

Chapter 10, Community Facilities and Services Element

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Executive Summary

The Community Facilities and Services element identifies and describes community facilities within Charlotte County and their related services. It identifies the central issues which affect the success of the community's facilities and services, and suggests ways of dealing with the identified issues. The element aims to emphasize the prescriptive, as opposed to regulatory, nature of planning for these facilities and services.

In the process of updating this element, staff in the Community Development Department sought to obtain information and perspectives from various community agencies and organizations and their concerns, updates and comments have been incorporated.

The facilities and services that are examined include those that are in the realm of: general government administration and operation, utility and pest management, libraries, schools, fire and emergency medical services, health, justice, social, and cultural facilities and services.

This element contains many recommendations regarding the above facilities and services. For general county government facilities, it is recommended that the life cycle costs of buildings are stressed as opposed to short-term expenditures. Charlotte County encouraged compact development in urban centers such as Punta Gorda, Murdock, and Englewood through the siting of its own facilities, and that new county facility design should be flexible. This element recommended that the County develop a master plan for space programming which includes projections for growth. The master plan was completed and portions of the plan are being implemented.

Regarding pest management, this element continues to recommend the continuation of the monitoring of developments in the field of integrated pest management, and the identification, evaluation, and implementation of those new technologies and methods which will result in improvements to Charlotte County's program. Furthermore, it continues to recommend that the Division of Pest Management continue to expand their programs and improve their capabilities. These efforts should be made while being mindful of the balance of the entire ecosystem by using state and federally approved environmentally safe products.

In May 2003, the Charlotte County Public School Board, the City of Punta Gorda and the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners entered into an interlocal agreement for Public School Facility Planning. In accordance with Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes which requires that the location of public educational facilities be consistent with the comprehensive plan and the implementing land development regulations of the appropriate local governing body; and Section 163.3177(6)(h) 1 and 2, Florida Statutes, the County entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the above entities. Although the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Punta Gorda, and the Charlotte County School Board shared an open line of communication, there was never a formal process to follow with regards to how information was disseminated through the entities. The implementation of the Interlocal Agreement for School Facility Planning, between the Charlotte County Board County Commissioners, the City of Punta Gorda, and the Charlotte County School Board, will provide the formal process to maintain the coordination of information to all

parties regarding comprehensive land use and school facilities planning issues. Now that the process is formalized, the communication will be even more important to encourage collaboration with the School Board to provide and maintain a high quality public education system, which meets the needs of Charlotte County's existing and future population.

Regarding libraries, it is advocated that there be high priority placed on increased square footage of library space. This element continues to encourage collaboration with the Public School Board to provide and maintain a high quality public education system which meets the needs of Charlotte County's existing and future population.

Regarding safety, it is recommended that the County work with both the private and public sectors in an effort to establish sufficient shelters outside of the Category 3 Hurricane Vulnerability Zone which is less susceptible to flooding and storm surges. In addition, cooperative planning with the Sheriff's Office is advocated. One area where such cooperative planning continues to be most productive is the completion of the five-year plan for the hiring of personnel and purchasing of equipment, and the exploration of possibilities for replacing old and deficient facilities.

Among the recommendations regarding health and human service facilities and services, is that the County support those public facilities and services that provide for the health and well-being of County residents and visitors such as the Charlotte County Public Health Unit and Charlotte Community Mental Health Services. Furthermore, this element advises that the County develop standardized prioritization criteria which identify services that target health, safety, and the well-being of the most vulnerable individuals in the county.

Finally, this element makes recommendations regarding cultural facilities. It puts forward that the County, with the Arts & Humanities Council, should develop a public art program that seeks to improve the aesthetics of the County, increase civic and social pride, as well as increase community identity. In addition, it recommends that Charlotte County consider the adoption of a public art and design ordinance, and the development of an annual awards program that would give recognition to design excellence in public and private development project.

I. Introduction

A. Purpose of the Element

The purpose of the Community Facilities and Services Element is to identify and describe the community facilities within Charlotte County and their related services. These facilities (and the services provided through them), which include general government administration and operation, utilities, pest management, libraries, schools, fire and emergency medical services, health, justice, social, and cultural facilities and services, may be considered the “social infrastructure” which are integral to the standard of living enjoyed by a community’s residents and visitors. As the County’s population increases, the County will be increasingly challenged to meet its obligations because of funding limitations despite which the county’s residents continue to have growing expectations regarding numerous facilities and services they would like to see in practice in place. To meet these demands within its means, the county government engages in a delicate balancing act between many factors, some of which present internal conflicts.

As the county continues to grow, the Community Facilities and Services Element plays an increasingly important role in ensuring that facilities and services will be in place to meet the needs of the public. This portion of the Comprehensive Plan goes beyond the progress that has been made in providing such social infrastructure since adoption of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan while ensuring the policies necessary to managing the central issues which continue to affect the success of the community’s facilities and services. The Community Facilities and Services Element will continue to provide recommendations for dealing with those issues that have not been satisfied or that need to be changed.

