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COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN -
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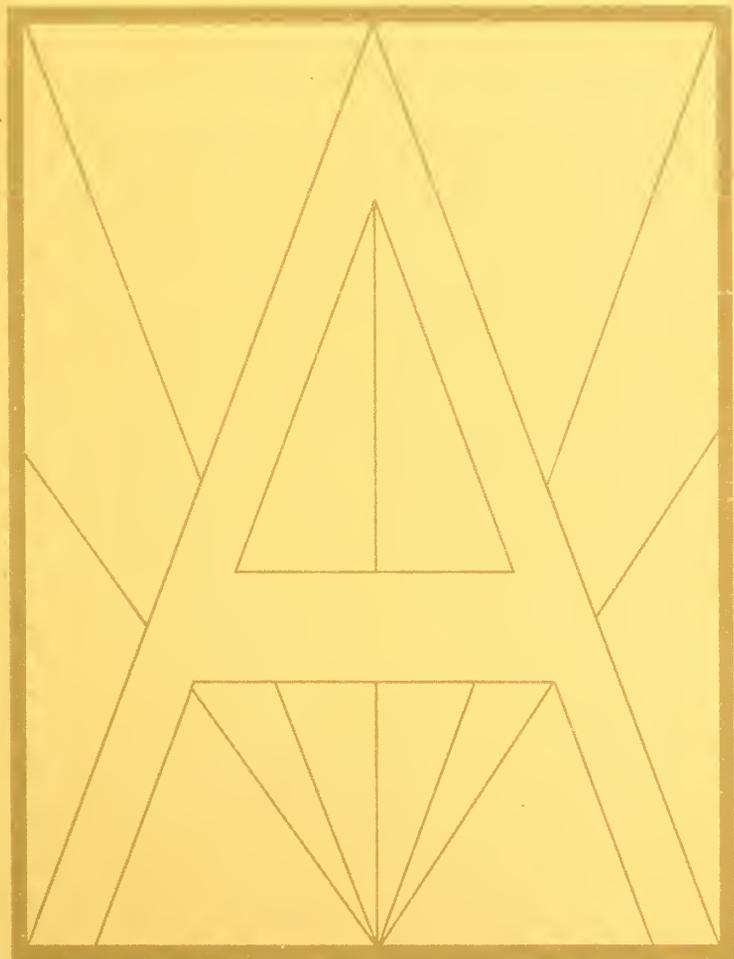
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**COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN &
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

AURORA, N.C.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM



AURORA, N.C.



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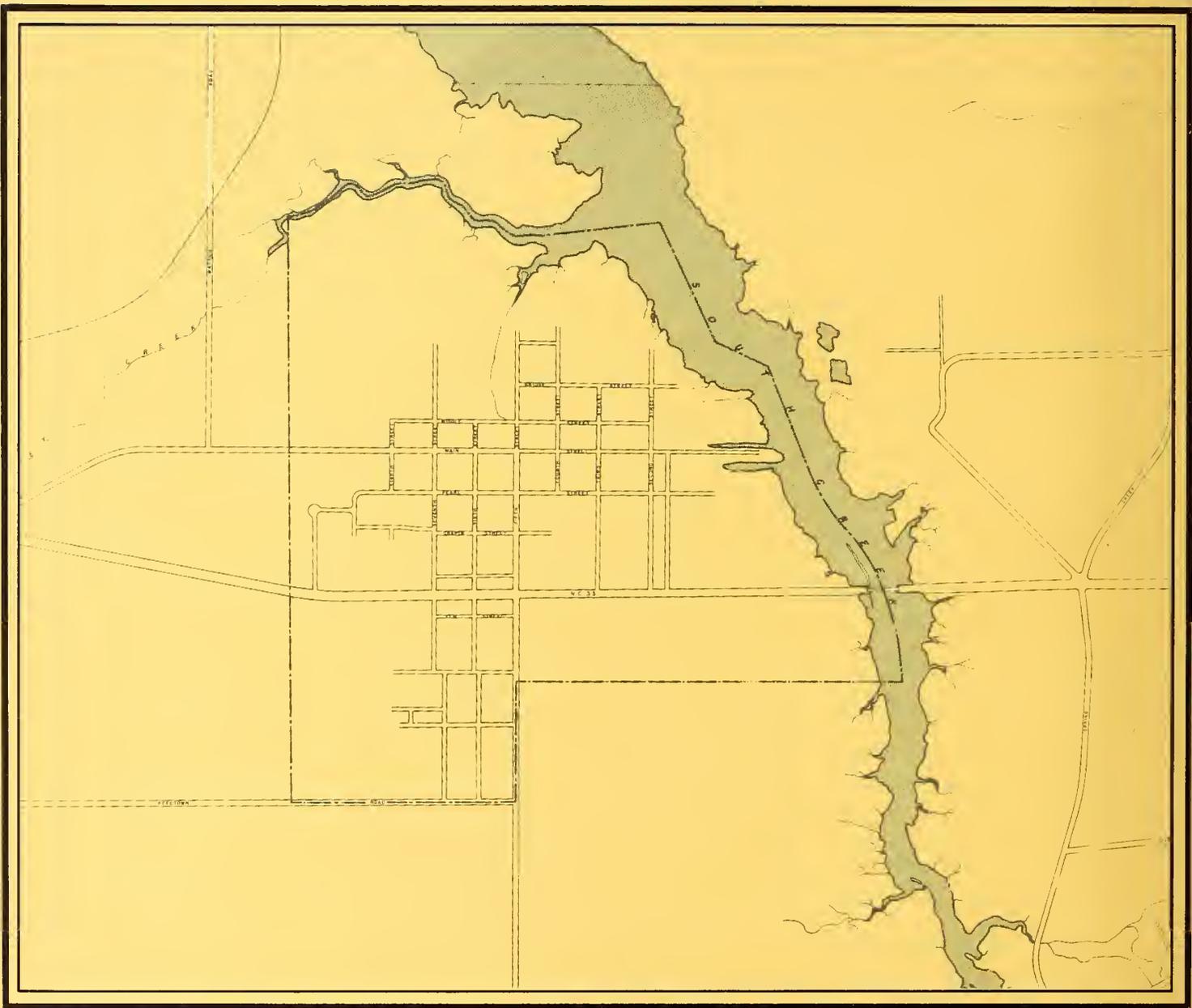
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FOREWORD

This report is the second in the series prepared by the Aurora Planning Board with the technical assistance of the Division of Community Planning of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. Financial aid for this publication was received in the form of a Federal grant from the Urban Renewal Administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Town of Aurora contracted with the Division of Community Planning for technical assistance in formulating a plan for community development in February 1966. In addition to the Community Facilities Plan and Public Improvements Program which are included in this report, the Planning Commission has completed Base Mapping, Subdivision Regulations, a Mobile Home Ordinance, a Land Use Survey and Analysis, a Population and Economic Study, and a Land Development Plan. Each of these elements is a part of the comprehensive planning program for Aurora.

The Planning Board is in charge of the comprehensive planning program for the community. The Board is comprised of six members from the planning area which consists of the land lying within the corporate limits of the town and that land lying up to one mile in all directions beyond the town limits. Three members appointed by the Town Board of Commissioners represent the area inside the corporate limits; three members appointed by the Beaufort County Commissioners serve in the extraterritorial area of the municipality. The Planning Board meets regularly every month and extraordinarily when work loads demand. As an advisory and consulting body appointed by the local legislative bodies, the Board has no legislative powers; its duties are to make studies for, and to make recommendations to, the Town Board of Commissioners. In addition to this report and the aforementioned legal tools (Subdivision Regulations and Mobile Home Ordinance), the Planning Board has prepared and recommended a Zoning Ordinance for the community to the Town Board of Commissioners. At the time of publication of this report the Planning Board and Town Board of Commissioners were in the process of holding public hearings on this new ordinance.

