

10. Community Facilities & Services

10.1 VISION STATEMENT

Community facilities and services should protect public safety and enhance Yorktown's quality of life. They should be improved and/or expanded to meet growing needs, and they should be provided in a cost-effective manner. The Town's cultural and community facilities should help build a rich civic life for all Yorktown residents to enjoy.

10.2 GOALS

Goal 10-A: Provide facilities and services that protect the health, safety and welfare of the community and provide a high quality of life for Yorktown residents.

Goal 10-B: Maintain exceptional police, fire, ambulance, and emergency response services, and provide adequate facilities and amenities for police, fire, ambulance, and emergency response agencies in appropriate locations.

Goal 10-C: Continue to promote interest in reading, media, technology, the arts, sports, cultural activities, and community life, particularly through the Hart Library and the Yorktown Community & Cultural Center (YCCC).

Goal 10-D: Partnering with business and/or non-profit organization, continue to provide engaging programs and activities for residents of all ages and physical abilities.

Goal 10-E: Provide for the expansion of Town Hall and the expansion and/or upgrade of other municipal facilities, as necessary, to keep up with growing need.

Goal 10-F: Provide facilities and services at appropriate and convenient locations that best serve current and future residents.

Goal 10-G: Continue to find new ways to apply technology for the purpose of improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of municipal services.

Goal 10-H: Improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of municipal services wherever possible.

10.3 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Yorktown has civic and cultural institutions that are the source of community pride and contribute to the high quality of life. The focus in the future will be to improve

upon this already strong base by making facility expansions and program enhancements as needed, given fiscal limitations.

- In Task Force meetings, participants expressed great appreciation for the activities and programs offered through the Yorktown Community & Cultural Center. It continues to be a vibrant, active forum for community life in Yorktown, and there was strong consensus that the Center's programs should continue to improved and expanded into the future. Task Force participants also demonstrated enthusiastic support for the offerings of the John C. Hart Memorial Library.
- One of the major facility issues currently facing Yorktown is whether to expand or relocate Town Hall, which is facing a shortage of space. In the Task Force meetings, a variety of options were considered and discussed. Participants seemed open to a number of different possible solutions, although there emerged a clear preference for either keeping Town Hall either in Yorktown Heights or, as an alternative, moving it to another hamlet center.
- With respect to schools, fire, and ambulance, there was recognition among Task Force participants that special districts, and not the Town, make the long-term decisions about facilities and services. Therefore, the Comprehensive Plan is somewhat limited in its ability to plan for these particular aspects of Town life. Nevertheless, there was also recognition that the Town can and should advocate for improvements that would benefit residents in the long-term and should work cooperatively with special districts to yield the best results for Yorktown.
- One participant in the Task Force S.W.O.T. meeting cited as community strengths the "quality of government." Others characterized the government as being open, responsive, and accessible. The Town provides important community services, from snow clearing and salting of roads, to permit processing, to recycling.
- One theme that came out of the technical analysis and community outreach process was the need for better coordination, and perhaps even the amalgamation, of services and facilities. This promises better efficiency, cost control, and more equitable fee structures.

10.4 POLICIES

Schools

Policy 10-1: Advocate for district unification, or as a less preferred alternative, work with the districts to seek out other opportunities for coordination.

- The potential advantages of unification include: a more unified Town identity; more efficient and cost-effective delivery of services, i.e., less duplication of staff services; more equitable taxation of properties throughout Yorktown.

- Barring the merger of school districts, work with the school districts to merge some school services (e.g., administration) and programs (e.g., sports, arts), establish a magnet high school, and/or create a Yorktown curriculum.
- Magnet school concept: Could have a focus on environmental studies, building off the presence of the New Croton Reservoir, the Teatown Lake Reservation, Hilltop Hanover Farm, and other open space resources. Alternatively, it could have a focus on technology, building off the presence of IBM; the Town could even approach IBM as a potential sponsor.
- Continue the current practice of providing a Yorktown curriculum in local schools. In each grade level (elementary, middle, high) in each school district, there should continue to be a curriculum that teaches about the history, governance, and ecology of the Town, such that the Town itself becomes a classroom/laboratory for assignments.

Policy 10-2: Monitor school enrollment and space needs. If a new school site is needed in Yorktown, work with the districts to identify an appropriate site.

- Consider locations within or adjoining a hamlet center, taking into account space needs and potential traffic impacts (i.e., busing.) Location in a hamlet center would be compatible with the concept of hamlet centers as hubs of civic life and Town identity.
- Alternatively, consider a location adjacent to a neighborhood or community park, where the school and the park could share recreational facilities.
- Locate any new elementary school on an arterial or collector street and any new middle or high school on an arterial street.
- Traffic-calm adjacent local streets and provide sidewalk and crosswalk connections in order to protect pedestrian safety.

Policy 10-3: Strengthen physical linkages between school sites and adjacent parks.

- Example: A bike path or walking trail connecting the Yorktown High/Middle School site with FDR Park.

Policy 10-4: Work with the school districts to continue providing opportunities for community use of school facilities during off hours.

- School sports fields are already available for community use, when they are not being used for school purposes.
- Increase opportunities for community use of indoor school facilities during office hours (i.e., technology/computer labs, libraries, gymnasiums.) Work with the school districts to develop an agreement.
- The Town's Parks & Recreation Department currently runs summer day camps on school sites. This is great example of how school facilities can be shared for the benefit of the community. The Town should work with the school districts to continue to offer and improve the day camp program.

John C. Hart Memorial Library

Policy 10-5: Expand the Hart Library on its current site and/or onto the adjacent Lakeland Administration site.

- The Hart Library is busier than would normally be expected of a library its size. It has a circulation rate of about 13.0 volumes per capita, compared to 9.0 for the national standard. Also, the library has a book stock of about 3.8 volumes per capita, compared to a standard of 2.75.
- An important trend in recent decades is that libraries not only provide books and reading rooms. They are full community centers, with space for special program and events. A great deal more space is needed to accommodate computer equipment as well. Seniors are a large user group for the library, and with the senior population expected to increase, library space needs may be even greater. Yorktown is also a population place to live for young families with children, suggesting that there will continue to be demand for children's programs.
- The expansion feasibility study completed for the Library in February 2003 proposed that by 2020, to meet future demand, the Library should be expanded to approximately 42,000 square feet, more than double its current size.¹
- An on-site expansion is contingent upon a determination that wetland buffers can be preserved and adequate open space can be maintained on the site. If an on-site expansion is not feasible, then expansion into the adjacent Board of Education is preferred, pending outreach to the Lakeland school district.
- If an expansion is done, make it a priority to expand the community room or to replace the community room with a larger one.
- If expansion into the adjacent Lakeland Administration site takes place, consider creation of a satellite YCCC in any surplus place.

Policy 10-6: Re-establish a branch library in Yorktown Heights.

