Federal landfill regulations were motivating factors. MES conducted a feasibility and economic study, which determined that a solid waste incinerator generating electricity was not economically feasible; however, each county still faced impending closure of its existing landfills and the need to design and construct modern lined, leachate controlled landfills.

Further investigation by MES determined that a regional approach to solid waste management would allow economies of scale that were impossible for individual rural counties to achieve on their own. This produced the agreement to develop the MRSWF, which is owned and operated by MES. Land adjacent to the Easton Landfill in Talbot County was selected as the first site, with an initial planned life of 20 years; this site has since closed. Under the agreement, each county is obligated to designate its site for the MRSWF. Caroline County is the current host site for the MRSWF. Caroline County's site is also designed for a 20-year life. When it is closed (anticipated in 2030), Queen Anne's County will be the facility host.

The County identified a site in the *Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan* for location of the Midshore Regional Landfill, designating the Centreville Future

Regional Solid Waste Facility (located at the end of Harper Road, adjacent to the Centreville Drop-Off Center, and north of the Town) as the County's future MRSWF site, pursuant to their obligation under the MRSWF agreement. The site will not be used for this purpose until after closure of the current MRSWF location in Caroline County.

MIDSHORE REGIONAL RECYCLING

The Midshore Regional Recycling Program is a cooperative program between Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties to promote recycling by sharing equipment and technical, financial, and other resources on a regional basis. It is funded through a surcharge on the base tipping fee at the MRSWF. This program has been operated by MES since July 2012.

As noted, the waste stream in the Midshore region, including Queen Anne's County, is becoming less local and more regional in character. The MRSWF, Midshore Regional Recycling Program, a reduced number of rubble landfills, and fewer but larger private waste haulers are all factors in this change. Presently all municipal solid waste generated in Queen Anne's County leaves the County for disposal at the MRSWF in Caroline County. This is the largest category of solid waste leaving Queen Anne's County. It is assumed that all recyclables collected in Queen Anne's County leave the County for processing, except for composted or mulched yard waste, recycled crop silage, and poultry manure.

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Due to the high cost of establishing and operating drop-off centers, it is not recommended that additional drop-off centers sites be established to serve outlying areas of the County. It may consider consolidating existing drop-off centers as part of a comprehensive curbside collection program. The increasing population density in some areas of the County may make it desirable for the County to begin a system of residential curbside collection. According to the *2015 Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan*, potential service areas include Kingstown, Bennett's Point, Prospect Bay, Grasonville, and all of Kent Island. In addition, the County could work with and encourage its towns to expand their curbside collection contracts to serve areas outside of their respective corporate limits.

The County completed a *2005 Study of County-Administered Contract Districts for Collection of*

Residential Waste and Recyclables. A County-administered system of contract districts for curbside collection was concluded to:

- Lower costs to residents by 38%
- Increase recycling rates to 50%
- Reduce traffic, pollution, and road wear by eliminating redundant hauling services by multiple providers
- Reduce number of drop-off centers from five to three, subsequently lowering operational program costs

The County-administered system for curbside collection services would be handled by private waste haulers that are contracted by the County. The County could collect payment for the service via taxes or an independent utility billing system.

Though no additional steps were taken to implement this program, a County Curbside Program is very much a viable option moving forward with continued evaluation of its solid waste program. Transitioning to a contract curbside collection program would be a significant challenge for the County. The major steps necessary to plan, develop, and implement this program would include:

- Complete a comprehensive study for a County-administered curbside collection program
- Develop action plan and schedule
- Design and conduct a public education campaign
- Establish collection districts and routes
- Develop program administration and ordinances
- Establish all administrative and legislative needs
- Prepare procurement solicitation and contracts
- Conduct procurement and award contracts
- Begin operations; monitor and adjust as needed

EDUCATION

The purpose of reviewing educational facilities in **PlanQAC** is not to supersede the School District in planning for school facilities, but rather to raise awareness of the critical nature of coordinating school facilities with community planning, open and recreation space planning, reliable access to broadband, and transportation planning. Additionally, there are private institutions within Queen Anne's County not within the public education hierarchy—their diversity and distribution impact the

growth and activity of communities. Higher education facilities allow adults to pursue continuing education, provide resources for the local work force to expand their knowledge and skills, and incubate new ideas and companies that contribute to the County's overall economic portfolio.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Queen Anne's County Public Schools Board of Education (QACPS) is dedicated to offering each student a quality educational experience. The Board of Education (BOE) is comprised of seven members, five of whom are elected by the voters to four-year terms representing four BOE election districts and one member elected at-large. Two are nonvoting student members who serve one-year terms and are chosen by students, one from Kent Island High School and the other from Queen Anne's County High School. The BOE districts are identified on **Map 3-1, Commissioner & School Board Districts**.

QACPS schools are accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. QACPS consists of eight elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, and one alternative education program; the locations of these facilities are identified on **Map 3-6, Public Schools**. In the 2019-20 school year, approximately 7,816 students were enrolled in the County's public elementary, middle, and high schools.

Table 3-3 depicts the 2019-20 enrollment of the various public schools in the County in relation to the State Rated Capacity (SRC). The SRC is "the maximum number of students that can be reasonably accommodated in a facility without significantly hampering delivery of the educational program." The SRC is often used as the metric to determine if a school is over-capacity to ensure that facilities are not overburdened by new growth.

PROJECTED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Each year, the County develops countywide enrollment projections for each school for the following 10 years. This data is derived from birth data and a cohort survival model and is coordinated with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). Specific data is assessed, which supports the projected enrollments including overall County population and population by age group. In addition, the BOE tracks private and parochial school enrollments.

In 2015, QACPS, in conjunction with MDP, reviewed and provided updates to the SRCs of all elementary schools based on the number and classification of use for each classroom space. The SRCs of all secondary schools (middle and high) were revised by MDP in August 2001 as a result of changes in the space and capacity formula. A new review of the SRCs of all secondary buildings is currently underway.

Table 3-4 provides estimated yearly enrollment projections from 2020 to 2030. The enrollment data used in the analysis of school aged children, as it relates to the continued use of existing schools, planned renovations/additions, and the need for new facilities, is derived primarily from historical attendance data. This data is then compared to information supplied by the County Planning and Zoning Department.

Table 3-3. School Enrollment & State Rated Capacity (SRC)

School Name	Grades	Total Sq. Ft.	Acres	SRC	2019-20 Enrollment	2019-20 % of SRC
Bayside Elementary	3-5	65,990	16.0	526	429	81.6%
Centreville Elementary	PK-2	62,355	14.2	581	552	95.0%
Centreville Middle	6-8	86,230	54.0	659	555	84.2%
Church Hill Elementary	PK-4	50,568	8.0	385	271	70.4%
Grasonville Elementary	PK-5	66,452	17.0	599	479	80.0%
Kennard Elementary	3-5	64,010	14.2	503	506	100.6%
Kent Island Elementary	PK-2	73,889	13.7	536	452	84.3%
Kent Island High	9-12	189,785	43.34	1,135	1,207	106.3%
Matapeake Elementary	PK-5	68,221	57.0	578	442	76.5%
Matapeake Middle	6-9	110,427	57.0	786	360	45.8%
Queen Anne's Co. High	9-12	211,577	80.0	1,263	1,184	93.7%
Stevensville Middle	6-8	97,235	11.7	712	547	76.8%
Sudlersville Elementary	PK-4	55,110	10.4	408	323	79.2%
Sudlersville Middle	5-8	100,884	40.0	583	509	87.3%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning Public School Enrollment Projections 2020-2029 (August 2020)

