

**Chapter VI**  
**Community Services and**  
**Facilities**

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***West Warwick Comprehensive Plan***



## CHAPTER VI COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

*"Shall provide an inventory of existing and forecasted needs for facilities and services used by the public such as, but not limited to, educational facilities, public safety, water, sanitary sewers, libraries and community facilities. The policies and implementation techniques must be identified for inclusion in the implementation program element." -- Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act*

### **VI.1 Existing Conditions, Trends and Projections**

Information for this profile was developed through a questionnaire submitted to department heads, and through personal interviews of each department head. State and national standards are used throughout this report to provide a benchmark for comparison, and should not be considered substitutes for sound policy-making based on findings of fact.

Community facilities are buildings, lands and services which serve the public, including schools, libraries, police, fire, utilities, recreational facilities and others. Inclusion of these facilities in the Comprehensive Plan is important because they provide the skeleton for servicing the community (water, sewer) and because land use and changes created by land use impact the community's services and facilities. Development tends to follow the location and quantity of public services, and advance planning of facilities should be coordinated with economic development, housing, transportation, open space and land use objectives.

West Warwick faces a discouraging horizon in terms of its future ability to fund capital improvements. The regional recession, and State and federal budget deficits resulting in lower grant funds, requires the Town continue to rely heavily on the property tax as the vehicle for funding not only operations but also capital improvements. Clearly there is a need for the Town to consider alternative measures for funding capital improvements, and to develop a capital improvement program which is realistic and will meet the needs of a growing population.

**Emergency Services** - Emergency services in the Town of West Warwick include police, fire and rescue. All are Town funded and operated departments.

**Police** - The police department is headquartered at 1162 Main Street, adjacent to and in the same structure as the Town Hall and Fire Department. The department is staffed by 51 sworn personnel, including:

- Chief of Police - 1;
- Deputy Chief - 1
- Commander - 1;
- Captains - 3;
- Lieutenants - 3;
- Sergeants - 6;
- Patrol Officers - 29; and,
- Detectives - 7.

Two animal control officers also staff the Department, based at the pound on Hay Street.

Equipment includes 16 cars, two vans, one rescue-type truck and various communications equipment. The rescue-type vehicle is a multipurpose vehicle used by the SWAT team, dive team and for other emergency response purposes.

Calls have increased over the past ten years, primarily due to the increase in the Town's population, as well as the socio-economic diversity of the population. The largest amount of calls are concentrated in the highest density population areas, i.e., Arctic, and business areas also demand significant attention from the Department.



**Citizen Survey Results** - The citizen survey conducted in May, 1990 indicated that most West Warwick citizens (82 percent) rate the police department as good or excellent. This was fairly consistent among all neighborhoods, with the exception of residents of Arctic/Clyde, who rated the department 77 percent good/excellent, 18 percent fair/poor. The highest rating was given by residents of the Crompton area and the Phenix/Lippitt area (87 percent good/excellent).

**Issues/Needs Assessment** - Discussions with the Chief of Police, and findings of the recent Rhode Island Public Expenditures Council study indicate the following issues/needs at the Police Department:

- **Facility** - The existing police station is approximately 3,500 square feet in size. Standards indicate that approximately 250 square feet per employee is appropriate for communities of West Warwick's size, which calls for space between 12,500 and 13,000 square feet. Problems with the current facility include:
  - Lack of garage space, particularly for felony vehicle storage. This may be a State mandated requirement in the near future;
  - Lack of storage space for records. Records are currently being kept in a private storage facility, but a secured area is needed;
  - Lack of gymnasium for officers use, normally part of most police facilities in the State. The previous gym space was converted to office space;
  - Chief's office is located on the first floor, and is susceptible to significant foot traffic through the station. The office should be located on the second floor;
  - The station's gasoline pumps are located to the rear of the building, and are not screened from view. An observation camera provides surveillance of the pumps.

Alternatives which have been considered in discussions regarding the future police facility include expansion at the current site if Town Hall was relocated to the civic center; relocation of station to the civic center as part of a unified government center; and the former "Truck World" site on Washington Street.

- **Equipment** - The Department strives to replace its 10 main fleet cruisers (those on 24 hour per day duty) on an annual basis. Occasionally the vehicles are recycled for other Departmental purposes, such as detectives or chief's cars. This is not considered the optimal situation by the Department, and consideration should be given to alternatives such as purchase of vehicles from leasing agencies (eg. Avis). This provides vehicles with lower mileage, less wear and tear, and different body types from the standard cruiser (for detectives). Vehicle maintenance is performed by private vendors, in a non-bid process. Consideration should be given to a centralized maintenance facility, for all Town equipment.

The Department has a Monroe computer system used for record keeping, a system which is no longer manufactured, is not MS-DOS compatible, provides insufficient

flexibility in data retrieval and cross-referencing, and does not have sufficient storage capacity.<sup>1</sup> The system is inadequate for the Department's needs.

- **Staffing** - There are currently 51 personnel in the Department, including 29 patrol officers. Recent development of the Town has placed an increasing burden on the Department's ability to respond to calls with the available numbers of personnel, and calls of non-critical nature may be "stacked" until available police units clear from more dangerous calls. An additional beat officer was recently placed in Crompton to help with the crime increase and traffic needs in that growing area. Numerous factors come into play when considering the size of a police department including local crime rates, workload, geography, community growth and other factors.

Response time can vary from 5 to 10 minutes to an hour depending on the time of day and number of officers needed for the particular service call.

- **Other Issues** - Traffic throughout the town has significantly increased and placed a demand on traffic response needs. Veteran's Square and East Greenwich Avenue (narrow) are two particular problem areas.

There are four beat areas, Crompton, Arctic, Natick and Phenix/Clyde. Five cars patrol on each beat, with two cars in the Crompton area and one in each remaining area.

Beats were originally designed around villages, no longer an efficient way to allocate manpower. A demand-type system would be more appropriate.

A shift in population composition has affected service calls, in that more crimes that were not commonplace are becoming more so.<sup>2</sup>

**Projects/Tasks Planned to Cope with Anticipated Demands** - The Chief of Police indicates the following projects or tasks need to be completed or are presently planned to cope with anticipated demands on the department:

- **Short Term** - Communications needs, total computerization of department files and reporting; additional personnel, both civilian and sworn.
- **Medium Term** - Facility needs, personnel, upgrade of communications facility and equipment; possible accreditation of department through Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, a division of the International Association of the Chiefs of Police;
- **Long Term** - Continued modernization of department in all areas.

**Fire and Rescue Services** - There are four fire companies in West Warwick (see Figure VI-1). Table VI-1 presents basic information regarding each fire station.

- Headquarters - Main Street;
- Crompton Station;
- Phenix Station; and,
- Natick Station.

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<sup>1</sup> West Warwick Organization and Management Survey, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, December 14, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Discussion with Chief Cyrille Cole, July, 1990.



Table VI-1  
Fire Station Data

Fire Station	Shift Staffing	Equipment/Age	Comments
Headquarters Station #1	7 per shift 1 dispatcher	Front line pumper, 1986 Ladder truck, 1971 Emergency rescue, 1986 Reserve rescue, 1979 Battalion chiefs car, 1984 Van with extrication materials, 1971	
Crompton Station #4	2 per shift	First line engine, 1971 Reserve engine, 1966 Reserve ladder, 1960 Fire alarm truck, 1973	
Phenix Station #2	1 per shift	First line engine/1983 Fog truck, 1948	Station over 100 years old. Applied for historic preservation grant for building improvements.
Natick Station # 3	2 per shift	First line engine/1971 Reserve engine/1971	

Source: West Warwick Fire Department, 1990.

There are a total of 59 persons working in the fire department, including:

- Fire Chief - 1;
- Battalion Chiefs - 4
- Inspector - 1;
- Captains - 4;
- Firefighters - 39;
- Lieutenants - 4;
- Dispatchers - 4;
- Mechanic - 1; and,
- Secretary - 1.

The department is a paid department, with no volunteer firefighters.

There are now approximately 3,000 rescue and 3,000 fire calls annually, an increase of 7 percent in rescue calls and 25 percent in fire calls since the early 1980's. This increase is due largely to population increases, particularly in the Crompton area.