B. Relationship of the Element to the Comprehensive Plan

This element is related to many of the elements in the Comprehensive Plan both directly and indirectly as follows:

Capital Improvements Element

The Capital Improvements Element allocates sufficient funds in a timely manner for the efficient provision of public facilities and services. It includes a list of projected costs and revenue sources by type of public facility for a five year period; many of those facilities are identified within this element.

Infrastructure and Future Land Use Element

Infrastructure is needed for many of the facilities and services covered in this element, and the location of certain facilities and services have a strong impact on development patterns described in the Future Land Use Element.

Historical Element

Cultural facilities in the county are tied to its historical and archaeological heritage, and various levels and types of governments need to coordinate on issues affecting community facilities and

services.

Housing Element

Housing issues are tied to this element by such things as impact fees which fund some of the facilities and the availability of facilities and services which affect peoples' housing decisions.

Transportation Element

The availability or lack of transportation affects peoples' ability to participate in or benefit from the provision of certain facilities and services.

Other Elements

This element is tied to all of the other elements indirectly.

II. Legislation

Many services covered in this element are mandated by state and federal law, and some have no mandates at all. The following legislation impacts this element:

The *State Comprehensive Plan*, Chapter 187 of the *Florida Statutes*, is intended to be a direction-setting document. Its policies do not carry regulatory authority or authorize the adoption of agency rules, criteria, or standards not otherwise authorized by law. The State Comprehensive Plan has goals and policies pertaining to, but not limited to, the following topics: education, children, families, the elderly, health, public safety, public facilities, as well as cultural and historical resources. These goals and policies contain many statements which offer very general guidance to local governments.

Chapter 163 of the *Florida Statutes* has specific requirements that relate to ways of dealing with growth management. Adopted levels of service standards need to be maintained and to meet existing and future facility needs. The land development process should be managed “so that public facility needs created by previously issued land development orders or future development do not exceed the ability of the local government to fund and provide or require provision of the needed capital improvements.” Chapter 163.3177(7)(e) also indicates that this optional element will show particularly how it will effect coordination between such agencies as the school board and hospital authorities which have public development and service responsibilities, capabilities, and potential, but not having land development regulatory authority.

According to *Chapter 9J-5* of the *Florida Administrative Code*, the geographic service area and location of major system components for public education and health systems within the local jurisdiction shall be identified. These are identified in this element.

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s *Strategic Regional Policy Plan* (SRPP) states specific regional goals with which local government comprehensive plans must be consistent. There are policies in the regional plan relating to the siting of public facilities in order to discourage urban sprawl. The County should aim for providing a majority of services and infrastructure in developed urban areas in order to discourage urban sprawl. The SRPP also incorporates policies relating to law enforcement, fire fighting, correctional facilities, historic resources, economic development, natural resources, and emergency management.

III. Inventory and Analysis

A. General Government

Charlotte County general government has many responsibilities. Impacting on the ability of the County to meet its obligations is the limited availability of funds. The county's residents have growing expectations regarding numerous facilities and services; the county government engages in a delicate balancing act in dealing with many factors, some of which sometimes conflict.

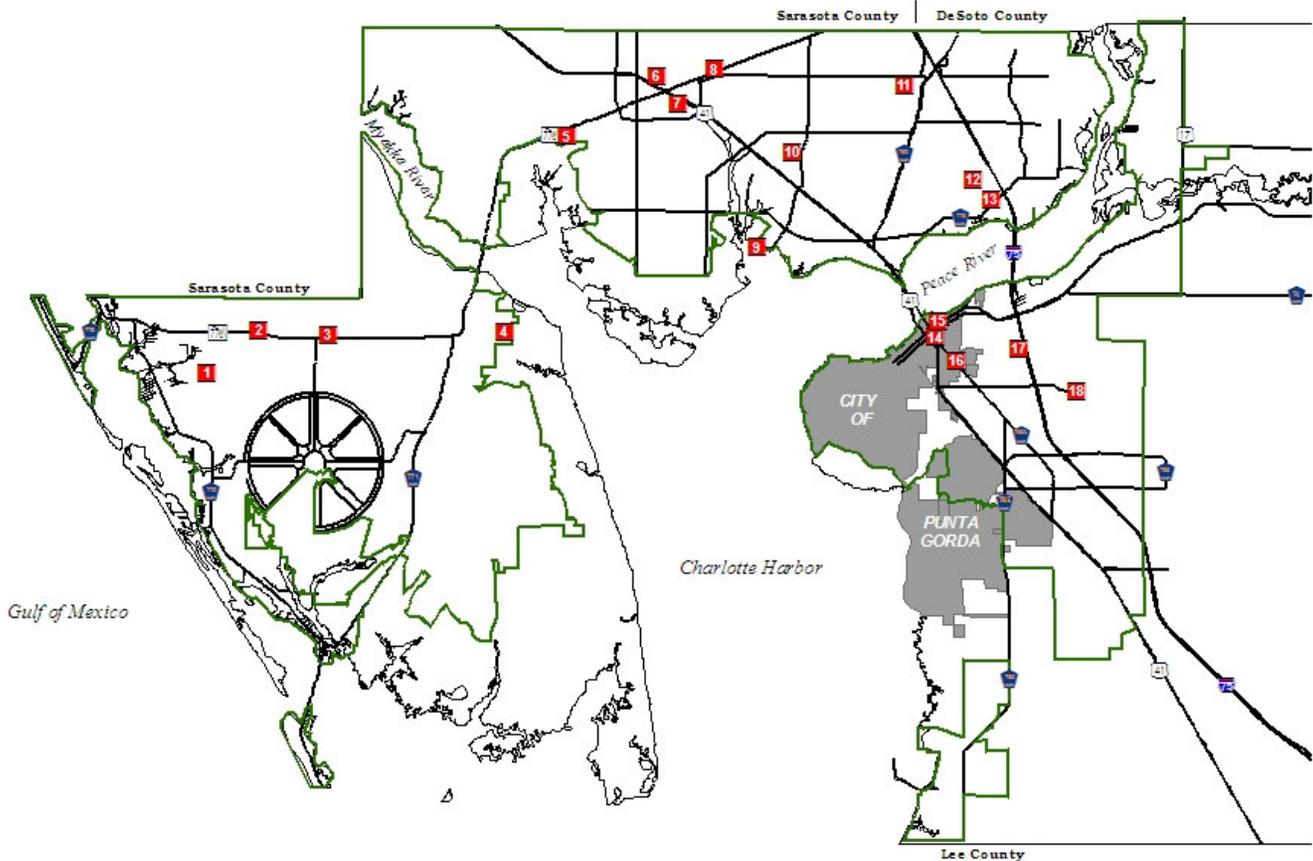
Administration and Operation of Facilities