Table 3-4. School Enrollment Projections

School Name	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
Bayside	425	411	397	397	397	394	391	388	385	385
Centreville	567	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	569
Church Hill	270	259	252	249	248	247	246	245	244	244
Grasonville	496	520	537	565	594	600	606	612	618	618
Kennard	483	501	496	507	498	495	492	489	486	486
Kent Island	433	450	446	442	438	434	430	426	422	422
Matapeake	422	397	382	371	365	360	355	350	345	345
Sudlersville	334	340	342	333	329	325	321	317	313	313
Elementary	3,430	3,440	3,415	3,410	3,434	3,421	3,408	3,395	3,382	3,382
Centreville	544	544	523	541	536	547	538	535	532	532
Matapeake	377	386	389	377	351	334	320	321	318	318
Stevensville	560	573	560	555	560	574	587	603	597	597
Sudlersville	472	455	445	446	457	453	449	438	431	431
Middle	1,952	1,958	1,917	1,919	1,903	1,908	1,895	1,897	1,878	1,878
Kent Island	1,175	1,204	1,226	1,256	1,271	1,300	1,280	1,245	1,248	1,248
Queen Anne	1,217	1,235	1,257	1,244	1,211	1,177	1,165	1,177	1,182	1,182
High	2,392	2,439	2,483	2,500	2,482	2,477	2,445	2,422	2,430	2,430
Totals	7,774	7,837	7,815	7,829	7,819	7,806	7,747	7,714	7,690	7,690

Source: Maryland Department of Planning Public School Enrollment Projections 2020-2029 (August 2020)

With population shifts created by in-migration, residential development, and infrastructure changes, the school system and the County Planning and Zoning Department work cooperatively in an attempt to forecast the impact these factors have on districts designated for growth.

FACILITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

QACPS is currently operating and maintaining approximately 1,350,000 square feet of building space with 95% of that space being occupied daily by students. In 2016, QACPS conducted a comprehensive facility assessment providing an outside evaluation of the current systemic needs of school buildings including foundations, structures, exterior enclosures, roofing, stairs, interior finishes, plumbing, HVAC, fire protection, and electrical. QACPS uses this data to assess in more detail long-term building systemic needs, including associated upgrades and replacements, allowing them to secure funding before these systems reach critical failure. QACPS was also recently awarded the donation of a 10-year enrollment projection study, which will provide a more solid foundation for future facility planning.

The following includes information on existing buildings to determine if future renovations, additions, replacements, or systemic upgrades are needed and outlines the existing building utilization and projected utilization determined by capacity.

- **Bayside Elementary School.** A unique building with a permanent core constructed in 1991 with classroom wings composed of portable units, which should be replaced with permanent classrooms once the portables exceed their useful life. Bayside Elementary School is currently utilized at 82% with the permanent addition of two portable classrooms in 1995 and two more in 1997. Projected utilization in 2029 is 73%.
- **Centreville Elementary School.** The latest renovation and additions were completed in January 2004. The capacity was originally approved to be increased to 450 and then local funding was secured to increase the capacity to 550. The 2015 revision to the SRC brought the capacity to 581. The current utilization of Centreville Elementary School is 87% and is projected at 88% by 2029.
- **Church Hill Elementary School.** This building underwent a renovation and addition project in 1998. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, the 5th grade was moved to Sudlersville Middle School. Church Hill Elementary School is currently at 70% utilization and is expected to be at 63% utilization in 2029.
- **Grasonville Elementary School.** This building was new in 1995. To accommodate increased enrollment, a six-classroom and small kitchen addition was completed in 2018 to address capacity needs. Grasonville Elementary School's current utilization is 77% and is projected at be at 100% utilization by 2029. The SRC for the school since the addition has been completed is 599.
- **Kennard Elementary School.** This school was completely renovated and an addition was added in 2001. Construction of another addition was completed in 2012. Kennard Elementary School is currently at 101% utilization and is projected to be at 97% utilization in 2029. Enrollment growth in this area is slightly trending downward.
- **Kent Island Elementary School.** Renovations and an addition were completed in 2009. Kent Island Elementary School is currently 79% utilized. Projected utilization in 2029 is 74% as lesser growth is expected in this area.
- **Matapeake Elementary School.** This new building opened in 2004 and addressed capacity balancing with Kent Island and Bayside Elementary Schools. This school is currently utilized at 75%. Projected utilization in 2029 is 57%.
- **Sudlersville Elementary School.** This school was fully renovated and received an addition in 1999. Sudlersville Elementary School is currently at 79% utilization and is expected to drop to 77% utilization through 2029.
- **Centreville Middle School.** This school needs a comprehensive building renovation; however, Aging Schools Program money was previously utilized for HVAC units, exterior doors and window replacement, and lighting upgrades. A systemic renovation to replace the boiler was completed in August 2010. This will provide a challenge to available State funding for these upgrades. This is currently the oldest building,

constructed in 1979, that has not received a major renovation. Centreville Middle School is utilized at 84%. Projected utilization in 2029 is expected to drop slightly to 80%. A future request for planning approval for a comprehensive renovation or new building for Centreville Middle School is expected. A feasibility study was conducted in 2020 to investigate comprehensive renovation of the existing building including a geothermal system; and constructing a new building to house the school facilities on the existing site. The request for planning approval is expected in 2023 with funding requests in 2024-2025.

- **Matapeake Middle School.** Opened in 2008, Matapeake Middle School is utilized at 46% for the middle school population only. Projected utilization in 2029 is 40%. Currently, the 9th grade of approximately 300 students from Kent Island High School are housed on the second floor of this building. Should there ever be major growth within the feeder schools, the 9th grade would have to be relocated to the high school campus.
- **Stevensville Middle School.** A comprehensive renovation and addition project was completed in 2016. The current Stevensville Middle School capacity utilization is 77%. Projected utilization is expected to rise to 84% through 2029.
- **Sudlersville Middle School.** This replacement building opened for students in 2012. Sudlersville Middle School capacity utilization is 87% and it is expected to be down to about 74% in 2029.
- **Kent Island High School.** Construction was completed on this new building in 1998. Due to increased enrollment and beginning in the 2007-08 school year, the 9th grade is attending Matapeake Middle School. The utilization of Kent Island High School is currently at 106% and projected capacity utilization in 2029 is 109%. If population growth continues in the area of Matapeake Middle School, the 9th grade will need to relocate back to the high school. A CIP future project request includes a proposed addition to address the relocation of the 9th grade academy and expanded CTE programs. Final program needs will be determined following a feasibility study.

- **Queen Anne's County High School.** A major renovation project was completed in 2002. The entire building was renovated and an addition enclosed a breezeway. The current capacity utilization is 94% and although QACPS anticipates a spike in enrollment over the next several years, the projected utilization of this building will only be at 94% in 2029. This high school currently uses nine portable classrooms that serve as additional space for programmatic purposes, as opposed to square footage needs. A CIP future project request includes a proposed addition to eliminate the use of the portable classrooms and expand CTE programs. Final program needs will be determined following a feasibility study.

In addition, QACPS conducted a feasibility study for the future needs of the Central Office building. At the present time, there is an alternative educational program called Arise Academy that is housed in the Central Office facility. In the upcoming fiscal year, the school system will be petitioning the County government for funding to either renovate the existing space or to design a new building. If Arise Academy is slated to remain within the BOE program, funding requests for State dollars may be included in the yearly CIP requests.

LINK TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The type and quality of educational opportunities are directly linked to the economic viability of a community. Building new school facilities within a new or established community takes forethought, planning, and concern for both the student and the surrounding physical environment. Site selection requires careful consideration of the existing land uses, street capacity, location, and existing public services including water availability, wastewater treatment capacity, emergency services, and library facilities. Considerations for transportation and accessibility include:

- Accessibility and safe passage from home to school;
- Safety from moving vehicles and street crossing implications;
- Accommodations for bicycles; and
- Neighborhood safety.