- The Town should not consider the establishment of a branch library as an alternative to the expansion of the Hart Library on its current site. In the long-term, both projects would benefit the community, providing enough space in adequate locations throughout all of Yorktown.
- The preferred location is within or adjoining the YCCC, provided space adequate space can be made available. See separate discussion in this chapter. Alternatively, the branch could occupy a storefront space along the new "Main Street" area envisioned for Yorktown Heights (see Chapter 4.)
- Explore whether the branch should have a focus on a particular user group (such as kids or seniors) or a particular theme (like technology, the environment, or the arts.)
- There are cost implications of hiring personnel to staff an additional library. Explore options for keeping staffing costs under control.

¹ Lathrop Associates, *The John C. Hart Memorial Library Feasibility Study*, February 20, 2003.

- Until such time that a branch library can be established, install a drop box for books in the YCCC.

Policy 10-7: Explore the benefits, as well as any potential drawbacks, of establishing a library district with an elected board.

- With a library district, property owners in Yorktown would be assessed a library fee. The main advantage is that this could provide more funding resources for the library. Residents would be able to vote on Library budget.

Policy 10-8: Explore additional grant funding that could be used for library purposes.

- This could help defray some of the library's costs, offsetting the need to use revenue from property taxes or fees.

Policy 10-9: Continue to improve library technology and outreach to youth and seniors.

- Expand programs for bringing books to seniors (i.e., the program in which volunteers take books to the Senior Center and the "Hart to the Homebound" program.) Explore whether local businesses would be willing to sponsor such a program.
- Continue to expand the technological offerings at the Library (i.e., computer terminals and internet access)
- Continue to expand and improve library resources online, including the Library's excellent online book reservation service.

Policy 10-10: Improve access to the library.

- Explore the feasibility of expanding the parking lot on the west side of the building.
- Sponsor a regular shuttle from the senior room/nutrition center at the YCCC and/or from senior housing sites, such as Jefferson Village, Wynwood Oaks, or Beaver Ridge.

Seniors & Youth

Policy 10-11: Expand senior services.

- The senior population is generally anticipated to increase in the coming years, as the baby boom generation enters retirement (see Chapter 1.)
- Expand Town programs that provide seniors with transportation, meals, and social opportunities.
- Also, explore ways to make sure that seniors are getting adequate medical attention, personal care, household help, help with shopping, and so on.
- Coordinate programs between seniors and children, i.e., seniors reading to children; teenagers and young adults helping seniors with meals, household chores, etc.

Policy 10-12: Explore the potential for merging senior clubs.

- Currently, there are five senior clubs, each of which requires a separate membership fee. Merging the clubs would potentially be more cost-effective and inexpensive for members. Many seniors live on limited incomes.
- If merger occurs, one option to consider is to place the merged club under the supervision or administration of the Town's Parks & Recreation Department.

Policy 10-13: Consider establishing a full-service senior center in a separate building on an expanded YCCC campus.

- Locate the senior center next to the YCCC, so that seniors can take advantage of other programs, resources, and events there. Part of the success and charm of the YCCC is its multi-generational aspect.
- Ideally, such a center could provide meeting space (for both large and small groups) and a home for the Senior Nutrition Center.
- In addition, the center could have an advice/help desk to assist seniors with insurance or legal matters, a place for seniors to socialize, an on-site nurse, and information for obtaining transportation or health services.
- Work to obtain State funding for construction.
- While keeping the center at the YCCC campus in Yorktown Heights, provide senior programs at the expanded library and/or the possible YCCC satellite site.

Policy 10-14: Strengthen and help expand the offerings of the Teen Center, and expand other youth activities and programming as well.

- Opportunities for expanding the offerings of the Teen Center include the following:
 - Promote its activities and programs on the Town's web site
 - Make information in the Center available in Town Hall.
 - Provide more space for the Center at the YCCC, if/when it becomes available.
 - While keeping the Center at the YCCC, provide teen programs at satellite locations (e.g., the Holland Sporting Club, the Hart Library, etc.)
 - Help identify funding sources, or provide municipal funding, if possible.
- The school districts and the Teen Center already provide extensively for teens, including sports activities, arts programs, and other extracurricular activities. The Town should work closely with the Teen Center and the schools, as well as with non-profit organizations, parents, and volunteers, on youth activities, so that programs complement, not duplicate, one other. Teen-oriented events or programs provided by the Town should focus on sports and the arts, as teens have an ongoing interest in those two areas. Opportunities for expanding other activities and programming, outside the Teen Center, include the following:
 - Provide additional space in the YCCC for classes in painting, sculpture, acting, crafts, music, etc.

- Sponsor occasional trips to art museums, theater/music events, historic sites, etc.
- Coordinate with the school districts to establish a media center where teens can learn about and experiment with film production, computer animation, musical recording, etc. Seek out a business sponsor for such a program.

Policy 10-15: Provide more transportation options for teens.

- Work with Jefferson Valley Mall, Cortlandt Town Center, and taxi vendors to increase the availability of standing taxi service on Saturday nights, in order to provide kids with an alternate means of getting home after seeing a movie. Currently, the nearest location where taxi service is available is Peekskill.
- If/when the Town establishes jitney service for commuters to train stations, make the jitney available for return trips from movie theaters on Saturday nights.

Yorktown Community & Cultural Center

Policy 10-16: Undertake a study for improving use of interior space.

- Since the current configuration of hallways and stairwells provide good circulation, most likely keep them intact as is.
- Investigate the possibility of providing space for a concession in the front or rear part of the YCCC building. Ideally, the concession would be in the form of a café, with outdoor tables and chairs. The Town need not operate the café itself, but would preferably lease the space to a private business. The rental revenue could be used for building maintenance or administration.
- Consider reconfiguring some of the indoor space to provide more of a lobby space around of one of the entrances facing Commerce Street. Improve internal signage and décor in order to help visitors orient themselves and to expedite emergency access.
 - In such interior reconfigurations is not feasible or effective in creating a lobby space, as an alternative, reconsider plans to create a one-story addition to the Commerce Street façade to provide a "front door" to the building. Any addition should be visually compatible with the existing structure and should minimize loss of parking or driveway space.
- Maintain a range of different activities and uses in the YCCC, so that the YCCC continues to attract a cross section of the Town's residents, from children, to seniors, to sports enthusiasts, to history buffs, to dancers, to theater patrons, and so on. As the population grows and space needs increase, activities should be moved out to a larger campus around the existing YCCC building in Yorktown Heights (see separate discussion in this Chapter.) This would maintain the "cross-section" quality that residents love while still providing room for growth.

Policy 10-17: Seek to create a YCCC campus in Yorktown Heights.

- The Town should work with residents, businesses, and non-profit and public service organizations to create a YCCC campus that weaves together community, public service, recreational, and cultural uses in and around the YCCC building.
 - The "campus" concept is intended to accommodate both existing and future community activities. As community activities continue to expand, they could be located either within in YCCC building itself or in adjacent buildings within walking distance.
 - The Town could seek to acquire one or more adjacent properties, although the campus concept could also take shape with multiple property owners.
 - If possible, expanded outdoor recreational facilities and parking should be provided as well. This campus should have shared parking and improved pedestrian walkways and landscaping throughout.
- Potential uses that could be located off the the YCCC building include a senior center, the nursery school or pre-school, the teen center, a branch library, and an outdoor theater space.
- Veterans Road adjacent to the YCCC site should be traffic-calmed with on-street parking, pedestrian improvements, and additional trees and landscaping, such that the area looks and functions more like a campus. There should be a pedestrian and bicycle linkage to the North County Trailway.

