

06

COMMUNITY FACILITIES + INFRASTRUCTURE

Petersburg provides and maintains exceptional community facilities, services, and infrastructure to enhance livability and promote a high quality of life for all residents.

**"PETERSBURG IS A
DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH."**

- Community Survey Respondent



06

INTRODUCTION

Community facilities, services, and infrastructure play an important role in shaping the Petersburg community. Educational facilities, like schools and libraries, drive the local economy by educating the next generation of the workforce. The availability of healthcare and community wellness outlets supports resident health, well-being, and safety. Infrastructure availability, including water, sewer, and stormwater management, is a key factor in where and how new commercial and industrial development occurs. Technological advancements in broadband, communications, and transportation open new doors of possibility for connecting residents with the world and bridging the digital divide.

The condition and accessibility of these and other community facilities and services influence the overall quality of life enjoyed by Petersburg's residents. This chapter articulates how Petersburg is meeting the community facilities, services, and infrastructure needs today and making wise investments for meeting the needs of tomorrow.



What does the community have to say about community facilities and infrastructure in Petersburg?

- 16.8% of survey respondents listed utilities and infrastructure as their top concern for Petersburg's future.
- 45.9% of survey respondents did not agree that trash and recycling services adequately serve the community.
- More than half of survey respondents do not feel that space and programming at community centers meets community needs.
- 66.2% of survey respondents do not agree that public school facilities are well-maintained.
- Over 80% of survey respondents say that more schools, libraries, and governmental buildings should be encouraged.
- 76.1% of survey respondents feel that public library facilities and services are meeting the community's needs.

CITY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The City of Petersburg is organized under a Council-Manager form of government. Seven elected members sit on City Council, representing each of the City's seven wards. An appointed City Manager oversees the City's daily operations, consisting of approximately 30 departments and 900 part- and full-time staff. Together, City Council and the City Manager are committed to transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance.

Keeping the community informed and engaged is an important aspect of transparency, particularly as the communications landscape evolves with new digital applications and technologies. The Public Information Officer keeps the community informed of important news through a variety of online, print, and broadcast platforms. Petersburg's website details information about City departments, provides Council meeting dates and agendas, and acts as a repository for City news and information.

Even so, 72% of survey respondents felt that communication and outreach efforts from the City could be improved. To

change misperceptions about ongoing communications efforts, the City can take simple steps to reach more residents:

- Maintain a robust social media presence.
- Revamp the City's website to make it more user-friendly and maintain updates on important announcements.
- Expand the online Geographic Information Systems (GIS) catalogue.
- Expand virtual/online service options.
- Engage with student interns from Petersburg High School (PHS), Virginia State University (VSU), and Brightpoint Community College (BCC) to help with marketing and public relations.



Keeping Up with the Latest City News

- Check the City's website at <http://www.petersburgva.gov>
- Sign up for newsletters through the City's Public Information Officer, and check out the City's quarterly paper newsletter
- Read press releases and news articles at <https://www.petersburgva.gov/1030/News-Media>
- Tune in to the City's government access channel – Channel 15 (Comcast)
- Follow the City of Petersburg on social media

EXISTING FACILITIES

The City of Petersburg owns nearly 100 buildings comprising more than one million square feet, including departmental offices, emergency response facilities, and schools. The Facilities Management Division of the Department of Public Works is the primary caretaker of these buildings and is responsible for the construction, preventative maintenance, repairs, and custodial services of City buildings. Ongoing funding and staffing challenges exist, as well as aging and outdated structures. Keeping the inventory of older civic buildings functional and relevant should be a key priority for the City, particularly for those that have local significance or contribute to historic streetscapes.

Petersburg does not have a standalone, official government complex; rather, City facilities are dispersed around Petersburg. The decentralized nature of essential City services and functions can make it difficult for interdepartmental collaboration and for residents to obtain the assistance they need. Additionally, many of these facilities are aging, creating safety concerns for employees.