Physical environmental and site design considerations include:

- Location within a neighborhood having established sidewalk networks or the ability to install sidewalks;
- Street crosswalks on popular travel-to-school routes;
- Location on streets limited to two lane traffic including on-street parking;
- Location in neighborhoods where windows and doors face the street and sidewalks;
- Location outside of floodplain and or any wet low-lying areas;
- Location within public water and sewer facilities;
- Location within a community that accommodates all emergency services (i.e. police, ambulance, fire);
- Location within a community that hosts a public library; and
- Accommodate the co-location of community and public facilities such as parking and recreational facilities.

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

Chesapeake College was founded in 1965 as Maryland's first regional community college to serve the needs of the Upper and Middle Eastern Shore. Chesapeake College is a two-year college that provides an Associate's Degree with its primary campus located on 170 acres in Wye Mills, at the intersection of US 50 and SR 213. It serves five Midshore counties: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot. Chesapeake College also maintains a smaller campus in Cambridge.

The Chesapeake College Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Training provides professional staff and curriculum focused on business, technology, and manufacturing workforce training needs. Chesapeake College is also home to the Todd Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the art regional performing arts center.

LIBRARIES

Libraries provide more than books—they are community centers providing educational opportunities and employment resources. The more access residents have to educational materials, the more opportunities they can expect to see. Libraries provide computer time for those without home access, training classes and cultural programs, free reference materials that help educate any person regardless of age, and the enjoyment that books,

CDs, and DVDs can provide. Public libraries are a resource that must be supported to encourage vibrant and sustainable communities.

The library system is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of twelve members. The Board is focused on addressing the educational, informational, and learning-recreational needs of County residents and families. There are two public libraries in the County: the Centreville Branch and the Kent Island Branch (refer to **Map 3-3, Community Facilities** for library locations). The Kent Island Branch recently completed renovations to its existing building as well as the construction of a 10,800 square foot addition. Community issues identified during the **PlanQAC** update process include:

- Lack of activities, programs and cultural centers for all age groups;
- Developing life-long learning opportunities throughout the County; and
- Build on the success of the schools and college and expansion of these facilities to provide additional educational opportunities.

The County's Library System can help to address these community issues and meet educational needs of the community.

The Library's *2019 Annual Report* indicated that over 463,000 materials were circulated, borrowed by 48,408 registered card holders. The Library hosted 686 programs (521 children's programs and 165 adult programs) for 16,658 patrons (2,821 adult program attendees and 13,837 children's program attendees).

The *2020 Queen Anne's County Library Strategic Plan* highlighted the following key areas of focus:

- Establish/strengthen community partnerships
- Expand/enhance libraries, resources, services
- Expand/maintain outreach and marketing efforts and consistency
- Ensure current and future library financial stability

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and recreation are critical to the quality of life in the County. Natural resources, open space, and recreational facilities add to the community's quality of life and make a positive contribution to the County's sustainability. In 2017, the County adopted a Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) to address the issues related to ownership,

management, and preservation needs and desires. The LPPRP is currently being updated, with a final draft expected in early 2022. The adopted LPPRP is incorporated by reference as part of **PlanQAC**.

The LPPRP provides recommendations for the following topics:

- Parks and recreation
- Agricultural land preservation
- Natural resource conservation

The County's Department of Parks and Recreation provides a variety of facilities, programs, camps, classes, trips, and special events for all ages. Planning for recreation includes determining current and future land needs, programming, and facilities. For detailed inventories, goals, policies, and program recommendations, reference the adopted LPPRP.

FACILITIES

PARKS

The County's park system is comprised of more than 3,125 acres of recreation land. More than 4,600 acres of State and local recreation land and approximately 300 acres of recreation lands owned by the County BOE (with a longstanding MOU with respect to use and maintenance of sports and open areas), add to the lands for recreational opportunities available to users. These lands and park facilities are depicted on **Map 3-7, Park & Recreation Facilities**.

TRAILS

On- and off-road trail routes link to the County's parks, landings, historical and cultural points of interest, villages, and towns. Since the County's network of pedestrian, water, and bicycle trails began development nearly two decades ago, interest in non-motorized, alternative transportation routes has grown in the County. Not only are residents and visitors seeking recreational, sporting, and health related opportunities, but much of the public is finding that these routes truly offer alternatives when seasonal traffic or Bay Bridge backups impair the ability to move about and through their communities.

The County is fortunate to have miles of land trails that predominantly exist within its most populated area: Kent Island. These trails are designed for non-motorized use and aimed at bicycle and pedestrian users, although inline skaters and equestrians often utilize the trails. The six-mile Cross Island Trail, which

traverses Kent Island from the Chesapeake Bay to the Kent Narrows, is a nationally acclaimed trail that is part of the American Discovery Trail. It attracts many visitors to the area, with the trail itself often the reason for their visit to the County. Additional spurs from this main trail such as the Kent Island South Trail, and the proposed Cross County Connector Trail, offer connectivity to nearby neighborhoods, commercial centers, entertainment, historic and cultural sites, parks, and schools on Kent Island.

In addition to land trails, the County in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), developed a fairly extensive system of water trails that serve to connect users to places of historical and cultural heritage, areas of natural resource conservation, and recreational facilities, all while enjoying the many miles of County shoreline.

PUBLIC LANDINGS & MARINAS

The County has long been committed to providing public access to area waterways. This commitment has resulted in 18 public waterfront landing locations within the County, two with public fishing piers. The County's Public Landings Division also manages and maintains three County-owned marinas; Waterman's Heritage Marina, Little Creek Marina, and the Centreville Wharf Marina. The public landings are extremely popular and provide residents and tourists with outlets to the Chesapeake Bay for recreational and commercial purposes. The County provides the public with more public landings/water access than its neighboring counties, resulting in very heavy use of these facilities. The Public Landings Division requires a permit for use of the facilities and makes permit purchase available through many local vendors throughout the County.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The County provides a variety of facilities, programs, camps, classes, trips, and special events for all ages. The Parks & Recreation Department notes that they typically hear of the need for recreational facilities and programs for youth; however, more recently, they are hearing more from aging demographics regarding their desires for recreation opportunities, healthy activities, and open space.

ACCESSIBILITY

Research continues to support that the more children are challenged to be creative, the more

successful they will be as an adult. Additionally, there is a significant difference between being ADA compliant and being inclusive. Approximately 4.9% of the County's total population under the age of 18 has a disability, which encompasses difficulties with hearing, vision, cognition, ambulatory activities, and self-care.

With the increase in inclusion and accessibility throughout so many avenues of life, including healthcare, education, and emergency services, the integration of inclusive recreational activities and increased accessibility is crucial for improving the quality of life for those with a disability and their peers. Establishing a standard of inclusive recreation can help the County to maintain a true feeling of community and connectedness with all play created equal.

GOALS & INITIATIVES

Overarching goals for recreation and natural resource conservation are as follows:

- Accessibility of quality recreational environments
- Strategic use of facilities as amenities to communities
- Use federal and State investments to complement other goals
- Establish recreation land and facilities located in proximity to population centers
- Invest in neighborhood and community parks and facilities
- Create new recreational open space and protect existing recreational open space at appropriate levels compared to developed land

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

The overarching goal for community facilities is to meet the current and future facility and service needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

GOAL 3-1: Reduce environmental impacts associated with community facilities.

