

Chapter 8 Public Facilities & Utilities



Community Facilities

Community facilities include all those municipal buildings and sites that provide services to the residents of Avon. These include schools, 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 9** depicts the location of Avon's existing community facilities including site recommendations for new facilities.

Schools

Avon currently has two elementary schools, one grade 5-6 school, one middle school, and one high school. A major renovation and expansion to Avon High School took place in 1999. The newest school, the 5-6 Thompson Brook School, opened in 2002. Since 1989, 43 million dollars have been spent on renovations and additions to Avon's school facilities to accommodate increased enrollment. In June of 2005, voters approved 26 million dollars to construct a needed expansion to the high school.

The Avon Board of Education prepared a school facilities evaluation plan in 1999.

A school enrollment projection was completed for the Avon Board of Education by the State

Department of Education, November 2005. Their reports are based on current and historical enrollment information, birth records from the State Department of Public Health, construction permit data, and real estate sales data. It should be noted that although this report represents the best information available to the Town at this time, past projections have been substantially lower than the actual enrollment experienced.



Pine Grove School, opened in 1991



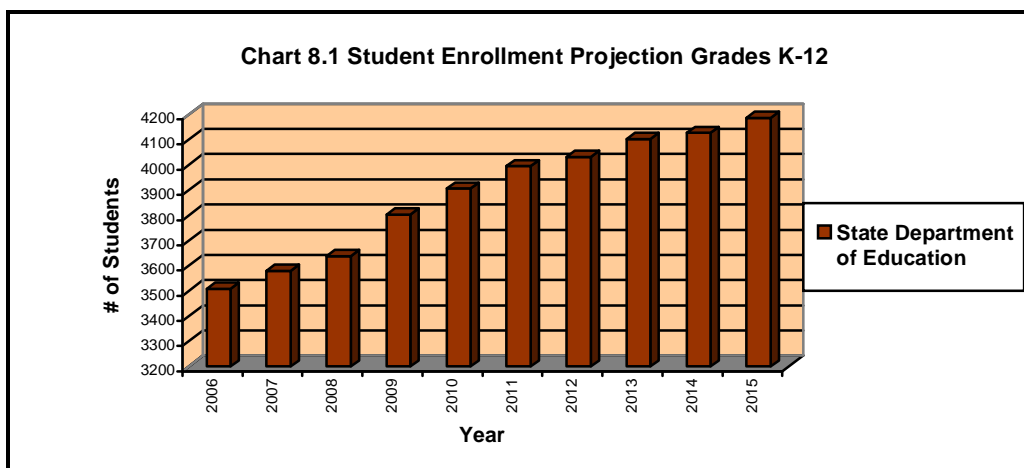
Construction of Thompson Brook School

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Thompson Brook School, Grades 5 & 6

Total enrollment for the school year 2004-2005 was 3,433. Total enrollment in the year 1995 was 2,285 resulting in an increase of 1,130 students over a 10-year period, which represents 49.5% increase. Estimates from the State Department of Education indicate that more growth is likely and that total enrollment is projected at 4,190 in the year 2015. This represents an increase of about 78 students per year. Total enrollment is projected to average about 3,890 students over the next 10-year planning period. **Chart 8.1** depicts the projected ten-year enrollment projections for all grades K-12 from 2006-2007 through 2015-2016.

