

Chapter 8 – Community Services and Infrastructure

INTRODUCTION

Communities provide a variety of services to its residents, visitors, and businesses. Services include public safety; medical, health and social services; educational services; recreation; and infrastructure. These services are often carried out in city facilities and community buildings. Community services and infrastructure impact the quality of life for area residents and often require expenditure of public funds.

This chapter provides an overview of community services and infrastructure in the City. Further information about infrastructure related to the transportation system can be found in Chapter 10 Transportation.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLAN ELEMENTS

Community Services

Demographics

Demographic trends are a critical component in service planning. As the population grows and people progress from one age group to another, the needs within the community change.

Economy

By providing links between public services and amenities, people are better connected and a sense of community is built. This benefits residents, but these connections also meet business needs and interests.

Transportation

Services provided by the City affect transportation needs and goals. The location and type of services provided by the community influences the mobility and accessibility of people, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities.

Land Use

The location of facilities, the efficiency with which emergency services can be provided, and the ease of providing services are directly linked to land use patterns, policies and regulation. Land use plays a key role in determining where a facility is located. A community facility can affect the character of a neighborhood or area.

Infrastructure

Physical Features

Rivers and streams improve the quality of life for residents. Water quality and habitat need to be maintained.

Housing

Various housing types have differing demands. Planned and thoughtful choices, extension of systems and routine maintenance, let a community retain a diversity of housing options, minimize inefficient systems, and help keep housing affordable.

Economy

Many communities invest in water and sewer facilities to encourage economic growth by facilitating the expansion of existing businesses as well as attracting new ones. This can mean the creation of jobs and expansion of the job base. Additionally, some commercial and industrial activity may have special wastewater treatment needs.

Land Use

The cost of sewer and water extensions and new systems can be very high. They open up more land to be developed. Consequently, these projects may significantly change the character of areas not currently served by existing systems. Additionally terrain and topography greatly influence land use.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

City Facilities



City Hall

Staunton City Hall is located at 116 W. Beverley Street. The building houses most of the administrative offices for City operations and citizen services including: City Assessor, City Attorney, City Manager, Commissioner of the Revenue, Community Development, Economic Development, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Staunton Police Department, Registrar, Tourism, and Treasurer.



Fire Station 1

Fire Station 1 is located at 500 North Augusta Street. This location also includes a museum containing Jumbo, a 1911 Robinson fire engine.



Fire Station 2

Fire Station 2 is located at 302 Grubert Avenue.



Library

The Staunton Public Library is located at 1 Churchville Avenue. The Library also houses the Talking Book Center, a sub-regional library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



Parks & Recreation Department

The administrative offices for the Parks & Recreation Department are located at 1000 Montgomery Avenue. Parks & Recreation manages a number of community parks and recreation facilities, as discussed in more detail beginning on page 8-18.



Public Works

Public Works is located at 1911 Craigmont Road. This location houses the administrative offices and maintenance facilities for utilities, trash and recycling collection, street maintenance and snow removal. It is also the location of the Staunton Water Treatment Plant.



Staunton City Courthouse

The Court is located at 113 East Beverley Street. This location provides services for the General District Court, Circuit Court, Clerk's Offices, and the City Sheriff's Office.



Visitors Center

The Visitors Center is located at 35 S. New Street. This location serves as the downtown visitors center for Staunton.

Public Safety

Judicial Services

Judicial services in Staunton include the General District Court, the Circuit Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The General District Court, Circuit Court and Clerk's Offices are located at 113 East Beverley Street. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County is located at 6 East Johnson Street. The courts are located in the 25th Judicial Circuit of Virginia.

Each court has different powers and functions:

- The Circuit Court is a trial court with the broadest powers. It handles felony criminal cases, family matters, civil cases, and appeals from the lower courts. In civil cases, it shares authority with the General District Court to hear cases with claims between \$4,500 and \$25,000. All civil cases with claims exceeding \$25,000 are heard by the Circuit Court.
- The General District Court handles traffic cases, criminal cases and civil cases. Criminal cases include misdemeanor charges and preliminary hearings in felony cases. The court has the authority to hear civil cases with claims less than \$4,500 and shares authority to hear cases greater than that amount with the Circuit Court up to \$25,000.
- The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court handles all cases involving juveniles under the age of 18; family cases including custody, support and visitation; and family abuse cases.

Additional judicial services are provided by the Commonwealth's Attorney and Blue Ridge Court Services. The Commonwealth's Attorney is an elected, constitutional officer who is responsible for managing criminal prosecutions in the City. The office is located at 21 N. New Street. Blue Ridge Court Services is a public, non-profit organization that provides remedial and rehabilitative opportunities to offenders in the cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, and Buena Vista, and the counties of Augusta, Highland and Rockbridge. The office is located at 125 S. New Street.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement services in the City of Staunton are provided by the Virginia State Police, the Staunton City Police Department and the Staunton Sheriff's Office.

The Staunton City Police Department is an internationally accredited, full-service law enforcement agency operated as a department of the City. The Department is located on the Basement level of City Hall at 116 West Beverley Street, with the main entrance located on Central Street. Law enforcement services include criminal investigations, patrol, animal control and the 911 Communications Center. In 2017, the police department received 17,561 calls for service, with an average response time to emergency calls of 5:16 minutes. They conducted 2,610 arrests, investigated 700 traffic collisions, issued 2,663 traffic summonses and conducted 1,418 criminal investigations. Refer to Table 8-1 for highlights of the police department.