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SCALE IN FEET

AURORA

NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED FOR THE TOWN OF AURORA, NORTH CAROLINA

BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

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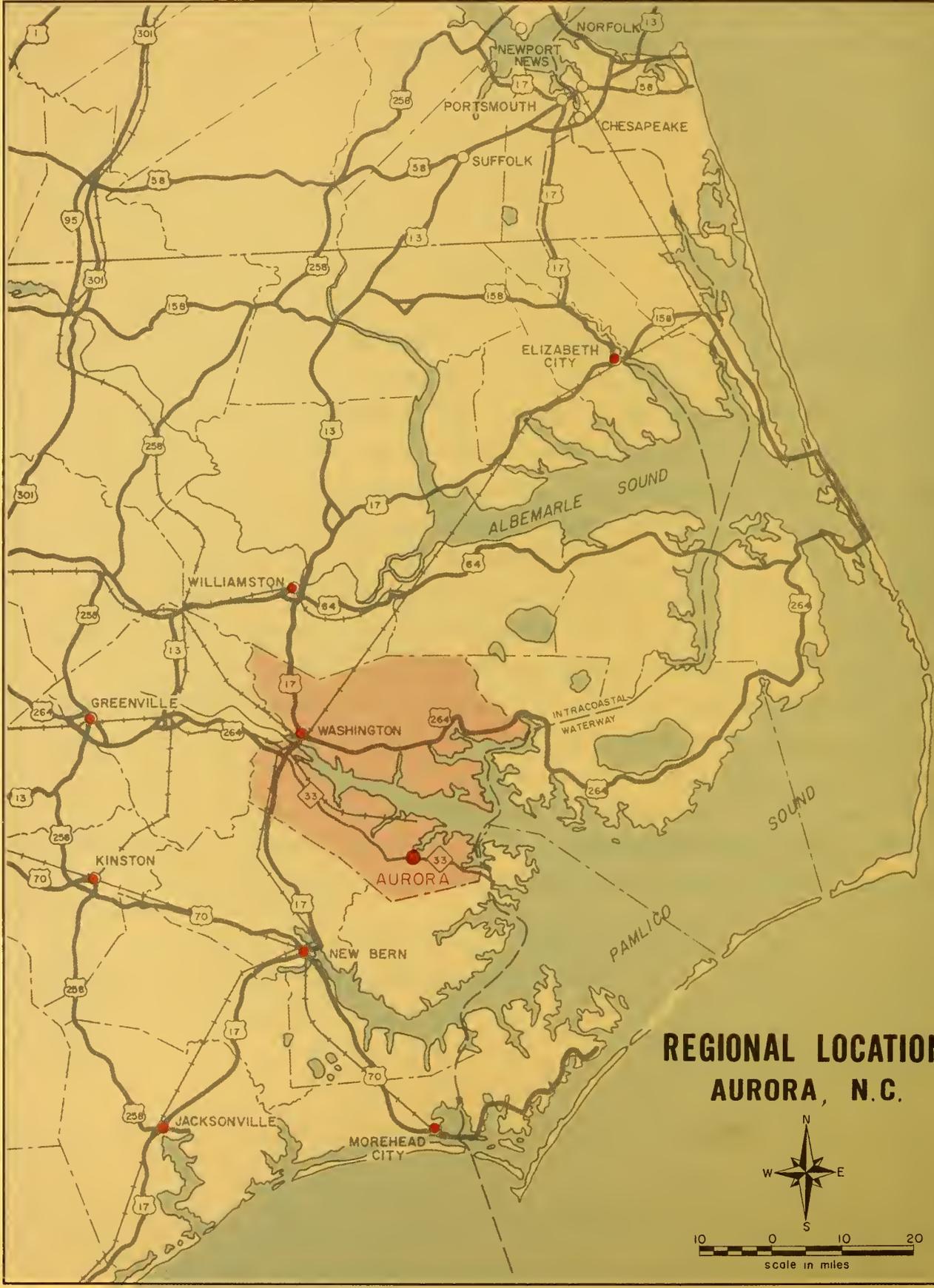
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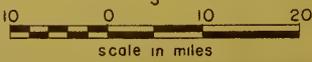
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INTRODUCTION

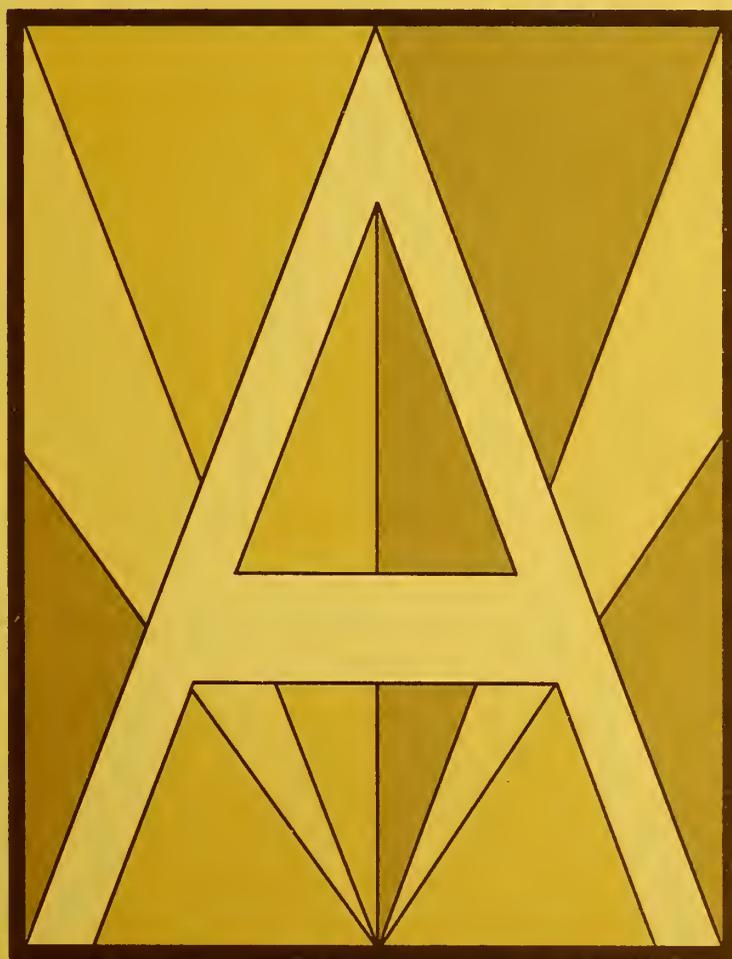
There are two major divisions in this planning study. These consist of a Community Facilities Plan and a Public Improvements Program. The Community Facilities Plan consists of an analysis of the various services the Town offers the citizenry. Included in each facility analysis are recommendations for preservation, upgrading, expansion, and improvement based on community facility planning standards and on the study of the Aurora Planning Board. Geared to the Community Facilities Plan is the Public Improvements Program. Listed in the program by priority are the recommendations found in the Community Facilities Plan. The recommendations are spread out over a twenty year planning period; the planning period is broken down into ten two-year fiscal divisions. In each division the items recommended in the plan are listed in general priority. The purpose of the Community Facilities Plan and Public Improvements Program is to form a solid background for capital improvements budgeting for the community.



**REGIONAL LOCATION
AURORA, N.C.**



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

Introduction

For protection and convenience man has tended to congregate into groups ever since time began. Man is more gregarious today than he has ever been. For instance, this can be seen in the history of the United States. Less than a century ago, 75 percent of the population in this country lived on farms. Today, the reverse of this is true. About 75 percent of the population now lives in cities and towns. One of the reasons for this is the advances which have been made in farm technology. Farming manpower requirements have been cut tremendously during this century. The farm machine can do today in one hour what it once took several men to do in one day. Where can man go when he is replaced by a modern farm machine? Where can he go to earn a living? The answer to this question apparently is to the cities and towns of our country to earn his livelihood. There must be something special about cities and towns that make people flock to them. For instance, why are people congregating in the Aurora area? Certainly the Texas Gulf Sulphur Mining operation at Lee's Creek is one of the answers. However, this probably is not the only answer because in this day and age man can travel long distances to and from work with the modern automobiles that he owns. Aurora must have some other attraction than proximity to the Lee's Creek mining site. Probably one of the most important is the services which the town provides. Towns are centers where nearly every function in which man is involved is carried on. The Aurora community is comprised of many elements: physical, cultural, financial, governmental, etc. Aurora is the focal point of numerous activities which represent investments of hundreds of thousands of dollars in land, building, streets, and utilities.

Probably the conveniences, services, and protection which Aurora offers its citizens are taken for granted most of the time. Although the facilities which the town renders its residents may be the very reasons for its existence and growth, there usually is little thought about them until one of these facilities breaks down and some citizen is inconvenienced because of the breakdown. In addition to the job opportunities offered in the area, in-migration to and sustenance of Aurora can be attributed to the local schools, water and sewer service, fire and police protection, etc. A town is oftentimes judged by the extent and condition of the community facilities which it offers to its citizenry.

In Aurora a resident's life is a more abundant one and a more leisurely one because of the availability of the various community facilities which are offered by the town government. To illustrate this let us follow a man as he goes through a normal daily routine in the community. This man's entire day is influenced by community facilities. As he arises in the morning he bathes and shaves effortlessly because with a twist of a knob he has at his command an abundance of hot, running water supplied to him by the municipal water system. The waste from his bath is carried away by an intricate system of municipal sewers, and he is relieved of the chore of carrying fresh water and waste water to and from his home. On a cold winter morning his home is warmed possibly by electricity supplied by a local utility company. After breakfast he can go to his job without worry for his family, home, and possessions. While he is at his job, through sufficient police protection his family is safe from harm, and his property is protected from pilferage and vandalism. Through adequate fire protection, his property is safe from total destruction. On his way to and from his job, he travels on safe streets which are paved, maintained and well lighted. Moreover, at the job, the same facilities are working for him. While this man spends his day earning his livelihood, his family's social needs are being fulfilled by health and welfare services, schools and libraries, and someday it is hoped in Aurora, recreational

facilities, which by the way he makes use of, or will make use of, after working hours.

All these services which have just been mentioned in the paragraph above, can be considered community facilities. Aurora supplies these to its citizens at low cost. A community facility which has not been mentioned is the government administration itself. This operational unit coordinates and administers nearly all of these facilities that were mentioned above.