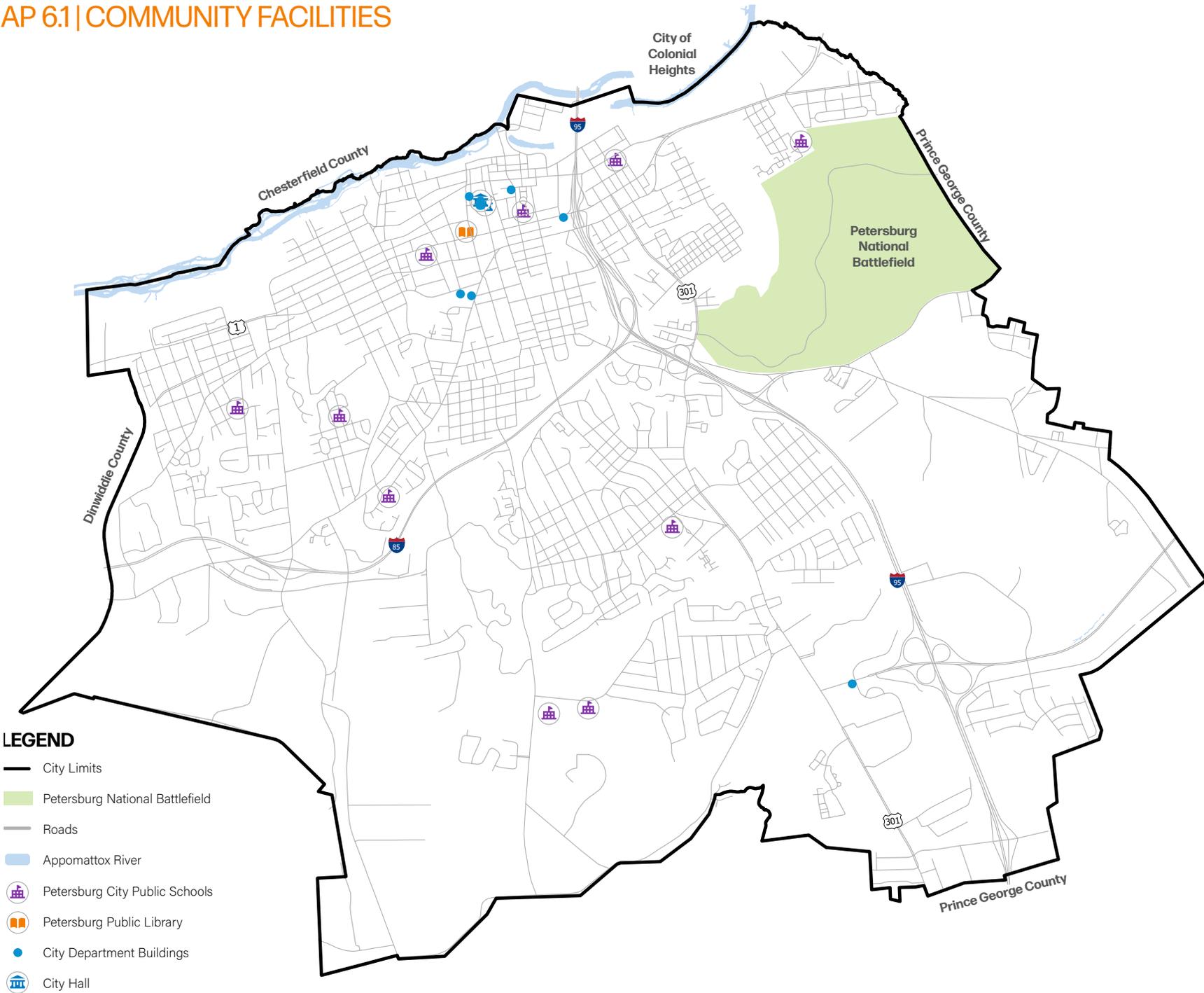
The City also owns a large number of vacant properties. Consideration should be given to the future of these properties, with a study necessary to assess key factors that will influence future investment, such as:

- Structural condition and historic preservation value
- Opportunities for repurposing buildings for government offices or school needs, with potential cost savings versus new construction
- Opportunities to preserve significant buildings in partnership with historic land trusts or nonprofit organizations
- Opportunities to convert unimproved space into parks, community gardens, event spaces, and other community-oriented uses
- Economic development potential; consideration of the Highest and best use as City-owned assets for lease versus sale for redevelopment and potential tax revenue

City-owned vacant properties may have untapped tax revenue potential. If properties cannot be repurposed to satisfy existing space needs for the City or its schools, there may be new revenue opportunities through the lease or sale of assets. Creating a regularly updated inventory or land bank would allow Petersburg to evaluate these properties to better determine future ownership and economic potential. However, historic and cultural sensitivities should also be incorporated into consideration if there is a risk of losing historic value to development.



MAP 6.1 | COMMUNITY FACILITIES



The City should undertake a **Space Needs Assessment** to develop a comprehensive and cohesive building inventory, and to “right-size” the number and type of City-owned buildings. Space Needs Assessments involve **collecting data on critical and resident-facing functions of each department to provide a better understanding of how City services interact with residents.** Since the population of Petersburg is expected to remain relatively stable over the next 20 years, the evaluation of this data can then be assessed for adequacy and plans for improvements outlined. Better understanding the spatial needs of City facilities and departments **will ultimately help to effectively program improvement through the CIP, ensuring that valuable staff and personnel resources are being used efficiently for priority improvements.**

A critical aspect of facilities planning is completing an inventory of capital needs and prioritizing improvement through a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CIP is a key method of municipal capital budgeting and is a recommended provision of the Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2239. The CIP is intended to be reflective of collaboration between the Planning Commission, the City Manager, department heads, and interested residents and community organizations, and is also required to include cost estimates and road and transportation improvements.

The City has adopted a CIP in the past but has not developed one in recent years; recommend reviewing and updating a CIP annually to position Petersburg for strategic and wise investments in its facilities and infrastructure.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Public buildings and facilities offer services that directly contribute to the quality of life for residents. These facilities include community centers and libraries, which contribute to the fabric of life in neighborhoods through providing spaces for residents to gather as a community, access educational opportunities and build life skills, and obtain valuable information on other community resources, services, and events.

Community Hubs

Community engagement feedback conveyed a strong desire for more facility space that is open during evening and weekend hours. As discussed in Chapter 5, Community Hubs are trusted gathering places that connect every member of the community to essential programs, services, and spaces that advance health equity, improve health outcomes, and enhance quality of life. In addition to recreation space, hubs may offer computer labs, maker's spaces, and gathering spaces to meet social and educational needs. Reimagining unused or underused City property into Community Hubs has tangible benefits to the fabric of a neighborhood and can

help to spark community revitalization. Partnerships with local nonprofits, churches, and civic groups can be explored to assist with long term operation and maintenance of facilities. There are also opportunities to explore public-private partnerships with businesses to serve as entrepreneurial hubs, or coworking spaces that encourage entrepreneurship and learning.