Table 8-1 - Police Department - Highlights

Location	City Hall, Basement Floor
Management	Chief of Police Commander, Captain (2)
Divisions	Law Enforcement Services Patrol Shift Criminal Investigations Unit Animal Control K-9 Officers Critical Incident Response Team Reserves Community Involvement/Support Operations Support Operations Unit Crime Prevention Unit Police Chaplains
Professional Personnel	52 sworn officers 16 full-time civilian employees 12 full-time dispatchers
Coverage Period	3 shifts 24 hours per day/ 365 days per year
Law Enforcement Services	Police Patrol Criminal Investigations Community Policing Animal Control
Crime Prevention Services	Virginia Rules Mentorship School Resource Officer programs Citizen's Police Academy Neighborhood and Business Watch programs
Administrative Services	911 Communications Center Police Records Parking Enforcement Crime Prevention Unit Police Chaplains

Sources: City of Staunton Website; Staunton Police Department

Table 8-1 – Police Department - Highlights - continued

Reserve Corps	Reserve Police Officers are volunteers who assist full-time police officers and perform the same functions. They are armed, uniformed peace officers. Reserves must meet eligibility requirements and undergo 320 hours of training to become Level 2 Certified. Continuous training is required and a Reserve Police Officer must work a minimum 10 hours per month.
Jail	Middle River Regional Jail
Accreditation	Accredited by Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CALEA) in 1985. Re-accredited in 1990, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016.

Sources: City of Staunton Website; Staunton Police Department

The 911 Communications Center is administered by the Police Department and dispatches all calls to the Staunton Police Department, the Staunton Fire and Rescue Department, and the Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad. It is a state-of-the-art Public Safety Answering Point and a Virginia Office of EMS Emergency Medical Dispatch accredited agency. Over 60,000 phone calls are received annually by dispatchers, with an average of 280 calls per day. In 2017, the City upgraded to a new 911 system, known as NextGen 911 which delivers calls through an IP-based digital network providing quicker service and a text-to-911 feature.

The Staunton Sheriff's Office is located at 113 East Beverley Street within the Staunton City Courthouse. The Sheriff's duties include providing security to courts, serving warrants and court papers, and the transportation of prisoners. In addition to these services, the Sheriff is also responsible for enforcing civil law within their jurisdiction. The Sheriff is a sworn law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction in which he or she is elected and the duties of the office vary across cities and counties. Although the Police Department and Sheriff's Office have separate duties, they work together to provide law enforcement services within the City to its citizens. The City Sheriff is an elected constitutional officer with a term of four years and is accountable directly to the citizens of Staunton. Refer to Table 8-2 for highlights of the Sheriff's Office.

Table 8-2 - Staunton Sheriff's Office - Highlights	
Location	1st Floor of the Staunton City Courthouse 113 E. Beverley St.
Management	Sheriff Chief Deputy
Professional Personnel	5 full-time sworn Deputies 1 full-time professional Assistant/Deputy 1 part-time sworn Deputy
Hours of Operation	Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.
Department Training	3 General Instructors 3 Firearms Instructors 2 Field Training Officers 1 Hostage Negotiator
Accreditation	The Staunton Sheriff's Office is currently exploring the accreditation process.

Sources: Staunton Sheriff's Office

The Middle River Regional Jail and the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Center are regional incarceration facilities. Middle River Regional Jail provides adult incarceration and serves Staunton, Waynesboro, Harrisonburg and the counties of Augusta, Highland and Rockingham. Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Center is a residential facility for juveniles. It serves the cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Harrisonburg and Lexington, and the counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Rockingham. Both facilities are located on Technology Drive in Verona.

Fire & Rescue

Emergency response services in the City of Staunton are provided by the Staunton Fire and Rescue Department and the Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad.

The Staunton Fire and Rescue Department, a department of the City, is operated out of two locations. Fire Station 1 is located at 500 North Augusta Street and Fire Station 2 is located at 302 Grubert Avenue. The Fire and Rescue Department provides emergency response and fire

prevention services, safety education services, and operates the emergency operations center. In 2017, the City responded to 1,351 fire incidents and 2,025 emergency medical service incidents, with an average response time of 5:15 minutes. They have been recognized with awards from the Governor's Fire Service Awards and the Grinnell Mutual Life Safety Achievement Award. Refer to Table 8-3 for highlights of the Fire and Rescue Department.

Table 8-3 - Staunton Fire and Rescue Department - Highlights

Location	Fire Station 1- 500 North Augusta Street Fire Station 2- 302 Grubert Avenue
Management	Fire Chief & Emergency Management Coordinator Deputy Fire Chief Deputy Fire Marshal
Professional Personnel	36 Career Firefighters 19 Part-Time Firefighters 10 Reserve Firefighters
Service Area	City of Staunton (20 square miles), parts of Augusta County and Mary Baldwin University campus.
Coverage Period	24 hours per day/ 365 days per year
Fire Incident Responses (2017)	1,351
EMS Incident Responses (2017)	2,025
Water Supply	City Water Mains and Branch lines Bulk Water Storage Tank
Motorized Apparatus Model Year 2013- Sutphen Monarch Pumper - 1500 gpm pump and 500 gallons of water 2008- Sutphen Monarch Pumper - 1500 gpm pump and 500 gallons of water 2007- Chevy Brush Truck - 250 gpm pump and 200 gallons of water 2002- Pierce Dash 100' Tower - 1500 gpm pump and 300 gallons of water 2000- Monarch Sutphen Pumper - 1500 gpm pump and 500 gallons of water 1996- Ford/Hackney Medium Duty Rescue 6 x 6 Gator for all terrain use. The Department also has three staff vehicles.	

Sources: City of Staunton Website; Staunton Fire and Rescue Department

Table 8-3 - Staunton Fire and Rescue Department - Highlights - continued

Emergency Response and Fire Prevention Services	-Fire Operations (structural, rural, and wildland urban interface) -Emergency Medical Service -Hazardous Materials -Vehicle Extrication -Confined space, trench collapse, building collapse, and rope rescue -Domestic preparedness and planning -Fire Prevention/Safety -Code Enforcement -Permits and Inspections
Fire Prevention & Safety Services	- Smoke Alarm Installation Program - Carbon Monoxide Awareness - Knox Box Program - Home Fire Prevention - YFire Program
Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating	Class 2
Recognition	- Governor's Fire Service Awards - Grinnell Mutual Life Safety Achievement Award

Sources: City of Staunton Website; Staunton Fire and Rescue Department

The Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad is located at 1601 North Coalter Street and provides emergency medical services to the City of Staunton and Augusta County. The rescue squad responds to over 6,500 calls annually. The fleet includes six ambulances, one response vehicle, one utility vehicle, and one crash/rescue truck. Services are provided by career staff and volunteers.