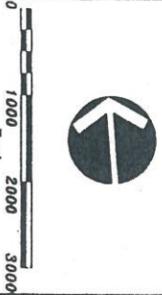
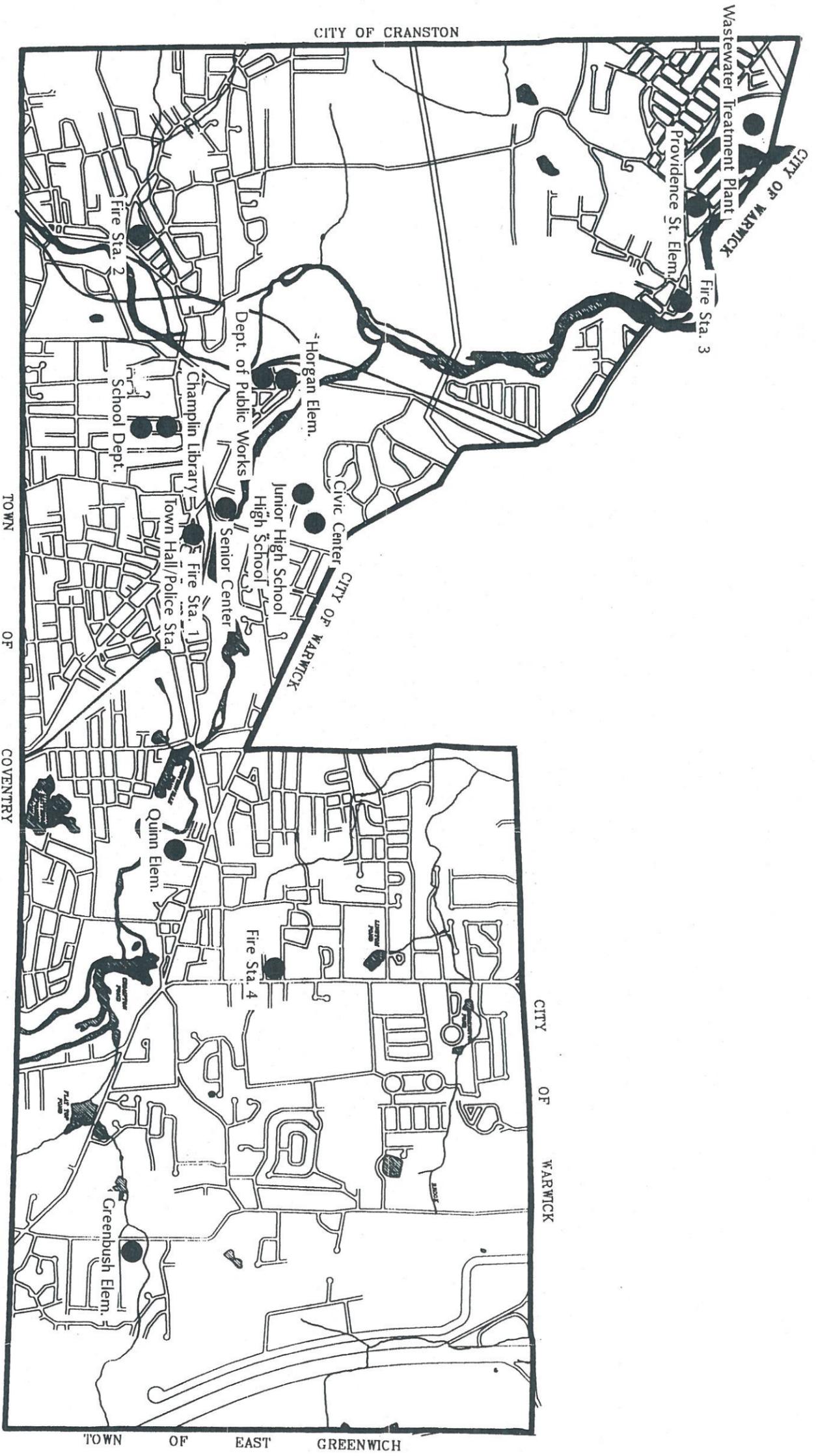
**Citizen Survey Results** - The citizen survey conducted in May, 1990 indicated that most West Warwick citizens rate the fire department and rescue service as good or excellent, 88 percent and 95 percent, respectively. High ratings for the fire department were evenly distributed among all neighborhoods. There was some divergence among neighborhoods in terms of the rescue service, with 74 percent of the Phenix/Lippitt area giving the rescue service a good/excellent rating and a 10 percent fair/poor rating.<sup>3</sup>

**Issues/Needs Assessment** - Discussions with the Chief of Police, and findings of the recent Rhode Island Public Expenditures Council study indicate the following issues/needs at the Fire Department:

- **Facility** - Standards for communities of West Warwick's population size indicate that a main station should be approximately 10,000 square feet in size, while substations

<sup>3</sup> Some percentages may not add to 100% because "Don't Know" responses were not included.





Comprehensive Plan  
West Warwick,  
Rhode Island

Albert Veri & Associates, Inc.  
Community Planners  
20 Elm Street  
Providence, Rhode Island  
401/274-1380 22803

LOCATION  
OF  
COMMUNITY  
FACILITIES

Figure VI-1

Date: Digital data  
Drawn by: provided by the  
Scale: As Noted R.I. Geographic  
System.

Source: West Warwick Planning Department



should be approximately 5,000 square feet in size. The existing facility is approximately 4,000 square feet in size.

Fire headquarters is located on Main Street, in the middle of the Town's central business district. This presents certain problems in terms of traffic, ability to maneuver vehicles, and special problems such as needing to move out of the facility because of parade routes on holidays. The building, constructed in the 1950's is generally inadequate in terms of space, and is not well-designed for its purposes. Particular concerns at the fire headquarters include:

- Lack of office space; privacy of existing offices is poor.
- Dormitory quarters are small;
- OSHA violations in existing building;

The National Fire Protection Association "1500" program was recently adopted by the State, and is to be enforced by the State Fire Marshal's Office. This program requires the fire department to meet stringent standards in terms of fire station safety, equipment and apparatus safety and other elements.

The Nauck and Crompton stations are in generally good condition and adequate to serve the current and anticipated future population. The Phenix station is 100 years old, and is in need of major renovation or replacement.

The geographic distribution of the stations should be reviewed, particularly in terms of the response time from the main station to substations manned by one or two personnel.

- **Staffing** - As noted previously, there are a total of 59 fire department employees in the Town. Firefighters and rescue personnel are assigned to one of four platoons, with a minimum manning requirement of 10 personnel on-duty at all times. Personnel needs as identified by the department include a deputy chief, whose duties would include training, fire prevention inspection activities, relief in the chief's absence and other administrative duties.

- **Other Issues/Concerns** - Other issues which concern the fire department include the large number of old mill complexes in the Town, some of which are unused and present significant fire potentials. Traffic is also a concern, particularly during the PM peak hour. The Veteran's Square area was indicated to be the major problem. In addition, the need to maintain the housing stock up to building and fire code standards is critical, particularly in rental property.

**Libraries** - West Warwick is served by one main library, Champlin Library at 1043 Main Street, and one branch library, Crompton Branch Library, 1697 Main Street. Champlin Library is open 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday, and 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Sunday October to May. The library system is funded by the Town, State and private donations, and its activities are overseen by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Mayor and Council.

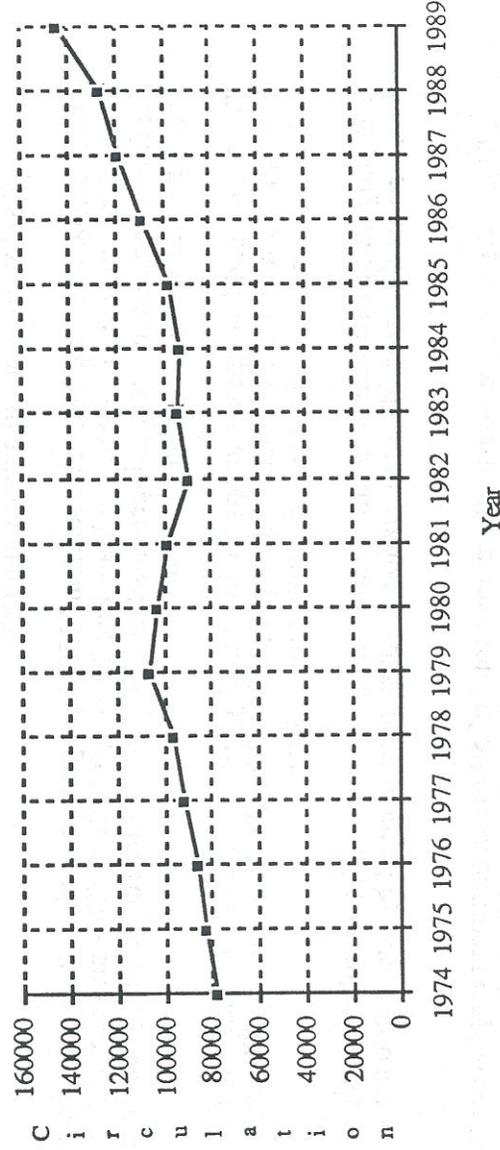
The Champlin Library is 10,000 square feet in size, and architectural plans are nearing completion for an 15,000 square foot addition to the library, as well as renovations to the existing structure. The new addition will include space for adult circulation, technical services, adult fiction, reference, a quiet room, public computer room, a machine room, and a community meeting room. The upper level will be for children's circulation. The Crompton Library is a



small structure built in 1875, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. Parking at Crompton is limited, and the branch is open three afternoons per week.

The library system has over 53,000 books, and nearly 2,000 other types of materials (recordings, video tapes etc.), and an annual circulation of 144,000+/- . There have been consistent increases in library circulation over the past decade (see Figure VI-2), with a 13.8 percent increase between 1988 and 1989.

Figure VI-2  
Circulation in West Warwick Library System, 1974 - 1989



Source: West Warwick Library Director, 1990

Lack of space has limited the programs the existing library has been able to offer to children only, including three pre-school story hours, two storytimes for two year olds and parents, craft programs, summer programs and other occasional shows and demonstrations. Over 2,600 children attended 121 programs at Champlin and Crompton Libraries in 1989.

**Citizen Survey Results** - The citizen survey conducted in May, 1990 indicated that 92 percent of West Warwick citizens rate the library system as good or excellent. This was consistent among all neighborhoods. The highest rating was given by residents of the Phenix/Lippitt area (87 percent good/excellent).

**Issues and Concerns** - The following issues and concerns were identified in discussions with the Library Director.

- **Facilities** - The addition to the Champlin Library will rectify the severe space shortage the library has experienced in recent years. The Crompton Branch Library presents concerns in terms of its size and limited parking area. The library cannot house a large collection, demand for use is low and hours are limited to three afternoons per week. The building is important in terms of its historic nature.
- **Staffing** - The library's growth in physical size will allow for larger collections and more programs to be offered. Staffing at present levels is considered to be barely adequate to serve current demand. The library system has the following employees:



- Professional Librarians - 4 FT;
- Paraprofessional Librarian - 1 FT
- Library Technicians - 2 FT;
- Library Secretary - 1 PT;  
FT - Full time, PT - Part time
- Library Aides - 7 PT;
- Library Pages - 2 PT; and,
- Custodian - 1 FT.

The Minimum Standards for Rhode Island Public Libraries indicate that the combined libraries of a town shall have a minimum of one full time staff member for each 3,500 population, and shall have professional librarians comprise at least one third of the full time staff. Based on a population of 29,268, West Warwick should have at least 8 full time staff members, and 3 professional librarians. Currently there are 7 full time library personnel, 2.5 full time equivalent personnel (10 part time), and four professional librarians. This staffing size meets the minimum required standards.

It will be difficult for the library to continue to provide the same level of services in a library which is 2.5 times larger than the existing facility. Needs are anticipated to include part time library aides, a full time library secretary and, in the long term, additional full time professional librarians.