The County owns and maintains many facilities throughout Charlotte County. These range from government administration buildings, public utilities, to roads and swales. Map 10.1 shows the locations of the County's administration buildings and the public works facilities. Additional county owned facilities are delineated on other maps throughout this element.

Funding is the single greatest challenge to the planning of community facilities and services. This is in large part due to a three percent (3%) annual incremental cap on revenues which was approved by Charlotte County's voters in 1992. Though it was subsequently ruled unconstitutional, the Board of County Commissioners nonetheless makes every effort to adhere to its intent when making capital decisions. The effect of the 3% revenue cap is somewhat mitigated by the results of a subsequent referendum which allows the County to increase its revenues in excess of the 3% cap for projects mandated by voter referendum (for example, sidewalks, parks, etc.) and in order to account for inflation. Notwithstanding, funding is still a critical issue for community facilities and services, and in particular for operation and maintenance – especially the hiring of staff – which are not typically part of special purpose referenda or capital improvements programs. Nonetheless, the County has met and will continue to meet its obligations as long as the Board of County Commissioners and their professional staff continue to clearly identify the need for and benefit of public facilities and services.

The County is now challenged with the impacts of a Category IV hurricane that slammed through Charlotte County on August 13, 2004. Hurricane Charley recovery efforts will undoubtedly stretch the County's operating funds and affect services over the next few years. A hiring freeze imposed on the County immediately after Hurricane Charley was lifted with the start of the new fiscal year. The number of staff is expected to grow to handle not only the current rate of growth but to assist in the redevelopment of the hardest hit areas.

Map 10.1 County Administration & Public Works Facilities



Charlotte County Community Development
 Land Information Services - Willie
 Draft Date: 11/18/05
 Located: g:\g6\comp_plan_NEW\
 Chapter_10\
 County_Admin_and_Public_Works.mxd
 ArcMap Version 9

Stateplane Projection
 Datum NAD83
 Units: meters
 Source: Charlotte County GIS

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Ben Cessa Yard | 14 Veterans Service | Urban Service Area Outline |
| 2 Tingle Center | 15 Harold Ave Park | |
| 3 Bridgewood Annex | 16 Basport Wastewater Treatment Plant | |
| 4 Westport Wastewater Treatment Plant | 17 Basport Environmental Campus | |
| 5 Charlotte Sports Park | 18 South County Annex | |
| 6 Medical Examiner's Office | 9 Charlotte County Courthouse | |
| 7 Charlotte County Administration Center | 10 Human Services | |
| 8 US Yard | 11 Public Works Division | |
| 9 Fort Charlotte Beach Complex | 12 Metropolitan Planning Organization | |

Scale 1:205,920
 1 inch = 3.25 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantees, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.

To identify space and staffing needs projections, it is important to take into account the fact that organizations do not grow in a linear fashion. Facilities management is closely related to the way in which government expands than to the way in which population increases. Moreover, the growth of organizations is closely tied to the manner in which they do their own housekeeping. It is difficult to calculate a formula which accounts for this housekeeping. Complicating the accurate formulation of future staffing and space needs is the voluntary tax cap already mentioned. It is extremely difficult for various County departments to make viable personnel growth plans.