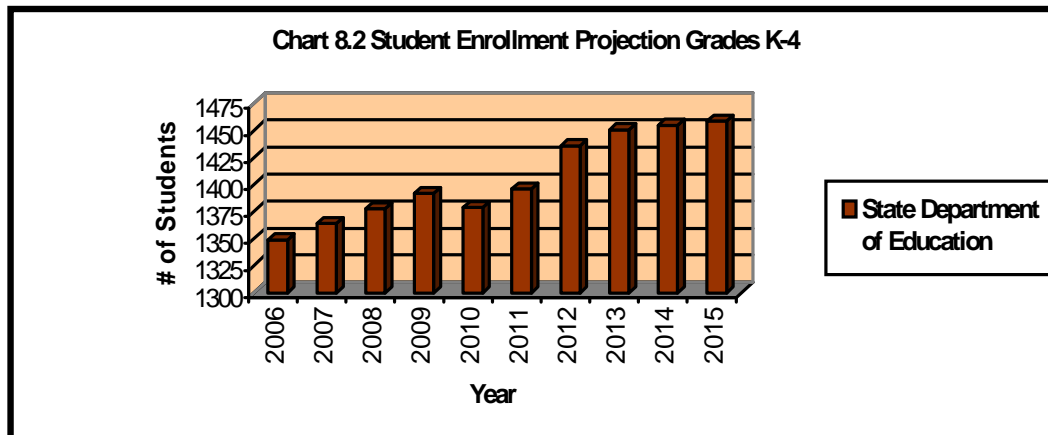


Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, 2005

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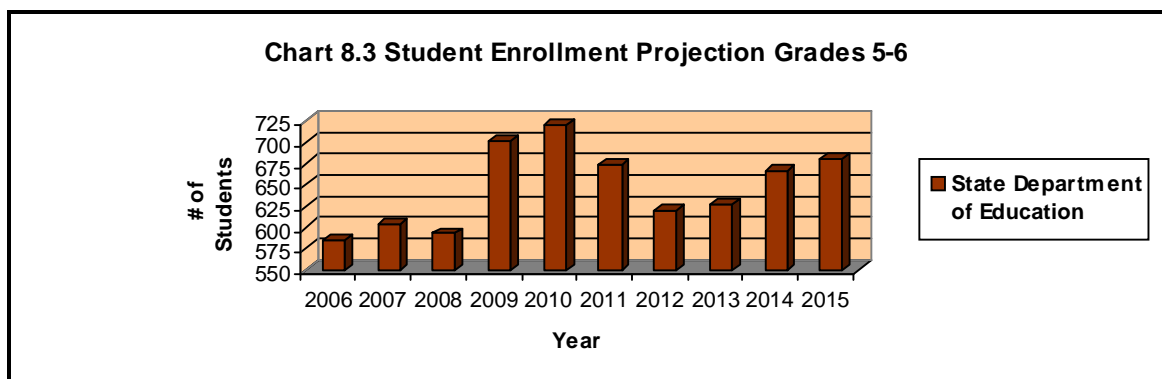


Between 1995 and 2005 enrollments in grades K-4 grew from 963 to 1,349 students representing a 40.1% increase. The State's projections indicate that elementary enrollment will continue to grow but at a slower rate. By 2015 the projected elementary school enrollment is 1,460 students.



Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, 2005 (Roaring Brook and Pine Grove Schools)

Over the past ten years, the enrollments in grades 5 and 6 increased from 363 to 567 students representing a 56.2% increase. Projections indicate an increase to 720 students by the year 2010 with a slight decrease to 680 students by the year 2015.