Farmers' Markets and Urban Gardens

Community facilities can provide valuable opportunities for residents to grow their physical, mental, and social health. In addition to community hubs and libraries, farmers' markets and urban gardens can be powerful catalysts for social interaction and community cohesiveness through bringing neighbors together, as well as for individual improvements in physical health.

Currently, Petersburg is served by the River Street Market, a non-profit year-round produce, artisan, and food market located in Old Towne near the historic City Market building. The River Street Market also operates a pop-up market at the Petersburg Public Library, supported by Petersburg Healthy Options Partnerships (PHOPs), and a mobile market operating on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Additional pop-up and mobile markets

could be held occasionally closer to neighborhoods and could be a good use for vacant or underutilized lots. Ongoing support for organizations such as PHOPs to expand mobile market services to low-income neighborhoods should continue to be a priority.

In addition to local markets, unused municipal lots in neighborhoods can be converted to community gardens by partnering with residents and local civic groups to oversee ongoing maintenance. The City should evaluate which vacant properties would be ideal for this type of use.



Photo Credit: River Street Market

Petersburg Public Library

The Petersburg Public Library is centrally located at 201 W. Washington Street in Old Towne and provides a welcoming and safe space for the community to access educational and informational resources, including reading materials, public computers with internet access, meeting rooms, and special events such as job fairs and educational seminars. A pop-up farmers' market is also located in the Library, providing the community with easy access to fresh and healthy groceries.

The Library was consistently stated to be one of Petersburg's most valuable assets during the community engagement phase of PetersburgNEXT. Between 2010-2019, the Library issued 26,964 library cards, added 53,973 items, checked out 1,004,131 items, and had over 600,000 visitors. Library programming also provides quality of life activities and important services for residents, such as yoga classes, a popup farmers market with fresh produce, and visits from the Sentara Mobile Care unit to provide health and wellness care, including medical care, behavioral health, social assistance, and financial support for Medicaid and uninsured community members.

Petersburg continues to recognize its public library as a strong community asset and can continue providing financial support to ensure the Library can continue to effectively serve and empower residents for generations to come.



Photo Credit: Petersburg Public Library

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is the circulatory system of a city. It provides the necessary ingredients to build the foundation of community vitality, such as clean water and the removal of waste. Good infrastructure gives a community what it needs to grow. Conversely, inadequate infrastructure can inhibit a city, keeping it from reaching its full potential, particularly if upgraded systems are needed to support industrial and commercial growth.

For Petersburg, quality infrastructure is critical to realizing positive economic development outcomes and supporting the everyday lives of its residents. By alleviating infrastructure bottlenecks and maintaining existing infrastructure to the highest standards, Petersburg will ensure that it has a solid foundation to build the bright future of tomorrow.

Water and Sewer

Water is provided to the City of Petersburg by the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA). The Authority was formed in the 1960s to own and operate a regional water supply and to sell drinking water to the Cities of Petersburg and Colonial Heights

and the Counties of Dinwiddie and Prince George. Water is supplied by the 3,100-acre reservoir at nearby Lake Chesdin and pumped to a nearby treatment facility capable of producing up to 95 million gallons of treated water per day. After treatment, finished water is fed to a transmission system and distributed into locally maintained water systems.