Animal Shelter

Shenandoah Valley Animal Services serves Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. It is located at 1001 Mt. Torrey Road in Lyndhurst. The facility is an open admissions animal shelter that accepts strays, abandoned animals and animals surrendered by their owners. The facility has 40 dog runs and 85 cat cages. Animals are available for adoption from the center and the current save rate is 95 percent.

Medical, Health, and Social Services

Augusta Health

Augusta Health is an independent community hospital located in Fishersville, just 5 miles from the City. Augusta Health is a 255 bed facility with over 200 physicians, 2,100 employees and 280 volunteers. The hospital provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital has over 61,000 emergency visits and 11,000 admissions each year. Over 260,000 outpatient visits occur annually.

Augusta Regional Clinic

Augusta Regional Clinic, formerly the Augusta Regional Free Clinic, serves residents of Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. The office is located at 342 Mule Academy Road in Fishersville. Services are provided to residents who meet basic eligibility guidelines and do not have health insurance. Services include primary care, diagnostic testing, pharmacy services, chronic care, women's and men's health programs, wellness and medical education, and referral to specialists.

Augusta Regional Dental Clinic

Augusta Regional Dental Clinic serves residents of Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. The office is a full-service dental clinic located at 342 Mule Academy Road in Fishersville. Services are available for adults and children. The clinic accepts insurance and Medicaid patients. Services are provided to uninsured adults based on eligibility requirements and income levels.

Central Shenandoah Health District, Virginia Health Department

The Central Shenandoah Health District serves the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro and the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham. The district is composed of seven health departments and is under the Virginia Department of Health. The Staunton-Augusta Health Department is located at 1414 North Augusta Street. The health department provides a variety of free, flat fee and sliding fee services to members of the community including maternity services, the WIC program, immunizations, family planning, sexually transmitted infection services and other health services.

Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth

The Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth is a regional organization serving Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. Their mission is "to develop positive connections between youth, their families and communities." The organization provides resources and services to area youth and their families. Two offices serve the Office on Youth, one in Waynesboro and one in Staunton. The Staunton Office is located in the Nelson Street Teen Center at 900 Nelson Street.

Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents

The Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents is an acute care, mental health facility providing services to youth under 18 years old. It is located in Staunton near the intersection of Route 250 and Interstate 81. The facility is operated by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and affiliated with the University of Virginia - Department of Psychiatric Medicine. Services are provided to youth currently experiencing a crisis within their environment and requiring psychiatric treatment.

Shenandoah Valley Social Services

Shenandoah Valley Social Services serves Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. The office is located at 68 Dick Huff Lane in Verona and the agency provides benefits and service programs to residents experiencing abuse, neglect or financial hardship. Benefits programs include opportunities for medical, financial, energy and food assistance. Service programs include child protective and prevention services, adult protective services, adult services, volunteer payee services, daycare services, employment services, foster care and adoption.

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind provides comprehensive educational services to students with blindness, visual impairments or multiple disabilities. The campus is located on VSDB Drive in Staunton. Services include a residential K-12 educational program and a pre-school. Students are referred from their local school system across Virginia. The school was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1838, and designated as a state agency in 2009.

Western State Hospital

Western State Hospital is a state psychiatric hospital providing residential services for adults. It is located in Staunton at 103 Valley Center Drive. The facility is licensed and operated by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The hospital was founded in 1825 by the Virginia General Assembly.

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center “provides people with disabilities comprehensive, individualized services to realize personal independence through employment.” The center is located at 243 Woodrow Wilson Avenue in Fishersville and provides vocational services and medical rehab services at its campus. Vocational services include the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition Program, vocational training, vocational evaluation, and the Pre-employment readiness and Education Program. The center provides medical and vocational rehabilitation services to clients with physical, cognitive, sensory or emotional disabilities to help improve independence and employability.

Educational Services

Library

The Staunton Public Library is located at 1 Churchville Avenue, at the intersection with North Augusta Street. The library is operated as a department of the City and City Council appoints a Library Advisory Board to consult on library operations. Annual material circulation exceeds 380,000 items, and over 170,000 people visit the library each year. The facility offers many services including books, public access computers, free wireless internet, wireless printing, a photocopier, fax machine, typewriter, artwork displays, special collections and meeting rooms. Online resources are also available for audiobooks, eBooks, magazines, music, movies, TV shows and comics. Tools are available for reference and research, including genealogy and local history.

A variety of programs and events are provided for all ages and include early literacy programs for children, ongoing clubs for teens, and outreach visits to local daycare centers and schools. In addition, the library hosts musical events, book clubs, and technology classes. The library is also home to the Talking Book Center, a sub-regional library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Talking Book Center provides home delivery service to area residents who are unable to read or use standard print due to blindness, visual impairment physical disability or reading disability.

Friends of the Staunton Library is a non-profit organization that provides volunteers and supports fundraising efforts for programming, technology and collections at the library. The Staunton Library Foundation is a non-profit organization that manages an endowment to serve future funding needs of the library.

Public Schools

Staunton City Public Schools is a public school division providing educational services for students Pre-K through 12th grade. The school division is governed by the Staunton City School Board and overseen by the School Superintendent. It currently employs 264 professional staff and 203 support staff, and operates six educational buildings including Arthur R. Ware, Jr. Elementary School, Bessie Weller Elementary School, Thomas C. McSwain Elementary School, Shelburne Middle School, Staunton High School and Dixon Education Center.

In the 2016-2017 school year, the division had 2,679 students enrolled for fall membership. Based upon grade level enrollment numbers, there were 747 students enrolled in grades 9-12, 593 students enrolled in grades 6-8, 1,264 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5, and 75 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten. The division has an on-time graduation rate of 88.6 percent and 52 percent of graduates enroll in post-secondary education. During the 2016-2017 school year, 266 credentials were earned by students for career and technical education.

The division is also involved in additional educational programs, including the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School, Valley Career and Technical Center, the Genesis Alternative Program, Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center, and the Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents. Refer to Tables 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7 and Map 8-1 for additional information about the school division.