- **Collections/Circulation** - The Minimum Standards for Rhode Island Public Libraries require that libraries serving a population of 21,000 or more shall have a minimum of 1.5 items per capita. The West Warwick system meets this requirement, with 1.8 items per capita. The library is striving to attain the American Library Association standard of 3.0 items per capita.
- **Community Growth** - The increased population of West Warwick contributed to the increased use of the Champlin Library. Many newcomers to the Town are veteran library users who expect high quality service. The present library system is open 67 hours per week (the most hours of any library statewide) to accommodate this heavy demand. The present library staff is not adequate to maintain this level of activity in the short term.
- The library director indicates that the influx of new residents of the community appears to be more well educated, and a wider number of ethnic groups are represented, including more Asian and Hispanic immigrants. The library is addressing the needs of these particular groups in terms of its collections.
- **Computerization** - The library performs its administrative, technical services and public information services using automation, and is a member of the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network (CLAN).

There is a need for direct connection to a central municipal computer system, particularly for budgeting and finance purposes. Presently, difficulties are experienced with the present system of purchases and coordination with the Town's Finance Department.

**Projected Needs** - Based on the above standards, the West Warwick library system meets current minimum standards in all categories, and will require moderate increases in staffing over the next 20 years. The library collection should be encouraged to grow larger than the figures shown above. Using American Library Association standards for book collections, this would equal approximately 94,000 volumes by 2000, and 96,000 volumes by year 2010.



A study conducted for the library in 1988 indicates that "the book collection size should be at minimum 100,000 volumes".<sup>4</sup>

Year	Projected Population (1)	Area Needed (Sq. Feet) (2)	Collection Size (3)	Linear Shelf Space (4)
1990	29,268	20,488	43,900	5,500
1995	30,692	21,484	46,038	5,755
2000	31,291	22,176	46,937	5,867
2005	31,680	22,176	47,520	5,940
2010	32,032	22,422	48,048	6,006
2015	32,387	22,671	48,581	6,073
2020	32,613	22,829	48,920	6,115

**Notes:**

- (1) Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning, 1989.
- (2) 0.7 square feet per capita, American Library Association.
- (3) 1.5 items per capita, Minimum Standards for Rhode Island Libraries, 1983.
- (4) 1 linear foot of shelf space per 8 volumes, American Library Association.

**Projects/Tasks Planned to Cope with Anticipated Demands - The Library Director indicates the following projects or tasks need to be completed or are presently planned to cope with anticipated demands on the library system:**

- **Short Term** - additional staff members, including part time library aides, full time library secretary.
- **Medium Term** - on-line database searches to serve the increasing sophistication of patron's needs, increase rate of growth of all library collections;
- **Long Term** - additional full time staff, including professional librarians.

**Schools - The West Warwick School Department includes four elementary schools, one junior high schools and one senior high school. The names, current enrollments and other information on each school is presented on Table VI-2.**

The total systemwide enrollment for 1990 is 3,955 students (See Table VI-3). Almost one-half of the enrollment is included in grades 1 through 6, some 1,907 students. Approximately 325 kindergarten, 959 junior high school students, 750 senior high school students and 14 unclassified students comprise the balance of the enrollment.<sup>5</sup> Enrolled students comprise 13.5 percent of the Town's population, a decrease from the 1960's, when students comprised nearly 15 percent of the population.

Trends through the 1980's showed an increasing kindergarten, elementary school enrollment, and junior high school enrollment, and declining senior high school enrollment (see Table VI-4). This is indicative of the number of new young families which have moved into the community over the past 10 years, particularly in the Crompton area, necessitating the construction of the new Greenbush Elementary School. Most of the construction in this area has been sin-

<sup>4</sup> Building Needs Assessment, Robert H. Champlin Memorial Library, West Warwick Rhode Island, Karen Ferraris Ribnicky, June 1987.

<sup>5</sup> Kindergarten includes 16 pre-kindergarten students, 293 half day kindergarten students, and 16 full day students.



gle family homes, with some condominium construction, attractive to young families with children.

Table VI-2  
School Department Information

Facility	Enrollment	Square Footage	Recreational Facilities	Comments
West Warwick High School Webster Knight Drive	1981 - 951 1985 - 818 1990 - 759	103,200	Football, soccer, track, softball fields, basketball, gymnasium	Computer labs
John F. Deering Junior High School Webster Knight Drive	1981 - 1,028 1985 - 947 1990 - 959	138,700	Shares above facilities, has own gymnasium	Computer labs
Horgan Elementary School 124 Providence Street	1981 - 639 1985 - 586 1990 - 619	59,800	Playground, combination gym/auditorium	Computer labs
Providence St. Elementary School 819 Providence Street	1981 - 353 1985 - 376 1990 - 311	16,400	Playground	Students also housed at Providence St. Annex, leased by School Dept. Computer labs
Quinn Elementary School 1 Brown Street	1981 - 734 1985 - 676 1990 - 693	48,800	Cafetorium/multipurpose room, playground	Computer labs
Greenbush Elementary School 127 Greenbush Road	1990 - 614	57,000	Multipurpose room	Built in 1989 Computer labs Limited outside play- ground space
Miriam A. Duffy Administration Building	1981 - 221 1985 - 177 1990 - NA	15,300	NA	School was converted to administration building in 1990

Source: West Warwick School Department.

The West Warwick School Department has prepared enrollment projections through the year 1993, as shown on Table VI-5. For comparison, projections prepared by the State Department of Education have also been included, as well as the State's projections through the 1998-1999 school year. Since both sets of projections were prepared prior to the 1990 enrollment, both show inaccuracies beginning in 1991, with the lower grades substantially underestimated by both the State and the School Department. Figure VI-3 shows historic enrollments and State projections for grade groupings in 1995 and 1998.



Table VI-3  
Student Enrollment in Public Schools, 1985-1990

Grade	1985	% of Total	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	% of Total	% Change 1985-90
K	254	7.1	248	255	270	256	325	8.2	28.0
1	302	8.5	343	358	344	383	366	9.3	21.2
2	267	7.5	271	284	301	287	328	8.3	22.8
3	253	7.1	268	270	304	307	299	7.6	18.2
4	282	7.9	239	283	268	317	303	7.7	7.4
5	251	7.0	316	243	294	291	325	8.2	29.5
6	242	6.8	247	318	239	297	286	7.2	18.2
7	319	8.9	311	298	356	299	344	8.7	7.8
8	276	7.7	282	272	290	328	279	7.1	1.1
9	323	9.0	307	308	267	272	336	8.5	4.0
10	337	9.4	348	325	330	306	327	8.3	-3.0
11	254	7.1	256	280	249	253	205	5.2	-19.3
12	212	5.9	221	226	248	224	218	5.5	2.8
Unc.							14	0.4	
	3,572	100.0	3,657	3,720	3,760	3,820	3,955	100.0	10.7

Note: Unc. - Unclassified students.  
Source: West Warwick School Department.

Table VI-4  
School Enrollment Trends, 1985-1990

	1985	% of Total	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	% of Total	Percent Change 1985-90
K	254	7.1	248	255	270	256	325	8.2	28.0
1-6	1597	44.7	1684	1756	1750	1882	1907	48.2	19.4
7-9	918	25.7	900	878	913	899	959	24.2	4.5
10-12	803	22.5	825	831	827	783	750	19.0	-6.6

Source: West Warwick School Department, 1990.

Continuing stress will be placed upon the Town's existing elementary schools, particularly the older facilities such as Providence Street and Horgan Elementary. State requirements and contractual requirements place significant constraints on class sizes, particularly for special needs classes. This makes it more difficult to adapt the older schools to the system's changing needs.

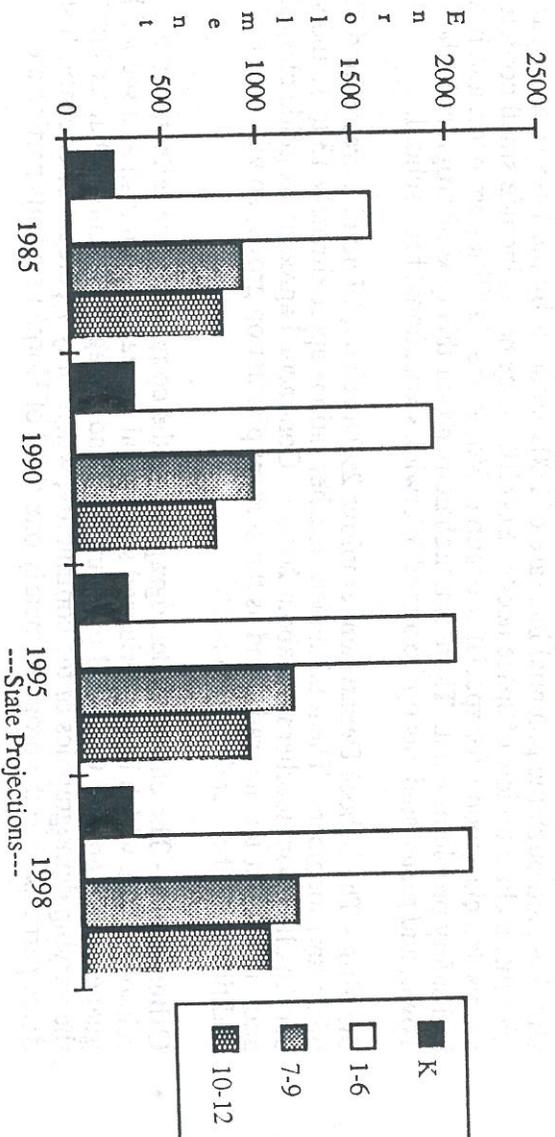
**Results of the Citizen Survey** - The citizen survey conducted in May, 1990 indicated a clear concern for the educational system in West Warwick. More than one half of respondents (from 63 to 76 percent) rated the schools good/excellent. However, in relation to other Town services, schools received less enthusiastic support from survey respondents. The elementary schools received the highest ratings, while the junior high school received the lowest. Residents of the Crompton area rated elementary schools highest in comparison with other neighborhoods, while Phenix/Lippitt gave elementary schools the lowest rating.