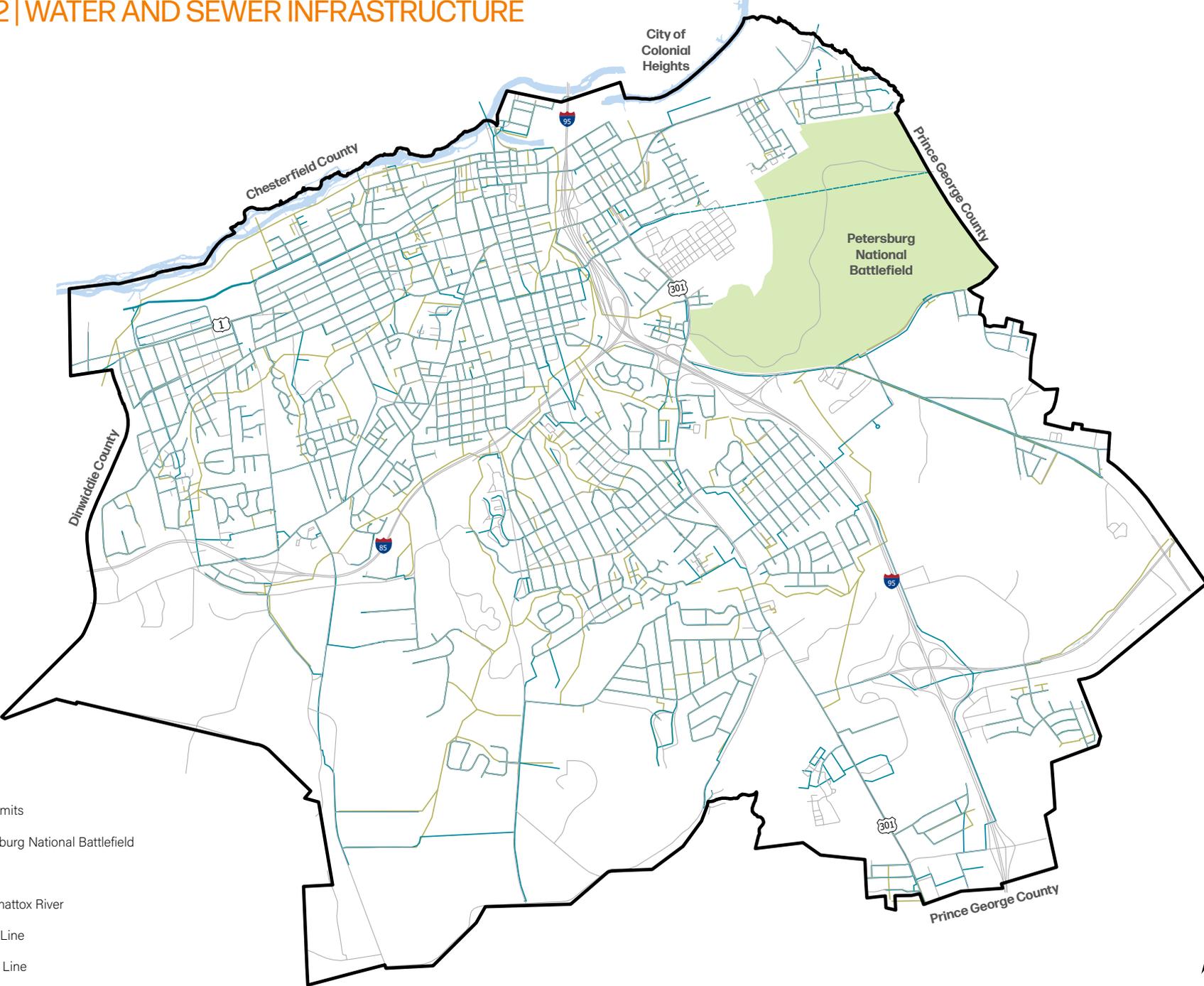
Wastewater is treated through an agreement with the South Central Wastewater Authority (SCWWA), which provides wastewater treatment services to Petersburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, and Prince George County. The SCWWA operates the wastewater treatment plant located east of Pocahontas Island on Magazine Road. The plant was originally constructed in 1955, with upgrades and expansions in the 1970s and 1990s, bringing the current treatment capacity to 20 million gallons per day. This treatment capacity is expected to be adequate for the City's immediate needs, but additional growth in the surrounding localities may require expanded capacity during the timeframe of this Plan. The SCWWA is currently undertaking a nutrient reduction project and additional improvements may be required over time due to increasing

regulatory requirements.

The local water and sewer systems within Petersburg are maintained by the Department of Public Works. The systems distribute approximately 6 million gallons of drinking water a day and collect 15 million gallons of wastewater, including wastewater from several neighboring jurisdictions and Fort Gregg-Adams. These systems are comprised of 1,400 miles of pipe and include six water storage tanks, 21 pump stations, and 1,375 fire hydrants.

Utility metering and billing is handled through the Department of Public Utilities. Components of the City's metering system are older and in need of replacement – particularly sewer lines, many of which are at capacity. This can also translate to inconsistencies and inaccuracies in monthly bills, creating a financial and time burden for residents. Additionally, much of the in-ground infrastructure is located on private property without easements, making access and maintenance difficult.

MAP 6.2 | WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE



LEGEND

- City Limits
- Petersburg National Battlefield
- Roads
- Appomattox River
- Water Line
- Sewer Line



The City of Petersburg owns and operates stormwater management facilities and **is required to have a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit to discharge stormwater into local waterways**. The specific permit is referred to as the MS4 General Permit and is issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 5-year cycles. The current permit **requires the City to develop a stormwater management program that addressed six minimum control measures**:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts;
2. Public involvement and participation;
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination;
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control;
5. Post-construction stormwater management for new development and development on prior developed lands; and
6. Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations.

Strategies to implement the permit's six control measures **should work in tandem with recommendations included in PetersburgNEXT**.

Operating and maintaining water and sewer systems is an expensive task. While not directly responsible for production or treatment, the City is a member of both the producing and treatment authorities. Given Petersburg's past fiscal challenges, special consideration should be given to maintaining an appropriate rate structure. In addition, funding is needed for improvements to the in-ground network. The City should evaluate the current rate structure to determine if it is adequate to cover the cost of providing these services, especially in light of increasing costs caused by recent inflation, materials scarcities, and deferred maintenance.