Policy 10-18: Develop shared parking agreements with adjacent sites.

- Develop a shared parking agreement between the YCCC and the adjacent CVS shopping center, such that YCCC patrons can use the lot.
- There is already a stairway that links the track to the A&P site. A second pedestrian walkway or stairway should be established between YCCC parking lot and the adjacent CVS lot. A foot path has already been blazed in that location.

Policy 10-19: Use any available space to expand the Teen Center, arts programs, sports programs, and the museum, and/or provide a branch library.

- With the relocation of the Planning Department and possibly the senior activities (see separate discussion in this Chapter,) use freed-up space to expand existing facilities and programs, including the Teen Center, arts programs, and sports programs. Also make space available for a branch library and/or additional general-use community rooms.

Police

Policy 10-20: Keep expanding the police force and patrols in accordance with future needs.

- The average national personnel standard for police staff (officers and civilians) is about 2.0 staff members per 1,000 residents.² Applying this standard to the 2000 population (36,318), Yorktown would currently be expected to need about 73 staff persons. The Town currently has Police staff of 61, composed of 51 officers and 10 civilian staff.
- Following the 1996 Town-commissioned report on police administration³, the Police Department implemented a series of staffing changes. In light of changing enforcement issues, the Town should continue to regularly evaluate staffing to ensure that sufficient police services are provided.
- Explore the need for adding an additional patrol car to southern Yorktown, in order to provide additional support for that large area.
- Take into consideration the cost impacts of personnel expansion to Town taxpayers.

Policy 10-21: Improve dispatch and use of technology.

- Consider establishing a Town information line for non-emergency calls, in order to deal with questions about pest control, roadway construction, etc. This would help take some of the burden off Police dispatch.
- Continue to provide the Police Department with state-of-the-art technology that improves its ability to respond to emergency calls. Pursue establishment of additional police-frequency satellite transmitter sites, particularly in southern Yorktown.

Fire

Policy 10-22: Explore the feasibility of shared services between the fire districts and/or a merger.

- As an interim step, work with the two fire districts to continue ongoing cooperation and study the issues surrounding a potential merger.
 - One issue to be resolved is the fact that one force is partially paid (Mohegan Lake) and one is volunteer (Yorktown Heights.)
 - The effect of a merger on Cortlandt, if any, would have to be fully considered.

² Robert W. Burchell and David Listokin, *The Fiscal Impact Handbook: Estimating Local Costs and Revenues of Land Development*, 1978.

³ State of New York, Division of Criminal Justice Services, December 1996.

- As an alternative, explore the feasibility of sharing or merging certain facilities or services. For example, sharing training facilities and merging dispatch systems would potentially improve efficiency and save costs for both districts and all taxpayers.

Policy 10-23: Address long-term personnel needs and plan for increasing paid staff, while still promoting volunteerism.

- Promote volunteerism by:
 - Providing tax incentives for volunteers.
 - Helping sponsor volunteer recruitment and fundraising events.
 - Improving community visibility/awareness of fire/rescue services.
 - Including fire fighters and ambulance workers in annual Town awards.
 - Working with the school districts to enlist teen volunteers.

Policy 10-24: Expand use of technology, provide additional equipment as needed, and improve dispatch.

Policy 10-25: Continue to identify sites for new fire stations, as needed.

- The Town should work with the Mohegan Fire Department to move their headquarters to a new site.
- If the Town acquires the Yorktown Heights Engine Company site in Yorktown Heights for the purpose of building a new road and/or creating an expanded YCCC campus through discussion and agreement with the Engine Company and Fire District, then the Town should work with the Engine Company and Fire District to locate a replacement site for the fire station. One possibility is that the rear part of the site could be used to build a new station.
- A new facility south of the Reservoir has been in discussion since the 1950's and was recommended in the Town's 1983 Development Plan. The goal is to have trucks available in the southern part of Town for quicker dispatch. In 1997, the YHF District bought six acres near the intersection of Old Kitchawan Road and Route 134 for \$170,000. Three referendums to approve the construction of a new station have been defeated, however.
- The Town should still pursue opportunities for one or two additional fire stations as necessary. In addition to the new station south of the Reservoir, a second station could be necessary in the Hunterbrook area. This need for a Hunterbrook station needs to be researched further.
- The Town should work with the fire districts to undertake outreach efforts to build support for any necessary fire stations.

Ambulance

Policy 10-26: Explore the feasibility of shared services between the ambulance districts and/or a merger. Also, explore the feasibility of establishing a single first response system.

- Any potential merger would have to consider how Cortlandt (partly covered by the Mohegan VAC) would be affected.
- Currently, there is duplication in first response services, as both the Police and the Mohegan Fire Department may respond. There should be coordination to establish a single Townwide first response unit.

Policy 10-27: Explore the potential for a sub-regional emergency response system.

- In a sub-regional emergency response system, Yorktown and adjacent towns work together to support a single system that provides all services: first response, EMT, and ALS. Continue to work to coordinate regional

Policy 10-28: Promote volunteerism, but develop a long-term plan for increasing paid personnel.

- Prepare and plan for the possibility of going to paid forces for the Yorktown and Mohegan VAC's, which may require more financial assistance from taxpayers. Volunteerism may eventually become untenable, in whole or in part.
- Promote volunteerism through:
 - Recognition events/awards.
 - Outreach to teens at the high school.
 - Assistance with education costs (i.e., for training) in exchange for volunteer time.
 - Contribution to retirement plans for volunteers.
 - Improved the community visibility/awareness of fire/rescue services.
- The Town should also explore the feasibility of providing property tax incentives for volunteers. Such exemptions first have to be authorized by the County, the Town should advocate for authorizing legislation.

Policy 10-29: Require senior housing and residential health care facilities to provide their own non-emergency ambulance services and health response.

- Some facilities already do.
- The burgeoning senior population will continue to place increased stress on this system and needs attention to ensure service in future.

Town Services

Policy 10-30: Improve coordination to better respond to fire, ambulance, and police emergencies.

- Make recommendations for improving dispatch, reducing the potential for duplication of service, and ensuring adequate coverage.
- Currently, some calls go through the Police Department, others go through the Mohegan Fire Department, and still others (i.e., cell phone calls) go through the State.
- Develop recommendations for how to merge or otherwise streamline existing services, as well as how to shift to increased paid personnel.

Policy 10-31: Continue to expand enforcement capabilities.

- Consider establishing enforcement sweeps for building and zoning code violations.
- Get more residents and businesses involved as watchdogs.
- Expand the capabilities of the Town's GIS system in order to facilitate planning and enforcement.

Policy 10-32: Provide more space for the Environmental Conservation garage behind the Police Station.

- There will be an opportunity to re-occupy records storage if/when it is moved, as discussed below.

Policy 10-33: Expand the Town's record-keeping capacity, and create a single repository for all Town records.