Table 8-4 - Public School System - Highlights	
Management	Staunton City School Board Full-time Superintendent
Number of Schools	3 Elementary; 1 Middle; 1 High School 1 Education Learning Center
Professional Staff	264 professional staff and 203 support staff
Student Enrollment (2016-2017)	2,679
Pupil/Teacher Ratio (2015-2016)	Grades K-7: 11.67:1 Grades 8-12: 10.31:1
Students with Disabilities (2016-2017)	384
Entry Level Salary, Classroom Teacher with Bachelor's Degree, 10 month contract (2017-2018)	\$42,062
Per Pupil Expenditures (2015-2016)	Local Funding: \$4,660 State Funding: \$5,394 Federal Funding: \$993
On-Time Graduation Rate	88.6%
Postsecondary Enrollment of Graduates (2014-2015)	52%
Students Earning One or More Career and Technical Education (CTE) Credentials (2016-2017)	NOCTI Assessments— 13 State Licensures— 3 Industry Certification— 152 Workplace Readiness— 98 Total Credentials Earned— 266 Students Earning One or More Credentials— 215 CTE Completers—72
Additional Education Programs	Shenandoah Valley Governor's School Valley Career and Technical Center Genesis Alternative Program Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents Staunton City Schools employs and supervises the educational staff for Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center and Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents, both of which are state-operated education programs.

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, Virginia School Quality Profile, Staunton City Public Schools, accessed January 12, 2018; Staunton City Public Schools

Table 8-5 - Public School System Recognition

Recognition	Literacy Innovation Award for K-5 reading program, Districts of Distinction, 2015 Award of Excellence for <i>The Student Advocate</i>, National School Public Relations Association, 2015 BETA Learning Academy, BMX Restoration and Project Search, Virginia School Boards Association Showcases for Success Directory, 2016
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Sources: Staunton City Public Schools

Table 8-6 - City of Staunton Public Schools

SCHOOL	YEAR BUILT AND RENOVATED	CAPACITY
Bessie Weller Elementary School	1952, 2001	400
Arthur R. Ware, Jr. Elementary School	1956, 1968 & 2006	400
Thomas C. McSwain Elementary School	1958, 1968 & 2006	400
Shelburne Middle School	1962, 1999	650
Staunton High School	1967, 1984	850
Dixon Education Center	1975	400

Source: Staunton City Public Schools

Table 8-7 - Fall Membership By Grade			
Grade	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Pre-kindergarten	84	70	75
Kindergarten	206	202	231
Grade 1	245	199	192
Grade 2	199	235	200
Grade 3	222	196	230
Grade 4	217	222	194
Grade 5	215	222	217
Grade 6	182	201	215
Grade 7	194	171	203
Grade 8	195	191	175
Grade 9	208	183	182
Grade 10	174	198	190
Grade 11	206	178	205
Grade 12	187	192	170
Total Students	2,734	2,660	2,679

Source: Virginia Department of Education, Virginia School Quality Profile, Staunton City Public Schools, accessed January 12, 2018; Staunton City Public Schools

Private Schools

In addition to the public school system, several private schools operate within the City. Day Schools include Grace Christian School and C.F. Richards Christian School. Grace Christian School is a K-12 grade program. The elementary and middle school facility are located at 511 Thornrose Avenue. The high school facility is located at 19 South Market Street. C.F. Richards Christian School is a K-8 grade program and is located at 414 Sterling Street.

Stuart Hall School is a Pre-K-12 grade program and was originally founded in 1844. The lower school campus, Hunter McGuire, is located in Verona. The middle and upper school campus are located in Staunton at 235 W. Frederick Street. The school serves day students, and provides residential co-ed boarding options for domestic and international students in the upper school.

Higher Education and Workforce Development

The close proximity to higher education and training opportunities in Staunton are an important benefit to both businesses and the labor force. These opportunities offer educational, training and workforce development experiences to assist in creating a successful business environment.

Valley Career and Technical Center (VCTC), which is located in Fishersville, is part of the Augusta County Public School System and is a regional center that serves Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. VCTC provides programming for high school students to obtain technical skills in preparation for entry level jobs or post-secondary education. VCTC also provides career and technical training for adults interested in apprenticeship programs, skills training or obtaining a GED. It provides day and evening classes for training in agriculture, business, health occupations, trade and industrial areas. It also serves as a regional instruction center for the Virginia Apprenticeship Training Program.

Blue Ridge Community College, located in Weyers Cave just north of the City, is part of the Virginia Community College System. Blue Ridge Community College offers programs for associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Workforce training and special interest classes are also available for individuals, businesses and industries. Mary Baldwin University is a private accredited university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The main campus is located in Staunton at 101 East Frederick Street. A new health sciences campus, the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences, is located in Fishersville just 5 miles from the City. Mary Baldwin also offers pre-professional programs, undergraduate and post baccalaureate teacher license programs and academic partnerships.

Within the region are other institutions of higher education, including Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University, James Madison University, Southern Virginia University, Virginia Military Institute, and Washington and Lee University. These institutions provide additional educational and workforce training opportunities for area residents, businesses and industries.

Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Department is operated as a department of the City. Parks & Recreation manages 482 acres of park and recreational facilities, hosts a range of recreational programs and activities for all ages, and focuses on beautification of the City through its horticultural program.

Parks and Recreational Facilities



Gypsy Hill Park:

Gypsy Hill Park is a sprawling 214-acre multi-use recreational park located at the intersection of Churchville Avenue and Thornrose Avenue. The park contains a 1.3-mile circular roadway available for walking, jogging, cycling and vehicles. A wide range of amenities exist including a swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball and baseball fields, a golf course, a skatepark, a fitness station, two playgrounds, a dog park, a sand volleyball pit, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, grills, a duck pond and Lake Tams. Fishing is permitted in Lake Tams with possession of a state freshwater fishing license. Facilities available for use include restrooms, covered picnic pavilions, the Gypsy Hill Gymnasium, the Garden Center, and a Bandstand. The Park is also the site of the National Guard Armory, the baseball field for the Staunton Braves, the football stadium for Staunton High School, the Gypsy Express Mini-Train, and the Staunton Brigade Band. Numerous special events, festivals, and program activities are hosted at the park throughout the year, both by the City and by private groups.