The Element continues to encourage compact development in urban centers such as Punta Gorda, Murdock, and Englewood through the siting of public facilities, and that new county facility designs should be flexible. Recognizing the need for long-term guidance for the planning and design of such facilities, the County commissioned a Master Plan for Space. Although not formally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, the Master Plan provided the foundation for many of the Board of County Commissioners long-range, facilities-oriented decisions.

The County general government now owns approximately 3 million gross square feet of total building space. This works out to about four square feet of total building space per County resident. The 1988 standard was 3.08 square feet per capita. This is still consistent with the current standards of 3 and 4 square feet of space per county resident.

It would also be helpful if there were established procedures for the timing of the addition of new facilities. Various departments might identify a need for new facilities at different times, and have different expectations of how quickly their needs should be met. If there were established timing procedures with set lead times, then future facility needs could be met in a more equitable and efficient manner. Every year, a 5 year capital improvement plan is updated which identifies which facilities will be built or expanded in the following five years; however, there is no indexing system which identifies variables that indicate a need for construction. A master plan for space programming which includes projections for growth would be helpful in timing the provision of local government facilities.

Related to the need for timing procedures is the need to stress the life-cycle costs of things, not just short-term expenditures or first costs. It might be cheaper, in the short-term, to install portable buildings, but they have a very short lifespan in comparison to brick buildings and needs replacing much sooner. This results in a need for more expenditure sooner, and more money in the long-term. When political bodies are making decisions about expenditures, they need to have all information concerning life-cycle costs.

There are other factors which are difficult to predict or control which impact on facilities planning and management. For example, when a section of the courthouse experienced severe problems with air quality, the county had to mobilize quickly, and find a way to deal with the air quality problem. County officials were not able to predict the severity of the problem, and therefore were not able to predict the need to relocate people to temporary sites, nor the need for a new building. Sometimes the county's long-range planning efforts are compromised by situations that cannot be predicted and require immediate attention.

There are several major capital improvement projects with which the County is currently involved. These include: expansion of the jail, renovation of the courthouse, a new Human Services Facility, a new government center and a public safety facility.

Future Considerations for Facilities Planning

County government continues to exercise a considerable amount of influence on the kind of place the county will be in the future. In siting future county facilities, the government can encourage urban development within given locations. Also, the design of future facilities could set the tone for surrounding buildings. If the County located its major institutions and office-type facilities in the urban centers such as Punta Gorda, Murdock, and Englewood, thereby supporting the growth of these urban centers, then the County would be adding to the vibrancy of these places, setting the stage for further compact development and thereby promoting growth management as it was intended.

The County prioritizes the siting of urban services to focus them on existing developed areas. Parking requirements could be reduced over time as land use and transportation policies reduce dependence on the automobile. The siting and design of future County facilities could embrace a vision of the future for the County that has compact, diverse, and interesting places.

Facility siting is an issue which must be given careful attention due to the County's coastal location. Siting of any facility outside of the Category 3 Hurricane Vulnerability Zone is extremely difficult since most of the County's population centers are within a Category 3 or less Vulnerability Zone. The majority of Charlotte County platted communities exist within these areas. Chapter 3 (Natural Resources and Coastal Planning Element) of this Comprehensive Plan identifies 74% of the County's 254,577 platted lots occur within the Category 3 or less storm surge zones. As discussed in other sections of the Natural Resources and Coastal Planning Element, and in the 2003 Evaluation and Appraisal Report, the overwhelming majority of this platting occurred prior to the passage of the Growth Management Act in 1985. Although there is a severe shortage of suitable facilities to be used as emergency shelters, some progress has been made in establishing additional "refuge sites" to provide additional spaces. The County may also wish to require new facilities to provide shelter capacity as part of its development approval processes. However, such a regulatory approach will have to give careful consideration to legal issues. In addition the possible location of future government facilities outside of the Category 3 Zone poses some difficulty with regards to conflicting goals.

In terms of the more technical aspects, high priority should be placed on flexibility in the design of new County facilities. Emphasis should continue to be placed on open space utilizing "landscape" furniture which can be arranged in various functional ways. Technical specifications should reflect the need for proper ventilation and humidity control. In terms of calculating future space needs, the County should consider the revolution in communications, data management, information access, and an increase in productivity, all of which tend to reduce hard space requirements. All of these factors figure prominently in the planning of future facilities.

B. Utility Facilities

Water and Sewer Facilities

Charlotte County is served by numerous public and private utilities. One utility, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU), is owned and operated under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners. CCU does not own a potable water treatment facility. It purchases water from the Peace River - Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, but provides its own wastewater treatment through its Westport and Eastport facilities. Since the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, Charlotte County Utilities has purchased a number of small, private utilities, notably in the West County Planning District, which were unable to cost effectively operate and make the necessary upgrades to their treatment capacities. Additional information regarding utility facilities is provided in the Infrastructure Element.

Solid Waste

The only Class I landfill in Charlotte County is operated by the County's Environmental and Extension Services Department. Known as the Zemel Road Landfill, this facility is located in the South County Planning District approximately 2 miles north of the Charlotte/Lee County line. As detailed in the Infrastructure Element, this 640 acre landfill has sufficient capacity until 2023. Additional cells are available for an additional five decades. The County has added a mini-transfer & recycling station in Englewood located in the West County Planning District to assist in the meeting the needs of the residents in that area, and is currently constructing a similar facility in Mid-County.