- The existing records center, which is located on the Police Station property, should be relocated to Town Hall in conjunction with an expansion or relocation. This new center should function as a consolidated repository for all records.
- As an interim measure, until the Town Hall expansion/relocation is complete, the Town should explore the feasibility of moving records storage to another Town-owned building, provided that the building provides appropriate conditions for file storage. This would allow expansion of the Environmental Conservation garage into the existing records center space.
- Also use new technology, such as scanning and microfilming, in order to reduce the space needed for records storage. Film-based or digital-based records are less subject to deterioration, compared to paper records.

Policy 10-34: Consider closing the Highway Department garage on Front Street in Yorktown Heights, and relocate those operations to the Spillway, Greenwood, and/or other sites.

- The Yorktown Heights location is less than ideal, because the site is limited in size and it forces trucks through the streets of the hamlet center.

- Whether or not the Front Street site is closed, vehicle storage should be expanded at the Spillway site to better meet current levels of demand. The feasibility of utilizing the Greenwood site needs to be considered further, given the future needs of the Hallock's Mill Sewer District.
- If the Front Street site is closed, explore the potential for converting it into a new fire station, a transit center, a Town Hall annex, or another needed community facility.

Policy 10-35: Improve use of media for community outreach purposes.

- Publish a regular Town newsletter that provides a calendar of events, information about Town services and refers people to the Town's web site.
- Make additional use of Channel 72 for disseminating information.

Town Hall

Policy 10-36: Provide adequate, consolidated space in an expanded or new Town Hall.

- Town Hall departments could benefit from location in a single building or on a single campus, which would facilitate communication and collaboration between different departments. Some departments could even be consolidated for improved efficiency.
- Expand Town Hall on its existing site, contingent upon the following conditions:
 - The addition can be designed in such a way as to be visually compatible with the existing building.
 - The addition can provide enough space to house all municipal offices, with the exception of Environmental Conservation, Police, and Highway. The Environmental Conservation and Highway Departments should continue to be located on the same sites as their garage facilities. The Police Department is well-located on a site that provides room for the parking of police vehicles.
 - The addition should also be large enough to provide room for records center (expanded to meet current and future needs), additional archival/storage rooms, meeting space, circulation space, and ample space for computer equipment.
 - Provide adequate parking and circulation on the site.
 - Use the expansion as an opportunity to make any needed upgrades to the existing building, including ADA compliance.
- If it is determined that Town Hall expansion would not be feasible, relocate Town Hall to a new or retrofitted building, contingent upon the following:
 - The building should ideally be located in Yorktown Heights, because of its central location and identity as the center of Yorktown. It should be accessible on foot from the commercial core of Yorktown Heights.
 - As an alternative, the Town should consider available, accessible sites in or immediately adjacent to other hamlet centers. One particular location to be

considered is the Crompond Triangle, which is centrally located for all Yorktown residents.

- The building should be designed in such a way as to be compatible with surrounding uses and is architecturally evocative of the Town's historic character.

Policy 10-37: Building on the Town's excellent web site, create a "Virtual Town Hall" on the internet.

- A "Virtual Town Hall" would have expanded interactive capabilities.
- Forms would not only be provided on the web site (as they are currently), but people would be able to fill them out and submit them online.
- Provide email links to Town departments.
- Provide on-line registration for parks and recreation programs.

Policy 10-38: Provide better pedestrian linkages between Town Hall, the Highway Department building, the YCCC, and other Town facilities in Yorktown Heights.

- There ought to be continuous and safe sidewalks and crosswalks linking Town Hall to other parts of Yorktown Heights.
- Sidewalks should be provided along the Underhill Avenue, east of Route 118 to the Underhill/Kear intersection. Sidewalks should also be provided along the newly proposed pedestrian walkway between Underhill and Kear (see Chapter 3.)

APPENDIX FOR CHAPTER 10: EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Schools

Lakeland Central School District

- Schools located in Yorktown:
 - George Washington Elementary (K-5)
 - Thomas Jefferson Elementary (K-5)
 - Benjamin Franklin Elementary (K-5)
 - Lakeland-Copper Beech Middle School (6-8)
 - Lakeland High School (9-12)
 - Lakeland Alternative High School
- Facilities at each elementary school: 1 all-purpose room (cafeteria/auditorium); 1 library; 1 music room; 1 arts room.
- Middle School: 3 computer labs; library; all-purpose room (cafeteria/auditorium); guidance office; 1 music room; 1 arts room; new science labs.
- High School: auditorium; 2 business/technology labs; 2 computer labs; library; guidance office; performing arts center; 3 music rooms; new science labs.
- There have been changing trends in how school space is used. Home Economics rooms are being replaced by day care; Industrial Arts rooms are being replaced by Technology centers; chalk boards are being replaced by white boards. Additional computers and wiring are being installed (LCSD just received a grant for 4 computers per classroom, plus 1 teacher unit.)
- Enrollment levels during the 1980's dropped from their peak in 1974-75 (8,000 students.) It has now crept up again to about 6,200. Much of the increase is going to Panas High School, rather than Lakeland High School.
- Space needs are continuing to increase, despite the overall lower enrollment levels today, because of more stringent State space requirements and increasing spatial needs related to computers and electronic equipment.
- Current needs include storage for maintenance equipment, records; computerization of records.

Yorktown Central School District

Inventory of schools located within Yorktown (as of January 2002):

- French Hill Elementary School, Baldwin Road (K-2): Built 1969; 56,500 square feet; 12.0 acres; 485 students.
- Mohansic Elementary School, Locksley Road (K-2): Built 1961; renovations, improvements 1987; 56,600 square feet; 12.0 acres; 428 students.

- Crompond Elementary School, Manor Court (3-5): Built 1958; 61,400 square feet; 10.0 acres; 464 students.
- Brookside Elementary School, Broad Street (3-5): Built 1954; renovations, improvements 1987; 54,600 square feet; 12.0 acres; 468 students.
- Brookside Annex Classroom, Broad Street (UE): Built 1953, renovations, improvements 1987, 1995; 8,000 square feet; 3.0 acres; 20 students.
- Mildred Strang Middle School, Crompond Road (6-8): Built 1969; renovations, improvements 1978, 1987; 149,900 square feet; 57.0 acres; 1,027 students.
- Yorktown Senior High School, Crompond Road (9-12): Built 1960; renovations, improvements 1980; 154,800 square feet; 57.0 acres; 1,217 students.