STRATEGY 1: Seek to increase recycling rates through improved recycling programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Modify existing recycling programs.
2. Explore single stream recycling.
3. Explore more efficient and available ways to collect household hazardous waste.
4. Support private and non-profit organization efforts to promote recycling and coordinate with private industry recyclers.
5. Explore innovation and creative ways to recycle.
6. Encourage private industry and non-profit efforts to use recycled materials.

STRATEGY 2: Mid-Shore Regional Landfill.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The County will continue to assess the feasibility of the siting of Phase 3 of the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill.

GOAL 3-2: Provide sustainable smart growth management inside and outside Growth Areas.

STRATEGY 1: Develop affordable, reliable, and state-of-the-art infrastructure and community facilities/services that meet the safety, transportation, communication system, and entertainment needs of the County's population.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and impact fee ordinance are maintained and improved through annual review to provide adequate public facilities as part of development proposals.
2. Infrastructure improvements should be planned and implemented to control the rate and timing of development, with a focus on the timing of when infrastructure is provided, which may require projects to be included in the capital budget.
3. Adequate Public Facilities testing of all municipal developments should be part of Annexation Agreements.
4. Support regional and State organizations that install countywide state-of-the-art data and telecommunications.
5. Provide for the protection and adaptability of public facilities and resources in the face of climate change and sea level rise.

STRATEGY 2: Plan, design, improve, manage, maintain, and expand infrastructure and community facilities and services responsibly to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Expand the County's trail system to connect towns and recreation areas.
2. If sewer capacity becomes available at the KNSG Wastewater Treatment Plant, it should be utilized to meet the needs identified in the County's *Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan and Comprehensive Plan* specific to addressing areas of public health emergency.

STRATEGY 3: Encourage development of medical facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Identify key locations for medical facilities with sufficient access to roads and infrastructure.
2. Encourage public/private partnerships to support development of community facilities and services.

STRATEGY 4: Support and encourage the maintenance and enhancement of public safety services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Strengthen and expand public safety services.
 - a. Support and encourage the establishment of benchmarks for providing acceptable public safety services.
 - b. Support and encourage development and implementation strategies to meet the established benchmarks.
2. Support and encourage appropriate studies to determine the impact fees necessary to support public safety consistent with the need generated by new growth.
3. Examine protocols to provide for cooperation among State, County, and municipal police agencies.

GOAL 3-3: Provide infrastructure and services to support economic development.

STRATEGY 1: Identify future trails/paths to connect residential neighborhoods with shopping centers and employment centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Strongly support improvement and dedication of lands for public trails and paths as part of development plans.

GOAL 3-4: Provide appropriate services, facilities, and amenities.

STRATEGY 1: Provide additional public access to tidal waters at appropriate locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. When development or redevelopment occurs, provide public access to tidal waters where appropriate and feasible.

STRATEGY 2: Support the educational plans for land acquisition, new facilities, and improvements to existing facilities.

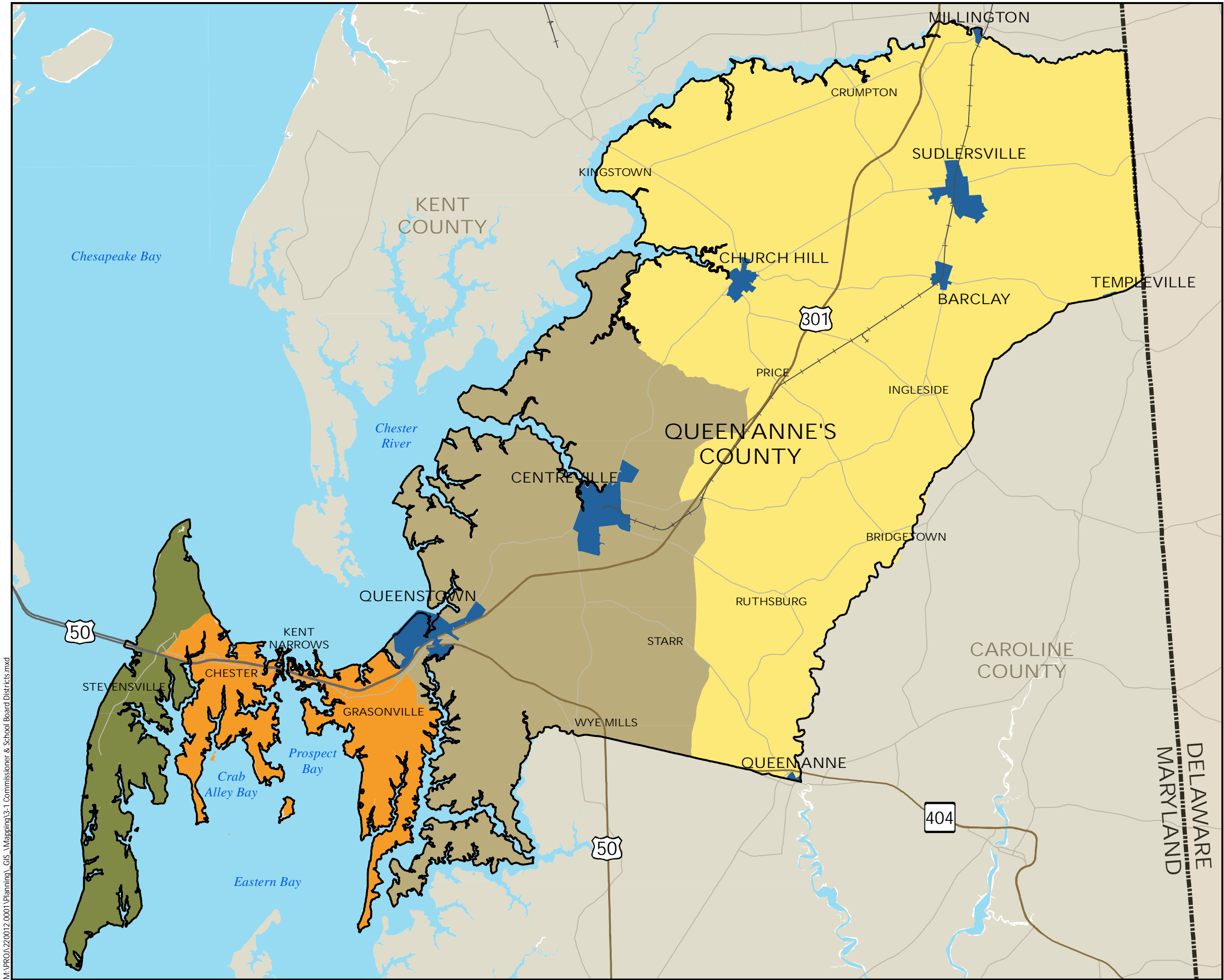
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Work with the Board of Education, developers, and other entities to support master planning to meet future needs of the educational system.

STRATEGY 3: Evaluate and implement the strategies and capital improvements in the *LPPRP*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in the County.
2. Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.