C. Pest Management Division

The Pest Management Division (PMD) of the Department of Environmental Services is responsible for a variety of services and programs which contribute to the public's health, safety, and quality of life within Charlotte County. Two of the department's main functions are mosquito control, and aquatic and exotic vegetation control. The Division's fifteen full-time personnel are supplemented during active seasons of the year by nine part-time staff.

As mosquitoes are capable of carrying and transmitting a variety of diseases (i.e. encephalitis, malaria, dengue fever and others) with public health significance, effective and efficient mosquito control is a major service provided to the community. Charlotte County's Mosquito Control Program is an approved mosquito control agency pursuant to requirements of Chapter 388, *Florida Statutes*. These statutes mandate the state to achieve and maintain such levels of arthropod control as will protect human health and safety, foster the quality of life of the people, promote the economic development of the state, and facilitate the enjoyment of its natural attractions by reducing the number of pestiferous and disease-carrying arthropods. The creation, existence and maintenance of Mosquito Control is also mandated by Chapter 5E-13 of the *Florida Administrative Code*.

Charlotte County's Mosquito Control Program was established during the 1950's and has evolved into the Department of Environmental and Extension Services (EES). The EES consists of Mosquito Control, Aquatic Weed Control, Natural Resources, Extension Services and Solid Waste (which is

discussed at length in the Infrastructure Element). Mosquito Control consists of several operations which are utilized to reduce the number of mosquitoes which threaten human safety and the quality of life to which people have become accustomed. Though the elimination of mosquito breeding areas is still the most effective method of mosquito control, the four stages of its life cycle - egg, larvae, pupae, adult - allow the employment of a variety of control methods. Control efforts are concentrated on the larvae, pupal and adult stages.

Charlotte County employs an integrated pest management approach in its control of pestiferous mosquitoes. The program consists of the three elements below:

- 1) Inspection and monitoring operations: In terms of inspection and monitoring operations, the Department has a network of 15 Center for Disease Control (CDC) mosquito light trap stations which are monitored on a daily basis, four days per week, throughout the County. These traps monitor the population index of mosquitoes in a particular area for the night. Landing rate counts - which indicate the immediate adult mosquito population - are conducted five days per week at 21 locations throughout the County. The surveillance program is supplemented by tracking and investigating citizens' complaints. The Pest Management Division maintains and monitors sentinel chicken flocks throughout the County. These flocks are subjected to weekly serum tests throughout the mosquito season for the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus and St. Louis encephalitis. These are viruses that are carried by mosquitoes, and if the chickens have high levels of antibodies to these viruses in their blood, Mosquito Control staff concentrates their spray program in the effected areas in order to protect the citizens of the County.
- 2) Larviciding: Most efforts are concentrated on the larval stage of the mosquito because it is during this stage that the mosquito can be identified, treated and observed for effectiveness of treatment, and retreated if necessary. Larviciding is the primary tool in the County's mosquito control program and is performed both by ground and air.
 - a.) Aerial larviciding consists of aerial application and inspection operations primarily in the salt marsh areas of the County, an interlocal agreement with the Sheriff's Office provides a helicopter for inspections and aerial spraying.
 - b.) Ground larviciding supplements the department's aerial operations and are undertaken to control mosquito breeding populations in swales, ditches, retention ponds, and areas where vehicular access is available.
- 3) Adulticiding: As the mosquitoes progress and hatch they are no longer contained in an observable area. The use of traps and landing rate counts are required to track the adult mosquitoes. The reduction of the adult population may be accomplished by aerial or ground application of adulticide.
 - a) Aerial adulticiding uses a fixed wing aircraft to spray pesticide during the late evening and early morning hours when thermal inversions are less likely to occur. The plane is capable of treating 46,000 acres per night; it is used primarily in the treatment of the remote areas of the County such as the Barrier Islands, rural areas, and areas adjacent to coastal regions-where extremely high populations of mosquitoes are indicated. This service is provided through a private contractor.
 - b) Ground adulticiding uses cold aerosol ULV (Ultra-Low Volume) trucks to apply pesticide

at the ground level. The County has seven trucks that are capable of making one county-wide sweep over a three night period. In addition, there is a small all-terrain vehicle mounted unit employed on Little Gasparilla Island.

The Aquatic and Exotic Vegetation Control Section is responsible for:

- 1) Controlling the growth and spread of submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation which adversely impacts drainage conveyances (canals, lakes, ditches, etc.). Control mechanisms include both chemical (herbicides) and biological (grass carp) control mechanisms.
- 2) Developing and implementing a program designed to control the growth and spread of invasive exotic (non-native) vegetative species. Control mechanisms include both chemical (herbicides) and mechanical (physical plant removal) mechanisms.
- 3) Maintaining and monitoring various wetland mitigation sites on behalf of the County.