Table 10-1: Enrollment for Schools Located in Yorktown, Fall 2000

<u>Lakeland Central School District</u>	
Benjamin Franklin Elementary School	724
George Washington Elementary School	665
Lakeland Alternative High School (Grades 9-12)	42
Lakeland High School (Grades 9-12)	1,032
Lakeland-Copper Beech Middle School (Grades 6-8)	918
Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	602
<u>Yorktown Central School District</u>	
Brookside School (Grades 3-5)	509
Crompond School (Grades 3-5)	483
French Hill Elementary School (K-2)	438
Mildred E. Strang Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1,027
Mohansic School (K-2)	430
Yorktown High School (Grades 9-12)	1,194

Table 10-2: Enrollment for Schools Located Outside Yorktown, Fall 2000

<u>Croton-Harmon School District</u>	
Croton-Harmon High School	355
Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School (Grades 6-8)	310
Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School	721
<u>Lakeland Central School District</u>	
Lincoln Titus Elementary School	517
Van Cortlandtville School	774
Walter Panas High School (Grades 9-12)	963
<u>Ossining Union Free School District</u>	
Anne M. Dorner Middle School (Grades 6-8)	904
Brookside School (Grades 2-3)	587
Claremont School (Grades 4-5)	669
Ossining High School (Grades 9-12)	1,125
Park School (K-1)	582
Roosevelt School (Pre-kindergarten)	183

Summary of Past PlansTown Development Plan, 1970

- Several additional school sites were anticipated to be needed south of Route 202/35.
- The sites selected for schools should be so located that they fit into a logical pattern with school sites that may be needed in later years. That is, schools should be spread out so that their service areas do not unnecessarily overlap.
- School sites should be well located and of sufficient size to accommodate the total population of the area they are ultimately to serve.
- School sites should be logically related to the collector road system of the Town and should be located off the main arteries of the Town. In addition, where possible, they should be served by public facilities.
- The school sites should be integrated into the recreational areas of the Town so that duplication of facilities does not exist.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Revised projections suggested that anticipated new schools would not be needed after all.

1988 Town Plan Review

- None.

John C. Hart Memorial Library

- The John C. Hart Memorial Library is an important community asset and extremely popular with residents. The Library is well-used. Foot traffic is 300,000 per year currently. Major user groups are kids, seniors (typical for most libraries.)
- Located at 1130 Main Street in Shrub Oak, it is 20,000 square feet in size. The Hart building was donated to the Town in the 1920's. A major expansion/renovation was completed in 1990. The exterior façade of the original building was left intact, and the additions were designed to look compatible. Town Department heads who participated in a S.W.O.T. session said that the building has a "handsome appearance."
- There used to be a branch in the YCCC. This branch closed after the Hart expansion. The Hart Library is far from the southern part of Town. One participant who attended the Task Force topical workshop on Parks and Community Facilities and who live in the southern part of Town said that she does not use the library much for that reason.
- Existing Facilities: Children's Department, Circulation Desk, Adult Reference Department; Stack Area; Adult Book Collection; New Book Area; Audio-Visual area; Study carrels in quiet area; Community Room (85 seats); Administrative Offices; Technical Services area; Staff Lounge; Maintenance Room; Storage Room.
- Library gets \$45.55 per capita in funding from the Town; \$53.36 is the County average, by comparison.
- The Library is part of the County system. There is an automated book sharing system, which makes up for gaps in the collection.
- The Library has a web site that allows for online book reservations, allows people to send in emails with reference questions, and provides a calendar of events.
- Town Department heads, during a S.W.O.T. session, noted that the Library has unique service ethic. That is, there is a great deal of attention to providing great public/customer service to the community.
- Facility and equipment needs that have been identified by the Library Director include: (1) more room for all library materials; (2) more room for tables and seating (library currently has half of State standard); (3) more parking spaces; (4) more staff to handle additional workload; (5) larger community room; (6) more room for children's programs; (7) more room for computers; (8) more computers and printers for public use. The need for a larger community room was reiterated by people who attended the Task Force S.W.O.T. meeting.

Facility Planning Analysis

- The expansion feasibility study completed for the Library in February 2003 made the following recommendations:
 - It proposed that to accommodate the Library's current resources, the Library *currently* needs to be expanded from 20,800 square feet to 29,300 square feet.

- By 2020, to meet future demand, it proposes that Library should be expanded to approximately 42,000 square feet, more than double its current size.⁴
- The study also made the following observations:
 - The current number of seats (i.e., user seating) is low in comparison to the 183 seats recommended for the current population that the Library serves.
 - The number of both periodicals is low according to the nationally recognized standards, although this may be a result of the accessible on-line periodicals.
- Expansion potential may be limited due to the presence of wetlands, the small overall size of the site, and the need to accommodate parking.

Other Observations

- The Hart Library is extremely busy, with a circulation rate of about 13.0 volumes per capita, as of 2001. It has a book stock of about 3.8 volumes per capita, as of 2001.
- An important trend since the 1960's is that libraries not only provide books and reading rooms. They are quasi-community centers, with space for special program and events. They also have more computer equipment nowadays.
- Seniors are a large user group for the library, and with the senior population expected to increase, senior users are expected to increase. At the same time, Yorktown will continue to be a popular place to live for young families, suggesting that there will be ongoing demand for children's programs.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- None.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Proceed with plans to expand the Hart Memorial Library
- Expand the space allocated to the branch library in the YCCC.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Relocate the Yorktown Heights branch to Town Hall after the Courtrooms have moved.
- Relocate Town offices to the YCCC and make the current Town Hall building into the new library.

⁴ Lathrop Associates, *The John C. Hart Memorial Library Feasibility Study*, February 20, 2003.

Senior Citizens

- During the Task Force visioning session, participants referred to Yorktown as a "great place to spend a lifetime." That is, Yorktown is as attractive for retirees as for young families.
- The Town's senior services are popular and unique. One Task Force participant said that brokers call the Town inquiring about the senior programs. This suggests that seniors find Yorktown to be an appealing place to live.
 - There are several senior clubs that share the Senior Room in the YCCC.
 - The Senior Nutrition Center provides meals.
- Some senior housing developments have been built with private recreational facilities.
- There was an initiative in the 1990's to build a new senior center that would provide a wider range of services and social opportunities for senior citizens. Not enough money was raised, however, to cover the building costs.
- Additional social and health programs are needed for seniors.
 - During the Task Force topical workshop on Parks and Community Facilities, some people said to increase programs that provide opportunities for socializing. People who don't belong to one of the social clubs don't have a place to go.
 - Better outreach to non-participating seniors is needed.
 - Other people during the Task Force topical workshop said that programs should focus on health services, food, medicine, transportation, and other critical day-to-day needs.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- None.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- None.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Find a way to serve more people at the Yorktown Nutrition Center.

Youth

- The YCCC has the Yorktown Teen Center (parts of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, based in Mt. Kisco.)
 - The center has programs for middle school and high school youth aged 11 to 18 year-round.

- Programs are provided in social recreation, physical education, cultural enrichment, educational enhancement (i.e., help with homework and tutoring), and personal development.
- For middle school grades 6-8, there is also an after-school program. For high school grades 9-12, there are athletic programs (travel basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, hockey), education and career development, computer training, job training and placement.
- Summer programs and trips are offered. There are also game-room tournaments, dances, parties, and special interest clubs.
- During the Task Force S.W.O.T. session, participants cited Yorktown as being "a great place to raise children", because of the sporting opportunities, the schools, the recreational facilities (parks, pools), and the YCCC.
- Many of the current activities available to teens are based in the schools and oriented to sports. This is great for kids who are interested in sports, but for other kids, options tend to be more limited.
- During the Task Force topical workshop on Parks and Community Facilities, some participants said they have observed that some kids won't participate in the Teen Center, because they feel it is "uncool." Other participants have seen that some of the kids who take advantage of the Center have gotten a great deal out of it.
- During Task Force meetings, some people have said that there are not enough places/activities for teens. The JV Mall and the YCCC are the two main places where they hang out. Kids go to the movies at the JV Mall or Cortlandt Town Center.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- None.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- None.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Coordinate efforts of private and religious youth organizations and programs.

