

CHAPTER M
COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

1. Introduction

One of the most important contributions to the quality and vitality of the social environment in a community is the extent and location of community facilities. Lower Merion Township is fortunate to be well supplied with all types of facilities, including churches, parks, post offices, libraries, schools and institutional buildings. Therefore, very few major facilities need to be added in the future to keep the township a first class community. The additional facilities recommended here are in response to the developments shown in the land use and housing plan, and reflect the shifts in population compositions expected to occur in the future.

2. Sewerage Services

In the community facilities background report it was noted that about one-third of the township still remains without community sewers. This is the Gladwyne area from Upper Merion Township to a point on River Road near Mill Creek Road. A study prepared under the guidance of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, called COWAMP/208 Water Quality Management Plan, recommended the installation of sewerage systems to the remaining parts of the township. The Comprehensive Plan concurs with that recommendation, but only if there is no cost to the township and only if the project is performed by agencies other than the township. The township is not in the sewerage utility business, and should not become involved in order to service this one part of the township. Therefore, some of the land use and housing proposals have been prepared with the understanding that the recommendations could be implemented only when future sewerage systems become available.

3. Post Offices

At the time of preparation of the Comprehensive Plan it became known that the Bala Cynwyd Post Office was going to build a new facility at the corner of Conshohocken State Road and Union Avenue. This is an excellent location, since the new site is large and can accommodate on-site parking which is not now available. However, the post office is also used by the nearby Bala Cynwyd Office Center which adds considerably to the traffic congestion around the post office. To alleviate this stress it is recommended

that a separate post office substation be located within the Bala Cynwyd Office Center to service just those business users. It is also recommended that the existing post office be converted to office uses, provided the needed zoning change can be obtained. Consideration for a zoning change would include the provision for additional parking and safe ingress and egress at the site.

4. Community Centers

The four community centers existing or under construction are in Belmont Hills, Bryn Mawr, South Ardmore and Spring Avenue. The Comprehensive Plan recommends that two more facilities be added to the inventory. The new locations come within the major recreation centers described previously in the Park and Recreation section of the plan. These two new sites will be located in the Penn Wynne Park, and in the newly proposed Harriton Park.

5. Historic Sites

In the background report on community facilities 75 historical structures were identified in the township. This plan recommends that all 75 sites be preserved for posterity. A review of the sites indicates that creation of an historical district may not be appropriate because there are too many sites spread across the township. Rather, each structure should be designated as historical to prevent future demolition. It should be noted that local civic groups are currently recommending the creation of historical districts for Gladwyne and the Mill Creek area.

6. Public Schools

Figure M-1 lists all public schools now operating in the township, as well as private facilities. Because of declining enrollments the School Board has voted to close certain schools. The new uses to which these facilities will be put is of concern, since they should support the objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. There should not be any reuse of a school for commercial or office functions. This is because such uses would be an intrusion into the residential character of each neighborhood, and most schools are located in residential areas.

7. Other Facilities

Listed in Figure M-1 are various institutions and libraries. All of these uses are part of the community facilities plan, as

are parks and recreation, which should be continued for the benefit of the entire community.

FIGURE M-1

COMMUNITY FACILITIES¹

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Code #

S1	Lower Merion High
S14	Harrilton High
S2	Ardmore Junior High (1)
S7	Bala Cynwyd Junior High
S12	Welsh Valley Junior High
S3	Merion Public School
S4	Wynnewood Road School (1)
S5	Penn Wynne School
S6	Bala School (1)
S8	Cynwyd Public School
S10	Belmont Hills Elementary
S11	Penn Valley Elementary
S13	Bryn Mawr School (2)
S15	Gladwyne Elementary
S35	Narberth School (1)

(1) Closed in 1978

(2) Scheduled for closing in 1979

PRIVATE SCHOOLS- HIGHER EDUCATION

Code #

S27	Haverford College
S30	Bryn Mawr College
S33	Rosemont College
S31	Harcum Jr. College
S36	Northeastern College
S20	St. Charles Seminary
S23	St. Joseph's College
S19	Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

¹Excludes Parks and Recreation - See Chapter L for complete listing of these facilities.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS - ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

CODE #

S24	Akiba Hebrew Academy
S31	Harcum Jr. College Nursery
S25	St. Mathias School
S26	Waldron Academy
S28	Haverford School
S29	Baldwin School
S32	Shipley School
S16	Montgomery County Day School
S17	Presbyterian BVM School
S18	Friends Central School
S22	Episcopal Academy
S21	St. Catherine's Day School
S34	Childrens House
S26	Merion Mercy Academy
R22	Bala House (St. Asaphs Church)
S33	School of the Holy Child
R55	St. Thomas School (St. Thomas Rectory)
R47	St. John Vianney Church