This division employs and maintains trucks, two airboats, a Jon boat, and a Marsh Master (an all-terrain track vehicle which is capable of floating in water and reduces impacts to vegetation in areas where four-wheel trucks cannot get to) in support of these activities.

The Pest Management Division will continue to monitor developments in the field of Integrated Pest Management, and to identify, evaluate and implement those new technologies and methods which will result in improvements to Charlotte County's program. Also, the Division will continue to expand the area subject to control efforts, expand their programs, and improve their capabilities.

All of the above control methods which involve chemical use and physical modification require careful evaluation in terms of their impacts on the ecosystems within which they are employed. In controlling invasive or irritating elements, the Division will continue to be mindful of the balance of the entire ecosystem by using approved, effective and environmentally safe products.

D. Libraries

In 1973, Charlotte County was asked by the State Library of Florida to provide library administrative support to Glades County in the setting up and development of library services in that rural county. The Charlotte-Glades library system is a consolidated one as defined by the State of Florida. Chapter 257, *Florida Statutes* makes provisions for multi-county library systems and for state funding to support them.

In 2002 the Charlotte Glades Library System completed a revised and updated Long Range Plan of Services for 2002-2005 which was officially approved by the Board of County Commissioners. It made plans for the library for the following three years. A three year scope was chosen so the library system could adapt to changes in technology, the size and composition of the public served, and to differing demands for service. The plan was written with input from the larger community through focus groups. Also, on April 9, 2002, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners adopted a Charlotte County Public Library Master Plan for 2002-2025 which sets forth the building program for libraries for that 23 year period. A copy of that plan can be found on-line at www.charlottecountyfl.com/library.

The plan identifies library's customers taking into account age, race, income, language, and place of birth. The plan then looks at the library system's resources, operations and service. The third component of the inquiry involved in formulating the plan is the examination of what resources the library can realistically expect in the future. The County's comprehensive plan does coincide with the long-range plan of the library system. The library's plan emphasizes that excellence in service must be defined locally. In other words, excellence in service occurs when the service provided meets the community needs and results in satisfied customers.

The mission statement of the Charlotte-Glades Library System is articulated in the long-range plan and is to "provide access for residents and visitors to answers to questions, leisure materials and activities of current interest, help in finding and using information and a place to meet for discussion." The library system provides a wide range of print and nonprint materials designed to provide patrons with leisure reading, enrichment, learning and information activities.

The library system's service to the public includes providing meeting rooms for group use by non-profit organizations. Also, in order to make the library patrons more aware of other community resources and facilities, the library system makes display or bulletin board space available for public use. The Charlotte-Glades Library System also materials delivery service to the homebound and deposit collections in senior residential facilities.

Many people in Charlotte County value their libraries, and some people consider them essential. Libraries act as educational, cultural, and informational resources for the public. As such, these facilities complement those resources of other agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Impacting library service, as well as other community facilities and services, is a seasonal "bulge" in population during the winter months. Also of impact is the large percentage of Charlotte County's population which is elderly, along with the growing number of people in the other age groups. As the county develops, younger adults with children will place greater demands on library service county-wide.

The primary role of the Charlotte-Glades Library System is that of a popular materials library. Its secondary role is as an independent learning resource reference library and meeting place. With the automation system, expenditures for materials are based on statistical analysis of the collections. The primary and secondary roles of service, chosen by the library system, strongly influence resource allocation decisions.

Library Expenditures

Resources are expended primarily in the areas of popular reading fiction and nonfiction, classics, large print materials and on resources which provide information useful to independent learning and basic reference searching. An increasing portion of resources is being expended on nonprint materials (video and audio).

The following table shows how library operating funds were spent by the Charlotte-Glades Library

System and compares these expenditures to those of the library systems of surrounding counties.

Library	Service Area Population	Total Expenditure Per Capita	Materials Per Capita	Total Expenditures		
				% Staff	% Materials	% Other
Lee	495,088	\$44.42	\$6.69	38.24	15.06	46.70
Sarasota	348,761	22.42	3.88	67.93	17.31	14.76
Charlotte-Glades	162,723	15.35	1.37	58.61	8.91	32.48
Hendry	36,511	14.80	1.55	65.47	10.46	24.07
DeSoto	33,713	6.29	.85	78.83	13.55	7.62

Source: 2004 Florida Library Directory with Statistics

The information on which the preceding table is based was collected by the Florida Division of Library and Information Services and reflects information from the 2003-2004 fiscal year. This information is helpful in gaining perspective on how the Charlotte County library system's spending practices compare to those of other counties. The materials indicated in the above table refer to all circulating materials. The "other" category refers to such items as computers and building maintenance.

Besides comparing Charlotte-Glades Library System's expenditures to that of other counties, it is also useful to see how these expenditures have changed over time. Table 10.2 shows this information over 10 years. The parameters are the same as for the above table as the information was also collected by the Florida Division of Library and Information Services.