Yorktown Community and Cultural Center

- The YCCC — including both the building and the programs provided there — is a major community asset. The YCCC provides opportunities for engaging in community activities (from theater, to ballet, to sports clubs) and also functions as a repository of Town history (the museum.) The building is fully occupied.
- The building once housed the sixth grade class of the Yorktown school district and was known as the Sixth Grade School through the 1970's. The Town purchased the

building from the school district in 1980 and developed a multi-phased program for the adaptive reuse of the former school building into a community center.

- The building is generally in good condition.
- Tenants:
 - Main Level: YCCC Main Office, Bright Beginnings Nursery School Pre-School Learning Center, Thrifty Me Thrift Shop, Senior Room , Section 8 housing
 - Lower Level: Yorktown Stage Theatre (600-seat theater), Yorktown Youth Soccer; Get Fit/Get Fit Kids, Yorktown Teen Center, Senior Nutrition Center/Office
 - Middle Level: Westchester Ballet Center, Dance Theater in Westchester
 - Upper Level: Yorktown Head Start Program, Kids to Kids International, Town of Yorktown Museum, Yorktown Planning Department, Westchester Office for the Aging
- The gymnasium and community rooms are used for a variety of programs by various community groups.
- As noted, the YCCC provides a daily nutrition program for the community's seniors, as well as a full-time space (Senior Room) for the various other senior clubs and organizations to host their programs and meetings.
- The YCCC is supported by numerous public and private sources: State, local, and federal grants as well as support from the Town, its residents, and the Council for the Arts in Westchester.
- The YCCC is managed by the Town Board along with a part-time office manager.
- The YCCC is a Town facility, with space rented out to privately run groups. A number of those groups receive public or private grant funding or charitable donations.
- There is a need for more indoor space and parking. Parking is a problem, especially when the theater is in use.
 - The site is limited in size, and making any sort of addition, whether for parking or building space would further cramp the site or cut into the track area or the precious little landscaping.
 - During the Task Force topical workshop, some participants talked about the disjointed layout of the building for occupants. Some felt the building interior to be poorly organized. Others felt there lacked a central lobby.
- Security for young children has been an issue due to the mixing of activities.
- Participants of the Task Force visioning workshop felt that the ad-hoc mix of activities is part of what gives the YCCC such great character and feeling. People of different age groups and interests can cross paths.
- During Task Force meetings, many people noted that one of the best aspects of the YCCC is that it is multi-generational in use and appeal. The YCCC pulls together kids, youth, adults, and seniors into a single place.

Summary of Past PlansTown Development Plan, 1970

- None

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Implement a 5-year improvement plan for the YCCC: energy efficiency improvements; elevator for the handicapped; auditorium renovation; new parking; playfield upgrade; reorganize tenants and eliminate several entrances; increase useable space by reducing corridor space.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Town should take over administration/operation of YCCC.
- Negotiate with the YCCC Advisory Board to allow that body to sublease portions of the building from the Town and to re-rent those areas to community groups.
- Provide YCCC Director with paid staff for grant-writing, program development, and rental.
- Use signs to advertise the cultural offerings of the YCCC.
- Relocate Town offices to the YCCC and make the current Town Hall building into the new library.

Police

- Yorktown Police were referred to as "excellent" during the Task Force S.W.O.T. meetings. Having the Department was also cited as an asset, as some Towns don't have their own local forces.
- Headquarters built in 1972. Internal changes have been made since, but no additions.
- The following are the basic manpower commitments of the Police Department:
 - Three shifts with basic staffing during each;
 - Data management
 - Training: weapons of mass destruction; terrorism; following laws; procedures (safety); weapons; technology; environmental concerns (federal laws)
 - Unlocked car emergencies (if child/pet locked inside)
 - Provides emergency contact information for residents are out of Town, upon request, but the Police Department does not perform regulation household inspections any longer for those residents.
 - Bank checking (opening in the morning)
 - Escorts for money transfers (i.e., courts)
- There are five patrol sectors: Mohegan Shrub Oak (covered by one patrol); Jefferson Valley (covered by one patrol); Yorktown Heights (covered by one patrol); 2 sectors in southern Yorktown, covering 28 square miles (covered by one patrol.)

- Personnel: 51 officers, 10 civilian, as of spring 2002. This is the lowest ratio of police per 1,000 residents in Westchester County.
- Equipment: County helicopter available; Mohegan Lake boat patrol suspended
- Emergency calls have more than tripled in recent years due to: cell phones; changing habits; pest control questions; information questions; Neighborhood Watch programs; easy to dial 911. Anticipated future increase in senior population will increase call frequency but not crime rate.
- The Town is currently being required to increase Police training with regard to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. This will contribute somewhat to greater staffing needs, as training time detracts from available patrol time. However, because Yorktown is not a major target for terrorist activity, terrorism is generally not expected to create major increases in personnel needs for the Police Department.
- There is an ongoing need for technology improvements. Two of the major future needed for the Police Department are:
 - GPS units for police vehicles to track the vehicle
 - Satellite transmitter sites for police frequency only; southern Yorktown has worst communication problems.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- Move the Police Department and the Courts from Town Hall to the Mead site (existing location of Police Department, Courthouse, and Environmental Conservation garage.)

Town Development Plan, 1983

- None.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Staffing must be increased as Town continues to grow.
- Greater cooperation/communication is needed between the Town and the Police Department regarding projections of future growth.
- Increase community awareness of police services

Fire

Mohegan Lake Fire Department

- Covers a 45 square mile area in Yorktown and Cortlandt; complete hydrant system in Yorktown and Cortlandt.
- Seven volunteer fire officers in the district (a chief, 2 assistant chiefs, a captain, and 3 lieutenants); paid fire fighters.