INSTITUTIONS

CODE #

I1	Township Building Police Station
I2	Masonic Hall
I3	Township Garage
I4	Charles Knox Home
I5	Lankenau Hospital
I6	Merion War Tribute House
I7	The Barnes Foundation
I8	Womens Club of Bala Cynwyd
I9	Mary J. Drexel Home
I10	Buten Museum of Wedgewood
I11	Memorial Home
I12	American Legion Post 355
I13	American Legion Post 857
I14	Lower Merion Incinerator Police Range, Fire Tower
I15	Penn Valley Womens Club
I16	YMCA
I17	Bryn Mawr Hospital
I18	Lower Merion Water Tower
I19	Veteran of Foreign Wars Post
I20	Levering Mill Senior Center

INSTITUTIONS CONTINUED

CODE #

I21	South Ardmore Community Center
I22	Spring House Senior Recreation Center
I23	3 Township Acquired Properties-Ardmore
I24	Belmont Hills Community Center
I25	Appleford Building

RELIGIOUS FACILITIES

CODE #

R1	St. Colemans Church
R2	Methodist Episcopal Church
R3	1st Church of Christ Scientist of Ardmore
R4	Ardmore First Baptist Church
R5	Main Line Reform Temple
R6	All Saints Episcopal Church
R7	Temple Beth Hillel
R8	Armenian Apostolic Church of Phil.
R9	St. Paul's Cemetery
R10	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
R11	Wynnewood United Presbyterian Church
R12	Christ West Hope Presbyterian Church
R13	Convent of the Sacret Heart
R14	Our Lady Help of Christians Conval- escent House
R15	Temple Adath Israel
R16	Bala Cynwyd ME Church
R17	St. Johns Episcopal Church
R18	Lower Merion Synagogue
R19	St. Mathias RC Church
R20	Presbyterian Church of the Convent
R21	Unevangelized Fields Mission
R22	St. Asophs PE Church
R23	Merion Meeting House
R24	Merion Cemetery
R25	St. Andrews Episcopal Chapel
R26	St. Andrews ME Church
R27	St Lukes Church
R28	Westminister Cemetery
R29	West Laurel Hill Cemetery
R30	St. Justins Church
R31	Lutheran Deaconess House and School
R32	Har Zion Temple
R33	St. Mary's Episcopal Church

RELIGIOUS FACILITIES CONTINUED

CODE #

R34	Zion Baptist Church
R35	Ardmore Presbyterian Church
R36	Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
R37	Our Mother of Good Counsel Church
R38	St. Lukes Methodist Church
R39	Church of the Redeemer
R40	Church of the Good Shepherd
R41	Convent of the Holy Child Jesus
R42	Lower Merion Baptist Church
R43	Private Cemetery
R44	St. Chirstopher's Episcopal Church
R45	LM ME Church and Cemetery
R46	LM ME Presbyterian Church
R47	St. John Vianney Catholic Church
R48	St. John Baptist Church & Vianney School
R49	St. John's Baptist Church & Cemetery
R50	The First Presbyterian Church
R51	Calvary Cemetery
R52	3rd Order of St. Francis
R53	Beth Am Israel
R54	Faith Bible Presbyterian Church
R55	St. Thomas Rectory

LIBRARIES

CODE #

L1	Penn Wynne
L2	Bala Cynwyd
L3	Belmont Hills
L4	Ardmore Free Library
L5	Ludington
L6	Gladwyne

FIRE COMPANIES

CODE #

F1	Penn Wynne Company
F2	Union Fire Assoc.
F3	Belmont Hills Company

FIRE COMPANIES CONTINUED

CODE #

F4	Merion Fire Co. (Ardmore)
F5	Bryn Mawr Company
F6	Gladwyne Co.
F7	Narberth Company