MAP 3-1

Commissioner & School Board Districts

Queen Anne's County

State Boundary

Counties

Incorporated Towns

Water Bodies

Rail

Major Roads

Interstates

US Highways

State Routes

Commissioner/School Board Districts

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4



Source
Queen Anne's County Commissioner District
Boundaries

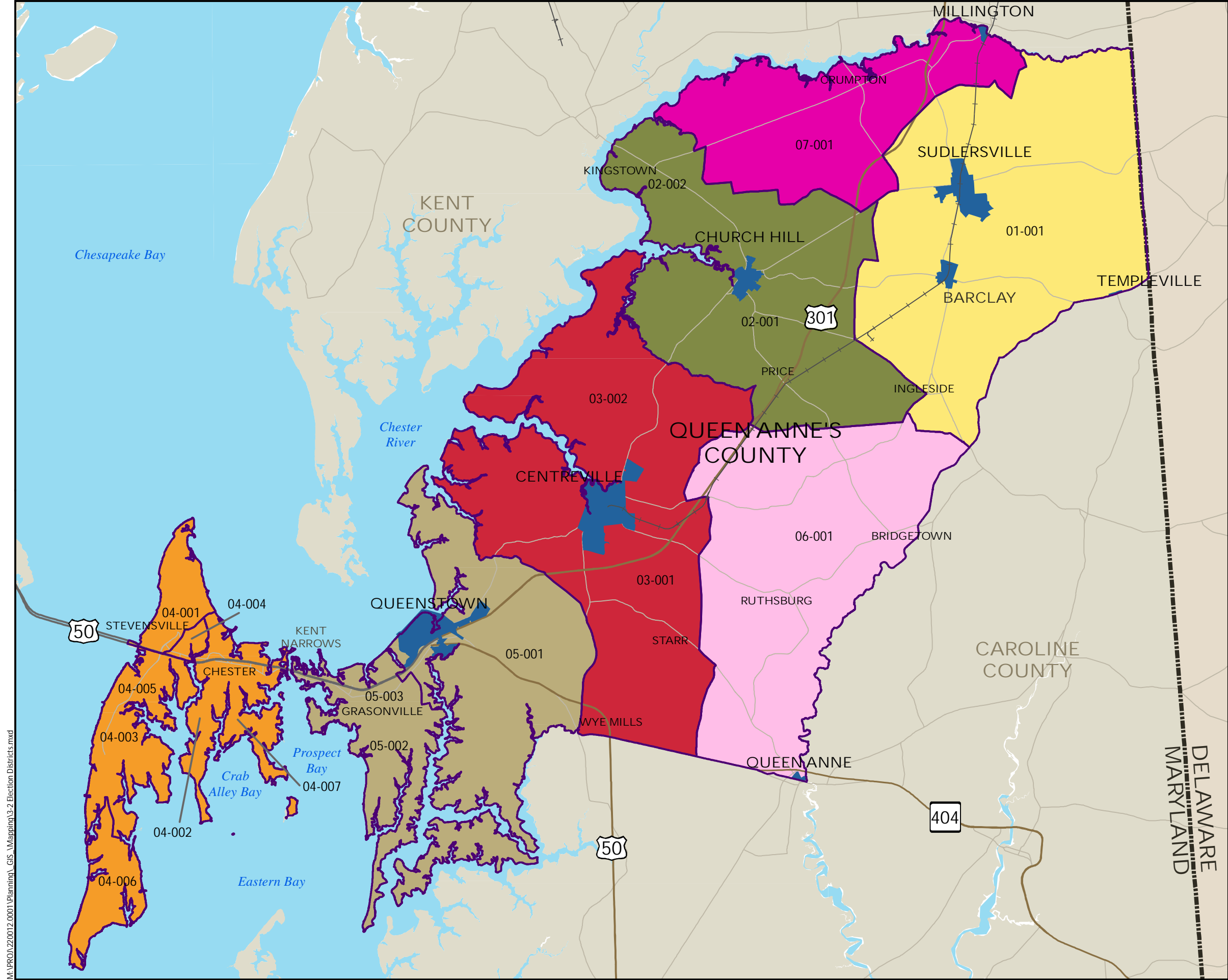


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January 2022

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles






MAP 3-2


Election Districts

- State Boundary
- Counties
- Incorporated Towns
- Water Bodies
- Rail
- Major Roads
 - Interstates
 - US Highways
 - State Routes
- Election Districts
 - 1 Sudlersville
 - 2 Church Hill
 - 3 Centreville
 - 4 Kent Island
 - 5 Grasonville
 - 6 Queen Anne
 - 7 Crumpton/Chestertown
- Election Precincts
 - Election Precincts

NOTE:
XX-000 Are Election Precinct labels where
XX = Election District and
000 = Election Precinct

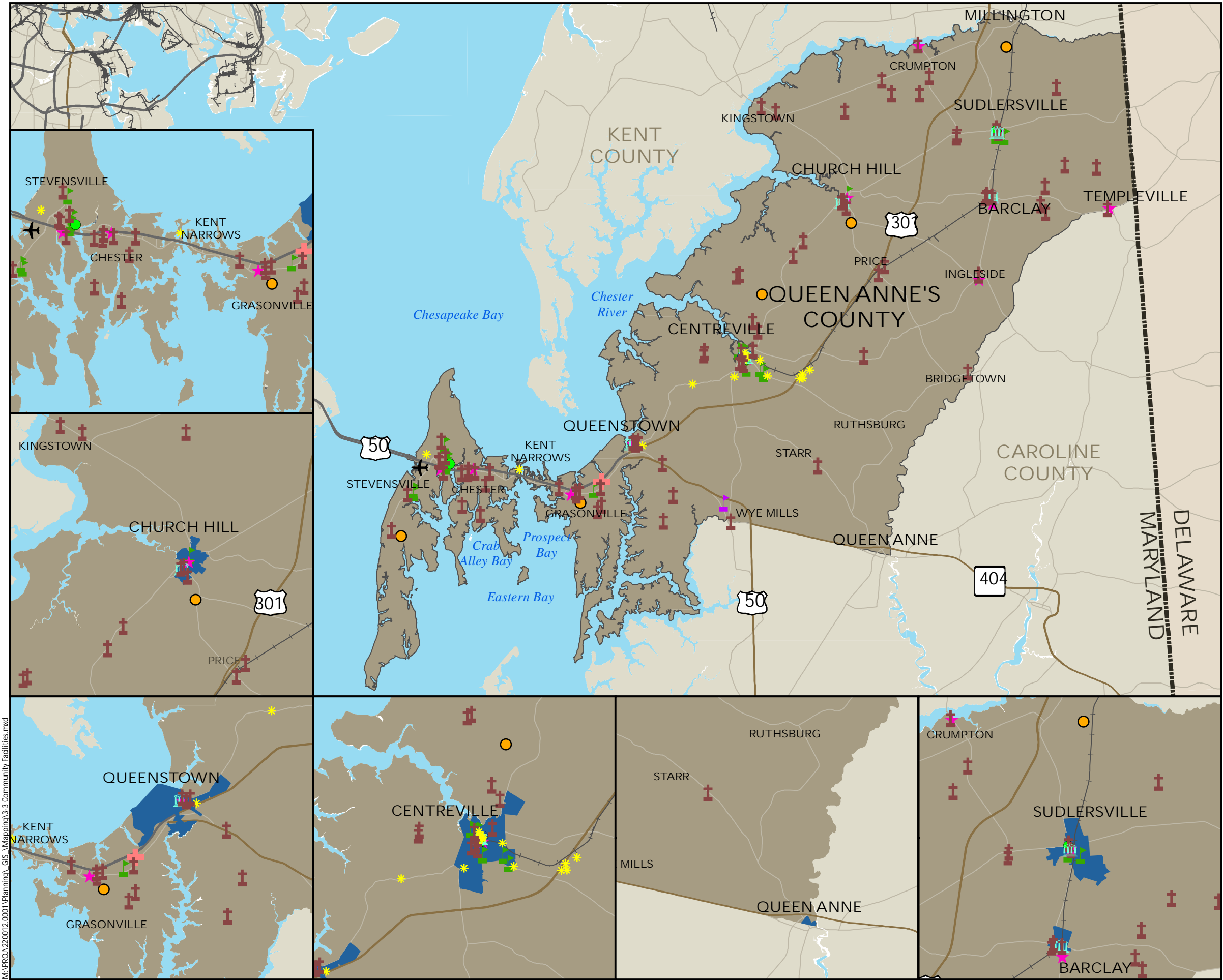


Source
Queen Anne's County Election Districts
and Election Precincts



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from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal
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verified with them where appropriate.