- Dispatch is done at the headquarters on Route 6:
 - 2,670 total calls received in 2001. 40% of calls are for fire; 60% are for EMS.
 - Major sources of calls: vehicle accidents; automated alarm systems; hospital.
 - Dispatch goes directly from 911 to Mohegan Lake Fire Department, which notifies the Mohegan Lake EMS/T. Calls are routed through the County, not through the Yorktown Police, as the Mohegan Fire Department also covers parts of Cortlandt. The Fire Department is then required to notify Yorktown Police as well. However, cell phone calls are dispatched through the State.
- Major sources of calls: vehicle accidents; automated alarm systems; hospital.
- Technology improvements: thermal imaging cameras; new radio systems (currently being updated)
- Mutual aid received from surrounding fire departments in Westchester and Putnam.
- *Station 1, Fire Headquarters, 1975 Main Street, Mohegan Lake*
 - 3 acres. Built in 1924; storage area added in 1966; new attached building for the ambulance corps completed in 2000.
 - Equipment: Ladder 10, Engine 258, Utility 40; Car 2268; a boat.
 - Staffed by minimum of 3 firefighters; also maintains EMT/paramedic staff.
 - Receives calls and dispatch; 2,670 calls received last year (fire and EMS.)
 - Facility also equipped with living/kitchen facilities, exercise equipment, offices; vehicle exhaust removal system.
 - Provides/receives mutual aid from surrounding fire departments in Westchester and Putnam Counties.
- *Station 2, the Jefferson Valley station, 500 Lee Road, Yorktown*
 - 4 acres. Built in 1972.
 - Equipment: 2 engines.
 - Staffed by a minimum of one firefighter/EMT.
 - Facility also equipped with living/kitchen facilities, exercise equipment, offices.
 - No plans for expansion expansion/relocation or increasing staff levels.
- *Station 3, the Furnace Woods Fire Station, 260 Croton Avenue, Yorktown*
 - 5 acres. Built in 1973.
 - Equipment: 2 engines and Utility 50.
 - Staffed by a minimum of one firefighter/EMT and a Lieutenant.
 - Facility also equipped with living/kitchen facilities, exercise equipment, Chief and Lieutenant's offices, storage room, meeting/training room and an SCBA air compressor room.
- *Station 4, the Hollowbrook Fire Station, 1130 Oregon Road, Cortlandt Manor*
 - 6 acres. Built in 1995.

- Equipment: 3 engines, Utility 11, Utility 18, antique fire engine; fire prevention trailer.
- Staffed by a minimum of one firefighter/EMT (several days a week four career firefighter/EMT's.)
- Facility also equipped with living/kitchen facilities, exercise equipment, SCBA compressor room, large supply storage room and a diesel refueling station for district trucks.
- In addition to calls in Yorktown and Cortlandt, the station responds to calls in Lake Peekskill and Continental Village.
- Due to the large size of the apparatus room, often stores fire apparatus from other departments.
- Due to mandates from Homeland Security, increased focus on training for Hazardous Material work and weapons of mass destruction.
- Issues with new development:
 - Wide setbacks are the problem, makes it harder to get the ladder close.
 - Truss construction of new single-family units; nailing plates pop off roof triangle, causing roof collapse.
 - Fire Department keeps records of building plans: storage, entrances, hazardous materials storage.
 - Knock boxes contain keys; need better coordination to know where keys are kept.
- Traffic complicates volunteers getting to the station, even though blue lights are used.
- Future needs:
 - More staffing.
 - Headquarters needs more space, but there's no more room on-site. No expansion needed at substations 2 or 3 (Jefferson Valley and Furnace Woods in Yorktown) or 4 (Hollowbrook in Cortlandt.) The department has a site on Route 6 in Yorktown that could be used to be a new headquarters, replacing the existing site.
 - Apparatus upgrades (ongoing.) The department is currently obtaining an additional aerial ladder truck to replace Ladder 10 at the Headquarters.
 - Technology improvements: thermal imaging cameras; new radio systems (currently being updated.)

Yorktown Heights Fire Department

- Serves 30 square mile area.
- Headquarters on Commerce Street in Yorktown Heights; substation on Locksley, north of Route 202, north of FDR Park.
- Forty (40) percent of the district does not have a public water supply system therefore the District relies on its 26,000 gallon pumper and dry hydrants. Also they have the

ability to draw from lakes, streams and the reservoir. They are able to call in for mutual aid for extra water if necessary.

- The District has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding communities.
- Many areas of the district (particularly southwestern Yorktown and the area south of the Reservoir) are outside of a three-mile radius of a fire station. Some runs in the district exceed seven miles. To serve some of those outlying areas, mutual aid is provided by the New Castle Fire Department.
- Dispatched through 911, through Yorktown Police Department. However, cell phone calls are dispatched through the State. Calls are automatically sent to all active members who carry radios. The radios are relatively new. However, it is anticipated that in the future calls could be sent through member's cell phones.
- Also the District is required by Federal regulations to have two methods of communication for alerting members of fire. Three sirens are in place throughout the Town which can be sounded when a fire is called in.
- In 2001, there were 470 fire and rescue calls. The Department is also responsible for initial HazMat response until the County is able to arrive. There has been an increase in calls relating to traffic accidents and automatic alarm systems. Longest response time is 7 minutes to the southern part of town. The national standard adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is 4 minutes for the arrival of an engine company to a fire (Standard 1710.) The NFPA is an international association of firefighters, fire chiefs, vendors, and trade organizations whose mission is to provide recommended standards and code to prevent or reduce the burden of fire.
- There are 80 active members and one paid employee. The Board of Commissioners are elected for five year terms. Concern about the future of volunteerism in Town. Began a service award program to give monies to members who are over 59 after they have completed a certain number of years of service.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- Proceed with plans to build a new fire station in Jefferson Valley, as part of the Mohegan Lake Fire District, depending on the availability of volunteers there.
- Build a fire station south of the Croton Reservoir, as part of the Yorktown Heights Fire District, depending on the availability of volunteers there.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Build a fire station south of the Croton Reservoir, as part of the Yorktown Heights Fire District.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Add a fire station south of the Croton Reservoir.
- Shift to more paid personnel.
- Improve the community visibility/awareness of fire/rescue services.

Ambulance Services

Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association, Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC)

- Building is attached to the Mohegan Lake Fire Department headquarters. The addition was completed in 2000. It houses three ambulances.
- The VAC was a spin-off of the fire department but is actually a separate non-profit organization. It pays rent to the Fire Department for its space. There are no sleeping quarters on-site.
- Dispatch is through Mohegan Fire Department.
- Forty (40) percent of calls are for VAC. There are about 2,200 calls per year; lots of trauma calls (i.e., car accidents), accidents at the mall, seniors.
- The VAC has started doing third-party billing.
- Most VAC volunteers are also volunteers for the fire department. The boards of the two organizations are largely common. More and more difficulty in recent years getting volunteers.
 - Lots of currently active volunteers are retirees or local college kids, which doesn't bode well for future volunteerism.
 - Volunteer training requirements are more rigorous nowadays, due to State and federal requirements.

Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC)

- Non-profit organization providing 24-hour, 7-day a week service. Provides Intermediate emergency medical response (EMT-I.)
- VAC is composed of all-volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and staff. It is governed by an elected Board of Directors, with an elected chair and vice-chair. Three Operators run the VAC day-to-day.
- Headquarters has 4-bay garage, office, storage, training and living quarters. Located on Route 202, north of FDR Park. Equipment: three ambulances.
- Service area is the Town of Yorktown, but primarily the Heights Fire District.
- The VAC is primarily supported by private fundraising. Two fund-drive letters are mailed per year. The VAC has also started doing third-party billing.
- The VAC receives dispatch calls from the Yorktown Police.
 - Typically, it does not get calls for emergencies in the northern Yorktown, as the Mohegan VAC is dispatched there. However, if Yorktown Police is notified, then the Yorktown VAC may be dispatched as well. Thus, there is the potential for duplication of response between the two VAC's. Whoever gets there first takes control.
 - For car accidents, VAC responds to calls not only on Town roads, but also on the Taconic Parkway and Route 202.