POST OFFICES

CODE #

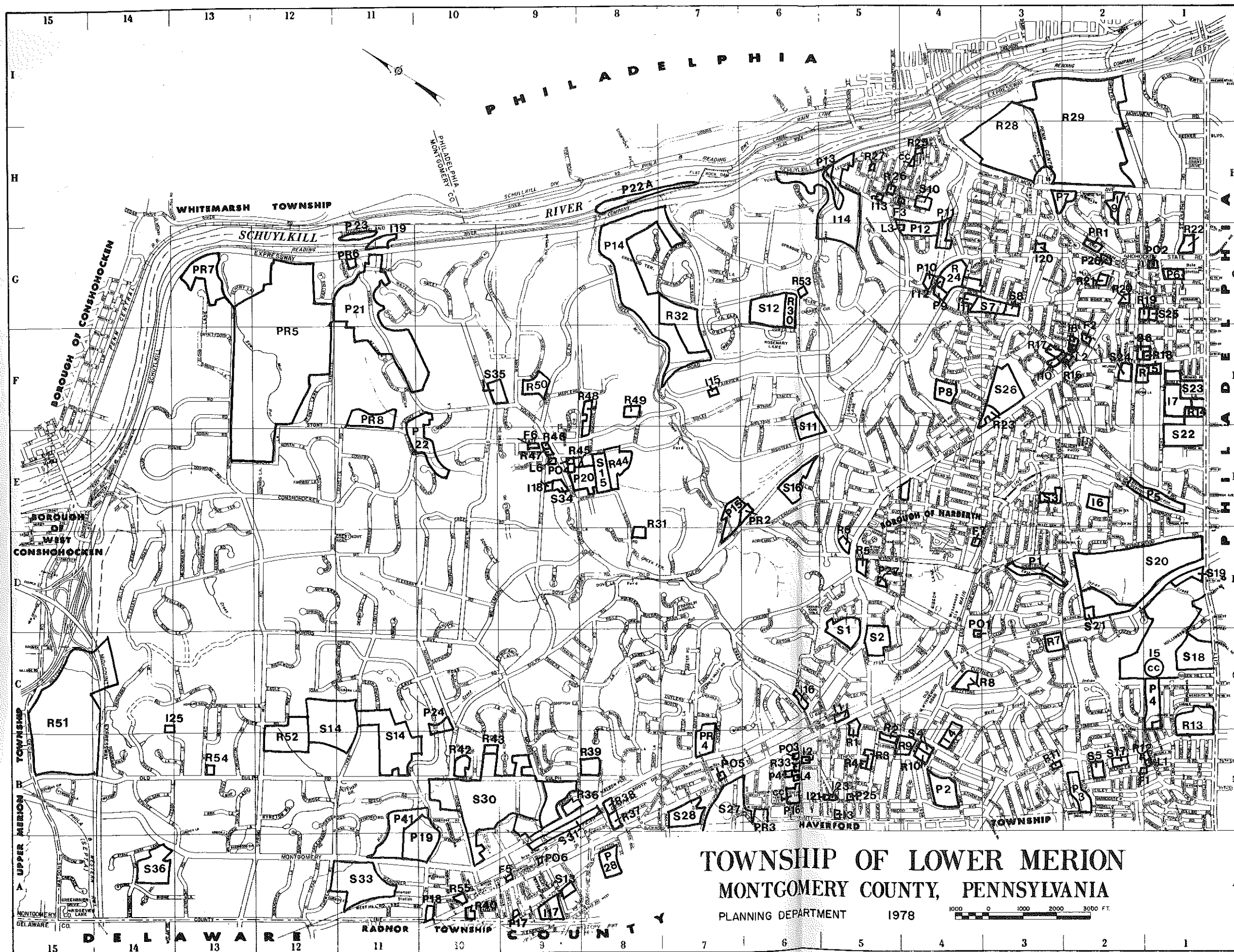
PO1	Wynnewood
PO2	Bala Cynwyd
PO3	Ardmore
PO4	Gladwyne
PO5	Haverford
PO6	Bryn Mawr
PO7	Villanova (Proposed)

COMMUNITY CENTERS

CODE #

C-1	Belmont Hills Community Center
P-4	Penn Wynne Park (Proposed)
P-16	Ardmore Avenue Community Center
P-20	Gladwyne Park (Proposed)
C-2	Harriton Center (Proposed)
I-22	Bryn Mawr Community Building (and Spring House)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN



- S SCHOOLS
- P PARKS
- PR PRIVATE RECR.
- R RELIGIOUS
- L LIBRARY
- I INSTITUTIONAL
- PO POST OFFICE
- F FIRE COMPANIES
- CC COMMUNITY CENTERS
- PROPOSED

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 PLANNING DEPARTMENT 1978



1/8/83 1/28/84 2/13/85 1/17/86 8/15/87
 7/24/88 12/8/89 12/14/90 10/12/91
 11/24/92 3/17/93 4/17/94 11/14/95