

CHAPTER 6
COMMUNITY FACILITIES and UTILITIES

OVERVIEW

The following section provides a brief description of the community facilities and utilities found within the county. The county categorizes its community facilities into the following categories: churches, fire stations, government, landfill, library, post office, recreation, schools, and utilities. Together, these facilities provide necessary services to county residents. **Map 16** and **Map 16-A** illustrates the major public and privately owned community facilities and utilities in the county.

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CHURCHES



Twenty churches are located in Charles City County. A number of these churches are affiliated with the Baptist denomination. Other denominations present within the county are Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopalian. The churches in Charles City County are as follows:

Bethany Presbyterian Church
Cedar Grove Baptist Church
Charles City Community Church
Elam Baptist Church
Gilfield Baptist Church
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Liberty Baptist Church
Little Elam Baptist Church
Memorial United Methodist Church
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Mount Zion Baptist Church
New Vine Baptist Church
Parrish Hill Baptist Church
Peace Hill Christian Fellowship
Samaria Baptist Church
St. John Baptist Church
Union Baptist Church
Westover Episcopal Church
First Simple Church
Wings of Love

FIRE AND AMBULANCE/RESCUE SERVICE



The Charles City County Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service (CCCVFD&EMS) provides fire protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) throughout the county. EMS transport is provided by the CCCVF&EMSD. Supplemental EMS transport is provided by Providence Forge Volunteer Rescue Squad. The department is equipped with two ambulances, three pumper trucks, two tanker trucks, one utility truck, two first responder vehicles, one crash/extrication truck, and one quick attack hazardous materials vehicle. The county's primary station is located in the center of the county. A satellite station has been provided in the Roxbury Industrial Center in the northwest portion of the county. A third station is located in the eastern portion of the county.

There are mutual aid agreements with all surrounding jurisdictions for fire and EMS. The Vision 2020 Plan lists 24/7 coverage by paid fire and emergency staff as its top priority.

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POLICE

Police protection is provided by the Charles City County Sheriff's department. The Sheriff's Office is located in the Charles City County Judicial Complex. The county's Sheriff's Office consists of fifteen staff members and is primarily responsible for law enforcement, civil process, and court security. The staff positions include the elected Sheriff, eight Deputies, one Narcotics Investigator, five Communications Operators, and the Secretary. The Sheriff's Office is trained in the Federal Emergency Services Program to handle such incidents as evacuations and chemical spills. Law Enforcement Officers from nearby jurisdictions and the Virginia State Police are available when additional assistance is required.

The Vision 2020 Plan lists the following initiatives as its goals for the future:

- Crime Prevention Seminars
- Larger sheriff's department
- Stronger enforcement of alcohol and drug violations
- Environmental and school prevention programs
- Program to prevent domestic violence

HEALTH CARE

Health Department

The Health Department at 7501 Adkins Road manages two health programs: environmental health and physical health. This department directs a public health clinic and associated medical and dental services. Environmental health includes restaurant inspections, restaurant certifications, and septic tank permits. Physical health includes programs for physical well-being such as vaccines and immunizations, physical examinations, and basic dental care.

Primary Care Physicians

Central Virginia Regional Health Services, at 9950 Courthouse Road, is currently the only Charles City location where residents can receive treatment from a general practitioner, pediatrician, dentist, and psychologist/mental health specialist.

Mental Health

Cypress Enterprises provides jobs for handicapped/retarded citizens. Quin Rivers Agency for Community Action provides a shelter for abused women and programs for the elderly. Additional Mental Health services are provided by Henrico Area Mental Health & Retardation Services. Charles City residents are offered an array of services that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles to support healthy youth development.