Montgomery Hall Park:

Montgomery Hall Park contains 148 acres and is located off Montgomery Avenue in the southwest portion of the City. Montgomery Hall Park was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 2016 and on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018 for its historical significance in the community. Montgomery Hall Park was founded in 1946 as a recreational facility for African Americans during the Jim Crow era of racial segregation in Virginia. The park attracted visitors from other African American communities through central Virginia, and was integrated in 1969.

A wide range of amenities exist including a swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball and baseball fields, soccer fields, a frisbee disc golf course, a playground, a natural playground, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, horseshoe pits, picnic tables and grills. Facilities available for use include restrooms, covered picnic pavilions, and Montgomery Hall. The Park is also the site of the administrative offices for the Parks & Recreation Department, which are located in Montgomery Hall.



Betsy Bell & Mary Gray Wilderness Parks:

The wilderness parks provide an observation platform at 1,959 feet, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. Minimal picnic facilities are available. The parks provide opportunities for hiking, mountain bike riding, and wildlife viewing.



Knowles Park:

This park is a small parcel of land located on Churchville Avenue, directly across from the entrance to Gypsy Hill Park.



Landes Park:

This small one-acre park is located near the intersection of Church Street and Middlebrook Avenue, and contains park benches.



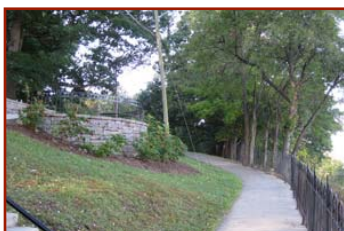
Men's Green Thumb Park:

This two-acre park is located near the intersection of Richmond Road and Greenville Avenue. It originated as a joint sponsorship between the Men's Green Thumb Garden Club and United Virginia Bank National Valley.



Reservoir Hill Park:

This four-acre park is located at the intersection of North Jefferson Street and North Madison Street. Facilities include a recreational field.



Woodrow Park:

This five-acre park is located in the Sears Hill District, south of the Staunton Train Station. It is accessed on foot by the Sear's Hill Bridge or by vehicle from Sear's Hill Road. It provides a scenic overlook of historic downtown Staunton.



Booker T. Washington Community Center:

The Booker T. Washington Community Center is located on West Johnson Street and contains a basketball gym, auditorium, basketball courts, and a kitchen. The community center was originally a high school for African American students during the Jim Crow era of racial segregation in Virginia until closing in 1966. The facility has had various uses over the last 50 years, including uses for the City Police Department, community non-profits and after-school programs. In 2014, it was added to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Its present use is as a community center for meetings, special programs, and public rentals. The Booker T. Washington Alumni Association operates the Booker T. Washington High School Museum, a museum open to the public and documenting the history of the high school.



Nelson Street Teen Center:

The Nelson Street Teen Center is a facility located on Nelson Street. It is used for recreational classrooms and the Office on Youth.

Recreational Programs and Activities

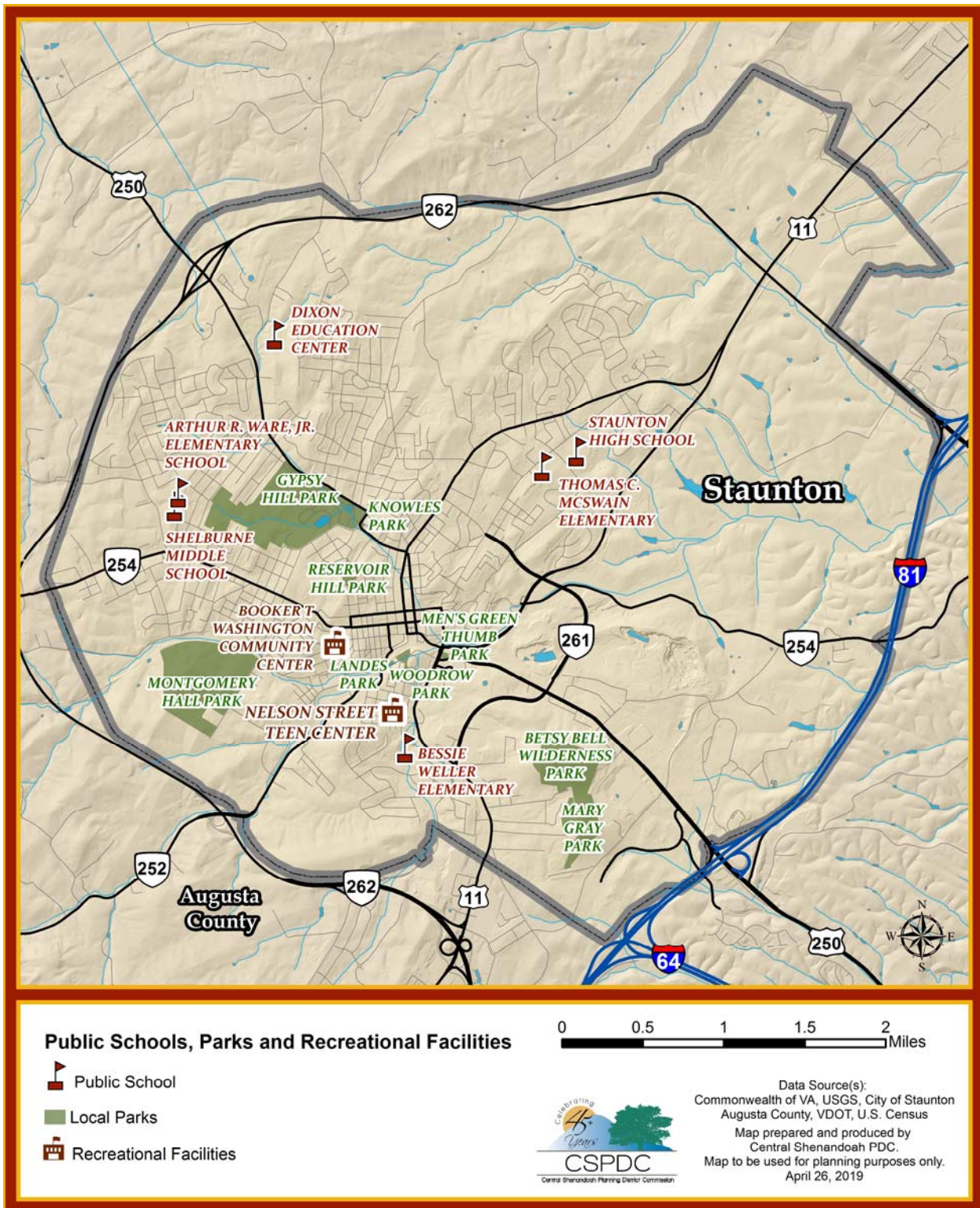
The Parks & Recreation Department hosts a wide variety of programs and activities for all ages, including athletics, recreational classes, trips and tours, a summer camp, and HEART, a childcare program provided through the City elementary schools. The Department has received several awards from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society.