Table VI-5  
Comparison of State and West Warwick  
School Department Enrollment Projections

Grade	Actual		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	1990	WW	RI															
K	325	257	262	274	262	261	265	277	271	274	274	274	274	274	274	271	271	
1	366	348	355	355	355	379	386	366	382	374	382	374	378	378	378	378	378	
2	328	301	297	296	297	302	304	324	307	321	307	321	314	314	318	318	318	
3	299	333	331	308	331	302	305	312	332	315	332	315	329	329	322	322	322	
4	303	291	300	330	300	305	312	313	320	340	320	340	323	323	337	337	337	
5	325	325	337	311	337	352	363	334	335	342	335	342	364	364	346	346	346	
6	286	340	339	327	339	313	321	363	334	335	334	335	342	342	364	364	364	
7	344	356	349	414	349	398	404	385	436	401	436	401	402	402	410	410	410	
8	279	330	328	326	328	378	374	372	354	372	354	369	369	370	370	370	370	
9	336	282	264	341	264	337	308	359	357	340	357	340	385	385	354	354	354	
10	327	369	347	307	347	372	347	339	395	395	395	393	374	374	424	424	424	
11	205	230	233	286	233	238	226	271	264	308	264	308	307	307	292	292	292	
12	218	210	213	204	213	254	241	201	241	201	241	235	274	274	273	273	273	
Unc.	14																	
Total	3955	3972	3955	4079	3955	4191	4156	4216	4328	4379	4328	4379	4435	4435	4459	4459	4459	

Figure VI-3  
Enrollment Trends and Projections in West Warwick Schools



Issues and Concerns - The following issues and concerns are based upon discussions with the Superintendent of Schools, comparison of West Warwick to Statewide school data, and the citizen survey results.



- **Facilities** - During the next ten years growing elementary enrollments will place continuing stress upon the Town's existing elementary schools, particularly the older facilities such as Providence Street and Horgan Elementary. Requirements for class sizes makes it more difficult to adapt the older schools to the system's changing needs, and certain classes outside of the "core" classes, eg. writing, reading, math etc., may be sacrificed. Currently a large amount of space in the elementary schools is being utilized for purposes other than those intended, creating less than optimal teaching and learning conditions.

The School Department has indicated a potential need for a new 18-24 classroom elementary school in the Wakefield Hill area, considered critical due to the projected increases in population, the relative age of Providence Street School's wooden structure and the questionable long term availability of the leased Sacred Heart Annex.<sup>6</sup> There is a need to identify land in the Wakefield Hill area for a new elementary facility.

The Greenbush Elementary School is already at capacity after opening in 1990, and is using teachers work rooms as a special education classroom because of space shortages. No outdoor recreational facilities exist at this school, except the parking lot.

Quinn Elementary is now at capacity, and the central core facilities are too small to adequately serve the facility. No expansion on the site is possible.

The junior high school is currently experiencing space constraints due to class size requirements, and to the closure of parochial schools in the community. Alternatives which are being considered to alleviate this problem include the possibility of using the former St. James parochial school facility. The junior high school was poorly constructed, its open-classroom layout inconducive to teaching. The capacity of this facility is approximately 1,100 students.

The senior high school is not experiencing any particular space constraints at the present time, although the potential increase of 200+ students by the 1998 school year warrants a close review of space needs. Specific space needs include small conference rooms and classrooms for special education. Vocational facilities are poor, and health and safety problems exist. There is a high demand for this type of program in the Town, and many students opt to attend Warwick's vocational high school.

- **Staffing** - The School Department employs 290 teachers, 17 administrators and 100 other staff members. The total student-teacher ratio is approximately 13 to 1, and student to classroom teacher ratio about 20 to 1. Contractual agreements guide class sizes and the student-teacher ratio, and as the student population grows, so will the need for additional teachers and support staff.
  - **Other Issues** - The changing demographics of the community are reflected in the school system, which has experienced substantial increases in English as a second language classes and the Chapter I program for disadvantaged students. Chapter I reflects the varying demographics of the community, where only 7 percent of Greenbush students participate in the program, nearly one-third of Horgan students participate.
- The lack of a coordinated social service program to serve children and families in West Warwick impacts the school system, in that additional pressures are placed upon the system for assistance and counseling. The school system is currently addressing the

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<sup>6</sup> 1988-89 Annual School Report, West Warwick, Rhode Island.

needs of "At risk" students, those students who meet some or all of the following criteria: repeating grades, are deficient in basic skills, perform below grade level in most areas, earn consistently lower test scores, have poor study skills and work habits, are absent from school 20 days or more per year. At risk students are often older than the other students in their classes; are frequently discipline problems, are lacking in self-esteem, self-discipline and the ability to plan long- and short range goals, are more likely to be Limited English Proficient students, and are often from culturally, economically and socially deprived families. These students may be from families who relocate often, resulting in several school changes during the year, from dysfunctional families, from families who do not support education or from homes where either or both parents are working or there is a single parent.

At risk students are clearly a concern in West Warwick. In 1989, 41 percent of junior high students were absent 20 days or more; 41 percent failed one or more grades, virtually all of these students performed below grade level, and nearly all of these students can be identified as at risk through the above indicators and others not listed. At risk students are more likely to drop out of school, and West Warwick has a nearly 30 percent dropout rate from senior high. These individuals cost the community a significant amount of money in public assistance, job placement services, food stamps, police protection and judicial costs.<sup>7</sup>

**Education Indicators** - These are facts and figures which illustrate the school system's characteristics, from enrollment to test scores. They are especially useful for comparison with other towns or the State. The following illustrates West Warwick's standing Statewide for selected indicators:

Indicator	Rhode Island	West Warwick
Graduation Rate	76.8%	70.3%
Annual Dropout Rate <sup>8</sup>	6.4%	8.9%
Percent Public School Enrollment	85%	80%
Percent Non-Public School Enrollment	15%	20%
Average K-6 Class Size	22	24
Average 7-12 Class Size	19	21
Cost per pupil	\$5,373	\$5,015
Percent of budget from taxes	56.4%	46.4%
Percent of budget from State	39.1%	49.5%
Percent of budget from Federal government	4.5%	4.1%

West Warwick has a slightly higher level of dropouts than the State as a whole, and a lower graduation rate. This has been a longstanding trend in West Warwick, attributable to a large number of factors, including the socio-economic characteristics of the community. The Town tends to have larger class sizes, have more students in non-public schools, spend less tax money on education, and rely more on State funding than other school districts in the State.

**Senior Center** - The West Warwick Senior Center, while not a part of Town government, receives approximately one third of its operating budget from the community and provides a

<sup>7</sup> The West Warwick At Risk Task Force report, 1990.

<sup>8</sup> This is systemwide. Actual dropout rate for high school students is approximately 30 percent in West Warwick.



number of social services to local residents. The Senior Center essentially acts as the clearing-house for social services in the community, administering not only programs directed to the needs of the elderly, but also to families and individuals. Among the programs administered by the Center are:

- In-house meal program for the elderly;
- Meals on Wheels;
- Food vouchers ("Christmas Is" program);
- Commodity distribution (butter and cheese);
- Emergency shelter program;
- Housing placement and assistance;
- Fuel assistance;
- Assistance on completing applications for food stamps, furniture banks, prescription programs, etc.; and,
- Health services, such as blood pressure screening, eye screening, etc.

Three full time staff run the Center, including an Executive Director, Social Services Coordinator and Maintenance Person/Bus Driver. There are approximately 300 paid members who participate in the ongoing programs for the elderly at the Center.

The absence of the human services agency in the Town has placed an increased burden on Senior Center staff. An informal group, known as the protective services council, works on specific cases and addresses social service needs in the community. This group includes representatives from the Center, the school department, visiting nurses, Warwick Community Action Program (CAP), police and fire departments, food banks, furniture banks and others. Town residents in need of assistance are able to find help through this network of individuals and agencies.

**Town Hall** - The Town Hall is located at 1170 Main Street and houses administrative offices, records storage, and meeting space. Current conditions at the Town Hall are overcrowded, and a lack of space exists for storage, offices and meetings. The Town recently installed a wheelchair lift to meet disabled access requirements. Parking at the site is limited, with approximately 100+/- spaces in the parking lot and a limited number on-street spaces. There is little potential to expand parking or building on the existing lot.

**Civic Center** - Located on Factory Street, the Civic Center complex includes a large multipurpose building with permanent seating for 850 people, and an ice rink. Ownership and operation of the civic center were recently transferred from the School Department to the municipal government, and the Director of Parks and Recreation is now responsible for its everyday operations and maintenance.

Years of deferred maintenance have created a number of problems at this facility. Priorities for improvements in the next five years include roof repairs to eliminate leaks, gutters and downspouts, changing the heating system from electric to gas, constructing a new floor and re-tractable seating to accommodate additional patrons. A general cleanup of the facility is underway.

Currently the facility is used by recreational leagues and is booked for various shows and functions. There is a need to promote the facility to increase its bookings. Consideration should be given to a special events coordinator to promote and organize events at the facility.



**VI.2 Utilities, Solid Waste Disposal and Drainage**  
Municipal Facilities and services included in this evaluation are:

- (1) Solid Waste Management,
- (2) Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal,
- (3) Water Service, and
- (4) Drainage Facilities

These are municipal facilities and services that are integrally linked to public health and welfare. They are supplied through systems that require proper design and constant operation and maintenance; systems that must be able to respond to community needs by expanding or contracting as needs require, and doing so within the prescribed limits of their design, their natural resource base, and the regulatory environment established by local, state and federal governments.

Municipal facilities and services are conveniences that contribute to our community's quality of life and when system components do not properly function, or if they are incomplete, their inadequacies become inconveniences that detract from that quality of life. The maintenance, operation, and improvements to these systems are costly and on a community wide basis, they can be furnished entirely by the community or by the community and by individual homeowners and businesses.