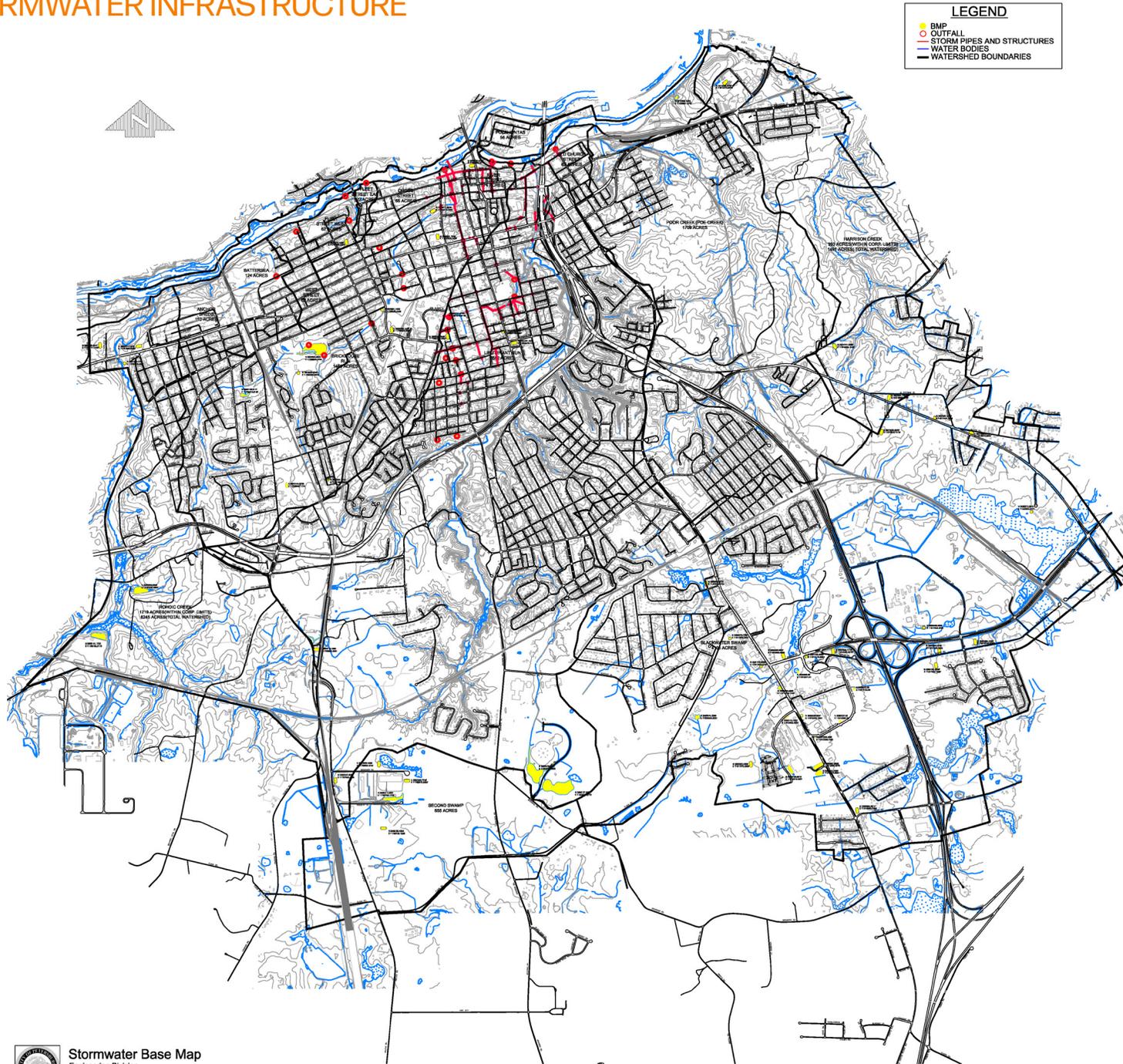
Stormwater

In April 2013, City Council adopted the Stormwater Utility Ordinance. This ordinance instituted an impervious area-based fee on all properties within the City and created a dedicated funding stream to address stormwater needs. Previously, funding stormwater improvements through General Fund revenue had caused a backlog of projects as stormwater competed with other needs. The ordinance created an average monthly fee of \$3.75 and was estimated to generate \$1,148,000 in annual revenue. This funding was estimated to provide for a Level of Service 3, which allowed for compliance with State regulations and some partial CIP

implementation. The fee and level of service should be reevaluated in five-year cycles to align with review of the MS4 and VPDES permit, with potential fee increases going toward ongoing system improvements.

Most existing stormwater infrastructure is in or adjacent to Old Towne. Future study and consideration should be given to installing drainage in other areas of the City, particularly in denser residential neighborhoods. This will work to reduce spot flooding and ponding issues in these areas, result in less required maintenance of roadways, and generally improve conditions in residential neighborhoods.

MAP 6.3 | STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE



Solid Waste

Petersburg is a member of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA), which oversees solid waste management for the region. Curbside collection to approximately 11,000 households and small businesses is provided privately through a contract. Larger commercial waste is collected under private contracts between businesses and private collection firms. Residents are provided with refuse as well as recycling bins. Petersburg produces approximately 14,000 tons of waste annually.

As of 2019, there were nine permitted landfills being operated within the Authority's coverage area. The Tri-Cities Regional Landfill, a privately-owned facility located in Petersburg, and the previous destination for most solid waste from the City, was shut down by the state in 2019 for violations. Since this time, Petersburg's solid waste has been transferred to a facility in Lunenburg County. The CVWMA's 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan determined that, while existing landfills within the CVWMA's coverage area were becoming full, there was sufficient capacity in the nearby landfills to accommodate the region's needs through 2039.

Like water and sewer, the City may wish to

evaluate the current rate and fee structure to ensure that solid waste and recycling operations are not a net-revenue loss affecting the City's bottom line. Another way to reduce costs is through strategies that reduce the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of. Such strategies could include "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" promotional campaigns to raise awareness of how household choices impact the waste stream. The City could also consider a grant program for municipal backyard composters, or taxes and ordinances aimed at reducing plastic bag use.