It is doubtless to say that the Aurora citizen could survive without the convenience of these community facilities, because in times past he has. However, man could hardly be as productive as he is today without these community facilities. More than likely, he would be spending most of his time supplying substitutes for community facilities if they were not offered by the town. The Aurora citizen is fortunate in having services such as these offered to him so that he can spend as little time as necessary in supplying himself with what is considered today to be bare necessities and so that he can dedicate himself to the pursuit of earning his livelihood. Therefore, community facilities, in addition to providing for the Aurora citizens "health, safety, and welfare," free him to devote himself to increasing his affluence without having the care of supplying his family and himself with what may be termed the bare necessities.

Procedure

Aurora's community services form an extremely complicated mechanism which, like in any successful business, requires good planning and guidance in order to operate at peak performance at the present and in the future. Therefore, beyond the generalized future land use plan,* published at a previous date, which

*Land Development Plan: Aurora, N.C., Division of Community Planning, Department of Conservation and Development, Washington, N.C., November 1967.

has been formulated by the Aurora Planning Board, plans for the town's various services are also necessary. These plans guide the town in creating and operating needed services so that they will be more efficient and economical in the future than they are today.

So that the quality and quantity of the existing community facilities offered to the residents of Aurora by the municipality and utility companies can be determined, it was necessary to take a field survey. Inspection of the community facilities and interviews had to be conducted. The results of these are discussed and analyzed in the following pages, and based on the analysis which is given, recommendations are made on the necessary creation, expansion, and improvement of community facilities which may be needed in the Aurora planning area now and in its future. The recommendations of the community facilities plan in this publication are "geared" to the land development plan as much as possible.

The following chapter of this report is a public improvements program. This program is a master list of all the public improvements required during the planning period which runs approximately twenty years hence. The items which are recommended for "creation, expansion, and improvement" in the community facilities plan presented in this chapter will be arranged in order of priority in the public improvements program. In the program, justification and explanation of the need for the items which are suggested for the town's future will be given.

The community facilities plan contained in this chapter is broken down into four parts. These are the public safety, public works, social and cultural, and administrative categories. Each of the categories is divided into parts also. For instance, within the public safety category there are three services offered by the community. These are police protection, fire protection, and rescue service. The other categories of public works, social and cultural, and administrative are broken down accordingly.

Public Safety

The public safety functions are examined in this section. Included are police protection, fire protection, and rescue service.

The extent and quality of these functions should be the concern of every citizen in the community, for they can directly affect his safety and the protection of his property.

Police Protection

Personnel

The Aurora Police Department is located in the Town Hall at the corner of Fourth and Pearl Streets, (see page 11). The Chief of Police, the sole officer, shares office space with the town clerk.

The police department was formed in 1950 with the hiring of a full time man. The present chief of police has taken a training course for police work at a technical training institute and has served on a municipal police department before coming to Aurora. It is apparent that he is well qualified, and it would be highly desirable to require that all future personnel also have some formal police training.

Since the policeman operates alone he is subject to call at all hours, although he regularly works 60 to 65 hours each week. Since 1960 there have been four men in the position. The salary has been improved recently, and it is likely that the rate of turn-overs will decline. Besides his police duties, the policeman reads water meters and serves as dog warden.

The policeman patrols within the town limits but will go outside into the one mile area if called. During the day the policeman spends about one-half of his time on foot in the CBD and the rest of the time patrolling in the police car. At night he conducts a roving patrol throughout the town by car. Close cooperation with the town policeman is provided by the two county

deputy sheriffs assigned to Richland Township, within which Aurora is located. One of the deputies lives inside Aurora, and the other lives within one mile. Each of the deputies has a radio equipped car, providing direct contact with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Equipment

The personal equipment of the policeman is adequate. The police car, a 1960 Chevrolet, is in poor mechanical condition. In addition, the car is not radio equipped. If a new radio equipped car were provided, police protection for the town could be improved and would be adequate for the town's citizens in the chief's opinion.

The total budget for the police department is about \$6,000 per year.

Jail Facilities

The jail is located three blocks from the department headquarters, at the corner of Fifth and Middle Streets. The building contains a small courtroom with two cells located on either side at the rear. Two cells have four bunks each, and two have two bunks each. Because of the separation provided by the courtroom, both male and female prisoners can be housed. Prisoners are separated by age, race, and degree of offense. Since the jail serves as only a temporary place of detention before prisoners are removed to the county jail in Washington, no one is kept there over 24 hours. The capacity of the jail is adequate for local needs. However, the structure is old and in need of repairs.

The dog pound is located behind the town jail and has a capacity for over 20 dogs. It is considered to be adequate for the town's needs.

Recommendations

Considering the financial limitations of Aurora, and the size of the population being served, police protection for the town is adequate. FBI standards call for one policeman for each 500 people, and Aurora has one officer for about 700. As Aurora grows, and its financial base to provide services and facilities becomes larger, it would be desirable to add additional police personnel to keep the ratio of policemen to population at a reasonable level.

When a new municipal building is constructed, it would be desirable to provide adequate facilities in it for the police department and a new jail.

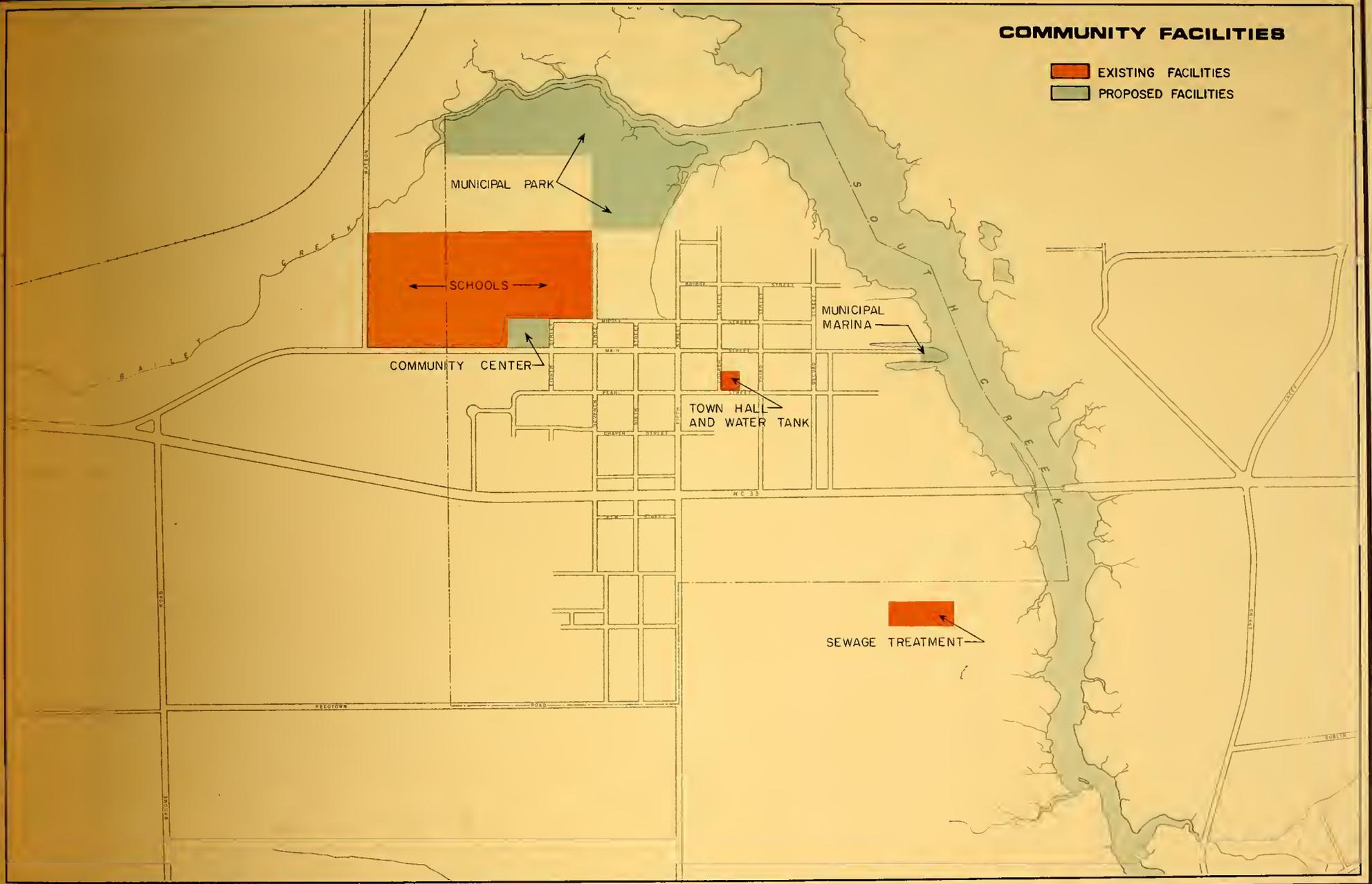
The town is making plans to purchase a new police car to replace the old one. As was mentioned above, there is no communications equipment available for the police department, or for the town. It is recommended that a mobile radio unit be purchased or leased and installed in the new police car. Proper radio equipment would provide communications with area towns and cities, the county sheriff's department, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. In addition, there is a lack of needed and desirable equipment that should be carried in the police car in addition to a mobile radio unit. Needed items are: a riot gun, riot stick, riot helmet, gas mask, jumper cables, flexible steel tape, basic set of tools, broom, fire extinguisher, tow chain, flares, and reflectors.