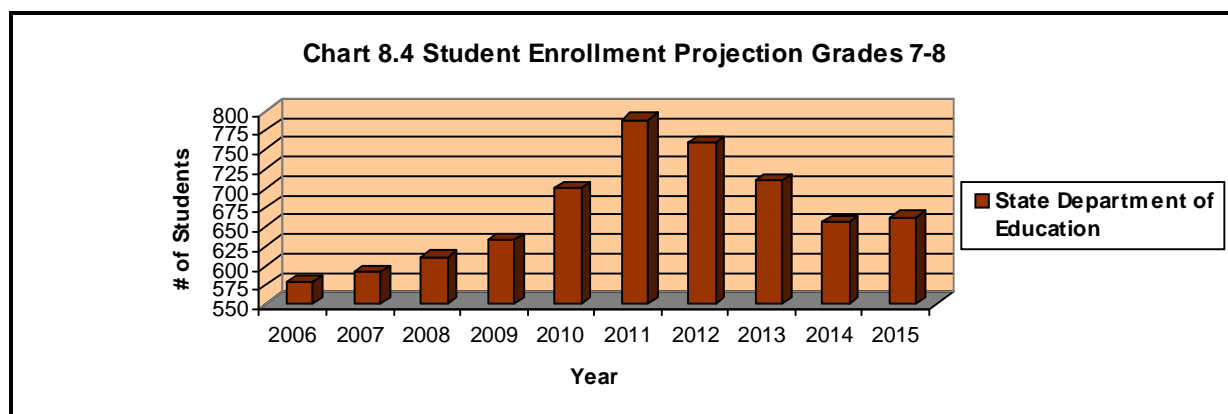


Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, 2005 (Thompson Brook School)

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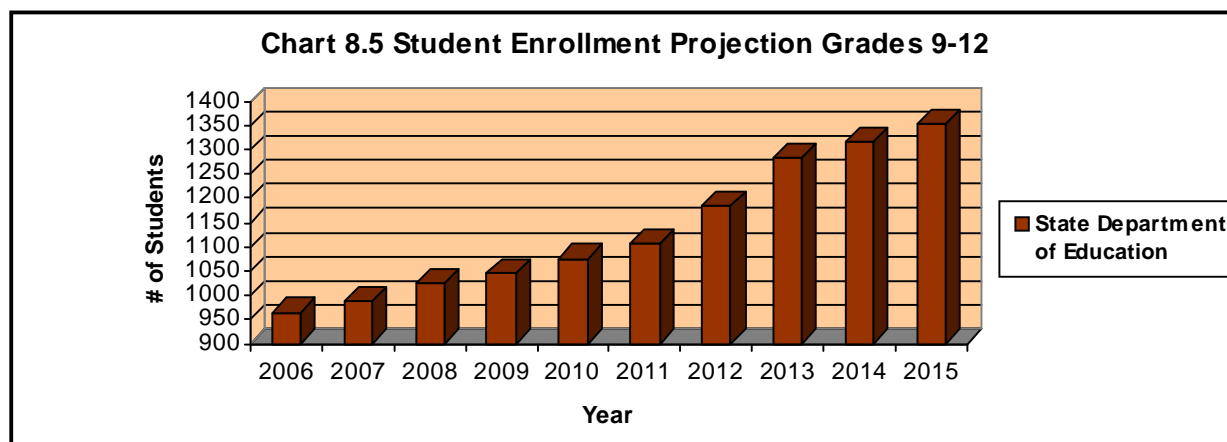


Between 1995 and 2005 enrollment at the middle school grew from 356 to 567 students representing a 59.3% increase in student population. Peak enrollment is expected to occur in the year 2011 with 790 students. By 2015, student enrollment is expected to decrease to 660 students. Enrollment at the high school rose from 603 to 901 students over the past 10 years representing a 49.4% increase. As mentioned previously, the recently approved expansion of the high school will increase the total school capacity to 1,350 students. Projections indicate that the high school population has the potential to reach this maximum capacity by the year 2015.



Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, 2005 (Avon Middle School)

Actual enrollment should be continually monitored in order to assess the accuracy of this data. It should be noted that past projections supplied by the State Department of Education have been consistently low. If a new school is required, **Map 8, Community Facilities**, shows 3 possible locations on property which is already owned by the Town.



Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, 2005 (Avon High School)

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Fire Stations and Public Safety

The Avon Fire Department is made up of approximately 80 volunteers, of which about 60 are active. This number fluctuates over time, depending on the number of new recruits and retention of existing members. There is one paid full time Fire Marshall who inspects buildings for fire code compliance.

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department Planning Committee has made some short-term (5 year) and longer-term (10 year) forecasts for projects and equipment. The Committee considered the geography, topography, demographics, transportation, levels of industrial, residential and commercial development, construction types and available water supply in developing the recommendations.

