



Community Facilities

Community facilities include all those municipal buildings and sites that provide services to the residents of Avon. These include schools, the library, fire stations, police department, Town offices, public works garage, dog pound, landfill/transfer station, senior center, and other cultural facilities. Park and recreation facilities are covered separately in Chapter 5, Open Space and Recreation. **Map 8-1** depicts the location of Avon's Community Facilities.

Schools

Avon experienced substantial growth in school enrollment between 1984 and 2007 (see Chapter 2 for a more detailed discussion). As a result, a significant investment in school renovation and new construction took place to meet this increase.

This included the following:

- Construction of the Pine Grove Elementary School – 1989
- Renovations to Avon Middle School – 1992
- Expansion of Roaring Brook Elementary School – 1993
- Major renovation to Avon High School - 1999
- Construction of the Thompson Brook School – 2001
- Major renovation and expansion to Avon High School - 2006

The latest school enrollment projections prepared by Dr. Peter Prowda in 2015 show a significant declining trend in enrollment. As a result of this projection and the before mentioned investments, no new construction during the next planning period is anticipated. For a more detailed discussion please see Chapter 2.

School Administrative Offices

School administrative offices are housed in the former Towpath School annex. This building cannot adequately accommodate all current needs. The Board of Education is currently investigating various options including an expansion of the annex, construction of a new facility, or leasing office space.

Fire Stations and Public Safety

The Avon Fire Department is made up of approximately 98 professionally trained volunteers. The Fire Department maintains four fire stations located throughout Town and 17 pieces of fire apparatus.

The Planning and Building Committees for the Avon Volunteer Fire Department have revised their short-term (5 year) and longer-term (10 year) forecasts for all needed projects and equipment. Both committees took into consideration the geography, topography, demographics, transportation, levels of industrial, residential and commercial development, construction types, available water supply, *NFPA, and *OSHA standards in developing all recommendations. The following is a summary of these findings:



- The Company One Fire Station, located at 25 Darling Drive, was built in 1979. This station is in need of an additional apparatus bay, main level office and meeting space, and storage space for equipment.
- The Company Two Fire Station, located at 106 Secret Lane Road, was built in 1966. The apparatus and members of this station are recommended to be moved from that area due to the small size of the facility; lack of flexibility with apparatus placement; response time concerns; and small size of the property which prohibits expansion. Several sites have been identified as adequate for the construction of a new fire station. A new location on Lovely Street, just north of Roaring Brook, would offer several advantages. It would provide easy access and vehicle mobility. It is the goal of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department to design a new station that can house all current and future size apparatus, provide drive through apparatus bays, conference rooms, training classrooms, administrative offices, and communications room. This new location will also facilitate response time.
- The Company Three Fire Station, located at 490 West Avon Road, was built in 1973. This station is adjacent to Avon High School and in adequate condition. However, this station is in need of heating and cooling mechanical repairs and added apparatus bay ventilation system for fire apparatus.
- The Company Four Fire Station, located at 365 Huckleberry Hill Road, was built in 1974. This station, located between Countryside Park and Chevas Road, is in need of apparatus bay floor reinforcement, roof replacement, and lower level reconditioning.

*NFPA: National Fire Protection Association

*OSHA is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration



Sanitary Landfill/Transfer Station

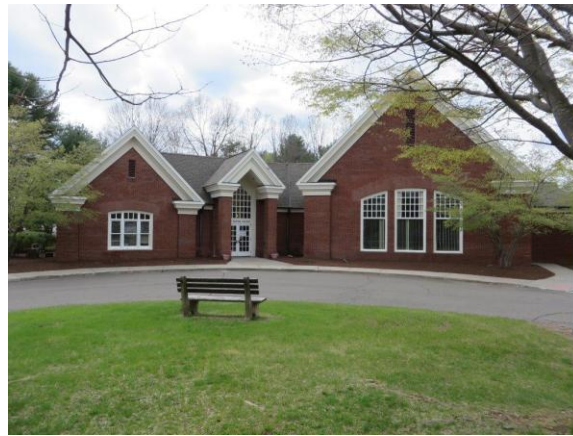
The sanitary landfill located on Huckleberry Hill Road was closed in 1996 in compliance with a plan approved by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The final grading plan for the landfill has been designed so that passive recreational use can be made of the site on the former bulky waste area. A solid waste transfer station operates at this location to transfer waste to the Mid Connecticut Trash to Energy Plant in Hartford. This operation is permitted through 2022.