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MAP 3-3

Community Facilities

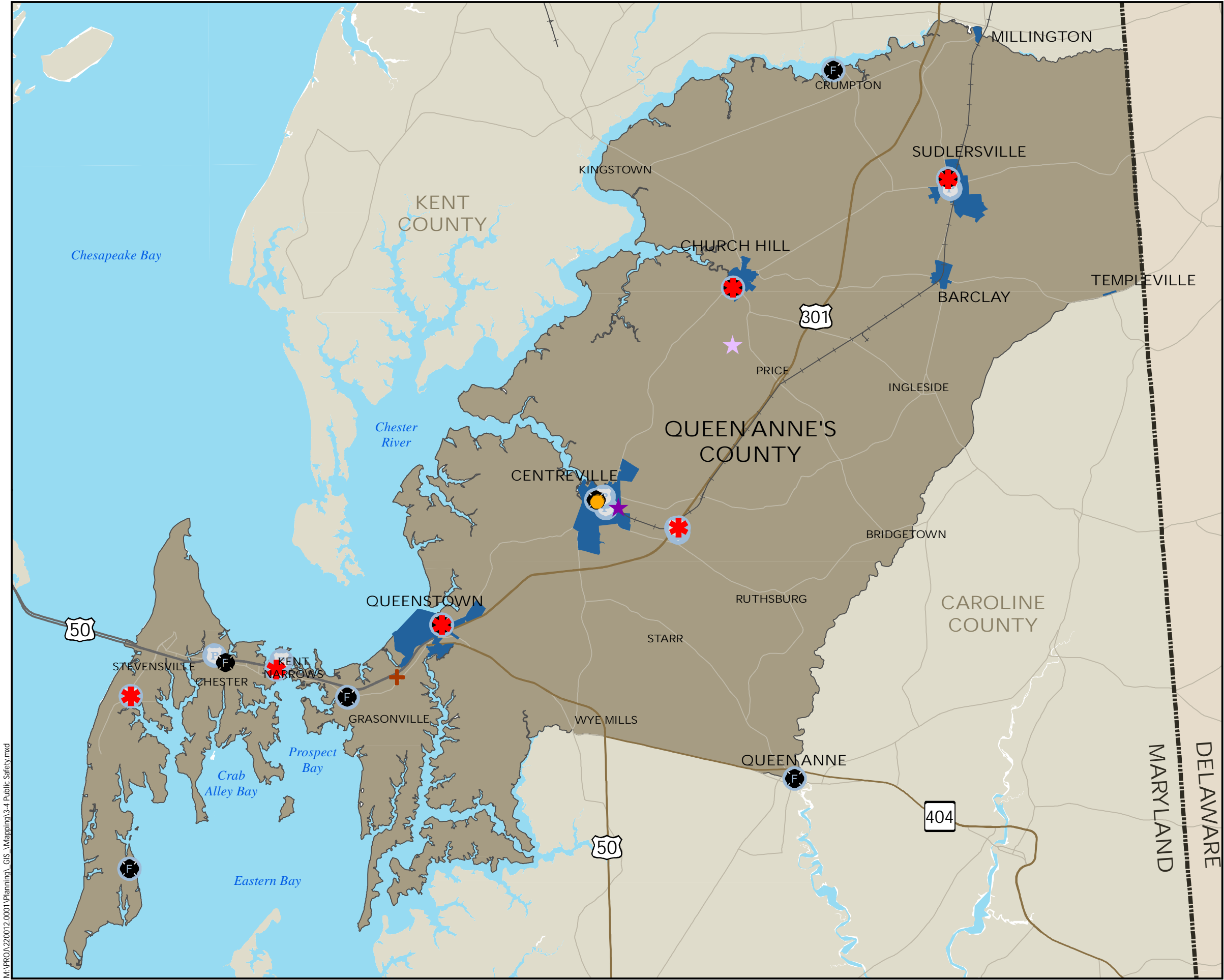
- Queen Anne's County
- State Boundary
- Counties
- Incorporated Towns
- Water Bodies
- Rail
- Major Roads
 - Interstates
 - US Highways
 - State Routes
- Points of Interest
 - Airport
 - School
 - College
 - Medical
 - Government Facility
 - Courthouse
 - Library
 - Post Office
 - Church
 - Town Hall
 - Transfer Station

Source
Queen Anne's County Points of Interest

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January 2022
0 1.25 2.5 5
Miles





MAP 3-4

Public Safety

Queen Anne's County

State Boundary

Counties

Incorporated Towns

Water Bodies

Rail

Major Roads

Interstates

US Highways

State Routes

Public Safety Facilities

Medical

Courthouse

EMS

Fire Stations

Police Stations

State Correctional Facilities

Local Correctional Facilities



Source
Queen Anne's County Points of Interest
and Stations
MD iMap County Fire Stations and
Correctional Facilities



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January 2022

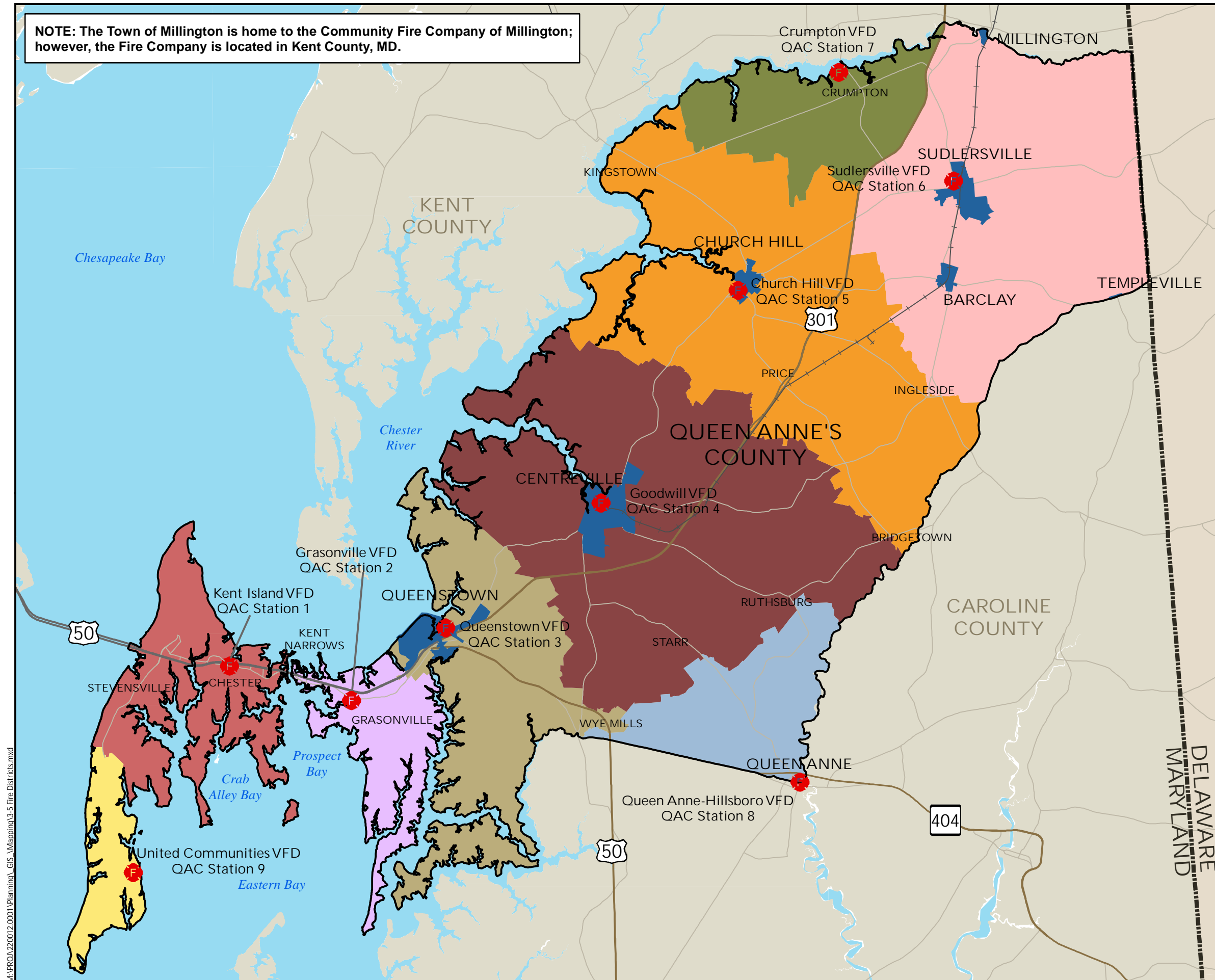
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NOTE: The Town of Millington is home to the Community Fire Company of Millington; however, the Fire Company is located in Kent County, MD.