The Company Two Fire Station located in the Secret Lake area is 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. The station is now located on Secret lake Road which is a narrow private road. It is recommended that a new location on Lovely Street north of Roaring Brook be considered for several reasons. A new fire station in this location will provide easy access and vehicle mobility. Juniper Drive will provide cross-town

access to Route 44 via Woodmont Road to West Avon Road. A new station will be designed to house all current size vehicles, provide drive through truck bays, meeting rooms, offices, radio room, kitchen and a bunkroom to facilitate response time. **Map 8** depicts this area.

A Training Facility is also recommended to be constructed, since there is no permanent site for training. An area of approximately two acres is required. This could be on the same parcel as a new Fire Station on Lovely Street or possibly on the Avon Landfill site or the newly acquired M.H. Rhodes site on Thompson Road. **Map 9** also depicts these areas.

Company Three, adjacent to Avon High School on West Avon Road is adequate. The approved building program for the high school includes the construction of a new driveway adjacent to the Firehouse along with additional parking which will also be a benefit to the firehouse. The addition of one apparatus bay and offices are needed for Company One. No changes to the Company Four firehouse is required.



Avon Fire Department

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Avon Police Station

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 Environmental Protection. The facility is now used for bulky waste and leaf and grass clippings disposal. In addition, a solid waste transfer station now operates at this location to transfer waste to the Mid Connecticut Trash to Energy Plant in Hartford. A bulky waste permit currently permits on-site disposal. However, this will expire in March 2017, and will not be renewed by the State. Bulky waste will then be required to be transferred off site along with other trash. The final grading plan for the landfill is designed so that passive recreational use can be made of the site once the bulky waste area is filled.

Library

The Avon Free Public Library is located on Country Club Road and was built in 1982. The

library has a total of 18,000 square feet of space and is situated on 2.3 acres of land. The current library is now undersized to meet the needs of the population. The Library Board of Directors began work on a Capital Improvement Plan in 2000 to ensure that the library will meet the community's needs through 2020. The library began talking to residents/consultants and reviewed the State of Connecticut's Guidelines for Libraries to determine current and future needs. The Board also has worked with the Avon Engineering Department on preliminary designs and layouts.

The Connecticut Guidelines for Libraries indicates the library should be about 40,000 square feet to meet the needs of the community at this time. Two parcels of land adjacent to the library have recently acquired by the Town are sufficient in size to accommodate this expansion.



Avon Free Public Library

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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 capable of serving seniors for the upcoming planning period.



Senior Center

Public Works Facility

The Public Works facility is located on Arch Road. It is located on the site of the former town landfill. An EPA/DEP mandated wash bay was added in 2003. This facility is adequate for the foreseeable future.

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.

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 the Town offices. Buildings have been renovated as needed as the Town has grown.

In 1986 the Town hired an architect to prepare a master plan which has served as a blueprint for renovations. In 1996 the police station and Town Clerk's office were renovated and expanded. The final phase of the program which includes renovations to buildings 5, 6, and 7 and a small expansion to the Town Clerk's vault should be completed within the next 18 months.



Town Hall

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Figure 8.1 Avon Town Green Master Plan