Horticulture

The Horticulture Program focuses on beautification efforts in the City. Working under the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Division, the program provides tree pruning, tree planting, weed management and care for 17 annual landscaping beds. Staunton has been recognized with a Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Map 8-1 – Public Schools, Parks and Recreational Facilities



INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Works

The Public Works Department is the largest operational department of the City and maintains the largest department budget. Public Works provides essential services to the City and residents to support and maintain infrastructure. Services include street maintenance, snow removal, public parking, storm drains, traffic signals and street signs, trash and recycling collection, water treatment, city utilities, fleet maintenance, and municipal building maintenance.

Groundwater and Surface Water Availability

The Raw Water System consist of three sources; the North River, Gardner Spring, and Middle River. The total safe yield of the three sources is 9.52 MGD which is adequate to meet all existing and future needs of the City of Staunton. However, raw water transmission facilities can deliver only about 9.18 MGD at the present time.

The North River includes two impoundments which provide raw water storage. The Staunton Reservoir is located 12 miles northwest of the City limits and has a usable storage of 108 million gallons (MG). The Elkhorn Reservoir is situated 1.5 miles upstream and provides an additional 261 MG of storage that can be released to the Staunton Reservoir. The safe yield of the North River Reservoir system is 2.4 MGD. The withdrawal from the reservoirs is limited by the capacity of the North River Raw Waterline. The North River Raw Waterline conveys the water by gravity to the Staunton Water Treatment Plant through 12.7 miles of 20-inch and 16-inch diameter cast iron pipe. The withdrawal from the North River averaged 1.94 MGD in 2018.

Gardner Spring is located 3.2 miles northwest of the City limits near the Middle River. The withdrawals averaged 1.57 MGD for the year 2018. The reported capacity of Gardner Spring is about 4.5 MGD. The water is pumped to the Staunton Water Treatment Plant through 3.5 miles of 16-inch cast iron pipe.

The Middle River intake is located adjacent to the Gardner Spring Pump Station. The intake is connected to the pump station with a 24-inch gravity pipeline. The intake usually does not function because the river level is too low in relation to the hydraulic gradient of Gardner Spring. The safe yield of the Middle River is 2.6 MGD.

Based on a 2018 Water Supply Evaluation Report, the projected water demand for the City's water system will be 7.6 million gallons per day (MGD) by the year 2040. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) permitted capacity of the City's water treatment plant is 12.0 MGD. The current (2018) water system capacity of the City's waterworks is 6.6 MGD.

Utilities

Public Works manages water and sewer utility service for City residents. The Staunton Water Treatment Plant, an 8.0 million gallon per day mixed media filtration plant located on Craigmont Road, is owned and operated by the City. The City and the Augusta County Service Authority jointly own and operate the Middle River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Verona. Other utility services in the City, including gas, electric and telecommunications are provided by private companies. Refer to Tables 8-8, 8-9 and 8-10 and Maps 8-2 and 8-3 for further information about the sewer and water systems.

Trash and Recycling

Trash and recycling services are provided for City residents and businesses. The City provides curbside collection for trash and recycling once per week in residential areas. Trash is collected four times a week and recycling is collected on Mondays and Thursdays in the Downtown Central Business District. Special item pickups are coordinated at various times of the year for leaf removal, Christmas trees, and large and bulky items. A regional hazardous waste collection day occurs annually for Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County at the Augusta County Government Center. The Augusta Regional Landfill, located on Christians Creek Road south of Staunton, is operated by the Augusta County Service Authority and owned by Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. Refer to Table 8-11 for further information concerning refuse and recycling.

Street Maintenance and Snow Removal

The Department maintains 286.6 moving lane miles of streets, 134.8 linear miles of streets, 18 highway bridges and culverts, more than 680 acres of right-of-way, 50 miles of storm drain, and 48 traffic signals. Services include street maintenance, snow removal, traffic signals and street signs. Public Works has a variety of equipment to handle ice control and snow removal, including twelve one-ton dump trucks and twelve five-ton dump trucks with plows and spreaders. Seven refuse trucks with plows may also be deployed when conditions warrant their use. Depending on the weather forecast, Public Works may pre-treat the roads ahead of time with a salt brine application. Further detailed information concerning the transportation system can be found in Chapter 10 Transportation.