The Town of West Warwick is an urban community that is approximately 70 percent developed and has an established infrastructure. West Warwick has a municipal solid waste collection system that collects household rubbish weekly. Pickup occurs in the backyards of homes or at curbside where many residents conveniently set their collectables. Commercial and industrial solid waste collection is the responsibility of the private owners.

A municipal sewer system is in place and is considered available on the townwide basis. New development is required by the Town to connect to the sewer system. The Town owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility that is currently undergoing an expansion program that will increase its capacity by fifty seven percent. However, the facility is being operated under the terms of a Consent Decree from the state Department of Environmental Management which mandates the Town to study and develop methods of significantly improving the quality of the effluent discharged to the Pawtuxet River. West Warwick is one of three communities required by the Department to improve its effluent discharge and the three, which include Warwick and Cranston, are coordinating their facilities planning in this effort. The entire community is provided with water service by the Kent County Water Authority. The Authority is a regulated entity that must receive rate approval from the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. In addition to West Warwick, the Authority's service area includes the western sections of Warwick, a western section of Cranston, East Greenwich, and Coventry. Some of the Authority's water supply is obtained from wells in Warwick and Coventry, but approximately 75 percent of the supply is from the Scituate Reservoir.

The Town's topography is dominated by the Pawtuxet River and several hills such as Wakefield Hill, Arctic Hill, Natick Hill, and Lippitt Hill. These hills slope down to the North and South Branches and the main stem of the Pawtuxet River. When the river was utilized as a primary energy source it was the focus of the Town's industrial development. The non industrial development evolved on the neighboring hillsides.

In some instances, this topographic characteristic of the Town has contributed to drainage problems within the Town. As neighborhoods developed, drainage systems evolved with the



development, sometimes without consistency. Now some local areas in Town experience flooding during intense rainstorms such as heavy downpours during summer thunder showers.

There also are drainage connections to the municipal sewer system that were apparently made in an effort to eliminate drainage problems. These connections contribute to the inflow and infiltration problems of the sewage collection system, and reduce the wastewater treatment facility's capacity to process sewage.

The Town now requires that new development be designed with appropriate drainage systems to prevent localized and downstream flooding. However, there remains a need to address problems that were created in the past and still persist today.

**Solid Waste Management** - Garbage collection is a municipal service provided by the Department of Public Works. The Department owns, operates and maintains seven (7) twenty-five (25) cubic yard garbage trucks. Solid waste is disposed at the Central Landfill in Johnston at a cost to West Warwick of \$14.10/ton in 1989-1990. There is no solid waste transfer station. The lack of this type of facility creates an inefficiency in the system as the relatively small capacity collection vehicles are required to make the long drive to the landfill. Eighty percent of the residents surveyed in May 1990 stated that the municipal garbage collection is good to excellent. Only 15 percent believed garbage collection services are fair or poor.

The Central Landfill in Johnston is scheduled to be closed in 1994, thereby eliminating the current solid waste disposal site for West Warwick and many other Rhode Island municipalities. Once the Central Landfill is closed, it is planned that regional incineration facilities will be on-line to accept municipal waste. This plan will allow West Warwick to dispose of its solid waste at the regional incinerator at Quonset Point-Davisville in North Kingstown. The cost is projected to be triple the current tipping fee at the Central Landfill.

West Warwick recycles and currently three trucks are operated by the Department of Public Works for the recycling program. This is the standard Rhode Island program that recycles aluminum, tin, newspapers, glass and plastic bottles. The Town currently is reimbursed by the state from the sale of recycled materials, but this is scheduled to end by the end of 1991, at which time the cost of recycling will be assumed by the Town.

There is no townwide compostable materials program but there is interest in establishing one. Ideally, a composting program would collect yard wastes and organic compostable materials and redistribute the "finished" compost to homeowners for gardening and to the Town for municipal use at parks. The Town has not located a site suitable for composting.

The municipal sewer department has a sewage sludge composting program whereby the sludge is mixed with "Bio-Ash" hauled in bulk from Maine. The Bio-Ash absorbs moisture in the sludge and deodorized it. That program has encountered regulatory concerns over the sludge content, but the sewer department has met the regulatory requirements and composting of sewage sludge is routinely performed at the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility. The end product is used at the central landfill as cover material at no cost to the Town.

The construction of a transfer station will improve the efficiency of the solid waste disposal operation. Currently the vehicles that provide neighborhood collection also haul the trash to the landfill. This results in added vehicle wear and tear and maintenance costs as well as "down time" relating to both maintenance and the time spent on the haul to the Central Landfill. Without the transfer station which can accommodate larger vehicles with a capacity of 30 - 40 cubic yards each, this inefficiency will continue when the Town switches to the regional incinerator. The Department of Public Works estimates that a transfer station with truck bays accommodating five vehicles will be sufficient to handle all solid waste.



Because of the anticipated high cost of disposal at the regional incinerator, it appears evident that the Town needs to implement the transfer station strategy, continue the recycling program and expand it to include yard waste composting and other items to reduce the weight of the waste stream being incinerated, and to continue the composting of sewage sludge. Final use of the composted yard wastes and composted sewage sludge needs to be evaluated. The feasibility of combining the two composted products should be studied. Markets for the product(s) or disposal options should be studied to provide the Town with a long term solution to disposal.

**Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal** - The Town of West Warwick is approximately 96 percent sewered. The sewage treatment facility is located off Pontiac Avenue in the Natick section near Route I-295 where the interstate crosses RI Route 2. The wastewater treatment facility discharges its effluent, currently treated to the secondary treatment level, into the Pawtuxet River. This facility is one of three municipal wastewater treatment facilities that discharges into the Pawtuxet River. The river is one of the most polluted waterways in Rhode Island.

There are approximately 90 miles of sanitary sewers in Town. These are separated from the stormwater drainage system, although there are reports of drainage system connections. The wastewater treatment facility has a design capacity of 5.0 mgd, but the facility has been operating at 7.0 mgd for more than a year. The peak flow design for a 24 hour period is 12.5 mgd.

It is municipal policy to provide sewer connections for all new requests, and because the system is extensive throughout the Town, there are basically no areas of Town that will remain unsewered. Public attitudes concerning the sewer system are generally favorable with 73 percent of the population, based on a May 1990 poll conducted by Alpha Research Associates for the comprehensive planning process, stating that the sewer service in Town is good to excellent. Twenty five percent of the population feel the service is fair to poor with the greatest level of dissatisfaction expressed in the Natick section where persistent odor problems exist at the treatment facility.

West Warwick is in the process of updating its Wastewater Facilities Plan as mandated by a consent agreement between the Town and the Department of Environmental Management. This plan will evaluate the use of tertiary treatment at the existing facility and at a regional facility shared with Cranston and Warwick. Tertiary treatment is an advanced treatment process that removes nitrogen and phosphorous from the wastewater. Another option under evaluation is discharge of the secondary treated effluent from West Warwick, Warwick and Cranston directly into the Providence River via a large collection pipe from the three wastewater treatment facilities. The plan will also study non point sources of pollution to the Pawtucket River. The current timetable establishes completion dates for the regional/local treatment plan study and the non point source study in 1991. The entire planning, design and construction process could take six to eight years, and therefore not be completed until 1996 - 1998.

The West Warwick sewage treatment facility is a regional service. Through intermunicipal agreements, West Warwick provides connections to approximately 100 residents in the Town of Coventry. Coventry is well along in its plans to begin sewer sections of Town, connecting to West Warwick, via the Maisie Quinn and Clyde interceptors and there are 2.5 million gallons per day reserve capacity established for that purpose. The Maisie Quinn Interceptor and the Clyde Interceptor and pump station are currently being improved. There also are connections from Western Cranston (i.e. Walden Woods and others); from Warwick on Route 117 (i.e. T.G.I. Friday's); and from East Greenwich. The regional allocations are shown on Table VI-6.



System connections outside the Town are assessed a one-time impact fee based on in flow and infiltration (I/I) estimates that there are 4 gallons of I/I for each gallon of sewage in the system. The fee is \$.90/gallon of groundwater. Treatment facility personnel estimate that there are 4 million gallons of I/I per day which eventually will be eliminated under the I/I reduction program (especially in Clyde and Crompton). This is a very large I/I flow and it is responsible for the flow at the treatment plant exceeding the facility's capacity. The extensive I/I is a result of old pipes that allow infiltration of groundwater and a number of drainage connections.

The treatment facility is being expanded to handle 7.89 mgd. Coupled with the I/I reduction program, the facility will be operating within design capacity by 1993. Expansion to tertiary treatment at the West Warwick facility is estimated at a cost of \$30 million to the Town.

Sludge from the treatment plant is composted and trucked to the State Central Landfill at Johnston at no cost. The facility does not accept septage, but it is planned for septage disposal when the expanded facility is completed in 1993. The anticipated fee is \$35.00/1000 gallons.

Current sewer use fees for the sewer service are a one-time assessment of \$65.00/\$1000.00 value of the property and a minimum fee of \$48/year. The annual fee is based on water use. The Town charges \$1.10 sewer fee for each 100 cubic feet of water used above and beyond the basic allowance of 3600 cubic feet for which the minimum fee is assessed.

Table VI-6  
West Warwick Regional  
Wastewater Treatment Facility Flow Allocations

Town	Average Daily Flow	Peak Flow
West Warwick	5,124,840	11,620,870
Coventry	2,250,000	5,360,000
Warwick	291,000	1,029,000
West Greenwich	133,950	518,880
Scituate	78,335	132,375
Cranston	11,875	46,875
Total	7,890,000	18,150,000

Source: Keyes Associates

**Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS)** - Because the municipal sewer system services more than 95 percent of the community, few homes rely on ISDS for wastewater disposal. During the five year period 1985 through 1989, a total of 35 applications for ISDS were filed with the Department of Environmental Management. Of these, 3 or 8.5 percent of the total were for repairs or alterations. All of the repair and alteration permit applications were in areas serviced by municipal sewers, but none were in close proximity to each other, with one in the Westcott Section, one on Arctic Hill, and on in Clyde.