It is recommended that the town adopt the policy of regularly replacing the police car every five years or 50,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

With the above improvements, the police facilities and equipment are expected to be adequate for the 20 year planning period.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- EXISTING FACILITIES
- PROPOSED FACILITIES



AURORA
NORTH CAROLINA

Fire Protection

Personnel

The Aurora Fire Department was established in 1920. In 1947, the town purchased a pumper truck, and in 1948 it built the Municipal Building which includes the Fire Station, (see page 11). In operation, the Aurora Fire Department is combined with the Richmond Township Rural Fire Department. The combined Fire Department is manned by 25 volunteers, organized into two companies of twelve men each. In charge of each company is a captain, one of whom serves as Assistant Fire Chief. The Fire Chief has overall command of the two companies.

Although some of the firemen have attended courses offered in the Community College Program and by insurance companies, there is no systematic training program and no compensation for a man to receive training. In fact, the firemen receive no compensation at all and must pay for their own equipment. The department holds fire drills in cooperation with the schools and occasionally inspects public buildings.

The companies rotate in their assignments each month from duty inside the town limits to duty within the whole township. One of the Fire Department's two pumper trucks is kept inside the town at all times. The other truck operates at any place within the township. To obtain coverage within the township, outside the city limits, the landowner pays \$5.00 a year for each dwelling. In practice, service is provided to nonsubscribers as well as subscribers, but a fee is charged for the call.

Equipment

The town's pumper is a 1949 Ford with an American-LaFrance 500 gallon-per-minute pumper and a 500 gallon capacity tank. The truck is in good condition, and its equipment is considered to be adequate.

Operating within Richmond Township is a 1946 Dodge truck with a John Beam high pressure 65 gallon-per-minute pumper with a 500 gallon water tank. This truck also is in good condition, and its equipment is considered to be adequate.

The town is awaiting delivery of a 1953 Ford tank truck with a 1,700 gallon capacity. The tank truck is a converted fuel tanker and is in fair condition.

Although the Fire Chief considers the present equipment to be generally adequate, he believes a new pumper truck will be needed within ten years to add to the existing equipment.

The Fire Department has no radio equipment. A siren is used for fire warnings. The space available in the existing fire station is inadequate.

Water mains in Aurora vary from 10 inches down to four inches. The minimum water supply available at the greatest distance from the water tank is 1,250 gallons-per-minute, an amount considered quite adequate for fire fighting purposes. According to the town's consulting engineer, the new water system has a considerable excess capacity to handle future population and industry, and should be adequate for meeting fire fighting needs during the 20 year planning period.*

Recommendations

Because of its small size, Aurora easily meets the standards set by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau for size of service zone. The station is located in the Central Business District of Aurora and is within one mile of all residences in the town. At the present time, the town has a fire rating of "8". A lower rating can only be achieved by upgrading the fire department's operation. Among the improvements needed to increase

*Rivers and Associates, Consulting Engineers, Greenville, N.C.

the efficiency and effectiveness of the fire department are the following:

1. Additional garage space is needed for the fire fighting equipment now operated and to allow adequate room for expansion. A meeting room is needed for fire department activities. It is recommended that when the new municipal building is constructed, that the fire department take over all of the space in the existing municipal building. In the interim, additional garage space should be provided for the department by expanding the existing facility.
2. The town's pumper truck should be equipped with a mobile radio unit. Such a unit would permit the department to contact the fire departments in either Washington or New Bern to ask for assistance.
3. It is recommended that a telephone alarm system or some other comparable system be installed to permit all members of the fire department to be informed about a fire simultaneously.
4. It is recommended that a systematic check be made, on a regular interval, of fire hazards in the town and of all public buildings by the fire department personnel.
5. Since the town's pumper truck will soon be 20 years old, plans should be made to replace it or add a new pumper and keep the older one in reserve. The American Insurance Association does not credit a town for equipment over 20 years old. Fire insurance rates are based on the town's rating. If Aurora grows at the projected rate, an additional pumper will be needed by 1975-1980. At that time a new company should be added to the fire department to man the older truck and provide a reserve force to operate in support of either the town or the county fire trucks.
6. The town and township should take steps to provide a nominal fee for each fireman, enough to compensate him for costs of personal equipment, cleaning his clothing, time for drills and training, and personal transportation to and from fires.

If followed, the above recommendations would considerably improve the fire department, making it generally adequate for the planning period. However, additional improvements would have to be made to upgrade the fire department to a class "7" rating.

Included would be hiring full time firemen, which the town cannot afford at the present or in the next few years.

Rescue Squad

The Aurora Rescue Squad is located at the municipal building and quartered with the fire department. This all volunteer organization is operated by the fire department personnel. Since there is no ambulance service available in the town, the squad serves an invaluable function. In addition to the town, all of Richmond Township is provided service. Organized in 1952, the squad is equipped with a 1954 Chevrolet ambulance which is outfitted with a minimal amount of first aid equipment. The vehicle is in fair running order but is getting old. A fund raising drive is underway to provide money for a new rescue truck which will come fully equipped with first aid equipment including oxygen. It is expected that the truck will be purchased during the winter of 1967-1968.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a selected group of firemen be given special first aid training and instruction in the use of the equipment on the new truck. These men could conduct training courses or special demonstrations in first aid at the local schools. Since the rescue squad is quartered with the fire department, attention should be given to providing adequate garage and meeting space for the unit at the municipal building. It would be desirable in the near future to equip the rescue truck with a mobile radio unit to permit communications with the fire and police department.

Public Works

The public works functions of the Town of Aurora are under the supervision of the Director of Public Works, one of the city councilmen. These facilities include the town garage, the water system, the sanitary sewer system, the town dump, the streets, and the airfield. Included among the services are water treatment and distribution, sewage collection and treatment, and refuse collection and disposal. Each of the public works functions and facilities are considered below.

The Town Garage

The town garage is located behind the municipal building at the corner of Fourth and Pearl Streets. This open sided structure has 1,600 square feet of floor space, and is in fair condition. It was constructed in 1958, utilizing a wood frame covered with a tin roof. It houses the rescue truck, a motor grader, and a small street repair machine. The parking area around the garage has a gravel surface but very limited space. The location is very good in terms of accessibility, and if the administrative functions of the town government are moved elsewhere, there will be adequate room for expansion.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a new garage be built either to replace the old one or to supplement it within five years. When the new garage is built, adequate space should be provided to accommodate not only the existing city equipment but also additional equipment that will be needed in the future. The parking area for the public works department and the fire department should be expanded and paved, fenced, and lighted.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

As is mentioned above, the director of public works has charge of refuse collection. The town hires one full-time employee who handles refuse collection. This employee also works

on the streets. Refuse collection is provided only inside the city limits. The pick-up is once a week, between Tuesday noon and Thursday afternoon, for both the commercial area and the residential sections. A one ton dump truck is used for hauling refuse to the dump site, located about one-half mile to the northeast of town across South Creek. The truck used for hauling refuse is one of three dump trucks currently owned by the town. It is a 1958 Chevrolet in fair condition. Because of the height of the truck bed, it is totally unsuited for refuse collection. The collector must lift each trash can almost as high as his head to empty its contents. Not only that, but the unpacked refuse takes up a great deal of space and makes repeated trips to the disposal area necessary to complete the job. Thus much valuable time, effort, and money are wasted in the collection process. During the summer, twice a week pick-ups would be highly desirable, but additional help would be needed by the collector.

The disposal site contains about five acres, of which more than four are wooded. During the ten years the site has been used, less than one acre has been needed. Once or twice a year a bulldozer "pushes up" the refuse and compacts it to some degree. Because the land slopes naturally away from the roadside entrance, it could be easily adapted to a sanitary land fill process. The site is fenced off on the highway side and an effort is made to discourage rural people from dumping trash at the site. The refuse collector burns each week's accumulation as it is picked up. Since the prevailing winds are from the southwest, the area presents no air pollution problems for the town.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the city acquire a refuse packer truck as soon as possible, or else employ a special dump trailer with the presently used dump truck.

It is recommended that a sanitary land fill be used at the city dump site. Utilizing such a system, the present site should be adequate for the next twenty years or more, even with a population increase.

It is recommended that an additional man be hired part-time during the summer months to help the present employee so that refuse pickups can be made twice a week.

Water System

Aurora's water system consists of an eight inch well, a treatment plant, a 100,000 gallon water tank, and a distribution system. The system was installed in 1964 and was rated by the design engineers as being adequate for a population of 5,000 people if additional water storage facilities are provided. The well produces a maximum flow of 200 gallons per minute. Three additional six inch wells are available and plans are being made to tie one of them into the existing system to provide a reserve water source. These wells plus the water distribution system are shown on the map on page 11.