MAP 3-5 Fire Districts

- Queen Anne's County
- State Boundary
- Counties
- Incorporated Towns
- Water Bodies
- Rail
- Major Roads
 - Interstates
 - US Highways
 - State Routes
- Fire Districts
 - Co. 1 Kent Island
 - Co. 2 Grasonville
 - Co. 3 Queenstown
 - Co. 4 Centreville
 - Co. 5 Church Hill
 - Co. 6 Sudlersville
 - Co. 7 Crumpton
 - Co. 8 Queen Anne/Hillsboro
 - Co. 9 Romancoke
- Fire Stations



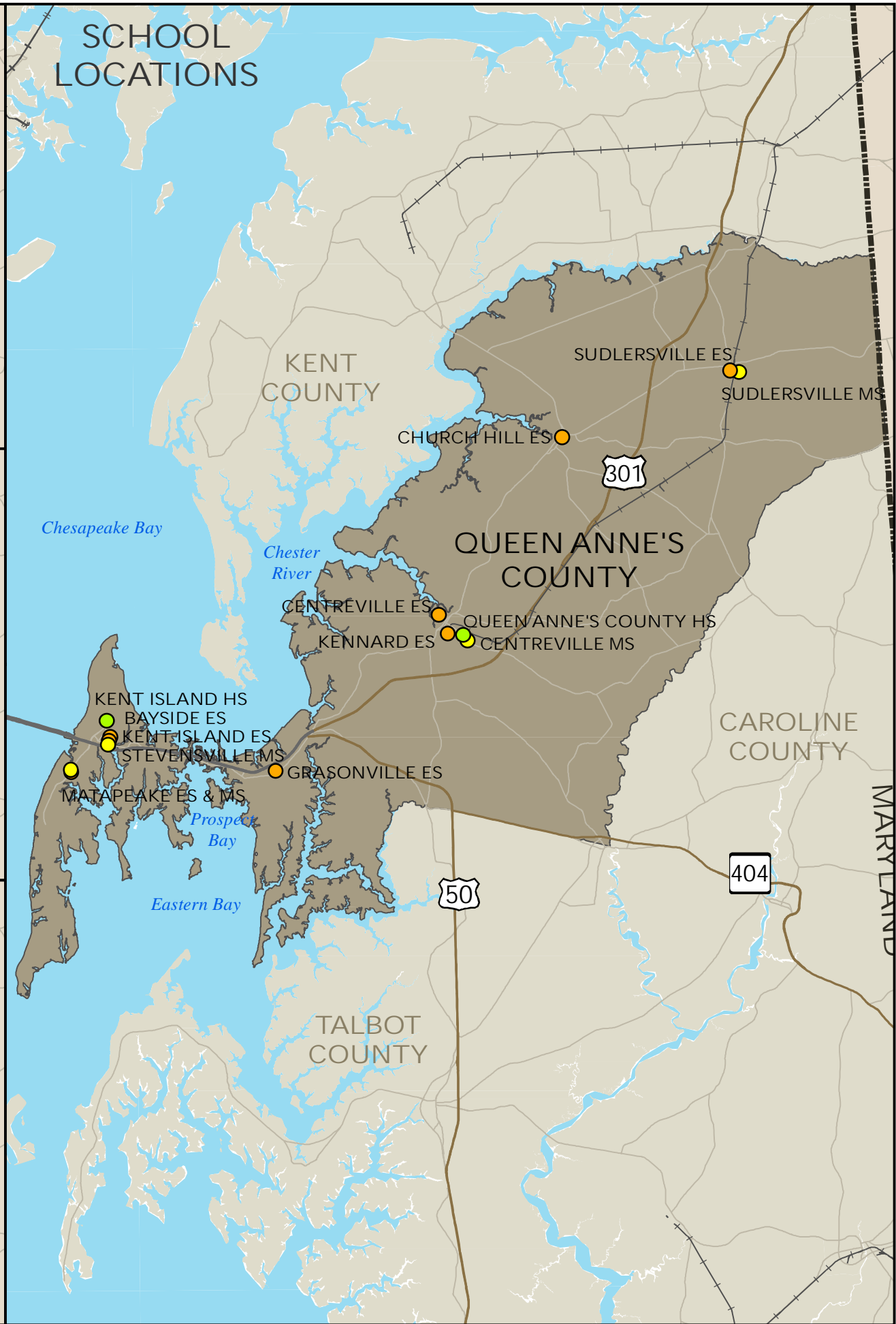
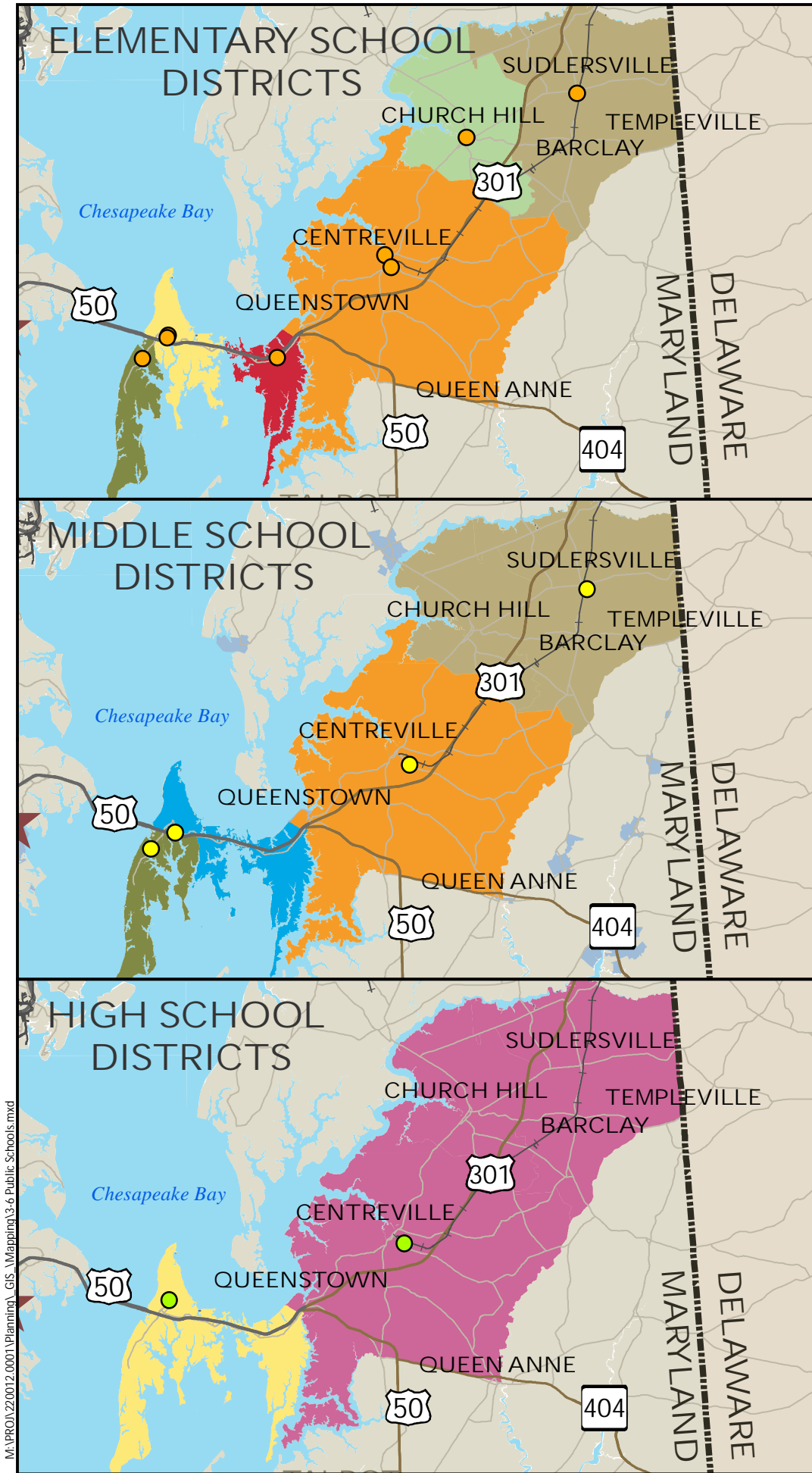
Source
Queen Anne's County Fire Districts
MD iMap County Fire Stations