It is state and municipal policy to require sewer connections whenever sewers are available. It is, therefore, not likely that new development in Town will be served by on-site disposal systems.

**Water Service** - West Warwick is serviced by the Kent County Water Authority, the regional water authority also supplying East Greenwich, western sections of Warwick, a southwestern section of Cranston, and eastern Coventry. The Authority's headquarters are on Main Street, West Warwick. The Authority has 8,269 metered accounts in West Warwick. Records main-



tained by the Authority are based on subsystems and average daily demand for the various political entities cannot be calculated, according to operations personnel.

The water supply is furnished from the Scituate Reservoir, one well in Warwick and three wells in Coventry. Peak capacity of the system is 25 million gallons per day. Average daily demand is approximately 11 million gallons per day. Seventy five percent of the supply is from the Scituate Reservoir.

The citizen's survey conducted in May 1990 found that approximately 25 percent of those interviewed have a problem with inadequate water pressure. This phenomenon was particularly apparent in the Crompton, Phenix and Lippitt sections of Town. Procedures for assuring that proper water supply and pressure are available for new development are contained in the Town's subdivision regulations which require a statement from the Water Authority as to the availability of water supply for new subdivisions. There are, according to Water Authority officials, instances in Crompton where developers failed to construct their projects in accordance with the water system needs. In some instances water booster pumps were not installed to assure proper pressure.

The Authority has a Capital Improvement Program that prioritizes projects based on their classification as (1) needed, (2) recommended, (3) contracted, and (4) systems (i.e. leak detection). There are 20 projects in the needed category; 14 are recommended, 4 are under design, and there are 6 system level improvements. The program for West Warwick is as follows:

#### **Needed Improvements**

- 600 ft. of 8-inch line in Youngs Avenue from existing main to Gough Avenue
- Replacement of 1200 ft. of A.C. pipe in Overfield and Crossland Roads
- New panel at Central Office

#### **Recommended Improvements**

- 5,800 ft. of 16-inch line in Maid Marian Lane and Cross Country from Green Bush Road to Crompton Road
- 5,500 ft. of 8-inch line in Crompton Road from existing main westward to a point in Arnold Road
- 10,000 ft. of 16-inch line in Shippietown Road and Crompton Road from Middle Road to existing main in Crompton Road

#### **System Improvements**

- Meter Change Out Program - replace all existing meters with new meters having an automatic reading and billing capacity.
- Leak Detection Analysis - program includes systematic listening of survey on hydrants, valves, silllocks, curb stop and water mains at intervals of 6 to 20 feet.
- Cost/Benefit Study - of the KWCA office and garage space on Main Street, West Warwick.



**Chapter VI  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

**March, 1992**

The Authority's wholesale rate per million gallons of water is \$433.14. Billings occur monthly, yearly or quarterly. There is a minimum charge per meter sizes. Annual rates are as follows:

	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Rates
For the first or less	50,000	0 to 6,666	\$38.50 + 0.08/HCF
For the next	300,000	40,000	.80 per HCF
For the next	2,650,000	353,333	.66 per HCF
For the next	7,000,000	933,333	.56 per HCF
All over	10,000,000	1,333,333	.37 per HCF

**Yearly Minimum Charge Per Meter Size**

Meter Size	Gallons	Cubic Feet	New Rates
5/8"	50,000	6,666	\$38.50 + 0.08/HCF
1"	61,702	8,227	49.74 + 0.08/HCF
1 1/2"	75,525	10,070	63.01 + 0.08/HCF
2"	89,340	11,912	76.27 + 0.08/HCF
3"	151,515	20,202	135.96 + 0.08/HCF
4"	203,325	27,110	185.70 + 0.08/HCF
6"	255,150	34,020	235.45 + 0.08/HCF
8"	289,695	38,626	268.61 + 0.08/HCF
10"	289,695	38,626	268.61 + 0.08/HCF

The Authority's Capital Improvement Program is essentially on hold pending a rate increase approval from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The current rate approved by the PUC does not allow the Authority to obtain bonding to pay for new capital improvements. This prevents the Authority from completing the improvements programmed for West Warwick.

**Drainage** - The Town is divided into five drainage watersheds and the drainage systems in each area has evolved over time with the development of the street network and associated land uses.

The five watersheds relate to the following principal streams and brooks in the Town:

- (1) Baker Street Brook
- (2) Cedar Brook - Hardig Brook
- (3) Hawkinson Brook
- (4) Natick Brook
- (5) Phenix - Lippitt Brook

There appears to have been no comprehensive plan or guidelines governing the construction of the drainage systems except that since 1971, with the enactment of the state wetlands statute, drainage has been increasingly regulated by the Department of Environmental Management. The current subdivision regulations require a registered professional engineer design the drainage system for new subdivisions, and it has been unofficial Town policy to require new system designs to accommodate the 2-year and 100-year storms. These designs are reviewed by the Department of Public Works and an engineering consultant to the Town.

Some neighborhoods are constructed without closed drainage systems. Areas exist where local property owners have instituted various patchwork and emergency systems that have resulted



in localized "cures", but have caused downstream problems. Other sections suffer from increased road runoff caused by widening roads, and other development which result in localized flooding. Significant drainage connections to the sanitary sewer system have been reported at Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings.

Another serious concern in West Warwick is the fact that topography and landform outside the corporate entity of West Warwick affects the drainage areas and their systems in Town. Runoff from Cranston, Warwick, Coventry, and Scituate can affect West Warwick.

### **VI.3 Build-Out Impact Analysis**

The land capability analysis and build-out for West Warwick, prepared by Albert Veri & Associates, Inc., for the Land Use Element, has been evaluated to determine the impacts of continued growth on the Town's solid waste operations, the municipal wastewater collection/treatment/disposal system, the Kent County Water Authority's water supply system in Town, and the municipal drainage system. The build-out analysis has concluded that there will be an additional 3,530 residential units and a total additional population of 8,825 persons as a result of full development of West Warwick under current zoning. The 3,530 units can be constructed on an estimated 523 developable acres. Another 133 acres (net) are available for industrial development and 23 acres (net) remain for business commercial.

The analysis is based on the assumption that household size will be 2.5 persons per unit. It is based on an existing zoning and known environmental constraints. Variations in household size and changes in zoning to allow greater or lesser densities of development as well as variations in the types of development can cause changes in the total projected new population. Moreover, additional environmental management restrictions can affect rates of development as well as net developable acreage.

The estimated new demand on municipal services and facilities will occur over a substantial period of time, beyond the 20 year horizon of the comprehensive plan and its five-year implementation program.

**Solid Waste Management** - There are currently 29,268 residents in the Town of West Warwick. According to the Department of Public Works, approximately 14,000 tons of solid waste are collected by the Town annually and disposed at the Central Landfill at a cost of \$14.10 per ton. The Solid Waste Management Corporation has established a 14,200 ton/year "cap" for the Town. All tonnage exceeding the "cap" will be charged at the commercial rate of \$49.00 per ton.

Based on the population size and the total annual weight of the waste disposed by the Town at the Central Landfill, the per capita contribution of solid waste is approximately .5 ton per year. The additional 8,825 persons added to the population will generate an additional 4,250 tons of solid waste per year.

**Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal** - For planning purposes, the volume of wastewater generated per capita per day is estimated at 100 gallons per day. This is a standard planning estimate and it is the same estimate being utilized for the wastewater facilities planning process that is studying the options for tertiary treatment. The estimated new demand, based on the total estimated population increase of 8,825 persons, is 882,500 gallons per day. Once the current facility expansion to 7.89 million gallons is completed in 1993, and construction is on schedule, and the 4 million gallon per day inflow and infiltration is reduced by 90 percent to 400,000 gallons per day, there will be ample capacity at the wastewater treatment facility to accommodate new growth in the Town of West Warwick well into the 21st



century, while also meeting the requirements of the intermunicipal agreements. This is shown in Table VI-7.

The future surplus capacity of 115,000 gallons per day will be the condition when the maximum population is achieved from the build-out and all of the reserve capacity allocated to neighboring towns has been used. This reserve is only 1.5 percent of the total capacity and is so insignificant it should not be viewed as an unused resource.

Table VI-7  
West Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Build-Out Impact Analysis on Average Daily Flow (MGD)

1.	Current Demand		
	a. Existing Sewage Flows to Treatment Facility		3.0
	b. Existing Inflow/Infiltration		4.0
		Subtotal	7.0
2.	Current Capacity		5.0
3.	Demand Surplus		2.0
4.	Future Capacity from 1993 Facility Expansion		7.89
5.	Future Demand		
	a. Inflow/Infiltration (with 90% reduction)		.4
	b. Town of West Warwick (complete build-out)		3.8
	c. Town of Coventry		2.25
	d. City of Warwick		.291
	e. Town of West Greenwich		.134
	f. Town of Scituate		.78
	g. City of Cranston		.12
			=====
6.	Supply Surplus	Subtotal	7.775
			.115

There should be opportunities to reduce inflow and infiltration by more than 90 percent of the current estimated 4 million gallons per day, while aggressive water conservation measures may reduce wastewater flows, particularly from industrial users. The impact of these measures could be significant. A 98 percent reduction in I/I could add 320,000 gallons to the facilities capacity. A five percent reduction in the per capita demand requirements could add 190,000 gallons. Combined, more than 510,000 gallons per day capacity can be preserved and utilized for a greater population increase than now estimated and additional commercial and industrial use.

**Water Service** - For planning purposes it is estimated that 105 gallons per capita per day in new water demand can be expected for the additional population experienced from build-out. This estimate includes all new residential, commercial and industrial water demand.

The A.D. Little report, Water Supply Analysis for the State of Rhode Island, estimates new residential water demand in the post - 1990 regulatory environment to be 42 gallons per capita per day. Utilizing past ratios between residential, commercial and industrial demand and including waste, less and other uses, 42 gallons per day per person residential demand translates into 105 gpd total demand. This assumes that all new building construction and building plumbing renovation will implement the current building code requirements for water conservation.