Library	Category	1992-93	1994-95	2002-03
Lee	Materials	\$7.47	5.75	\$6.69
	Total Oper.	\$23.17	\$22.83	\$44.42
Sarasota	Materials	\$1.87	\$3.39	\$3.88
	Total Oper.	\$23.17	\$16.11	\$22.42
Charlotte-Glades	Materials	\$1.63	\$1.57	\$1.37
	Total Oper.	\$10.21	\$10.39	\$15.35
Hendry	Materials	\$1.24	\$1.46	\$1.55
	Total Oper.	\$7.08	\$8.30	\$14.80
DeSoto	Materials	\$1.34	\$1.00	\$.85
	Total Oper.	\$4.90	\$4.70	\$6.29
Averages*	Materials	\$2.67	\$2.85	\$3.62
	Total Oper.	\$15.75	\$17.34	\$23.46

Source; 1995 & 2004 Florida Library Directories with Statistics; *for all Florida libraries.

The above table shows that the Charlotte-Glades Library System's expenditures are much lower than those of neighboring urban counties (Lee and Sarasota) as well as the neighboring rural county of

Hendry, and that they are higher than those of neighboring rural counties (Hendry and DeSoto). Charlotte County is largely urbanized while Glades County is predominantly rural. However, five out of the seven library system facilities are in Charlotte County, and therefore, the overall library expenditures should be closer to those of Lee and Sarasota Counties. Over the ten year period in the table, Sarasota County's per capita materials expenditures have increased by 100% and their operating expenses by 75%. During the same ten year period Charlotte-Glades' per capita materials budget actually decreased and the operating budget increased by 50%. Lee County's per capita materials expenditures are five times those of Charlotte-Glades.

On a local, community-based level, the library's long-range plan identifies concerns of the library's customers that reflect spending practices. People expressed concern about shortage of staff, lack of collection depth, lack of a security system, inadequate public meeting spaces and public access computers, limited outreach efforts and the lack of quiet study space.

Library Inventory

Currently, the library system provides over 230,000 books, periodicals, magazines, and audio visual materials. The new Mid-County Regional Library opened in 2005 has an opening day collection of 80,000 items, 30,000 of them new. The inventory includes: Revise Table as indicated below

Table 10.3 Library Inventory			
Material/Resource	Number	Material/Resource	Number
Volumes (books)	211,233	Subscriptions (periodicals & newspapers)	504
Audio Visual Materials	21,948		
Database Subscriptions	13	Meeting Rooms	4

Angie Patteson, Director of Libraries, Oct. 1, 2004.

Each branch library has its own areas of strength. Punta Gorda Public Library is especially strong in the area of Florida books and local history, art books, and in financial reference materials. Port Charlotte has an excellent collection of large print books. Englewood Charlotte Public Library is strong in craft and cookbooks, poetry, and World War II books. Murdock emphasizes business and management books. The new Mid-County Regional Library house a greatly expanded collection with particular emphasis on large print, young adult and nonprint materials. Library customers can request an inter-library loan (ILL) search for any books or periodical articles that are not held in the local library system.

The library system has policies and procedures for collection development that were approved by the Board of County Commissioners in September of 1995. They include information concerning: collection evaluation and analysis, the Library Bill of Rights, resource allocation, guidelines and criteria for selection, weeding guidelines and collection maintenance, replacement of materials, selection and acquisition procedures, reconsideration of materials, and expurgation. Information about these policies and procedures may be found in the reference section of each library.

Library Facilities

Currently, there are four libraries and one library administration facility within the county:

- Englewood Charlotte Public Library - 8,000 square feet
- Port Charlotte Library - 10,500 square feet
- Mid County Regional – 37,673 square feet
- Punta Gorda Library - 9,750 square feet
- Library Administration Building - 5,000 square feet (located at Mid County)

The Mid-County Regional Library opened in 2005 will replace the Murdock Library and the Library Administration Building and will be comprised of 42,000 square feet. All libraries are located on the Map 10.2.

The facilities have a total square footage in excess of 70,800 square feet (which includes the Mid-County Regional Library). As previously stated, in 2002 the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners adopted a Charlotte County Public Library Master Plan for 2002-2025 which sets forth the building program for libraries for that 23 year period. A copy of that plan can be viewed at www.charlottecounty.fl.com/library.