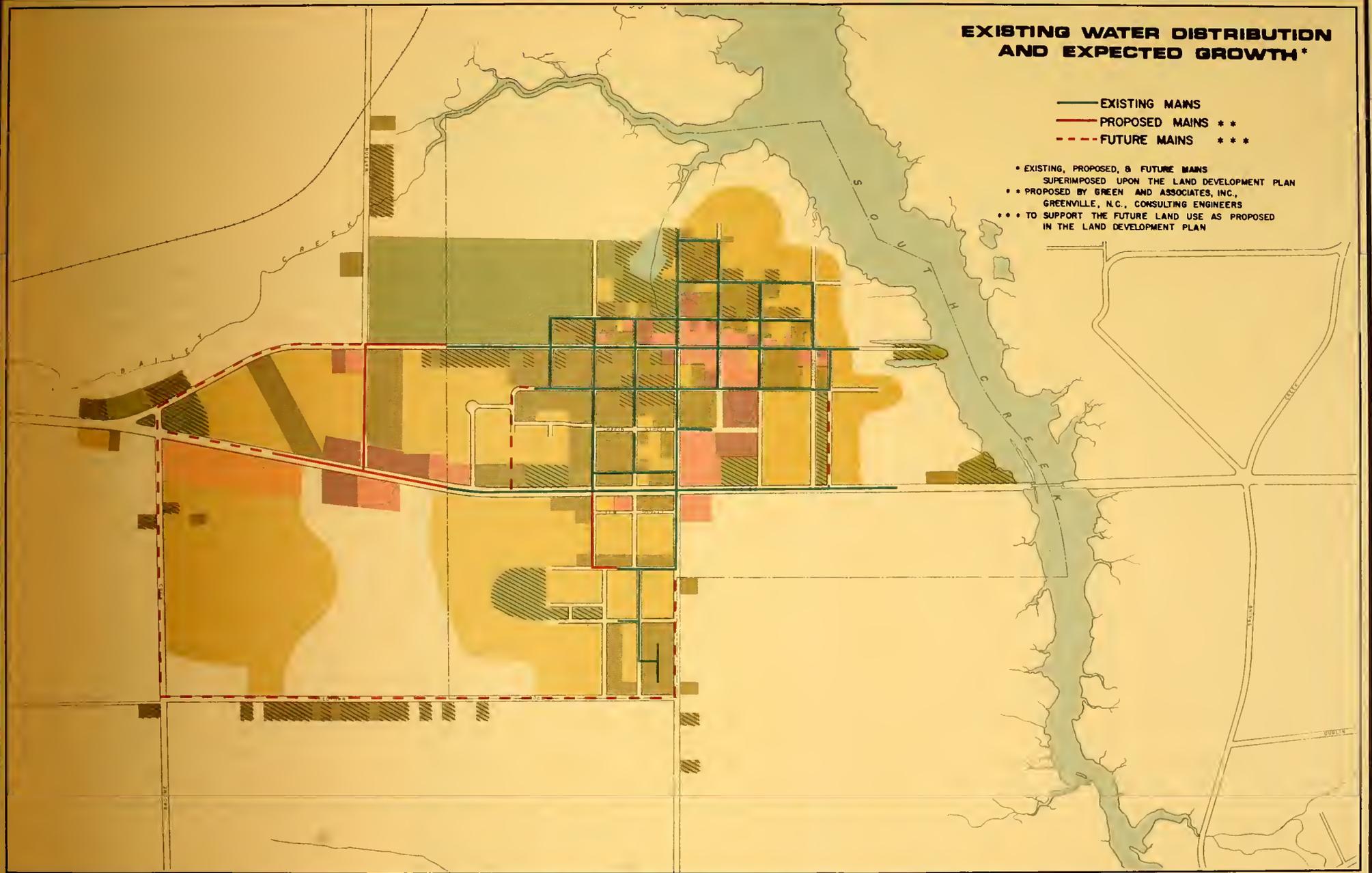
The peak period for water use is from June to September. The maximum use for any twenty-four hour period since the system has been in operation was about 46,000 gallons, less than one-half of the storage capacity. The minimum hydrant flow on the smallest, or four inch trunk lines, is 1,250 gallons per minute.

Since Aurora is now exploring the possibility of annexing land to the west and south of the town, it should also consider the extension of services to these areas. Proposed extensions of the water system, based on the consulting engineer's plans and studies, are shown on page 19. The major extension would be an eight inch pipe line extending west on Main Street beyond the city limits to secondary road 1938, then south to Peedtown Road, and then north on First Street to Pearl Street. Inside this loop would be a grid of six inch lines. Smaller lines would pipe water from the grid system to the homes and businesses. Since the location of these smaller lines will vary with the subdivision layouts adopted, no attempt is made to show them.

EXISTING WATER DISTRIBUTION AND EXPECTED GROWTH*

— EXISTING MAINS
 — PROPOSED MAINS **
 - - - FUTURE MAINS ***

* EXISTING, PROPOSED, & FUTURE MAINS SUPERIMPOSED UPON THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 ** PROPOSED BY GREEN AND ASSOCIATES, INC., GREENVILLE, N.C., CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 *** TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE LAND USE AS PROPOSED IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN



AURORA NORTH CAROLINA

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1985

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| EXISTING COMMERCIAL | PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL | PROPOSED PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC |
| PROPOSED COMMERCIAL | PROPOSED REHABILITATED RESIDENTIAL | PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL |
| EXISTING RESIDENTIAL | EXISTING PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC | VACANT |



This extension to the existing system, plus the addition of a pump, would enable the city to serve the anticipated population increase during the planning period. According to the engineers, an increase in water storage capacity could be added when the population approached 2,000.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Aurora make plans to finance the expansion of the water system concurrently with annexation plans. There are homes within the city that have not been tied into the new system. The town should concentrate on making the system complete within the town.

Sanitary Sewerage System

The sanitary sewerage system in Aurora was completed in 1965. The system is gravity flow, using a lift station located in the same block with the water tower and water treatment plant (behind the municipal building and the town garage on Third Street) to provide flow to the lagoon on the southeastern side of town. Actually two lagoons are used, the second being a reserve or spillover receiver for the first. Drainage of the effluent goes into South Creek. The lagoons are designed to serve 1,500 people, more than double the present population. If the population increases according to expectations, additional lagoons will be needed after 1975. Like the water system, the pumping or lift station is automatic. These facilities are checked once a day by the Director of Public Works. Two pumps are used, connected by a trip cycle. Each has a capacity of 600 gallons per minute. The primary pump operates less than half of the time.