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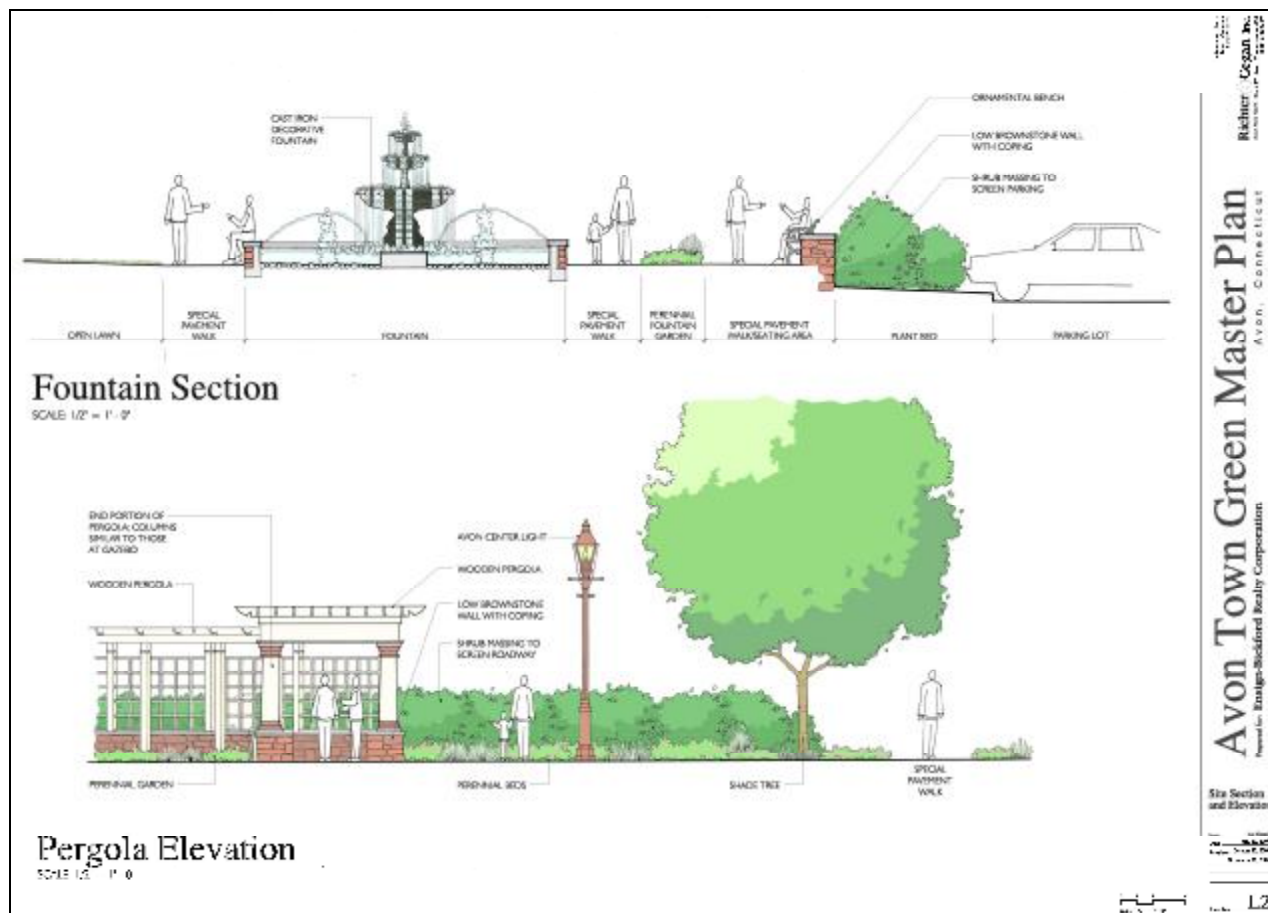


Figure 8.2 Avon Town Green Architectural Detail

Town Green

In December of 2004, the Town Council adopted a master plan for the Town Green shown in **Figure 8.1** and **8.2**. The plan calls for the installation of decorative light fixtures, a three-tiered fountain, pergola, and additional walkways.

Water Supply

Avon is currently served by three private water companies that operate, maintain and expand their system in compliance with Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control

Regulations. **Map 9** shows the location of each of these water company's pipelines, wells, and franchise areas. The Avon Water Company services most of Avon including Farmington Woods. The Unionville Water Company merged with the Connecticut Water Company in 2002, but operates as a subsidiary and serves the southwest area of Avon. The Connecticut Water Company serves the western portion of Town.