Community Infrastructure and Economic Development

To realize sustainable growth in economic development – particularly large industry and pharmaceutical-oriented uses – and living-wage jobs, the City's economic development sites such as the 200-acre Petersburg Industrial Park must have the infrastructure to meet the demands of industry. Utilities such as water, sewer, internet, and stormwater management must be in place to attract future industries and to sustain operations. The lack of infrastructure in areas targeted for future economic growth becomes an impediment to development and a headwind to Petersburg realizing its full potential.



Keeping Petersburg Clean and Beautiful

Through the Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Spot programs, **caring citizens** take part in **preserving and maintaining streets** throughout Petersburg. A wide range of community organizations, civic groups, businesses, schools, and churches adopt sections of road in or near their communities and **remove litter from those segments at least four times a year for a minimum of two years.**

The **benefits** of these programs include:

1. Serving as an educational tool against littering
2. Contributing to the City's commitment to create a more livable and sustainable community
3. Helping advance tourism, development, and quality of life for the community by improving the appearance of our area
4. Saving taxpayer dollars by performing a valuable public service on a volunteer basis

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Healthcare

Healthcare is a key component of supporting individual health and building a high quality of life for the community overall. The need for expanded primary and urgent care options – especially for veterans, older adults, and the uninsured – was stated to be a high priority for the community during the engagement phase of PetersburgNEXT.

Petersburg is an excellent position to leverage medical care due to recent momentum in public-private partnerships, employment growth in the Health Care sector, and renewed energy towards improving its health rankings. Petersburg should continue to recognize the provision of primary medical care as a vital community service that enhances livability and provides individual stability.

Partnerships have been important in providing medical care to the community in innovative, low-cost ways. The Crimson Clinic operates in public school system thanks to local partnerships with Central Virginia Health Services (CVHS) – which also operates an additional school-based health center and an addiction recovery center – and provides free services to

public school students and their families. Another example of a strong public-private partnership is the Sentara Mobile Care clinic at the Petersburg Public Library. The clinic provides health and wellness care to residents in a convenient location. In addition, such mobile clinics can extend services to populations that may have a difficult time obtaining quality health care, such as the uninsured. Mobile clinics can also offer social assistance and financial support, as well as behavioral health care and education.

Thanks to strong public-private partnerships, the Virginia Community Resource Center (VCRC) opened in Old Towne Petersburg in spring 2023. VCRC is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 22 W. Washington Street.



Photo Credit: Central Virginia Health Services



What is Health Literacy?

According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), health literacy is **the extent to which individuals can find, understand, and use information and services to inform decision-making for their personal health and the health of their families**. Individuals with low health literacy are more likely to have hospital stays, have higher mortality rates, and are less likely to follow treatment plans from a doctor or other medical professional.

Low health literacy is generally linked to lower income levels and lower rates of social connectivity (National Institute of Health). Fostering **a community that supports and values high personal health literacy** is therefore an important and positive step in **building a more equitable Petersburg**.

Petersburg can be a cohesive community that **works together to grow health literacy** through coordinated partnerships, consistent and understandable messaging, and intergenerational outreach through public schools or faith-based groups.

Other innovative options to assist residents in obtaining health care could be working with providers to offer telehealth or recurring pop-up services at community hubs. Telehealth can provide remote access to providers in areas where they have no physical presence, as care is provided through video conferencing and can allow patients to see specialists they might not otherwise have access to. Pop-up services can help facilitate the provision of routine care such as physical exams, dental exams, as well as screenings for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and mental disorders.

The City should continue its efforts to ensure that all residents have access to healthcare by educating residents about their insurance options. Those who are uninsured may have access to Medicare or Medicaid or may be able to access insurance through the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. Petersburg could undertake educational outreach through City services such as the Library, sports program for young people, or even including announcements on monthly utility bills to help make residents aware of these programs. Mobile sign-up clinics are another great way to help residents get the access they deserve, particularly when held at community or school events such as Back to School Night.

Social Services

The Petersburg Department of Social Services (DSS) has the mission of providing quality services to community members that will promote self-sufficiency, responsibility, and safety. DSS provides valuable assistance to over 21,000 Petersburg residents through administering self-sufficiency services, family services, children's services, and benefit programs.

DSS' caseload has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, creating challenges for a staff of just over 100. Greater collaboration through private-public partnerships will be transformative in alleviating caseload for DSS employees and providing more specialized assistance for residents. A comprehensive informational clearinghouse made available both on the City website and as a paper copy would also facilitate the process of information sharing, promote an evenly distributed caseload between DSS and other service providers, and help increase health literacy in Petersburg.

Broadband

The value of high-speed internet access was made critically important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reliable household internet access opens doors to residents for learning, working from home, entertainment, and accessing valuable financial assistance and resources. Without high-speed internet, residents can be left behind on the wrong side of the “digital divide.”

Several cable, wireless, and telecommunications companies currently offer broadband internet access in Petersburg. However, many of these services are not high-speed or as consistent as services offered elsewhere. For example, Verizon’s FIOS service is only available in a few areas of the City. Petersburg should initiate a dialogue with providers to encourage additional service to more areas of the city. In addition to expanding coverage, work should be done to encourage service affordability. Encouraging competition will also help to keep prices to consumers affordable. Grant funding to support upgrades to existing service and provide for service expansion in underserved or unserved areas should be pursued.