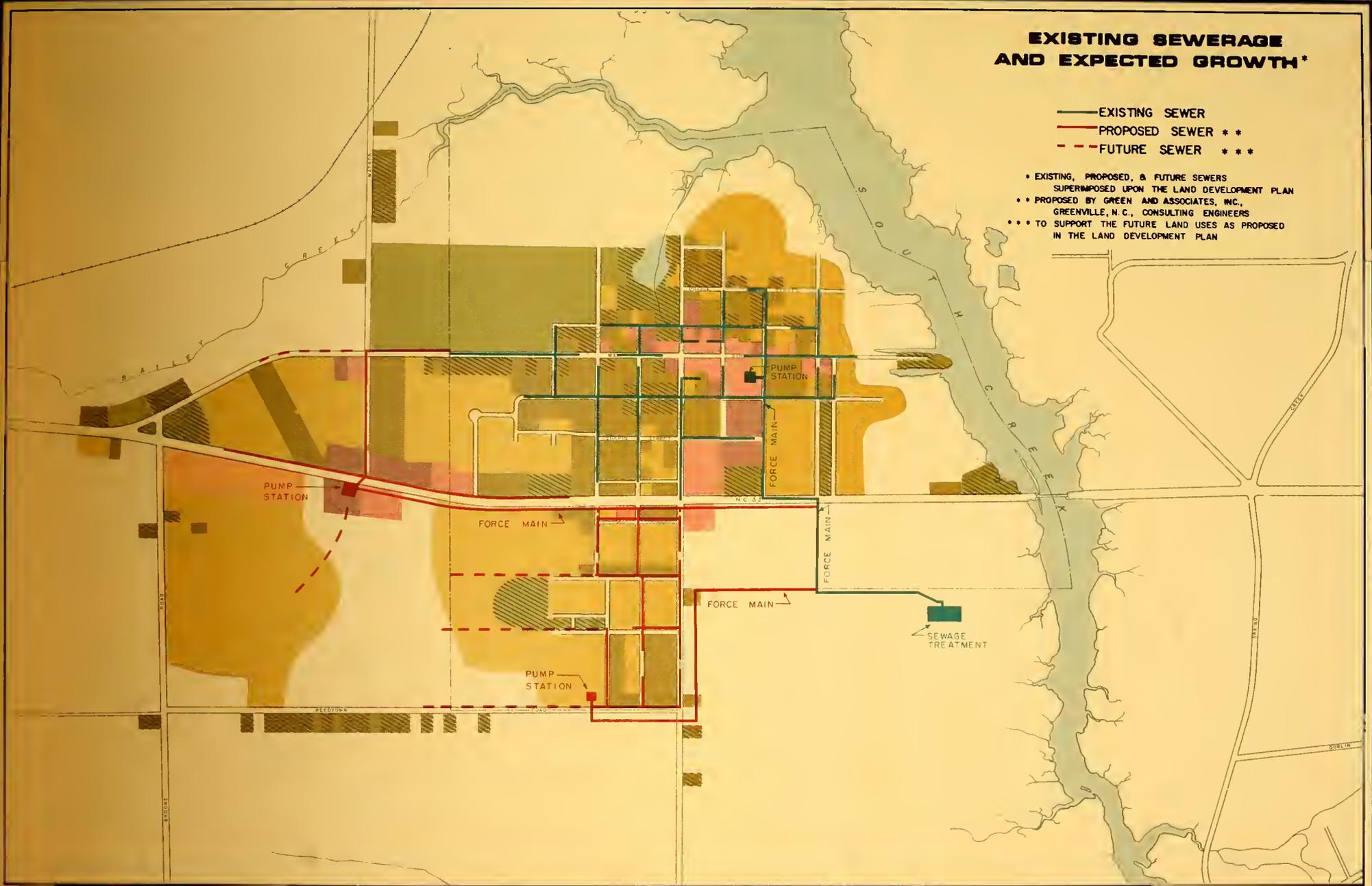
Recommendations

Although the existing system has an adequate capacity for Aurora's present population and a considerable number of the expected increase, a newly developing residential area in the

EXISTING SEWERAGE AND EXPECTED GROWTH*

- EXISTING SEWER
- PROPOSED SEWER **
- - - FUTURE SEWER ***

- * EXISTING, PROPOSED, & FUTURE SEWERS SUPERIMPOSED UPON THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- ** PROPOSED BY GREEN AND ASSOCIATES, INC., GREENVILLE, N.C., CONSULTING ENGINEERS
- *** TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE LAND USES AS PROPOSED IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN



AURORA NORTH CAROLINA

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1985

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| EXISTING COMMERCIAL | PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL | PROPOSED PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC |
| PROPOSED COMMERCIAL | PROPOSED REHABILITATED RESIDENTIAL | PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL |
| EXISTING RESIDENTIAL | EXISTING PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC | VACANT |

south side of N.C. 33* within the town limits, needs to be extended service. The soil is unsuited for septic tanks and is causing problems for the landowners. The apartments in one development have been connected to the town system by a small lift pump installed by the developer. The town should work with the developers in this area to meet the emergency situation and should adopt an orderly plan of extending sewer service.

The maximum depth that gravity pipes can be used in the Aurora Planning Area is about twelve feet. The existing system, with its pumping station, is as large as it can be made, using gravity pipes. Expansions of this system will be needed as Aurora grows and as it extends services to existing developments in the planning area. Proposed expansions, including two new lift stations, are shown on page 12. Expansion of the treatment facilities simply involved enlarging the available lagoon space. Based on the projected rate of growth, extra lagoon space will probably be needed by 1980. With these additions, the town should be able to extend sewer services to the anticipated future population during the planning period.*

Storm Drainage

Except for a few pipes to carry water across streets and intersections, there is no underground storm drainage system in Aurora. Open ditches form an inadequate and incomplete system. Most of the developed area within the town limits is under ten feet in elevation, and some of it is under five feet. Thus, most of the town lies in the 20 year flood plain area of South Creek. Most of the area into which the town is expected to expand during the next 20 years, lies outside the flood plain. Although flooding due to abnormal tide conditions cannot be controlled without dikes, localized flooding because of heavy rains

*Rivers and Associates, Consulting Engineers, Greenville, N.C.

can be greatly reduced by a unified storm drainage system. The natural slope of the land might make it possible to use a gravity flow system for the entire planning area. Natural drainage outfalls are to the north, east, and south of the town. Until an adequate storm drainage system is put into operation, many investors will be reluctant to build in the town. In the long run, the town should study the feasibility of building a dike along the west shore of South Creek.

Recommendations

The town should undertake an engineering study, as soon as possible to determine its storm drainage needs and to design a system adequate for rapid removal of water during heavy rainfalls. This system is needed to protect existing development from damage and to encourage new investment in the town.

Streets

The street system for the Town of Aurora is shown on page 25. The state maintains about 2.3 miles of highway in Aurora, and the town maintains 8.4 miles of streets. Of the town's total, 3.4 miles are paved, and 5.0 miles are unpaved.

The town's refuse collector also maintains the streets.* He works on the streets from Monday until noon on Tuesday, and all day Friday. The town operates two dump trucks and one motor grader for street use. Also used on occasions is a tar pot or street patching machine. Each of the trucks is a one ton dump vehicle, a 1960 Ford and a 1961 Chevrolet. These trucks were purchased in the last year to haul reject material (consolidated shell and limestone) from the Texas Gulf Sulphur mining site at Lee Creek. The company is giving the town all of the material it can haul away free of cost. It is being used to surface the

*See page 16.

town's dirt streets and is proving highly satisfactory because of its compactive quality and high water absorption capability. After the town has satisfied its need for this material, two of its three dump trucks are slated to be sold - the two Chevrolets. The Ford is in the best condition, and it will be retained for street and refuse collection use. All of this equipment is stored at the town garage, but there is no room in the garage for any of the dump trucks.

The department has a motor grader, in good condition, and a tar pot or street patching machine. Including the dump truck that will be retained, this equipment is considered to be adequate for the town's needs for the next five years. By that time the dump truck will need replacing.

Some of the more important street problems in Aurora are:

1. that pavement widths on most streets are too narrow;
2. that there presently exist numerous unmarked intersections;
3. that there is a lack of public off-street parking space in the Central Business District;
4. that there are hazardous offset intersection alignments on Chapin Street and in South Village; and
5. that there is a need to lower the maximum permitted on N.C. 33 Bypass.

The town is moving to correct some of its street problems. Signs are on order for all unmarked intersections. Main Street will be resurfaced in a few months between Second and Fifth Streets by the State Highway Commission.

At the present time the town has no policy on street paving in residential areas. However, driveway connections are handled on a 50-50 basis, with the town contributing half of the cost and the landowner half.

Except for the parking spaces available at the town hall, there is no public parking available in Aurora. Two private parking lots are used by the public in the Central Business

District. Because Main Street is so narrow that only one side can be used for parking, building development of the private lots now used for public parking would cause a shortage of space in the Central Business District.

Recommendations

The town should adopt a policy of having property owners share the costs of providing street paving, curbs, and gutters. The subdivision regulations should be amended to require improvements by the developer to upgrade the quality of new development. If it so desires, the town could reimburse the developer for part of the specified improvement costs.

Merchants in the Central Business District should take the initiative to ensure that off-street parking is permanently available in the business area. They should form an association to provide off-street parking space. Because of its financial limitations, merchants should not expect the town to solve their parking problem.

The map on page _____ shows what is needed in Aurora's street system. Included are sidewalks needed to serve the schools with safe and protected places for children to walk.

Airfield

The Aurora airfield lies on the east side of town, about one-half mile from the town limits. The 4,000 foot grass airstrip lies on private property, but the town has been asked to "take it over" and maintain it. Constructed in 1965, the airstrip lies in a flood plain area on the east side of South Creek just south of N.C. Highway 33. Three miles of open fields provide an easy approach from the east. The airstrip is suited for light aircraft and small two-motor planes.

No improvements, structures, or lighting has been provided at the airfield.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the town not make any investments in the airstrip unless the property is deeded to Aurora, or leased to the town for a long term.

Social and Cultural

Library

The Aurora Town Library, a branch of the larger Beaufort-Hyde-Martin (BHM) Regional Library, is located on the second floor of a private building at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. The facility consists of two tiny rooms, each with less than 150 square feet of floor space. The librarian is paid by the county and operates the facility for eight hours each week. The library is open on Tuesday morning, and Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The library serves not only the town but many people living in Richmond Township. Once a month the township and the town library are visited by the Beaufort County Bookmobile. The town library was originally organized by the Aurora High School PTA and receives a yearly cash contribution of twenty-five dollars from that organization. All other funds for the library's operation come from the county.

There are 773 books in the local permanent collection, many of them outdated and in poor condition. The county lends the local library about 800 books, and "trades" about 50 to 100 books each month to add variety to the local supply. With an estimated 1,000 to 1,200 people in the town library's service area, there are fewer than two books per person. Total circulation has risen sharply in the past six years, from 2,884 volumes in 1961-62 to an estimated 4,300 in 1966-67. In 1965-66 a high figure of 4,983 was reached. As the flood of construction workers employed temporarily with Texas Gulf Sulphur Company left, however, the circulation fell to a new equilibrium level, well above that of earlier years.

Badly needed are a new location for the library, additional floor and shelving space, more and newer books, and expanded support in the community. Several people, who have vigorously sup-

ported the library, are trying to secure help from the town in locating a new site, and there has been some thought given to locating the library in the same building with the town administration if a move is made from the old municipal building.