Total new water demand generated by the population increase of 8,825 persons will be 926,625 gallons per day for the Town of West Warwick. This is the total demand generated by the build-out analysis and it is not distributed over time. The actual impact on the Kent County Water Authority will be incrementally loaded on the water supply and distribution system over a period of decades.

The ability of the Water Authority to furnish supply to meet this increased demand is contingent upon two important factors: (1) the Authority's wholesale purchase agreement with the Providence Water Supply Board, and (2) the continued expansion and improvement of the Authority's distribution system. The Authority's management maintains the position that supply is available from the Providence Water Supply Board. Continued system growth construction of programmed improvements and maintenance of the Authority's distribution system, however, is limited by the retail rate allowed by the Public Utilities Commission. The current capital facilities program is stalled because the retail rate limits the Authority's bonding capabilities.

**Drainage Facilities** - The addition of 679 developed acres of land in the Town will potentially increase the volumes of stormwater runoff into existing drainage systems and into the brooks and streams of the five principal watersheds in West Warwick. The land capability analysis and build-out prepared for the Land Use Element estimate that this acreage will be developed in the following land use categories:

- Residential 523 acres
- Industrial 133 acres
- Commercial 23 acres

The current subdivision rules and regulations require drainage system design by a registered professional engineer. Unwritten policy requires that subdivisions of land have drainage systems designed to handle peak runoff from the two year and 100-year storms. System design for subdivisions and site development are reviewed by the Town Department of Public Works, a consulting engineer and the Soil Conservation Service. These reviews are coordinated by the Planning Department. However, the procedure and review criteria are not part of adopted rules and regulations.

The water quality aspects of stormwater management have become increasingly more important in recent years. Stormwater runoff transports sediments that are eroded from construction sites and a variety of pollutants from impervious surfaces such as roads and parking lots. Residential development can lead to increases in runoff of nitrogen from lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, white oil, grease, gasoline and metals are transported from roadways and parking lots. The direct discharge of stormwater containing these pollutants into closed drainage systems and into streams, brooks, ponds and the Pawuxet River results in lower water quality. Indeed, one of the components of the wastewater facility planning process underway in West Warwick, Warwick and Cranston is the determination of the impacts of non-point sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff.

New development in West Warwick should be designed to include stormwater management systems that control runoff flows from the two-year and 100-year storms as per current unwritten policy and to mitigate water quality impacts. This should be performed on site utilizing best management practices such as detention basins, vegetated swales, buffer zones, oil/water separators, and other techniques. These designs should continue to be reviewed by the Department of Public Works, the Soil Conversation Service and the Town's consulting engineer.

**Utility Corridors** - The density of development, residential and otherwise, in West Warwick makes it likely that existing development will be impacted by the location of new



utility lines through the community. Municipalities south of West Warwick still have much open land that will be developed in future years, and may require installation of new service lines passing through West Warwick from the north. The feasibility of placing such new utility lines in a common utility corridor should be examined, and the community impacts of locating new utility lines should be reduced to a minimum.



**VI.4 Goals, Policies and Recommendations**

VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
1. To provide police services which maintain or improve existing quality in the most efficient manner to meet the existing and future needs of West Warwick's residents and businesses.	a. Maintain and improve the quality of the Town's police department through increased staffing, raising qualifications for law enforcement officers, and improving facilities and equipment.	1. Develop an appropriate bidding system for repairs to police cruisers and replacement of cruisers on an annual basis.  2. Modernize the police department's computer system, preferably to a MS-DOS system compatible with Town Hall computer systems.
		3. Provide additional space for records storage coordinated with other Town departments' storage space needs. Ensure that records are maintained in a secured area.
		4. Maintain a suitable number of police personnel in accordance with population growth.
		5. Identify and secure an appropriate site for storage of felony vehicles.
		6. Study the needs and options for improvements and/or relocation of the police station.
		7. Explore options for increasing emergency services efficiency, including, but not limited to regionalization, and/or creation of a single public safety department.
2. To encourage use of the Town's library system by the largest number of residents possible.	a. Maintain the existing quality and strive to improve the caliber of the Town's library system.	1. Commission a study to examine the feasibility of closing the Crompton Free Library, centralizing library facilities at the main library, and combining the personnel of the two libraries at the main library.



**Chapter VI  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

**March, 1992**

VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		2. Evaluate the reuse potential of the Crompton Free Library building. Potential reuses include housing for the Town's historical archives and the historical society.
		3. Continue to provide support to the Champlin Library, including funding additional positions after the completion of the new addition and expansion of the book collection to at least 100,000 volumes.
		4. Coordinate the library computer system with overall Town system for budgeting and communications purposes.
3. To foster a cost and manpower-effective fire department which engenders the confidence of Town residents.	a. Maintain the existing quality of the fire department and work to improve the level of service provided by the department.	1. Renovate or replace the Phenix Fire Station.
		2. Evaluate the potential relocation of fire headquarters away from downtown Arctic.
		3. Review emergency rescue capabilities, and consider adding units and personnel where necessary.
		4. Expand fire department staff as necessary in accordance with population growth.
		5. Ensure that the Town's hazardous materials emergency response plans are up-to-date and that the appropriate Town departments, boards and commissions are aware of the plans.
		6. Explore options for increasing emergency services efficiency, including, but not limited to regionalization, and/or creation of a single public safety department.



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goals(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
<p>4. To support the continuing efforts of the School Department to provide the best education for all school age residents of West Warwick.</p>	<p>a. Expand the use of modern teaching equipment and provide up-to-date school buildings and facilities.</p>	<p>1. Review classroom space needs Townwide on an annual basis.</p>
		<p>2. Review the need to replace the Providence Street School with a new elementary facility within the next ten years.</p>
		<p>3. Review the availability of former parochial school space for Town use, through purchase or lease.</p>
	<p>b. Coordinate the financial resources to be used in the construction, equipment and maintenance of school buildings and facilities.</p>	<p>1. The Mayor, Town Council and Planning Department will work closely with the School Department, School Board and Superintendent to define the capital needs of the school system on a short and long term basis and develop a capital improvement program based upon the conditions of existing school facilities and projected enrollment trends.</p>
	<p>c. Encourage sharing of information between the School Department and Planning Department</p>	<p>1. Schedule regular meetings between the Superintendent's office and the Planning Department to exchange data regarding population projections, school bus routes, computer data bases, planned and potential residential development and other pertinent information.</p>
	<p>d. Ensure that new school facilities are properly located and that facilities are sited on parcels suitable for building, play area and parking space.</p>	<p>1. Consider existing and future residential development patterns, population density and growth, adjacent land uses and traffic patterns when selecting a new school site.</p>
		<p>2. Provide additional off-street parking at Greenbush Elementary School, and replace existing parking area with a play area for students.</p>
	<p>e. Improve the educational quality of the schools.</p>	<p>1. Upgrade the Town's vocational education facilities and expand training into technology-related fields.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		2. Improve curricula, expand programs for exceptional students, institute additional experimental programs and endeavor to reduce student-classroom teacher ratios.
		3. Evaluate the recommendations of the At-Risk Task Force of the School Committee as defined in the August 1990 Task Force report.
		4. Cultivate partnerships between local businesses, businesspeople and the schools.
		5. Provide the School Department with the resources necessary to decrease the dropout level from West Warwick schools.
5. To ensure that the citizens of West Warwick receive social services to meet their diverse needs.	a. Ensure the continuance of the Senior Citizens Center as a vital resource for the Town's older residents.	1. Provide an adequate level of funding to the Senior Citizens Center to ensure its continued operation.
		2. Schedule regular coordination meetings between the Recreation Department and Senior Citizens Center to expand recreational opportunities for seniors.
	b. Consider the establishment of a municipal human services department.	1. Examine municipal human services departments of other Rhode Island communities, determine the costs and benefits associated with such a program, and decide upon the establishment of a new department.
		2. Working with the various human services providers of West Warwick, develop a list of services, who provides the services and other pertinent information and make available as a pamphlet distributed at Town Hall, and/or through water bills etc.



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
6. To ensure that Town buildings and facilities are handicapped accessible, up-to-date and well-maintained.	<p>a. Consider providing additional space for more efficient operation of administrative functions.</p> <p>b. Continue to maintain and improve the civic center complex, and increase its earning potential for the community.</p>	<p>1. Explore options for expansion of the Town Hall at its current site, or at an alternative site in the Arctic area.</p> <p>1. Provide funding for the needed capital improvements at the Civic Center.</p> <p>2. Conduct a utilization study of the Civic Center to determine the highest and best use for the facility.</p> <p>3. Continue to promote the Civic Center to its maximum current physical capabilities.</p>
	<p>c. Ensure that the Town's computer systems are compatible and coordinated to the extent possible between departments.</p>	<p>1. Continue ongoing studies to upgrade and maintain municipal computer systems.</p>
7. To provide West Warwick residents with timely and efficient curbside collection and other methods of solid waste management to protect the health and safety of the Town and to reduce the volume and the weight of the disposable waste stream, minimizing the overall costs of disposal.	<p>a. Regularly review and evaluate alternatives for solid waste collection and disposal to maintain a cost effective and efficient system that includes a realistic and attainable mix of collection and disposal technologies.</p>	<p>1. Continue Townwide curbside collection of residential solid waste and recyclables.</p> <p>2. Work with the State Department of Environmental Management, the Solid Waste Management Corporation and surrounding communities to identify regional options for solid waste disposal after the central landfill closes.</p> <p>3. Develop a Townwide information and education program to promote recycling and backyard composting.</p>