Table 8-8 - Public Works - Highlights

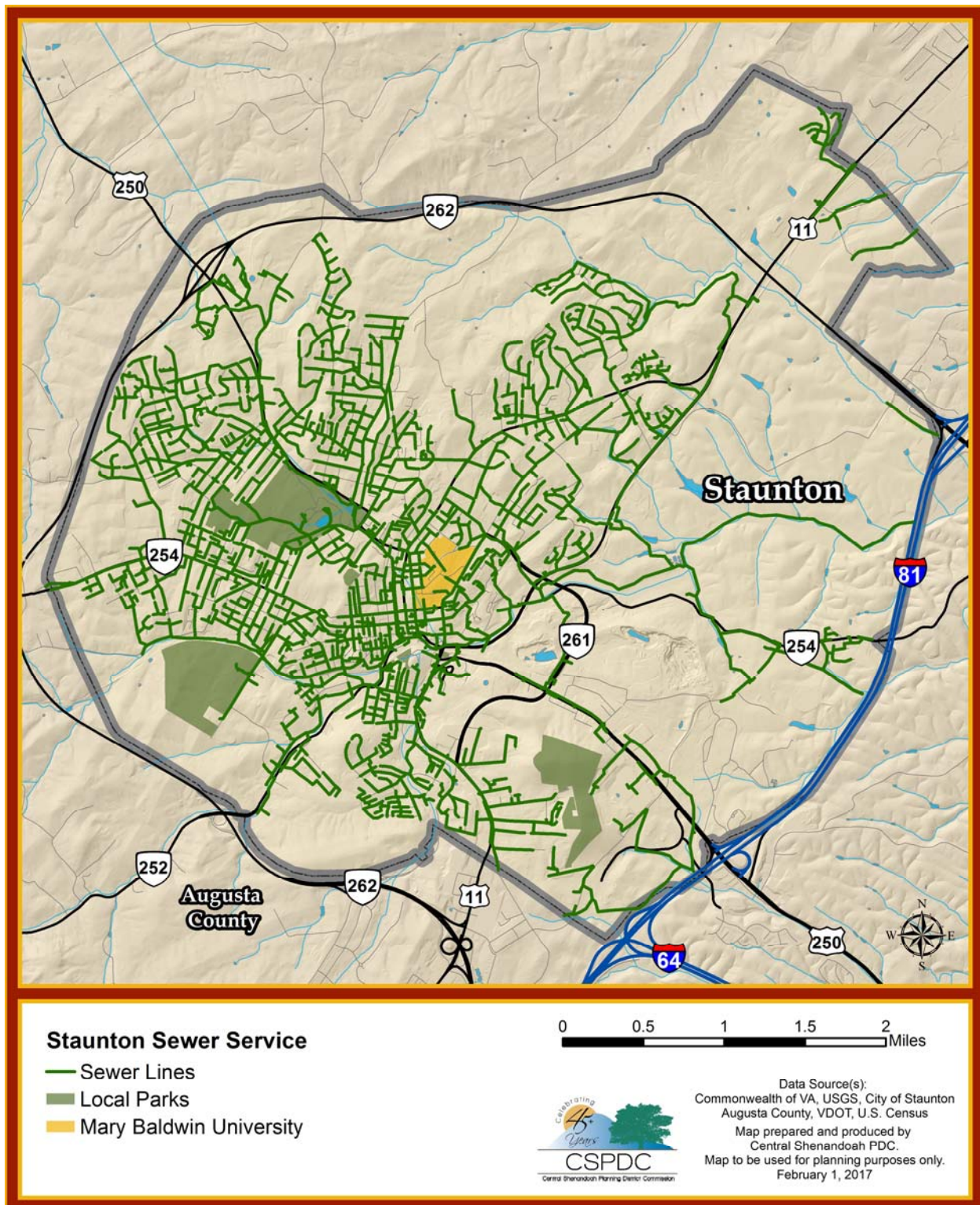
Sanitary Sewer System	
Miles of Line	148
Number of Connections	9,201
Sewer Line Size	Varies from 4 to 36 inches (8 in. is the most common)
Line Age	Varies from less than 1 year to 80 years
Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Middle River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (MRRWWTP) jointly owned by the City of Staunton (COS) and the Augusta County Service Authority (ACSA). A small sewage volume from COS is also discharged to the ACSA owned/operated Fishersville WWTP. ¹
Public Water Supply	
Miles of Line	183 including raw water lines
Number of Connections	9,459
Water Line Size	Varies from 1 to 20 inches (6 in. Is the most common)
Line Age	Varies from less than 1 year to 90 years
Water Sources	Gardner Spring near the Middle River; Staunton Reservoir and Elkhorn Reservoir on the North River; Middle River intake
Water Treatment Plant	Built in 1951 and upgraded and enlarged in 1977. Also upgraded again in 2003 and 2006.
Treatments	Chlorine, alum, and lime are added to remove contaminants; fluoride is added for dental purposes.

¹ COS sewage flow allocation at the ACSA Fishersville WWTP is 0.375 MGD.

MGD = Million Gallons Per Day.