Recommendations

It is recommended that new quarters be secured for the library as soon as possible, preferably in the downtown area. The town should assist in finding a suitable site.

It is recommended that the town appoint a library board to assist in operating and expanding the library. If possible, the town should provide an annual appropriation to the library to help expand and update the local supply of books.

The library should systematically begin replacing the old books in its permanent collection with current new books, retaining older books that are in demand. The library should work toward a goal of at least two books per capita, a standard recommended by the American Library Association. If the county library can permanently supply one book per capita, as they do at present, the town will need at least 1,000 books in its permanent collection by 1987. A small appropriation by the town and increased support by local citizens would enable the library to add 50 or more books each year and reach its goal.

As more funds for operation become available, it would be desirable to open the library every day in the week, except for Sundays. Night operation of the facility, particularly during the school months, would be highly desirable, provided study space is available in the new location.

A full time staff is not needed at the present, but by the time the town reaches a population of 1,500 or more, it might be justified. The key element is the demand for service and the local support provided.

Recreation

There are no public recreation facilities in Aurora, except for a small piece of land at the east end of Main Street which contains a broken down wooden pier and a concrete boat landing slip. With a population of about 700 people, and projections for an additional 1,000 or more by 1985, the town must soon consider providing public recreation facilities for its people. It is generally recommended today that communities set aside from 10 to 15 acres of land for public recreation per 1000 people. By this measure, Aurora now needs about 10 acres (it has less than one) and will need an additional 10 to 15 acres by 1985. With the rapid rise now being experienced in land cost, the town would be wise to begin now to acquire needed land, well in advance of additional population pressure.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Aurora work with the local school board to gain free public access to school recreation facilities and that the town begin now to acquire water access areas for public use. The existing site should be improved, and parking should be provided for users. The land development plan for Aurora indicates areas that should be set aside for public recreation. After the plan is adopted, the town should map out a program of acquiring the needed areas and developing them. Federal grants can be obtained through the Open Space Program that pay 50 percent of the cost of acquiring and developing such areas.

Schools

Aurora has two schools, both operated by the Beaufort County School Board. Both S. W. Snowden School, predominantly Negro, and Aurora High School, predominantly white, are located on adjoining sites. Both schools have twelve grades. The school district for each school roughly corresponds with Richmond Township, extending just to the west of the township along a line

formed by Blount's Creek. Snowden School has 30 classrooms, 780 students, and 32 faculty members. Aurora High School has 22 classrooms, 460 students, and 24 faculty members.

Aurora High School's basic classroom facility was constructed in 1928 and is in need of replacement. It is located on a 12 acre site. Snowden School was built in 1951, and like Aurora High School, has had recent improvements such as a gym and cafeteria. The schools are separated by a 25 acre tract of land. This property is now being developed by Texas Gulf Sulphur Company, the owner of the land, as a complete school recreation facility. It will include lighted, paved tennis courts, a football field and stadium, a running track, a baseball field, and other open play areas. The property is being leased to the Board of Education free of charge for 25 years, with the schools responsible for maintenance. The county has plans to build a new high school on one of the three sites, and use the existing schools as elementary and junior high schools.

At the present time, both schools are operating at near capacity. Population projections indicate that the student population in the district will roughly double by 1980. If this occurs, the time cannot be long delayed before new school construction is begun.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed new high school be built on or adjacent to the existing school properties in Aurora. A possible location, the most desirable from the standpoint of accessibility, is the tract of land between the existing schools that Texas Gulf Sulphur Company is leasing to the schools and developing with excellent facilities. The site is adequate in size. If developed, it would be flanked by its feeder schools. Multiple use of many of the facilities would be possible.

The town should install additional lighting adjacent to the school when it is built. Additionally, sidewalks are needed along

Main Street and other streets serving the school. As other public improvements are needed, the town should try to provide them. Aurora's attractiveness and appeal as a place to live are in large measure dependent on the quality of its educational facilities.

It is recommended that the town work out a policy with the school board to make the new school recreation area available to the town's citizens after school hours and on weekends.

Administrative

Aurora's administrative office is located in the municipal building at the corner of Pearl and Fourth Streets. The building, a one story brick structure was constructed in 1948. In addition to the town clerk's office, which is shared with the town policeman, the building houses the Aurora Fire Department. The office is inadequate in size and storage space for the functions it now serves. There is a total of about 480 square feet of floor space, roughly equally shared by the policeman and the town clerk. The building is in good condition and has adequate parking space for administrative functions as it is now used. However, parking is overloaded when the firemen and the public works department are all using the lot at once.

The town is governed by a mayor and four commissioners. Each commissioner is assigned special administrative functions - police, water and fire department, streets, refuse collection, etc. The town has three regular employees, a town clerk, a policeman, and a refuse collector-street maintenance man. In addition, a secretary is hired part-time to assist the town clerk.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Aurora adopt the council manager form of municipal government and hire a town manager who would be responsible for all municipal functions. The manager could be hired as the population approaches 1,000 people. At that time, the town clerk could be elevated to the position of assistant to the town manager. It is recommended that this man serve the town as a building inspector as one of his duties.

It is recommended that the town either find new location for the town offices or expand the existing space. If a move is made, the fire department should be given the existing office space to use for its meeting room.

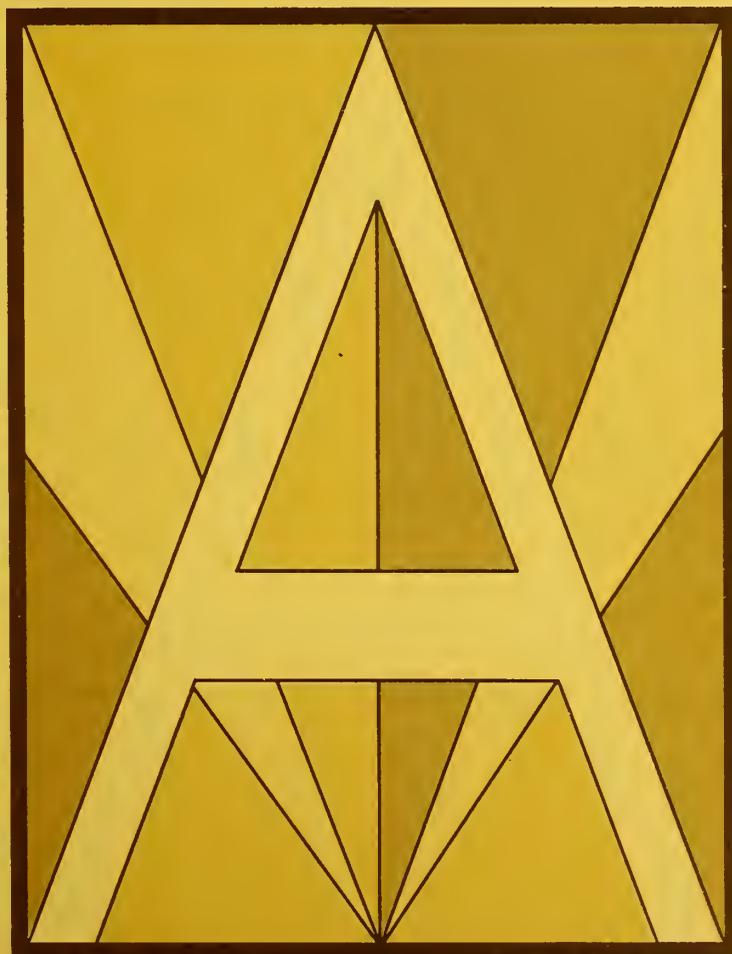
It is recommended that the part-time secretary be retained as a full time employee as soon as the work load justifies the need.

Conclusions

The community facilities which Aurora offers its citizens are generally adequate. Sewage disposal and water supply will be excellent when extended to all the homes in the town. Police, fire, and rescue squad service are adequate and are being improved. Refuse collection is generally adequate, but needs improvement. Storm drainage is poor and needs to be radically improved. Much street paving and improvement remains to be done. The library needs new quarters and much improvement in its permanent book collection. The schools are crowded and parts of both facilities need replacement. Construction of a new high school will greatly improve the school situation. Public recreation facilities for all the people are nonexistent and badly needed.

Not only must Aurora plan for its present population but it must also make plans to extend services and facilities to all people in its planning area, if it annexes these areas. Also, it must anticipate future population growth and provide for the orderly extension of services and facilities to new residents.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM



PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Introduction

This report provides a priority listing of the public improvements needed in Aurora for the next twenty years. It is based on recommendations from the Land Development Plan and the Community Facilities Plan. Because of the town's limited financial capacity, improvements in this report have been scheduled for ten fiscal intervals of two years each. This type of scheduling permits more flexibility in the administration of the program.

The main function of the public improvements program is to serve as a guide in the development of a capital improvements budget. Thus, the program must establish the priority of each improvement project according to need, justify the priority, and identify the means of implementation. The capital improvements budget takes the list, determines the cost of each item, and shows how each is to be financed. Based on the cost of each improvement and the town's financial capacity, the capital improvements budget schedules the projects to be accomplished each fiscal year.