Programs address community needs identified by stakeholders as risk factors and protective factors. By addressing risks and building upon the strengths of Charles City youth, families, schools and communities, the need for more costly treatment services is prevented. Services available include:

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- Parenting Education
- Effective Prevention Strategies
- Healthy Dating Relationships
- Anger/Stress Management
- Peer Mediation
- Child/Adolescent and adult mental health/substance abuse issues
- Life skills in substance abuse
- Conflict Resolution
- Peer Mediation
- Socialization skills
- After school program- "Families & Schools Together" (FAST) curriculum

Rehabilitation/Fitness

Charles City County received a United States Center for Disease Control grant to open a community health and fitness facility in the Government Center Expansion building. \$35,000 of in-kind donations helped the center open on July 1, 2003. During its business hours, the center is attended by staff and volunteers of Charles City Department of Parks and Recreation. The facility is comprised of basketball courts, a cardio fitness room, weight training and exercise machine room, and various multi-function rooms and offices.

GOVERNMENT

County Offices

Most of the county departments are housed in the Charles City Courthouse area. The courthouse area is the focal point of local government activity in Charles City County. The courthouse is located on Courthouse Road (Route 644), south of the intersection of John Tyler Memorial Highway (Route 5) and Courthouse Road (Route 155). In 1995, the county offices expanded into the renovated county Middle School. This school became the much needed new County Government/School Board Administration Building (GSAB). The GSAB houses the County offices for Management Services; County Administrator; Assistant County Administrator; Public Safety and Codes Compliance; Animal Control Officer; Charles City School Board; Department of Planning; Public Works Department; County Registrar; County Treasurer; and, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

Located in the County Neighborhood Facilities Building is the County's Department of Social Services (DSS). The County's Department of Social Services staff consists of a Director, Social Workers, Self Sufficiency Case Management Workers, and Administrative Support personnel. The Department is the primary agency for providing human services for residents in the county. The Department operates a variety of programs with the responsibility of being accountable to many individuals and agencies. The Department is administered by a five member Board appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

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DSS is responsible for administering Food Stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Relief, Medicaid, Auxiliary Grants, and State and Local Hospitalization to the categorically needy. DSS also provides services such as Foster Care, Child Protective Services, Adult Services, Day Care, and Employment Services to county residents. Each program is accompanied with policy and procedures established by federal and state guidelines.

The County Neighborhood Facilities Building also houses the Charles City County Center for Local History. The Charles City County Center for Local History is a county-owned reference library and archives devoted to history. It is supported by annual appropriations from the county and costs of utilities, maintenance and insurance. The Center is open to the public and is staffed *entirely* by volunteers. Its collection presently consists of approximately 3,500 books, 700 rare books, 100 feet of manuscripts, 2,000 images, 110 maps, 200 feet of serials and 380 reels of microfilm

The Charles City County Judicial Building opened in April 2005. Located within this building are the Commissioner of Revenue, Commonwealth Attorney, Circuit Court Clerk, General District and Juvenile/Domestic Relations, and the Sheriff's Department. The Commissioner of Revenue is responsible for property assessments; the Clerk of Circuit Court is responsible for maintaining county records such as land transactions; and both the Circuit and General District Court Clerks are responsible for maintaining their respective levels of judicial review. A Branch of the Heritage Library is temporarily housed in a second courtroom within the Judicial Building as well.

The one County department that is not located in the Courthouse area is the County Parks and Recreation. They are housed within the Charles City Social Center located on Ruthville Road.

Federal and State Government Properties

The majority of federal and state land within the county is devoted to the production, preservation and management of wildlife. The one federally operated facility is the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery. The Hatchery covers approximately 420 acres of land in the southwestern portion of the county.

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates a wildlife management area and a wildlife preserve. The Chickahominy State Wildlife Management Area consists of 5,214 acres of land and is located east of Wilcox Neck Road (Route 623) along the Chickahominy River. Hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities are provided within the wildlife management area. The Kittiewan Wildlife Preserve consists of 250 acres and is located south of John Tyler Memorial Highway (Route 5) on Weyanoke Road (Route 619). This management area is operated for the preservation of wildlife, and activities are limited to nature study.

The Federal Aviation Administration operates an air traffic control facility in Charles City County. The facility is located near The Glebe Lane (Route 615).