Public Works Garage

The Public Works Garage is located on Arch Road on the site of the Town's first municipal landfill. An enclosed storage area was constructed in 2009 capable of storing 2,500 tons of salt. An above ground fuel storage facility capable of storing 20,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel with spill containment was constructed in 2014. It is recommended that a small portion of the Farmington Valley Greenway which shares the driveway that serves the garage and public parking area be relocated. Please see Chapter 5 for a more detailed discussion.

Senior Center

The Senior Center located on West Avon Road was built in 1989. This facility consists of 8,500 square feet of space and contains areas for various functions including cards, exercise, dancing, art and craft classes, pool table, TV for movie viewing, luncheons as well as speakers of interest to seniors. In addition, health clinics are offered on a weekly or monthly basis. This facility is presently adequate and capable of serving seniors for the upcoming planning period.



Senior Center

Animal Control Facility

The present animal shelter on Arch Road was constructed in 1999 with funds donated by an unnamed benefactor. It consists of a state of the art kennel for dogs, a separate cattery area, and administrative space. No changes are needed.



Animal Control Facility



Town Hall Complex

The Town Hall Complex consists of ten freestanding buildings which were initially part of the Climax Fuse Complex. These buildings were purchased by the Town in 1970 and converted into Town offices. Major renovations took place most recently in 2007. Buildings 5, 6, and 7 are now physically connected and also handicap accessible. These buildings can serve the Town's needs for the next planning period. The location of Town offices is immediately adjacent to the recently approved mixed-use Village Center project discussed in this Plan and relates very well to the activity which is envisioned as a result of this development.

Library

The Avon Free Library is located on Country Club Road. It was constructed in 1982 with a total of 18,000 square feet. In 2012 it was expanded to 40,000 square feet. It includes multiple meeting rooms and houses more than 107,000 books and over 17,000 other items such as DVDs and CDs. The 2012 renovation and addition was designed to better accommodate changing needs of library patrons to include a computer lab, plentiful quiet study space, flexible programming areas, an art gallery and a local history room. No physical changes are anticipated over the next planning period.

Water Supply

At this time Avon is served by two private water companies that operate, maintain, and expand their system in accordance with the Department of Public Utility Control Regulations. These are the Avon Water Company and Connecticut Water Company. **Map 8-2** shows the franchise areas for each of these companies.

The Avon Water Company serves 4,859 customers with 94 miles of water lines divided into three pressure areas. The Company has storage of over 2.7 million gallons. Fire protection is provided through 601 fire hydrants. The Company maintains seven booster pump stations. The Avon Water Company now operates the Farmington Woods Water Company. The system includes 11 wells with a permitted yield of 6.6 million gallons per day. The most recent well at Fisher Meadows Recreation Area has the greatest permitted yield of 3 million gallons per day. This well takes advantage of a tremendous aquifer and represents one of the largest water diversion permits ever issued by the State of Connecticut. The Town entered into an agreement with the Avon Water Company and receives a small royalty for every gallon of water drawn from this well. This revenue is then used for improvements to the recreational fields at Fisher Meadows. The agreement permits the drilling of two additional wells on this property should that be necessary. The substantial nature of this resource, combined with expected modest growth, should serve those customers within this franchise area for many years.

The Connecticut Water Company serves 1,056 customers. Water is supplied to Avon residents from the Company's Collinsville and Unionville systems. For the Collinsville system, the source of supply is from the Nepaug Reservoir owned by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). For the Unionville system, the sources of supply are from CT Water's Charter House; CT Sand and Stone; Farmington Industrial Park; and Pond Wood well fields. Supply is also provided via an interconnection with the MDC.



Sanitary Sewers

Avon has had public sanitary sewer service since 1974. Avon does not have its own waste water treatment plant but has intermunicipal contracts with the adjoining Towns of Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury. There are 89.3 miles of public sanitary sewer lines and 1.9 miles of private lines installed as of June 2016. The Canton agreement permits Avon to discharge up to 50,000 gallons per day (gpd), Farmington's agreement allows up to 600,000 gpd, and Simsbury's agreement currently allows up to 980,000 gpd discharge to its system. **Table 8-1** Sanitary Sewer Capacity, shows the capacity of each inter-municipal contract (present permitted flows), actual current flows, and the estimated number of new single-family dwelling units that can be accommodated under current agreements.