With a total budget of about \$24,000 per year, of which about half is general fund revenue, Aurora has about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year available for public improvements at the present time. The town has borrowed as much money as it can, based on its assessed valuation, to build its new water and sewer systems. Because bond issues will be needed to carry out some of the improvements needed in the future, the town should carefully consider methods of increasing the tax base by annexation. Additionally, all federal and state aid programs should be investigated to determine if the town can qualify for such assistance. Some of these programs have been briefly described in the recommendations of the Land Development Plan and Community Facilities Plan. However, town officials should follow up and inform themselves fully.

Public Improvement Projects, 1967-1987

The following items in each section are placed roughly in priority order. In several instances it was difficult to determine which items had priority over others.

1967-1969

- (1) Police Car - Purchase a new vehicle; the 1960 police car is worn out.
- (2) Police Radio - Rent a mobile radio unit and install in new police car. The unit is needed to provide communication with sheriff's deputies, highway patrol, and nearby town police departments.
- (3) Police Equipment - Purchase police equipment such as riot control weapons, tools, and safety equipment. The equipment is needed so that policemen can handle emergency situations.
- (4) Annexation Study - Contract for technical planning assistance in preparing an annexation feasibility study of extraterritorial areas of the community.
- (5) Community Center - Seek out assistance from the Federal Government through the Neighborhood Facilities Program of the Housing and Urban Development Department to construct a Community Center; this includes the purchase of space for a recreation area to the northwest of the Central Business District.
- (6) Water and Sewer Planning - Work closely with Beaufort County's engineering consultant to assure that the Farmers Home Administration water and sewer planning program is in accordance with Aurora's comprehensive planning program.
- (7) Garbage and Refuse Pickup - Investigate the possibility of approaching the town government of Bayboro to determine whether that community would be willing to allow for, on a contractual basis, the use of its garbage and refuse packer truck for two days per week. An alternative would be to purchase a relatively inexpensive "jeep-train" unit.
- (8) Town Park - Investigate the possibility of a long term lease from Texas Gulf Sulphur Company of a tract of woodland just north of the existing school site for an extension to the town park. The land would be a valuable

addition to the town's public recreation areas. The town could provide maintenance and low cost improvements, such as camping areas, picnicking facilities, and hiking trails. The area could be used in a natural state with no permanent improvements installed.

- (9) Capital Improvements Budget - To insure that financing of recommended public improvements will proceed on an orderly basis, prepare a Capital Improvements Budget.

1969-1971

- (1) Municipal Building - Build a new municipal building including administrative office space, facilities for the police department and a jail, facilities for the fire department, and a council chamber large enough to hold public hearings. A new site should be sought for the new building.
- (2) Fire Truck - Purchase a new 1,000 gallon pumper truck for the fire department. The truck is needed to replace the 1949 pumper and to retain the town's fire rating. Fire trucks over 20 years old are not credited by American Insurance Association for rating purposes.
- (3) Dump Truck - Purchase a new dump truck for the street department. The 1960 dump truck will have exhausted its useful service life by this time.
- (4) Storm Drainage Planning - Have engineering consultants prepare a storm drainage plan for the town after annexation takes place. A storm drainage system is needed to aid in removing excess rainfall and to protect valuable property.
- (5) Street Paving - Begin a program of street paving on an assessment basis. The Town should try, through paving unpaved streets or repaving old streets, to improve about ten percent of the town maintained street mileage each year.
- (6) Boat Landing - The Town should acquire additional land at the boat landing at the east end of Main Street and improve the site for a public water access facility.
- (7) Capital Improvements Budget - To keep financial planning up to date, update Capital Improvements Budget.

1971-1973

- (1) Police Force - Hire an additional policeman. The population increase will justify an additional man.
- (2) Police Car - Five years or 50,000 miles is good service life for the police car.
- (3) Water Main - Extend an eight inch water main along West Main Street, N.C. 33 bypass, Peedtown Road, and SR 1938 to complete a double loop facility.
- (4) Storm Drainage - Begin construction of the storm drainage system in planned yearly stages. Such a program should be tailored to the Town's ability to finance the work.
- (5) Town Park - Improvements should be made to the town park adjacent to the school site. Such facilities as picnicking areas, a paved parking lot, and a lighted baseball diamond will be needed to make the facility usable.
- (6) Capital Improvements Budget - To keep financial planning up to date, update the Capital Improvements Budget.

1973-1975

- (1) Sanitary Land Fill - To determine the feasibility of converting the present open dump or to acquire a new site for sanitary land fill purposes, a study should be undertaken with the technical aid of the North Carolina Division of Sanitary Engineering. A sanitary land fill may become a means by which the Town can convert useless land into valuable recreation or storage property.
- (2) Recreation Director - A part-time recreation director should be hired to operate a public recreation program. In order to provide an adequate program at the town's facilities, someone would have to be responsible for operation and maintenance.
- (3) Street Sweeper - Purchase a new or used street sweeper. Growth of town through annexation and population increase and the resulting additional street mileage justify this purchase.
- (4) Public Works Personnel - An additional one or two men should be added to the Public Works Department, based on need. As the town grows, additional employees will be needed for refuse collection, street cleaning and maintenance, etc.

- (5) Capital Improvement Budget - To keep financial planning up to date, update the Capital Improvements Budget.

1975-1977

- (1) Police Force - Add an additional policeman to the Force. A new man is justified by the increase in the town's population and the need to maintain an adequate level of service.
- (2) Police Car - The useful life of the police car is five years.
- (3) Water Supply and Treatment - Add a pump and filter to the water treatment plant. Population increases will show need for a proportionate increase in the water supply and treatment capacities. The storage capacity will still be adequate at this time.
- (4) Motor Grader - Replace the street department's motor grader. The useful life of the motor grader will have expired.
- (5) Dump Truck - Replace the dump truck. The life expectancy of this vehicle will have expired.
- (6) South Village Recreation Facility - Acquire land in the South Village Area on the south side of the existing town limits for a public recreation facility. A play-field with ball diamond and paved multiple use areas is needed for residents of this growing residential area on the south side of town.
- (7) Comprehensive Planning - Revise the Comprehensive Plan for Aurora. Studies are needed to evaluate the existing situation, to prepare projections of future growth, and to revise the land development plan, community facilities plan, and public improvements program of 1967. This should be done at least every ten years.
- (8) Capital Improvements Budget - Based on revised comprehensive plans, revise and update the Capital Improvements Budget.

1977-1979

- (1) Police Car - Add a new patrol car with a mobile radio unit to the police department. This additional vehicle is needed to provide adequate equipment.

- (2) Fire Truck - Purchase a new 1,000 gallon pumper truck. The growth of the town creates a need for the new truck. A new company should be added to the volunteer fire department to man the additional truck.
- (3) Public Works Personnel - Add an additional one or two men to the Public Works Department, based on need.
- (4) Dump Truck - Add an additional dump truck to the streets department to match the increased work load. Growth of the town justifies the additional truck.
- (5) South Village Recreation Facility - Develop the recreation facility in South Village. Turf plantings, paving of multiple use areas, tree plantings, lighting, and fencing are needed to properly develop the area.
- (6) Capital Improvements Budget - Update the Capital Improvements Program to keep financial planning up to date.

1979-1981

- (1) Sewage Treatment - Add a new lagoon to the sewage treatment facility. The increased population creates a need for additional treatment space.
- (2) Capital Improvements Budget - Update this important implementation tool.

1981-1983

- (1) Police Force - Add an additional policeman. The population increase justifies an additional man.
- (2) Police Car - Replace the oldest patrol car. Its useful service life has ended.
- (3) Public Works Personnel - Add an additional one or two men to the public works department based on need.
- (4) Garbage and Refuse Pickup Unit - The useful service life of the tractor, ten years, has expired; replace it, and repair the train units.*

*Contingent upon action taken on priority item number (7) of the 1967-1969 project period on page 37.

- (5) Capital Improvements Budget - Update the Capital Improvements Budget.

1983-1985

- (1) Police Car - Purchase a new patrol car to replace oldest vehicle. Its useful service life has expired.
- (2) Water Storage Tank - Add a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank to the water system. The population growth and demand for water has increased the need for storage capacity.
- (3) Sanitary Land Fill - Replace crawler tractor used for sanitary land fill unless a crawler is being rented. Useful service life of crawler has expired.*
- (4) Capital Improvements Budget - Update the Capital Improvements Budget to maintain financial planning on a current basis.

1985-1987

- (1) Police Force - Add a new policeman to force. To maintain a level of service based on population increase, a new man will be needed.
- (2) Police Car - Replace oldest patrol car. Its useful service life has expired.
- (3) Dump Truck - Replace the oldest dump truck. Its useful service life has expired.
- (4) Comprehensive Planning - A complete survey and review should be made every ten years.
- (5) Capital Improvements Budget - Update this implementation tool to assure continued sound financial planning.

*Contingent upon action taken on priority item number (1) of the 1973-75 project period on page 39.