Source: City of Staunton, Public Works Department

Map 8-2 – Staunton Sewer Service



Map 8-3 – Staunton Water Service

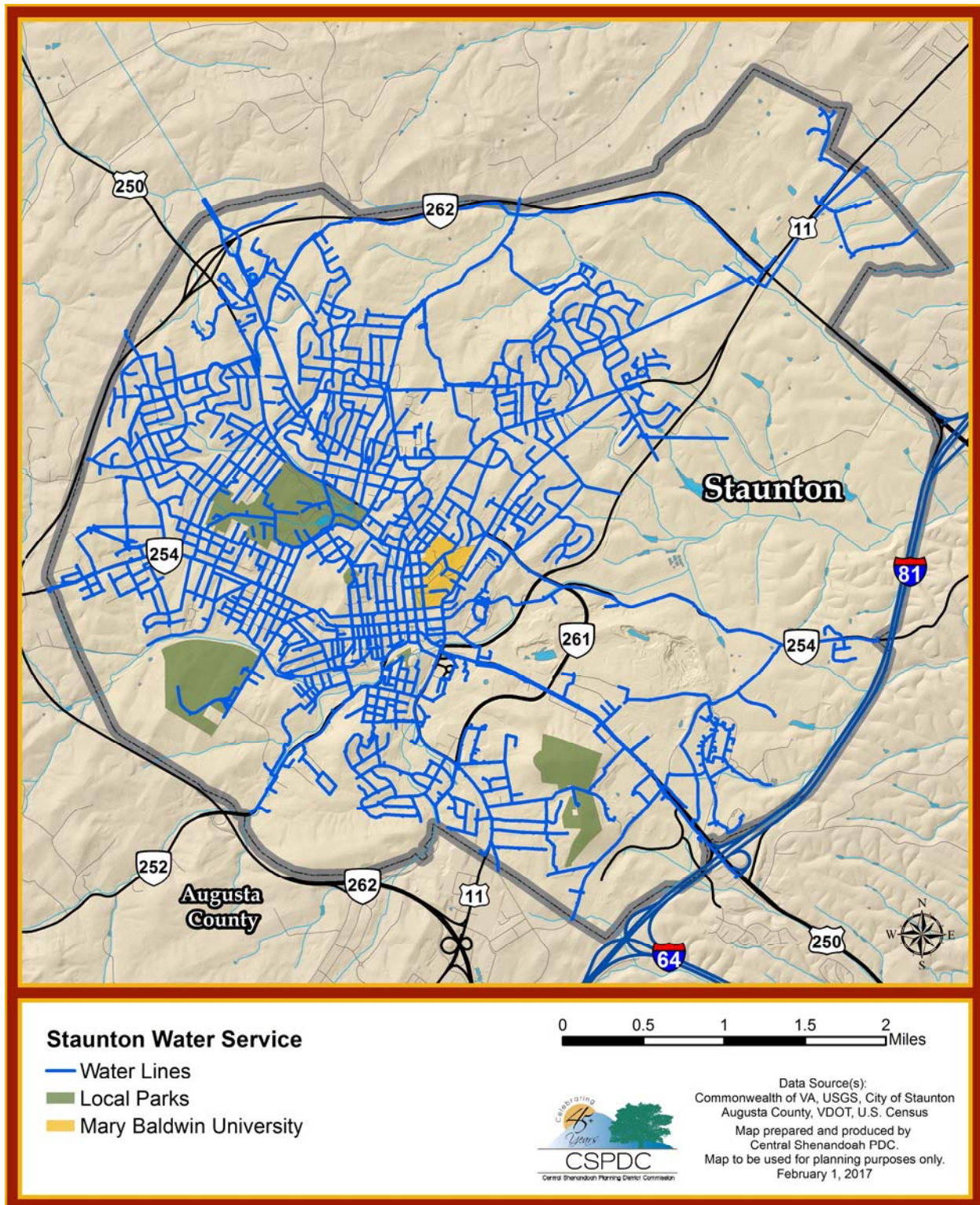


Table 8-9 - Public Water Supplies

	Staunton
Water Supply Sources	One spring (Gardner Spring); two surface water dams (Elkhorn Reservoir and Staunton Reservoir) on North River; Middle River intake.
Water Treatment Plant (WTP)	One 8.0 MGD mixed media filtration plant.
Water Treatment Description	Disinfection with chlorine, flocculation with alum addition, sedimentation, filtration, and fluoride addition for dental health.
Supply Source Capacity	6.6 MGD
WTP Design Capacity	12.0 MGD
WTP Permitted Capacity	8.0 MGD
Storage Volume	8.0 MGD
Current Average Daily WTP Production¹	3.4 MGD (2018)
Current Average Available Capacity²	3.2 MGD (2018)
Miles of Water Lines	183 (including raw water lines) (2018)
Number of Connections	9,459 (2018)
Water Line Sizes	1" to 20" with 6" most common (2018)
Water Line Ages	0 to 90 years (2018)
Number of Pressure Zones	10 (2018)

¹ Includes 2.1 MGD to City of Staunton and 1.3 MGD sold to Augusta County.

² Calculated by subtracting Current Average Daily Production from Supply Source Capacity.

Source: City of Staunton, Public Works Department

Table 8-10 -Sewage Systems

	Staunton
Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Middle River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (MRRWWTP) jointly owned by the City of Staunton (COS) and the Augusta County Service Authority (ACSA). A small sewage volume from COS is also discharged to the ACSA owned/operated Fishersville WWTP. ¹
Wastewater Treatment Description (MRRWWTP)	Biological Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) with discharge to Middle River.
MRRWWTP Permitted Capacity²	6.8 MGD (2018)
MRRWWTP Design Capacity²	6.8 MGD (2018)
COS Allocated Flow Capacity²	4.9 MGD (2018)
COS Current Average Daily Flow	3.0 MGD (2018)
COS Current Average Available Daily Flow³	1.9 MGD (2018)
Miles of Sewer Lines	148 (2018)
Number of Connections	9,201 (2018)
Sewer Line Sizes	4" to 36" with 8" most common (2018)
Sewer Line Ages	0 to 80 years (2018)
Number of Pump Stations	7 (2018)
Number of Manholes	3,057 (2018)

¹ COS sewage flow allocation at the ACSA Fishersville WWTP is 0.375 MGD.

² MRRWWTP capacity of 6.8 MGD consists of allocations of 4.9 MGD to COS and 1.9 MGD to ACSA.

³ Calculated by subtracting Current Average Daily Flow from Allocated Flow Capacity.

Source: City of Staunton, Public Works Department

Table 8-11 - Refuse and Recycling

Refuse and Recycling	
Curbside Refuse Collection	Container size cannot be greater than 32 gals/60 lbs. and no hazardous waste will be accepted (such as car batteries, herbicides, motor oil)
Schedule	Residential areas: once/week Downtown Central Business District: 4 times/week (for restaurants and heavy commercial customers there is also a Saturday pick up)
Curbside Recycling Materials	Aluminum and metal cans; clear, green and brown glass; mixed paper; and cardboard.
Schedule	Recyclables collected on regular trash day and on Thursdays in downtown area
Special Items	
Leaves	Twice each fall - leaves are vacuumed from curbside
Christmas Trees	Picked up after New Year's
Heavy Trash	Picked up during spring of each year - includes old appliances (washers, stoves, etc.), brush, and bulky items
Dead Animals	Call Public Works Department
Brush	Must be tied in bundles less than 4 feet in length and weigh less than 60 lbs.
Hazardous Waste	May be brought to the Augusta County Government Center twice a year on special collection days
Regional Landfill	Augusta Regional Landfill - located 5 miles south of the City. Operated by Augusta County Service Authority and owned by Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro

Source: City of Staunton Website; Public Works Department

SUMMARY OF TRENDS

- The availability and accessibility of community services and infrastructure have a significant impact on the quality of life within the community.
- The City should consider demographic trends when planning for future community service and infrastructure needs. As the population grows and people progress from one age group to another, the needs within the community change. Refer to Chapter 4 - Demographics for additional information on demographic trends in the City.
- The City provides essential community services and infrastructure services to residents. The City should plan for major improvements and other capital projects for the maintenance of facilities and equipment through the Capital Investment Plan.