	Total Allocated Daily Flow (GPD)	Actual Average Daily Flow (GPD)	Percent Currently Utilized	GPD Remaining	Potential Dwelling Units Remaining
Treatment Facility					
Canton	50000	30500	61.00%	19500	77
Farmington	600000	525000	87.50%	75000	298
Simsbury	980000	480000	48.98%	500000	1984
TOTALS	1630000	1035500	63.535	594500	2359

Table 8-1 Sanitary Sewer Capacity

For sanitary sewer flow estimating and billing purposes, the Town utilizes an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) system based on an average estimated use of 210 gallons of effluent generated per day per dwelling unit. Residential users pay for one (1) EDU per year. Commercial customers pay for sewer use based on their metered water consumption. The number of potential new single-family dwelling units which can be served by public sewer is actually less than a straight line calculation method would indicate since there will be other new users, including commercial, institutional, and industrial developments utilizing the sanitary sewer system. The capacity for residential uses will be reduced accordingly.

The amount of flow that can be sent to each community is limited by the capacity of the treatment plants in each town Avon has agreements with and the terms of the inter-municipal agreements. A local treatment plant is not planned for Avon. **Map 8-3** depicts existing sewer sheds, (indicating those areas which may be served by existing treatment plants in Canton, Simsbury, and Farmington) existing sanitary sewer lines areas that may be served by sanitary sewers in the future and areas that are not slated to be served by sanitary sewers.

The Town of Farmington is currently constructing a significant upgrade to its waste water treatment plant. Avon has petitioned Farmington and has received written acknowledgment of the request to increase the flow allocation by 200,000 gpd. This increase will be necessary to accommodate future connections to the sanitary system within that sewer shed. Per the intermunicipal agreements, Avon is required to participate in the costs of the treatment plant upgrade commensurate with its ratio of allocation to capacity.



In 2006 the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority updated its Master Sewer Facilities Plan, which was originally adopted in 1979. The Plan illustrates future sewer service areas by priority based on numerous factors such as age of septic systems within certain neighborhoods, depth of groundwater, depth to ledge, and soil conditions. Concept designs were presented in the Plan with cost estimates. The AWPCA uses this Plan as a guide when considering sewer service expansion.

There may also be opportunities to extend public sewers to areas not currently designated for public sewer so as to enable a more compact cluster style development. An alternative to the foregoing might be a conventional, large-lot subdivision utilizing onsite subsurface sewage disposal systems. A cluster-style development may offer significant advantages in certain instances such as the preservation of meaningful areas of unfragmented open space. An example where cluster development may be preferred includes the large land holdings owned by the Avon Old Farms School. If the extension of sewers is not possible, then options for development might include:

- Large lot subdivision with onsite subsurface sewage disposal systems or
- Cluster type development using advanced onsite wastewater treatment systems.

The Town sought clarification from the State Office of Policy and Management in 2014 regarding such a scenario. The State responded that extending sewers in a situation such as this, in order to achieve the preservation of significant open space assets, would not be in conflict with State growth management principles. It should be noted in such a situation, the developer would be responsible to pay any necessary costs associated with the sewer extension and the purchase of additional sewer capacity in an instance where an application for a compact cluster style development is submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission and is approved. Please see Chapters 11 and 12 for more discussion.

Goal and Policies:

Goal

Maintain adequate public facilities to serve Avon residents and businesses during the next planning period. Provide, or assist, in the provision of a range of public utilities to serve all of the citizens of Avon in a manner consistent with the recommendations contained throughout this Plan.

Policies

1. Explore various options to address the needs of school administrative offices.
2. Prioritize the needs identified by the Avon Volunteer Fire Department to upgrade or replace existing facilities and implement over a time frame to be established by the Avon Town Council.
3. Assist in the coordination and permitting of water company efforts in expanding facilities and operations to meet demand.



4. Promote planning policies and decisions which are consistent with the 2006 Master Sewer Facilities Plan, adopted by the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority. Consider sewer extensions outside the boundaries of target areas in order to promote cluster-style development and the permanent preservation of significant open space areas. In those instances a developer/applicant may be responsible for purchasing additional sewer capacity from the Town of Farmington, Simsbury, or Canton, in an instance where an application for a compact cluster style development is submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission and is approved.