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LANDFILL

The county has a regional landfill which opened in 1990. This regional facility, operated by Waste Management of Virginia, Inc. (WMI), is located on approximately 1,110 acres in the northwestern portion of the county. According to county tax records, of the 1,110 acres, USA Waste of Virginia, Inc. owns about 629 acres, and Chambers Development of Virginia, Inc. in care of USA Waste owns about 477 acres. The site is bounded by Barnett's Road (Route 609) to the west, Cool Hill (Route 631) to the north, and Bradley Run Creek to the east. The site is traversed by Dominion Virginia Power electrical lines that run east-west.

The landfill's permit gives the ability to receive 6,000 tons of trash per day, but current intake levels average approximately 2,750 tons. The landfill is responsible for a significant portion of the tax base in the county because of its host fee. These taxes funded the construction of three new schools, remodeled county offices and court buildings, and enabled a reduction in real estate taxes for residents. It has won numerous environmental awards, including the bronze award for Landfill Management from The Solid Waste Association of



America. Also, it provides a clean, renewable source of energy by way of the landfill gas it emits, which is captured by INGENCO.

Three collection stations are also operated by Waste Management at no cost to the county. One of these stations is located at the landfill. Another is located at the old landfill on Munford Road (Route 660). The third site is located on Willcox Neck Road (Route 623).

LIBRARY

The Heritage Regional Public Library serves residents of Charles City County and New Kent County. The Providence Forge single location of the Heritage Library closed, due to safety reasons in January of 2008. A decision was made at the time of closure that Charles City County would establish a temporary facility for library services. The temporary facility is located in an unused courtroom within the Judicial Building. Design plans and funding sources are being reviewed at this time for a 10,000 square foot combined library and history center facility to be located near the historic courthouse complex.



POST OFFICE

There are two post offices in the county. These are located in Ruthville and Charles City Courthouse. A portion of northern Charles City County is served by the Providence Forge Post Office in New Kent County. The very western portion of the county is served by a Richmond Post Office. A small area of the eastern portion of the county is served by a Williamsburg Post Office.



Ruthville Post Office

RECREATION

Charles City County residents enjoy a gamut of recreational activities that are readily available to the general public. New recreation-based projects are being completed by both the County and State to expand recreational activities for both citizens and visitors alike. To address the future park and recreational needs of the county's residents, the County Recreation Commission has adopted a plan, the 1996 update to the 1989 *Master Plan for Recreation, Parks and Greenways*. In 1989, the county contracted with Virginia Commonwealth University to prepare the Plan. This Plan identifies who participates in recreation in the county and what activities are the most popular. Based on this information, the Plan suggests programs and facilities to meet the recreational needs of the county residents. The Plan also established four goals to guide future recreation activities planned by the County. The plan's goals are:

- To meet Charles City County residents' recreation and outdoor needs, current (1989) and 20-year (2009);
- To preserve the integrity of the county's and region's existing natural and historic resources;
- To capitalize on the potential of the county's and region's natural and historic resources; and
- To align, where possible, residents' recreation and outdoor needs with the existing and intermediate-term school system facilities and programs.

The County Department of Parks and Recreation currently maintains four parks and two recreational facilities. The Department offers a wide range of programs including aerobics, belly dancing, adult softball, tee-ball, coach-pitch youth baseball, tae kwon do, swimming lessons, a summer camp, a fitness program, youth basketball, senior programs, and other activities.

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The Charles City County Social Center houses the Parks & Recreation offices and can be rented for family reunions, birthdays, wedding showers, etc. The Social Center is located on a 10-acre tract in Ruthville. It includes two softball fields (one lighted), basketball courts, tennis courts, bath house, wading & swimming pools, and a concession stand with restrooms. The playground area includes a picnic shelter, tables, grills and a horseshoe pit.

The old Ruthville High School located on the Glebe Lane is now the home of the Ruthville Gymnasium Complex. This complex consists of a fitness center and gymnasium. The fitness center includes two physical fitness rooms equipped with treadmills, bikes, weight benches, and an aerobics room. The gym provides a full court for indoor basketball.

The Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park at Willcox Wharf is approximately 26 acres and is the largest of the four County parks. This park offers picnic shelters, tables, grills, river overlooks, a nature trail, an eagle observatory, a comfort station, a boat ramp with vehicle and trailer parking, and a fishing pier that is handicap accessible.

Harrison Park, with 19 acres making it the second largest park, provides many outdoor recreational activities such as softball and baseball fields, a football/soccer field, tennis courts, basketball courts, a playground, and picnic areas.

Hillside Park, approximately 1.5 acres, is located on the edge of Courthouse Creek below the Neighborhood Facility. It includes picnic tables, grills and a foot trail.

MT. Zion Park is a small park located adjacent to Charles City County Fire Station III. It includes playground equipment, picnic tables, grills and restrooms.

The county also owns a 57± acre tract on Willcox Neck Road (Route 623). The county plans to develop a recreation area on this site with picnic areas, ball fields, and a nature trail. The area would be called the Mt. Zion Recreation Area.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (2002) also identifies properties in Charles City County that have potential for recreational use. These properties include:

- Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery: Completion of the program contained in the 2000 Conceptual Design Proposal for the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Center.
- The Rice Center, owned by Virginia Commonwealth University: Once operated as a camp by the YMCA, it is now being developed as a “nationally recognized living laboratory for VCU Life Sciences and the headquarters for the Virginia Rivers Initiative.” The VCU Rice Center and Charles City County Public Schools have a partnership that allows county students to utilize the Center through certain scheduled classroom activities and lab work.

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- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area: 5214 state-owned acres of expanded recreational opportunities, particularly along the Morris Creek portion of the property, are suggested. In addition, a public shooting facility exists on the property.

Further Proposals for Charles City County in the Virginia Outdoors Plan (2002) include:

- A Regional Park located across the Chickahominy River from Providence Forge would complement the existing Chickahominy River Wildlife Management Area farther downstream.
- Additional boat ramps on the Chickahominy River from the western edge of the New Kent/Charles City County line to the confluence with the James River along the Charles City/James City County line.
- Additional Boat Ramps on the James River from the western county line to the confluence with the Chickahominy River.
- Increased fishing access, including access for persons with disabilities, at Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery.
- A Greenway/Trail along the entire length of the James.
- The Capital-to-Capital trail (also known as the Capital Trail), to be constructed in a manner that preserves the county's unique tree corridor.

SCHOOLS

The school facilities for Charles City County are divided into three units located at the complex on Courthouse Road (Route 155) just north of the Courthouse area. The school complex is located on approximately 80 acres of land. The county's school units are subdivided into kindergarten through fifth grades, sixth through eighth grades, and ninth through twelfth grades. The school complex replaces all of the county's previous public schools: Charles City County Primary School located on Lott Cary Road; Charles City Elementary School located at the intersection of Barnett's Road and Church Lane; Charles City County Middle School located on Courthouse Road; and the Charles City High School located in Ruthville. The county has sold the Primary School. The county's middle school was renovated into the Government/School Board Administrative Building. The county still owns the high school facility and is considering possible options for renovating the high school for other public use.

Capacity and Enrollment

The Elementary School's population is 335. There are 36 Pre-K students. There are 37 teachers. The school's capacity is 500.

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The Middle School's population is 161. There are 20 teachers. The school's capacity is 300.

The High School's population is 236 in grades 9-12 and there are 30 teachers. The school's capacity is 400.

The School District's Vision 2020 Goals include:

- Local Technical, GED, and Career and Technical Education Training
- High School to College Focus
- Including Homework Assistance in Athletics/Extracurricular Programs
- Increasing Parental Involvement
- Local Alternative Schools

VCU Rice Center

The county's learning experiences are not confined to man-made classrooms. Situated between the Berkeley and Shirley Plantations along the James River, the Rice Center's 342 acre site (272 acres of land and a 70 acre lake) is an outdoor laboratory. A gift from Mrs. Inger Rice in 2000 to Virginia Commonwealth University, it will mainly serve university students and faculty. Area residents will also receive the opportunity to visit once adequate facilities are in place. By the completion of its three phases of development, there will be an auditorium, research labs, an outdoor classroom, and overnight facilities.