One way of helping provide universal broadband access is through using City-owned streetlights or structures to collocate technology to support Wi-Fi and 5G. Several private organizations provide grant programs and financial assistance to install upgrades; the City should begin by evaluating the feasibility of implementing this type of infrastructure and explore potential assistance accordingly.

The digital divide is the gap that exists between those who do and do not have access to modern information and communication technologies, such as internet access through smart phones, computers, or tablets. The digital divide creates inequality around access to information and resources.

Vehicle Electrification and Charging Infrastructure

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric vehicles (EVs) accounted for 4.6% of all new vehicle sales in the nation in 2021. This number is expected to increase to between 40% and 50% by 2030. As the transition from gasoline to electrification occurs, infrastructure will need to adapt to meet changing needs. Many gas stations are beginning to offer charging stations in addition to traditional gasoline pumps.

One of the benefits of adding charging infrastructure is that vehicle charging currently takes much longer than filling it up with gasoline, thus producing a larger set of potential customers for a business. This effect could also be realized in strategic parts of the city such as Old Towne, near the entrance to Fort Gregg-Adams, and in the Crater Road commercial district to generate additional revenue. The Sheetz on Wagner Road is an example of one local business that has recently installed Tesla Charging stations. The City should review site plan and zoning regulations to determine if charging stations should be required as part of certain uses or otherwise encouraged through some kind of incentive or benefit.

Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS)

Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS) is dedicated to excellence in education and has a mission of developing “21st-century citizens able to effectively collaborate, communicate and innovate.” The system is comprised of seven schools, one early childhood center, and one alternative program for a total student enrollment of 4,045 as of 2023.

In 2016, PCPS entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Virginia Board of Education. The purpose of this MOU was to assist PCPS in obtaining full accreditation for all schools. As of the 2022-2023 school year, all schools are now accredited. Maintaining accreditation should be the top priority for PCPS; capital improvements which assist in meeting this goal should be pursued accordingly.

Innovate 2022, the PCPS strategic plan, focuses on instruction-based strategies, which are the purview of the School Board and its staff. PCPS also submits an annual capital improvement plan (CIP) as part of the budget process. Currently, most capital projects undertaken by PCPS are maintenance oriented. These include new roofing for several schools, track and field improvements, HVAC



Petersburg City Public Schools



**Cool Spring
Elementary
School**



**Lakemont
Elementary
School**



**Pleasants Lane
Elementary
School**



**Walnut Hill
Elementary
School**



**6th Grade
Academy at
Blandford**



**Vernon Johns
Middle School**



**Petersburg High
School**



**Westview Early
Childhood
Education
Center**



**Pittman
Academy**

related items, and school buses. The 2021 Facility Evaluation and Efficiency Review, conducted between PCPS and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), identified recommendations for capital projects to improve efficiency and safety in operations at all City public schools. While the study did not find a need to provide additional classroom spaces or alter grade structures due to an ongoing decline in student enrollment, several capital projects were recommended as high priorities at all PCPS facilities, including ADA accessibility at playgrounds and bathrooms, safety and vehicular circulation, interior lighting upgrades, and HVAC replacement. The PCPS CIP for fiscal years 2023-2027 allocates funding for priority improvements based on these recommendations.



Table 6.2 | Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS) Capital Improvement Plan, FY 2023-2027

Fiscal Year	Improvement	Location	Cost	Description
2023-24	Parent Drop Off Loop	Westview Early Childhood Education Center	\$262,000	Safety improvements to establish a safe parent drop off area.
	Roof Replacement	Westview Early Childhood Education Center	\$350,000	Roof leak repair.
	Window Replacement	Cool Spring ES	\$356,000	Energy efficient window replacement; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	New Ceiling & Lighting	Cool Spring ES	\$35,000	Energy efficient lighting & ceiling replacement; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	Roof Replacement	Lakemont ES	\$350,000	Roof leak repair; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	New School Construction	Westview/Walnut Hill ES Replacement	\$26,600,000	A new building is proposed to consolidate two aging school buildings.
2024-25	Repoint/Repair/Replace Brickwork	Walnut Hill ES	\$150,000	Brick and mortar repair.
	Bathroom Upgrade	Walnut Hill ES	\$36,000	ADA upgrades and enhancements; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	New Ceiling & Lighting	Lakemont ES	\$35,000	Energy efficient lighting & ceiling replacement; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	Window Replacement	Lakemont ES	\$266,400	Energy efficient window replacement; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	Field House	Petersburg HS	\$1,200,000	New field house to increase functionality of activities.
2025-26	Roof Replacement	Vernon Johns MS	\$350,000	Roof leak repair; includes ESSER Grant funding.
	Roof Replacement	Cool Spring ES	\$350,000	Roof leak repair; includes ESSER Grant funding.
2026-27	Replacement School Bus	PCPS Transportation Dept.	\$103,000	Replacement of older bus.
	New Ceiling & Lighting	Pleasants Lane ES	\$35,000	Energy efficient lighting & ceiling replacement; includes ESSER Grant funding.



Governor's Schools

The **Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology (ARGS)** opened in the old Petersburg High School in 1999, and offers six focus areas: theatre arts, musical arts, visual arts, dance, literary arts, and technology. ARGS **provides advanced instruction to gifted and talented students** with a curriculum in their chosen area of study that would not otherwise be available generally.