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January 2022

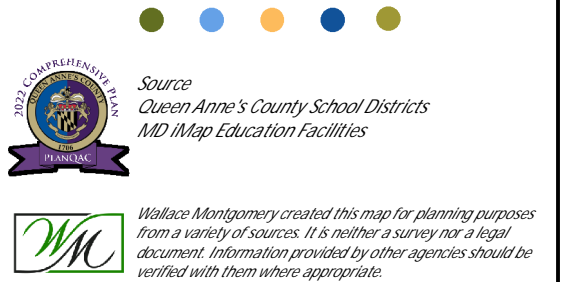
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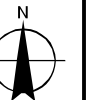


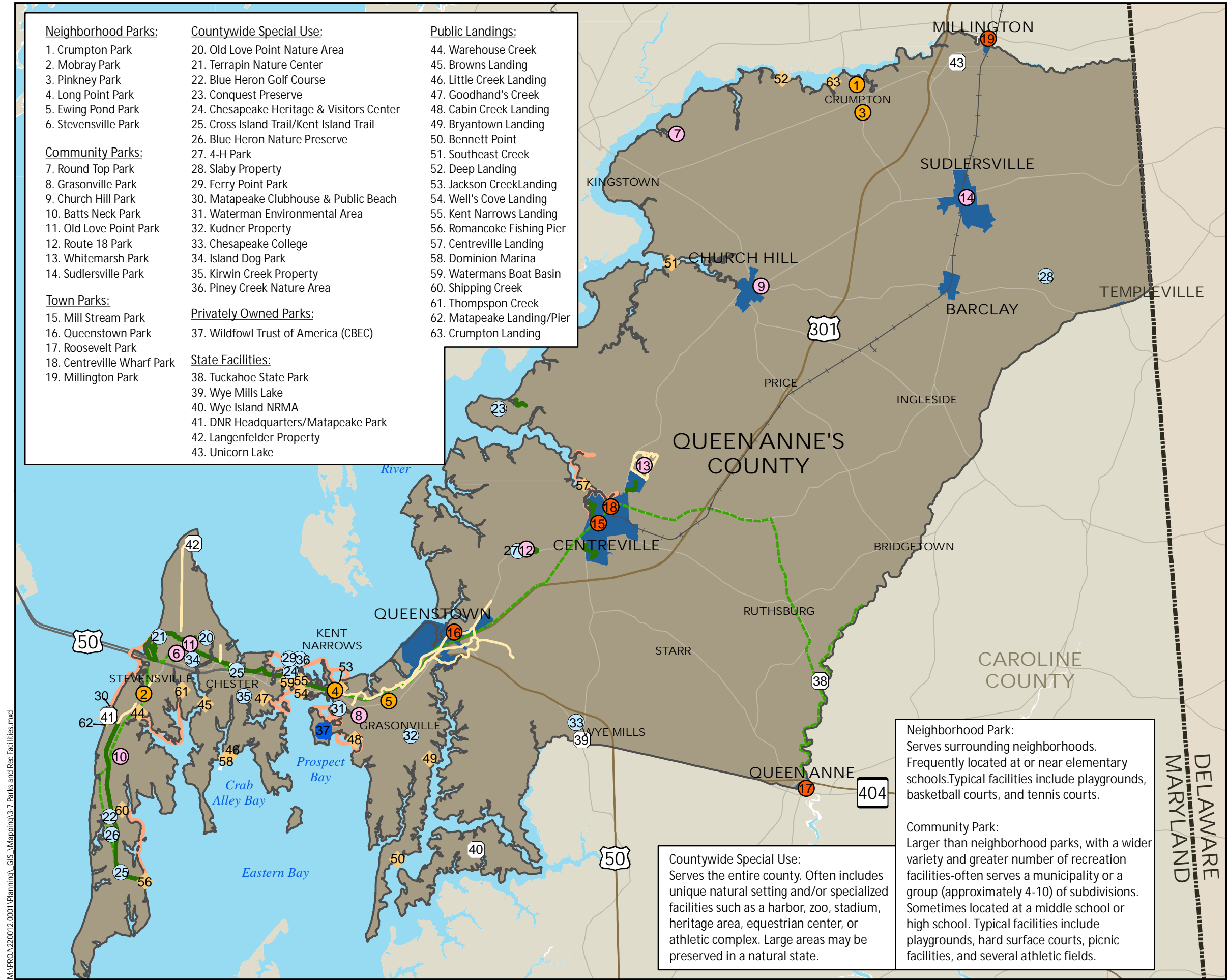
MAP 3-6 Public Schools

- Queen Anne's County
- State Boundary
- Counties
- Water Bodies
- Rail
- Major Roads
 - Interstates
 - US Highways
 - State Routes
- Elementary School Districts
 - Elementary School
 - Centreville/Kennard
 - Church Hill
 - Grasonville
 - Kent Island/Bayside
 - Matapeake
 - Sudlersville
- Middle School Districts
 - Middle School
 - Sudlersville
 - Centreville/Kennard
 - Stevensville
 - Matapeake
- High School Districts
 - High School
 - Kent Island/Bayside
 - Queen Anne's County



January 2022
0 2.5 5 10
Miles





MAP 3-7

Parks & Recreation Facilities

Queen Anne's County

State Boundary

Counties

Incorporated Towns

Water Bodies

Rail

Major Roads

Interstates

US Highways

State Routes

Trail Facilities

Trails

Proposed Trail Connections

Water Trails

Existing Greenway Trails

Park Facilities

Community Park

Countywide Special Use

Neighborhood Park

Private Park

State Facilities

Town Park

Public Landing

NOTE: Greenway Trail data was provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Greenway Trails were added where there was no overlap with Queen Anne's County Trails (existing and proposed).

Source

Queen Anne's County Greenway Trails, Trails, Proposed Trails, and Parks Facilities MD DNR Water Trails



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January 2022

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