UTILITIES

County residents are served by a variety of public and privately owned utilities. Utilities available are water, sewer, electricity, gas and oil. Public water and sewer and gas are only available in portions of the county.

Sanitary Sewer Service

The majority of the county's residents and businesses are served by private septic systems. However, the county has been working toward providing affordable decentralized sewer services. To further this effort, the county has proposed an update to the comprehensive water and sewer study for the county.

Central sewage treatment is provided for the Roxbury Industrial Center by lagoons and a spray irrigation field. This system is intended for domestic waste and minor industrial processes. Additional lands may be available for system expansion as the need arises.

A package treatment facility that serves the Mt. Zion/Rustic Area as well as the Rivers Rest Marina is located at the Rivers Rest Marina on the Chickahominy River. The plant has a capacity of 20,000 gallons per day with a permitted expansion capacity of up to 40,000 gallons per day. The county has installed two Neighborhood/Community Wastewater systems to serve existing homes in the Jerusalem and Kimages/Wayside areas.

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Water Service

While a majority of residents obtain water from private wells, there are five county-owned water systems. Two of these systems, Wayside and Mt. Zion-Rustic, serve residential and commercial needs. The Wayside facility currently serves about 120 connections and is well below its production capacity. The system is located, along Kimages Road (Route 658) and Wayside Road (Route 607). The two wells are located at each end of the line, one on Kimages Road and one on Wayside Road. Approximately 80 connections are served by the Mt. Zion-Rustic system located on Willcox Neck Road (Route 623).

The Roxbury Industrial Center has a separate system to serve industrial activity. The water system located within Roxbury Industrial Center has sufficient capacity and fire suppression capability for the Center.

The county's courthouse area has a separate water system which serves the Government Complex. The county's school complex, located on Courthouse Road (Route 155) just north of the Courthouse area, has its own water and sewage system which is maintained by the County Public Works Department.

Two private water systems are installed at Glendale Acres and Charles City Village. These systems only serve the residents of those subdivisions. Glendale Acres is located in the northwestern portion of the county on Warriner Road (Route 604). Charles City Village is located on Cool Hill Road (Route 631).

Electricity

Dominion Virginia Power, the electrical service provider for the county, operates a substation on Chambers Road, just off Roxbury Road (Route 106) near the company's transmission lines. Three phase industrial electric service is available in several areas in the county. Adequate electric power is available to meet future development needs.

Gas and Oil

A natural gas line has been constructed through the northwest portion of the county. This could provide natural gas service to the Roxbury Industrial Center and the immediate areas. Columbia Gas Pipeline has a 100-foot wide easement and gas line running west to east in the central part of the county. An additional natural gas line is proposed to be constructed parallel to Route 155, from Providence Forge to Charles City County Courthouse area. Propane gas is currently available to the Roxbury Industrial Center at natural gas prices. Fuel oil is also provided by several distributors within Charles City County and adjoining communities.

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Telecommunications

Telephone

Of the 2670 households in Charles City County, only 42, or 1.57% lack telephone service (2000 Census).

Cell Phones

Many county residents have cell phones, and cell phone reception is good in most parts of the county, however, some portions still have no cell phone reception.

Radio

Several radio stations have transmitters in Charles City County.

Broadcast Television

The stations currently available in Charles City County are:

CBS6, NBC12, ABC8

Tidewater 3/10

Public Broadcasting Service 35 & 65

Cable Television

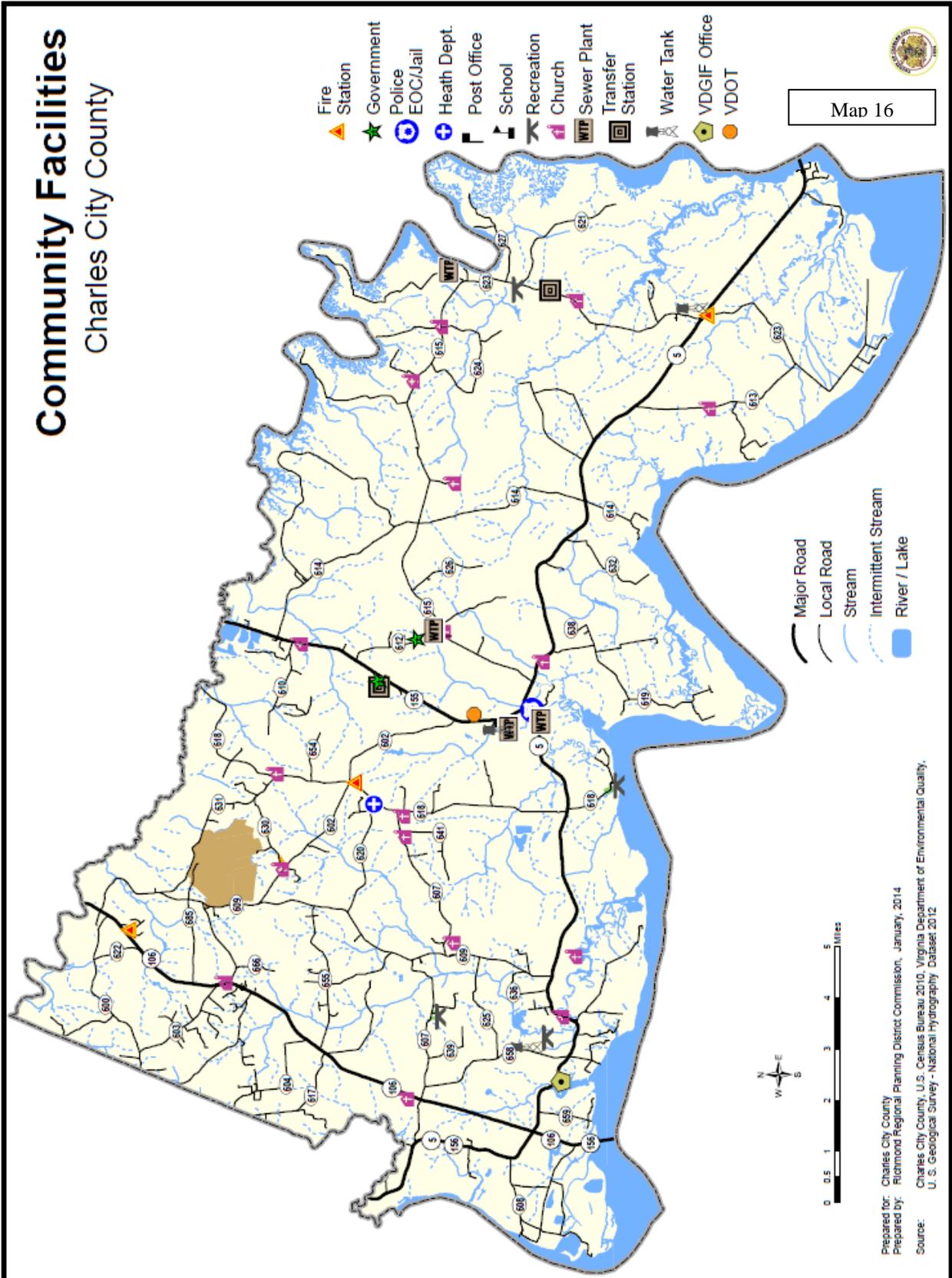
Cable Television is available in portions of Charles City County. Service is provided by Comcast. In addition, residents may have Satellite television, currently provided by Hughes Net.