- There has been increasing difficulty in recent years getting volunteers. There are currently 55 active members, down from 80 to 90 in the 1980s.
 - Paramedic certification now takes 18 months, so after spending so much time in training, paramedics are typically not interested in serving as volunteers.
 - Also, people's busy schedules and commutes are making it difficult to commit the time necessary.

First Response

- The Yorktown Police Department and Mohegan Lake Fire District have the ability to provide first response services. That is, they can be the first to arrive on the scene and to assess the situation. They support the VAC's and the ALS.

Yorktown Advanced Life Support (ALS)

- The ALS is a tax district (i.e., "special district") created by the Town. The ALS service area is all of Yorktown.
- The ALS is run by a Commission, made up of representatives of the two Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC's) in town (Yorktown and Mohegan.) Commissioners are appointed by the Town Board.
- Paid paramedics are contracted through Empress Ambulance Service. Personnel: two paramedics during the day shift, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; one medic overnight. Additional paramedics can be called in if necessary.
- The ALS rents space in the VAC headquarters on Route 202.
- Equipment: 1 fly car.
- The ALS supplements services provided by the two VAC's, as well as the other services provided in Yorktown. It provides more advanced service than is typically provided in an ambulance.
- In the future, with increasing emergency care costs in hospitals, there may be a shift toward more ALS/paramedic care in the field, which can eliminate some trips to the emergency room. The Town should keep abreast of this trend for the time being and should consider expanding ALS personnel and equipment in the future. This could potentially result in the need, eventually, for a freestanding ALS facility.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- None.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- None.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Provide more sophisticated services (i.e. advanced life support).

- Obtain additional equipment (defibrillator, radio, vehicle).
- Identifies the need for more volunteers and more funding.
- Cites its reliance on public highways and town roads to reach victims.
- Funding must be maintained/increased as necessary.

Town Hall

- Built in 1935. Last renovation in the 1950's. Approximate size: 19,000 square feet.
- General condition: needs upgrading. An upgrade/expansion study was being undertaken as of summer 2002.
- Town Hall currently provides space for only a portion of Town offices and meeting rooms. Even though several Town departments have been moved to other locations, the Town Hall is extremely cramped for space.
 - The departments currently housed in the building are Building & Zoning, the Comptroller, Engineering, Legal Services, Real Estate Assessor, the Supervisor, and Town Board chamber.
 - The following departments are located elsewhere: Environmental Conservation, Highway, Planning (at YCCC), Police, the Courthouse, Water, and Parks & Recreation.
- Technology improvements have increased space needs, both for archiving/storage and for computer equipment and wiring.
- Some of the needs identified during the S.W.O.T with Town Department heads included: (1) expand use of internet and email; (2) more space for archives; (3) publication that summarizes Town services; (4) more resources for enforcement.
- Town's web site is up-to-date and easy to navigate. Contact information is provided throughout.
- Town Board meetings are televised (cited as a strength in the S.W.O.T. session with Town Department heads), but televising results in a lot of the meeting time being given over for distribution of information (cited as a problem.)

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- None.

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Additional space is needed at Town Hall; either move the Courts to a new building on the Mead site or expand the building by 7,000 square feet.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Relocate Town offices to the YCCC and make the current Town Hall building into the new library.
- Relocate the Yorktown Heights branch of the library to Town Hall after the Courtrooms have moved.

Town Services

- According to the Task Force S.W.O.T. session on Parks and Community Facilities, participants feel that Town services are good/reliable. People also felt that garbage pick-up was reasonably priced and that the recycling program is good.
- There is a perception of high and inequitable Town taxes. This is exacerbated by the fact that School and Town boundaries are not coterminous, and people are taxed differently depending upon which district they live in. This creates differences in the tax rates for similar properties located in different districts.

Highway Department

- One main facility, plus two salt buildings (Greenwood Street and Spillway Road.)
- The department is responsible for paving and tree maintenance on Town roads; also plowing. On County roads, the department is responsible for plowing, but not paving. The State is completely responsible for State roads, but Town sometimes plows them when the State is slow to respond.
- Tree cutting and trimming. The Department does regular trimming for the purpose of visibility, power lines, interference with traffic, pickup from storms, etc. Roughly three miles of roadways are trimmed per year.
- The Highway Department has an ongoing re-paving program. It re-paves about 15 miles of Town roads each year, and the entire Town is re-paved on a 15-year cycle.
- Total reconstruction of many roads has been done in recent years. About 2,100 catch basins and four to five miles of drainage per year have been installed.
- Private roads: Current requirement is that it has to be built to specification, in case the road ends up being turned over by the Town.
- Needs identified by the Highway Department include:
 - Expanded storage area (currently at maximum.)
 - Seven additional staff members
 - Does not necessarily need more technology, but more training on how to use technology. The department already uses technology for the purposes of inventory, security, communications, etc.) It is installing a GPS system into its fleet of trucks.

- The ideal would be to have two new facilities: (1) equipment and materials storage at the Spillway Street site; and (2) a maintenance facility at the Greenwood Street site

Environmental Conservation

- Vehicles: 100 vehicles serviced at the Central Garage (behind the Police Department); 50 at the Water Department; 15 at the Highway Department.
- The Town contracts for trash pick-up service for single-family residences. Garbage is sent to the Peekskill incinerator. Businesses and multi-family residences need to arrange for their own private haulers. BOCES picks up garbage and recycling for Yorktown schools.
- Waste Reduction Program: (1) Four scheduled annual bulk trash collections (twice yearly for condominiums, co-ops and apartments); (2) Weekly collection of commingled recycling bins and pulp; (3) Weekly fall Leaf Bag collections during the autumn season; (4) Christmas Trees collection during January; (5) Waste Oil & Antifreeze depots; and (6) outreach for the Organic Yard Waste Facility
- Hazardous waste: Refrigerators and air conditioners (freon) are taken by private haulers. Tires are accepted by the County for free. For computer monitors, there is a County recycling program.
- If the Hallock's Mill sewage treatment plant is closed, sewage would be channeled to Peekskill. The Town currently uses sludge from the Hallock's Mill plant as compost. Closing the plant would mean the Town would have to purchase compost and/or increase use of fertilizer.

Summary of Past Plans

Town Development Plan, 1970

- Relocate the Highway Department garage out of Yorktown Heights and redevelop that site (part of Urban Renewal area).
- Locate Highway Department substations along the Route 6 corridor.
- Consider alternatives to waste disposal (in light of the imminent closing of the County dump at Croton Point Park) and collection (done by private contractors at the time).

Town Development Plan, 1983

- Avoid fragmentation of government activities; continue to concentrate them in Yorktown Heights.
- Move the Highway Department to the Mead site, and sell the existing facility in Yorktown Heights.
- Shift to Town-sponsored trash collection (through contractors) seems to be working.
- Provide municipal commuter parking lots along major bus routes.

1988 Town Plan Review

- Expand personnel, equipment and facilities to meet current and anticipated needs

- Separate the Parks & Recreation and the Environmental Conservation departments.
- Work with the Volunteer Community Beautification Committee to augment beautification efforts.
- Enforce and strengthen littering and dumping codes.
- Establish a viable recycling program.