Students who participate in **Virginia's Summer Residential Governor's Schools** return in the fall with new experiences to share with their teachers and classmates, and teachers who serve as instructors for Summer Residential Governor's Schools **acquire new skills for working with academically advanced students, providing expanded knowledge and content.**

Schools are integral in fostering community identity by serving as centralized gathering places. Currently, PCPS allows third-party groups to use its facilities with advance permission. However, greater public access to school property should be encouraged. Envisioning schools to serve a dual purpose as community centers weaves them more tightly into the fabric of the community and produces safe spaces for students to learn and thrive outside the classroom. While prioritizing maintenance and enhancement for the core function of K-12 education, strategies and capital projects can also be designed to include items intended for extracurricular activities. Examples such as holding community meetings at schools, keeping playgrounds and fields open to the public at nights and on weekends, and allowing some access to computer labs and maker spaces are all ideas that can help advance synergy between neighborhoods and schools, and help schools be seen as places for continued life-long learning.

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Petersburg fosters and maintains many partnerships and initiatives with other organizations. These organizations all provide valuable community services and maintain an important physical presence in service provision to the community. Continuing to work with these groups, among others, is necessary to provide quality community services to the public:

- Bon Secours
- Central Virginia Health Services (CVHS)
- Communities in Schools (CIS) of Petersburg
- Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC)
- Dominion Energy
- Petersburg Career and Technical Education
- Petersburg Healthy Options Partnerships (PHOPs)
- South Central Wastewater Authority (SCWWA)

Strengthening Infrastructure and Services to Build a Stronger Petersburg

Goal Statement: Petersburg will provide and maintain exceptional community facilities, services, and infrastructure to enhance livability and promote a high quality of life for all residents.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>6.1 Continue a demonstrated commitment to transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance.</p>	<p>6.1.1: Expand and improve external government communications through maintaining a robust social media presence and revamping the City website to maintain regular updates on important announcements.</p>
	<p>6.1.2: Enhance interdepartmental communication across City government as well as between the various public boards and City Council.</p>
	<p>6.1.3: Explore the feasibility of creating a centralized government complex.</p>
	<p>6.1.4: Continue to seek community input on service needs and priorities to ensure equitable investment in infrastructure and facilities.</p>
<p>6.2 Offer City facilities that are efficient, effective, and meet the needs of residents and businesses.</p>	<p>6.2.1: Develop a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) as recommended by Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2239; review annually to monitor progress and update with emerging needs.</p>
	<p>6.2.2: Perform a Space Needs Assessment to determine and prioritize the needs of City departments and facilities.</p>
	<p>6.2.3: Inventory and assess unused City-owned land and parcels to determine optimal uses for City services and/or redevelopment opportunities.</p>

Objectives	Strategies
<p>6.3 Maintain functional water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure to support residential and business development.</p>	6.3.1: Develop comprehensive water, sewer, and stormwater improvement strategic plans to determine the highest priority needs for investment.
	6.3.2: In partnership with Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC), develop a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) database and map for water, sewer, and stormwater systems.
	6.3.3: Upgrade stormwater infrastructure in dense residential neighborhoods with histories of spot flooding and ponding issues.
	6.3.4: Assess utility needs in areas targeted for future commercial and industrial development, such as industrial parks.
	6.3.5: Apply for state and federal grant programs to help address vital water, sewer, and stormwater improvements.
<p>6.4 Expand educational opportunities for residents through support of modern technology, Petersburg City Public School facilities, and community spaces.</p>	6.4.1: Continue financial support of the Petersburg Public Library to maintain and grow the space as a valued center of community and learning.
	6.4.2: Pursue grant funding to support upgrades to existing broadband and cell service and expansion of broadband in unserved areas to ensure universal access.
	6.4.3: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to require or incentivize electric car charging stations in commercial, industrial, and/or mixed-use districts.
	6.4.4: Support PCPS in their efforts to maintain accreditation for all schools, and pursue capital improvements which assist in developing high-quality learning environments.
	6.4.5: Encourage the use of PCPS facilities after-hours to provide safe, neighborhood-oriented space for education, recreation, and socialization.
	6.4.6: Continue to monitor student enrollment to ascertain short-term and long-term needs of students.

Objectives	Strategies
<p>6.5 Recognize the relationship between high-quality community facilities and infrastructure and overall health, wellness, and quality of life.</p>	6.5.1: Improve collaboration between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and regional organizations to alleviate caseload and provide more specialized assistance for residents.
	6.5.2: Create a comprehensive informational clearinghouse available both online and as a paper copy that provides a comprehensive list of available health and human services resources in the Tri-Cities region.
	6.5.3: Continue support of the Adopt-a-Spot, Adopt-a-Street, and Don't Trash Petersburg programs.
	6.5.4: Support educational campaigns and marketing efforts to reduce solid waste flow and encourage household recycling and sustainability.
	6.5.5: Explore programs to fund the placement of additional waste receptacles around Old Towne.
	6.5.6: Promote urban gardens and small-scale agriculture by allowing unused City-owned property to be used for community gardens.
	6.5.7: Through partnerships, encourage new pop-up Farmers Markets in neighborhoods or at community hubs.
	6.5.8: Support primary and urgent medical care land uses in and around the Old Towne, South Crater Road, and Blandford areas.
	6.5.9: Continue partnerships with Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Central Virginia Health Services (CVHS), and other regional organizations to identify community health needs and provide equitable and reliable medical care.
	6.5.10: Evaluate the potential for additional mobile markets during the summer months in partnership with PCPS, local non-profits, and regional organizations.