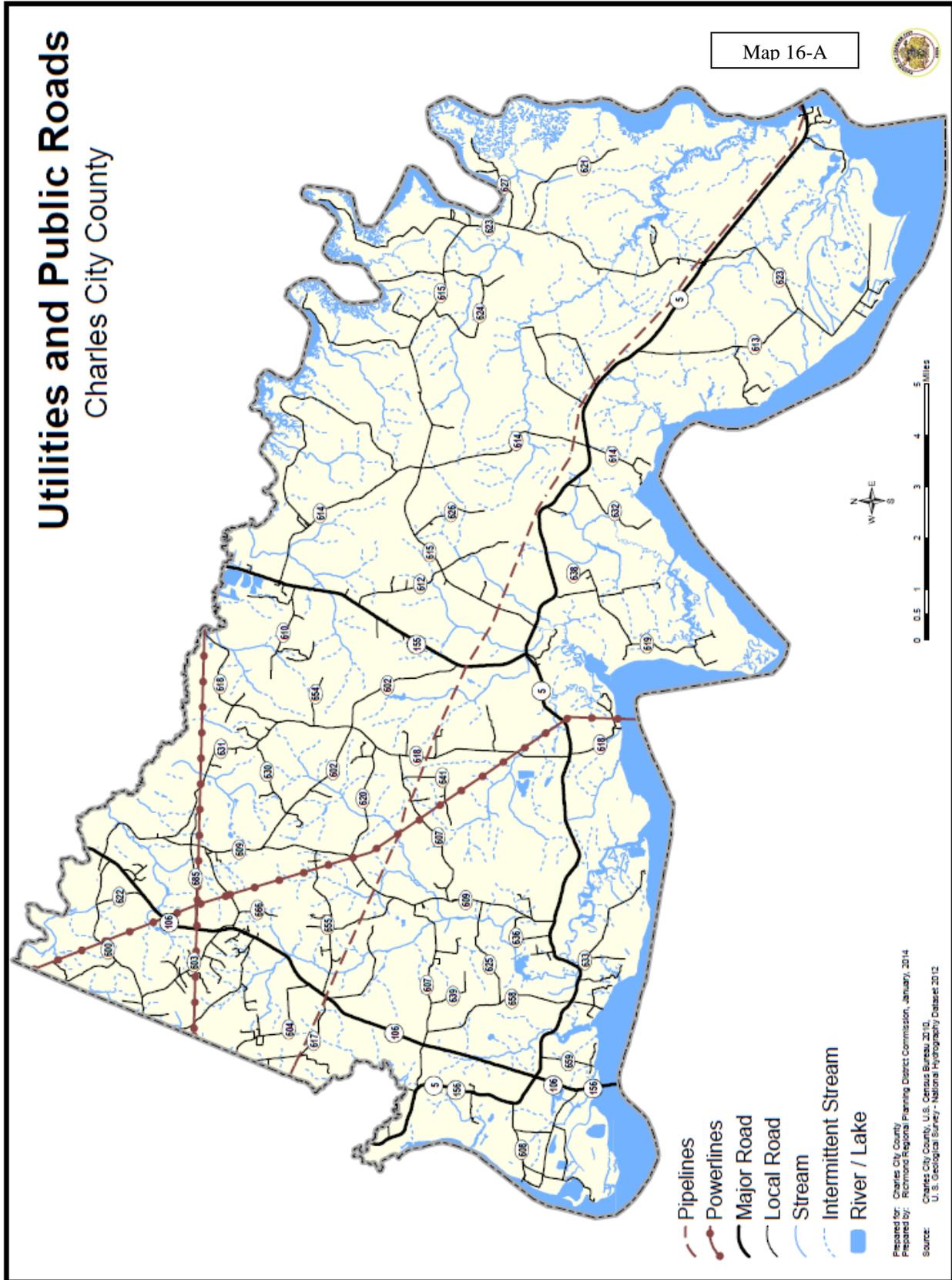
Internet

Dial-up internet service is provided by several carriers, Verizon, Cavalier, and NetZero. Currently, broadband internet access is not widespread in Charles City County, although residents with satellite television provided by Hughes Net can get high-speed internet access with their satellite service.

OTHER FACILITIES

County residents have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of local organizations. Three of these organizations have their own facilities. The Masonic Lodge has a building on Courthouse Road (Route 155). The American Legion Hall is located on Legion Road (Route 651), near Courthouse Road. The Charles City Civic League has a building located at the intersection of Lewis Tyler Road (Route 520) and Adkins Road (Route 618).





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