**Chapter VI  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

**March, 1992**

VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		<p>4. Identify a site or sites for the construction of a solid waste transfer station and a composting facility to reduce the operating and maintenance costs of collection and disposal.</p>
		<p>5. Consider expanding the recyclable collection to include leaves, grass clippings and other yard wastes for a community wide composting program.</p>
		<p>6. Purchase a chipper for the Department of Public Works recycling program to chip brush and limbs and Christmas trees for composting rather than disposal at the central landfill or other regional facility.</p>
		<p>7. Evaluate the long term options for sewage sludge disposal once the central landfill requirements for cover material are fulfilled.</p>
<p>8. Provide a Townwide wastewater collection system and a regional wastewater treatment facility that meets the long range goals of community development while fulfilling the State Department of Environmental Management water quality goals and objectives.</p>	<p>a. To work with the system's users, regional partners, the RIDEM, and others as necessary to implement wastewater service and treatment programs in an expeditious and cost effective manner.</p>	<p>1. Continue the wastewater facilities planning process to meet the conditions of the Department of Environmental Management Consent Decree requiring stringent effluent discharge limitations.</p>
		<p>2. Continue to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) into the municipal sewer system to reduce hydraulic loadings to the wastewater treatment facility.</p>
		<p>3. Continue the use of development impact fees which are assessed to all new commercial development and residential developments of four or more units to help defray the costs of I/I reduction.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		<p>4. Disconnect stormwater drainage connections to the municipal sewer system to reduce hydraulic loadings to the wastewater treatment facility. Where responsible parties can be identified, require them to pay for the disconnection, and coordinate with the Department of Environmental Management to utilize the Aqua Fund to support this program where feasible.</p>
		<p>5. Complete the scheduled improvements to the Maisie Quinn interceptor and the Nauck pump station and upgrade the capacity of the municipal wastewater treatment facility to its 7.89 MGD design capacity.</p>
		<p>6. Upon completion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion, scheduled for 1993, implement a septage program that will accept septage from West Warwick residents, and establish a daily cap on the volume of septage to be received to protect the treatment facility's processes.</p>
		<p>7. Continue to require all new development in the Town to connect to the municipal sewer system.</p>
		<p>8. Maintain the existing negotiated reserve capacity at the Wastewater Treatment Facility to service regional needs but consider renegotiation of intermunicipal agreements to reflect the impact of implementing the recommended alternative for the requirements of the Department of Environmental Management Consent Decree.</p>
		<p>9. Evaluate long term alternatives for sewage sludge disposal, to provide the Town with disposal options once the central landfill's requirements for cover material are fulfilled.</p>
		<p>10. Continue to implement the industrial pretreatment program and expand the program to all businesses that discharge metals and/or chemicals into the waste stream that can disrupt the wastewater treatment process and/or cause exceedances of the wastewater discharge permit.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
<p>9. To assure adequate water supply and pressure to all residents of West Warwick and to all businesses and industry sufficient to meet demand, for the protection and promotion of the public health, safety and welfare.</p>	<p>a. Recognize that the Kent County Water Authority has sole responsibility for water supply and distribution in the Town of West Warwick, and work with the Authority through the Planning Board, Town Planner, Town Engineer and other municipal officials as appropriate, to coordinate Town activities with the Water authority's efforts to maintain, improve and expand the water system throughout the Town.</p>	<p>11. Participate in an intermunicipal commission or other form of governing body needed to oversee the construction and/or operations and management of the new regional tertiary wastewater treatment facility.</p> <p>1. Continue to work with the Kent County Water Authority to correct water pressure problems in the Crompton, Phenix and Lippitt sections of Town.</p>
		<p>2. Work with the Water Authority to promote water conservation in the Town, consider the development of a combined sewer and water billing system through the Water Authority's computerized billing system, and implement the installation of low flow water devices through the Building Inspector's office.</p>
		<p>3. Continue to support the Water Authority's efforts to upgrade the distribution system by replacing asbestos piping as necessary, improving the West Street storage tank and continuing the connections to the Wakefield Street storage tank.</p>
		<p>4. Continue to incorporate in the subdivision review process and the review of other development, a review and check-off for the water system designs, coordinated with the Kent County Water Authority, to ensure adequate supply and pressure to the new service connections.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
10. Provide the Town of West Warwick with a system of drainage structures which adequately carry stormwater flow to protect lives and property while meeting the State water quality goals and objectives for stormwater management.	a. To require proper design and installation of all new drainage systems, system retrofits and expanded systems consistent with the State's water quality goals and objectives.	1. Continue to require developers to install drainage systems for all new development.  2. Require drainage basin, subcatchment area and drainage system analysis and design for the two year and 100-year storm by a registered professional engineer, and require system designs to meter stormwater runoff at predevelopment rates.  3. Consider implementing an impact fee system to pay for improvements to the stormwater drainage system.  4. Strive to respond and correct problems reported with the stormwater drainage system on a timely basis.  5. Recognizing the water quality benefits derived from stormwater management, require the use of vegetated wetbasin stormwater detention ponds, vegetated swales and vegetated buffer areas to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts to ponds, streams and rivers in West Warwick.  6. Consider retrofitting stormwater detention basins in older neighborhoods to meter stormwater flow and to improve surface water quality.



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		<p>7. Require, by ordinance or regulation, review of all subdivision and site plans by the planning and public works departments to ensure that the drainage system designs are properly sized and that all appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls are designed for the project.</p>
		<p>8. Consider utilization of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service or other technical expertise for the review of complex drainage systems or other systems at the direction of the Town Planner or the Department of Public Works.</p>
		<p>9. Continue to monitor through the Building Inspector's office and the Department of Public Works site erosion and sedimentation controls and drainage system construction.</p>
		<p>10. Prepare a Townwide drainage system and stormwater management plan organized by watershed for the five principal streams and brooks in West Warwick: (1) Baker Street Brook; (2) Cedar Brook - Hardig Brook; (3) Hawkinson Brook; (4) Natick Brook; and (5) Phenix-Lippitt Brook. This plan will identify existing system deficiencies caused by various uncoordinated development and activities; areas or locations appropriate for water quality retrofits, problem sites and areas, including drainage connection to the municipal sewer systems, and prioritize needs for improvements. Priorities will be based on factors such as: (1) threat to public safety such as icing roads; (2) threat to public health such as flooding buildings; (3) threat to public and private property such as to cause property damage; (4) adverse aesthetic impacts and general nuisance; and (5) anticipated water quality improvements.</p>
		<p>11. Establish a local ordinance prohibiting homeowners from altering drainage systems without a local building permit and where required, a permit from the Department of Environmental Management wetlands section.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
		<p>12. Consider requiring oil/water separator's in closed drainage systems prior to the final discharge to surface water bodies from large impervious areas such as roadways and parking lots.</p>
		<p>13. Eliminate drainage system connections to the municipal sanitary sewer system.</p>
		<p>14. Negotiate intermunicipal agreements with Cranston, Warwick, Coventry and Scituate to assure that stormwater runoff from all development in these communities in the watersheds of the five principal streams and brooks of West Warwick does not adversely impact the Town.</p>
		<p>15. Require developers in adjacent communities seeking sewer connections in West Warwick to submit their drainage system plans to the Planning Board and the Town Engineer for review and preparation of an advisory opinion to the Town Council if the proposed development is within the watersheds of one of the five principal streams and brooks.</p>
		<p>16. Establish a drainage system maintenance program.</p>
		<p>17. Require full engineering review of State development plans, especially highway improvement and new highway plans to assure there is zero net increase in stormwater runoff in the five principal watersheds of the Town.</p>
		<p>18. Require property owners to maintain drainage systems serving commercial and industrial development.</p>



VI. Community Services and Facilities Goal(s)	Policies	Implementation Actions
<p>11. To preserve and protect the neighborhoods and the commercial and industrial activity centers of the Town of West Warwick from the unnecessary visual and potentially unhealthful disturbance of high voltage electric and gas transmission lines and all other utilities and the attendant disruption of the community during construction.</p>	<p>a. Consider as the first priority for corridor location those sections of the Town of West Warwick that are least developed, and require utility companies to exhaust their evaluation of the use of existing utility, rail and highway corridors such as but not limited to the Washington Secondary rail line, the existing utility corridor across Wakefield Hill and major arterial roadways.</p>	<p>1. Through the office of the Town Planner, require State and interstate utility transmission companies proposing to develop a utility corridor through or in West Warwick, to coordinate corridor analysis with the Town Planning Board and the Town Council, utilizing corridor planning goals, objectives and siting criteria that consider minimizing impacts on existing residential, commercial and industrial development, prime industrial locations, public schools, places of worship, hospitals, nursing homes, and other sensitive locations, while instituting maximum feasible mitigation of all social, environmental and economic impacts of the corridor.</p>

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8. Mr. Joe Ballard, Kent County Water Authority.
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10. Mr. John O'Hare, Town Planner (Retired 8/90).
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14. Mr. Tim Brown, Executive Director, Kent County Water Authority.
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21. Mr. Bernard Magiera, Director of Public Works (Retired).





## SUPPLEMENT F

### Town of West Warwick Comprehensive Plan *Updates and Amendments*

*Legal:* Chapter 42-11 of the General Laws established the Statewide Planning Program, Rhode Island Department of Administration

*Purpose:* To prepare strategic and systems plans for the state, coordinate activities of the private and public sectors within this framework of policies and programs and advise the Governor and others concerned on physical, social and economic topics.

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#### *Emergency Management*

The Town of West Warwick provides for emergency management planning and programming pursuant to the Federal Civil Defense Act, as amended. The regulations followed locally pertain to Title 44 CFR, Parts 302, Civil Defense—State and Local Emergency Management Assistance Program, and Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

The Town of West Warwick maintains and updates an emergency management plan under the direction of Chief Peter T. Brousseau of the West Warwick Police Department. The Plan, completed in 1988 provides organizational and operational concepts for responding to various types of identified hazards that may impact the area. Included are nine functional annexes which describe the emergency response functions. The Annexes are supported by appendices that enumerate hazard-specific responses and contain operational data on emergency personnel, facilities and resources needed to conduct emergency operations. Individuals and agencies assigned emergency responsibilities within the plan prepare appropriate supporting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), periodically review and update alert lists and resource inventories, and maintain an acceptable level of preparedness to implement their portion of the plan.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in the basement of West Warwick Town Hall, 1170 Main Street, which is supplemented by a mobile EOC located at the town's public works garage on Hay Street.

Shelters certified by the Red Cross are as follows:

- West Warwick Senior Center, 20 Factory Street;
- West Warwick Senior High School, Webster Knight Drive;
- West Warwick Middle School, Webster Knight Drive.