The Avon Water Company serves 3,915 customers in Avon with 71.2 miles of water lines. There have been 18.7 miles of new water

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mains constructed since 1988. Avon Water Company now also operates the Farmington Woods Water Company. Several new wells and storage facilities have been added including the Meadow Ridge Well in 1995; the Hunter's Run 300,000 gallon storage tank; and the creation of high service areas with booster pumps to service the Northgate, Highwood Drive, Country Club Road, Old Mill, and the upper Hunter's Run areas. A new well with a capacity of 3 million gallons per day, located on the Fisher Meadows site has just been completed.

Connecticut Water Company serves 386 customers in Avon with 6.26 miles of water lines. Unionville Water Company serves 586 customers in Avon with 10.5 miles of water lines. Approximately 3.4 miles of new mains have been installed since 1988.

Sanitary Sewers

Avon has had public sanitary sewer service since 1974. Avon does not have its own waste water treatment plant, but has inter-municipal contracts with the adjoining towns of Canton, Farmington and Simsbury. There are 68 miles of public sanitary sewer lines and 1.5 miles of private lines installed as of June 30, 2003. 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

920,000 gpd discharge to its system. An additional 100,000 gpd was successfully negotiated with Farmington in 2002. An additional 60,000 gpd of sewer capacity has also been secured from Simsbury, in connection with a planned expansion to the sewerage treatment plant. **Table 8.1, Sanitary Sewer Capacity,** shows the capacity of each inter-municipal contract, present permitted flows, and actual current flows and the estimated number of new single-family dwelling units that can be accommodated under current agreements. A dwelling unit utilizes an average of 210 gpd but all billing is based on actual water use. The actual number of potential new single-family dwelling units which can be served by public sewer is actually less than calculated 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 capacity of the system is limited however, by the size of the treatment plants in each town that Avon has agreements with. A local treatment plant is not planned for Avon.

Map 10 depicts existing sewer sheds, 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.

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Table 8.1 Sanitary Sewer Capacity

Treatment Facility	Total Flow Allocated GPD	Total Current Flow	Percent Currently Utilized	GPD Remaining / %	Total Dwelling Units Remaining
Canton	50,000	15,000	30%	35,000 / 70%	166
Farmington	600,000	420,000	70%	180,000 / 30%	857
Simsbury	980,000	506,000	52%	474,000 / 48%	2,257
Total	1,630,000	941,000	58%	689,000 / 42%	3,280

Source: Avon Engineering Department

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority is currently in the process of updating the Town's Master Sewer Facilities Plan, which was adopted in 1979. This Plan will include a preliminary design for sewer construction to serve all those areas identified as future service areas.

Goals and Policies

Goal:

Maintain adequate public facilities to serve the Avon residents and businesses during the next planning period. Provide appropriate locations for new or expanded facilities where needed. 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 in other sections of this Plan.

Policies:

1. The Town should regularly update data regarding school enrollment projections in

order to prepare for future educational facility needs.

2. Complete implementation of the Town Hall Facilities Plan prepared in 1986.
3. The final grading plan for the landfill was designed for a passive recreational use. Once the site is at grade and bulky waste is no longer accepted, the site should be converted to a public recreation area.
4. A portion of the landfill site should be retained as a transfer station and recycling center.
5. Expand the library in its current location to accommodate Avon's increased population and demand for library services.
6. The Avon Volunteer Fire Departments Planning Committee has prepared 5-year and 10-year plans. The priorities of this plan includes:
 - a. Relocate the Secret Lake fire station to a site on Lovely Street north of Roaring Brook

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- b. Construct a fire training facility either at a new firehouse site on a portion of the sanitary landfill site or the former M.H. Rhodes property on Thompson Road.
 - c. Renovate fire stations 1 and 2 to accommodate “bunk-in” facilities to reduce response time.
- 7. Assist in the coordination of water company efforts in expanding their facilities and operations. Encourage cooperation between water companies when land is split by franchise area boundaries or can be best served by an adjacent water company.
- 8. Establish a regulatory review process for aquifer protection as required by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.
- 9. Prepare an update to the Town’s 1979 Master Sewer Facilities Plan.
- 10. Implement the Town Green Master Plan.