Library Use

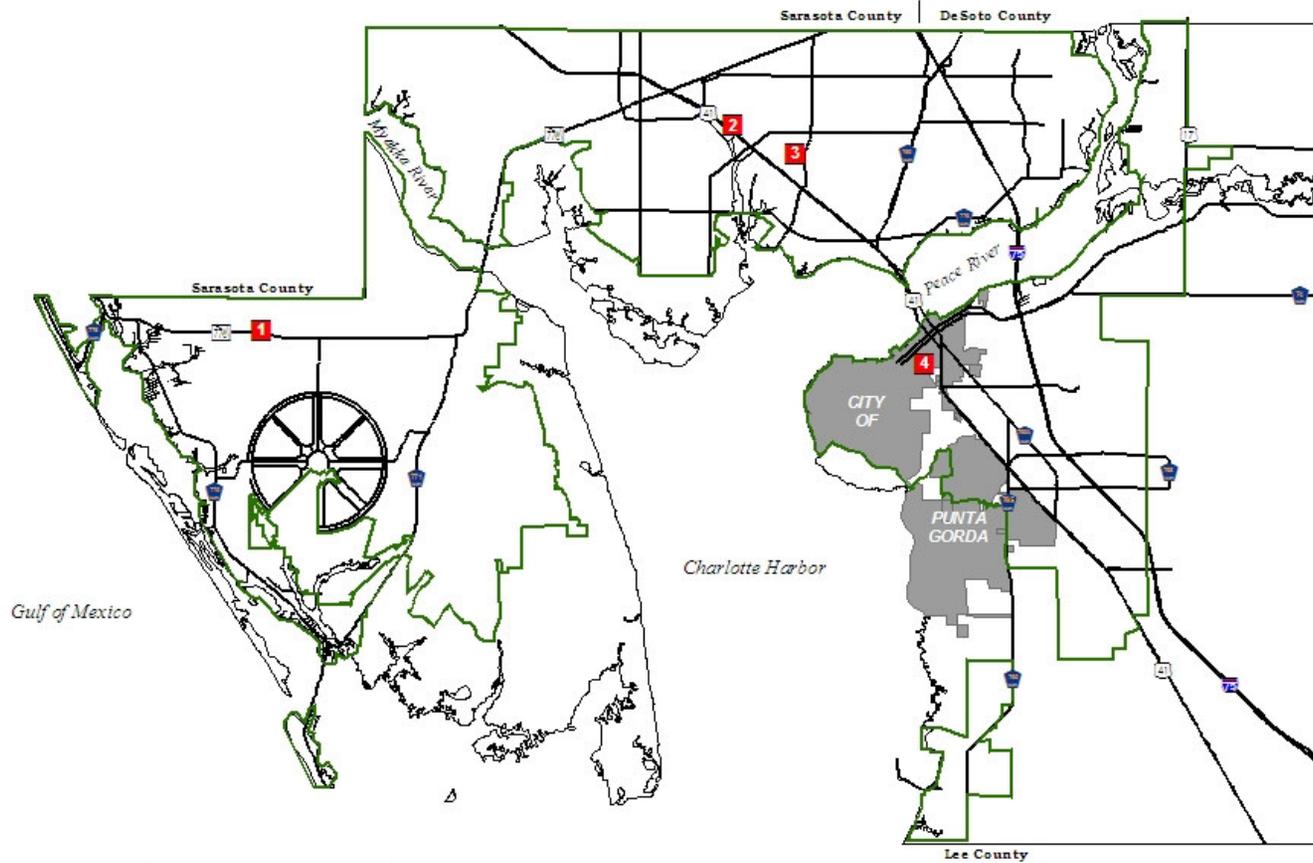
The following table compares the circulation rates of Charlotte County’s library system with that of neighboring counties’ library systems.

Table 10.4 Library Use: Circulation			
Library	Service Area Population	Circulation Total	Circulation Per Capita
Lee	495,088	3,628,490	7.33
Sarasota	348,761	2,974,823	8.53
Charlotte-Glades	162,723	543,879	3.34
Hendry	36,511	66,864	1.83
DeSoto	33,713	80,802	2.40

Source: 2004 Florida Library Directory with Statistics

Per capita circulation figures for Charlotte-Glades are significantly below those of Lee and Sarasota Counties primarily because the per capita expenditure on materials is significantly lower as shown in Table 10.4.

Map 10.2 Library Facilities



Charlotte County Community Development
 Land Information Services - WSS
 Draft Date: 11/18/05
 Located: gig6\comp_plan_NEW\
 Chapter_10\
 Library_Facilities.mxd
 ArcMap Version 9

Stateplane Projection
 Datum NAD83
 Units: meters
 Source: Charlotte County GIS

- 1 Englewood Charlotte Library
- 2 Mid-County Regional Library
- 3 Port Charlotte Library
- 4 Punta Gorda Library
- Urban Service Area Outline


 Scale 1:205,920
 1 inch = 3.25 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantees, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is to be used for design.

Table 10.5 shows the number of registered borrowers, circulation per borrower and the percentage of the population with library cards.

Table 10.5 Library Use: Registered Borrowers				
Library	Service Area Population	Borrowers Total	Circulation Per Borrower	Population w/ Library Cards
Lee	495,088	209,618	17.31	42.34%
Sarasota	348,761	298,723	9.96	85.65%
Charlotte-Glades	162,723	81,904	6.64	50.33%
Hendry	36,511	19,571	3.42	53.60%
DeSoto	33,713	12,738	6.34	37.78%

Source: 2004 Florida Library Directory with Statistics

As the above table shows, Charlotte County has a high proportion of population with library cards; however, each borrower signs out a relatively low number of items, a reflection of the low per capita number of materials available.

Staffing and Technology

The staff consists of 11 professional librarians and 40 library technicians and other employees. The library system has one administrative head (library director) and all funds are expended centrally by the administrative unit. The system is heavily dependent upon volunteers who contributed 14,500 hours during 2003-2004. The Master Plan benchmarked Charlotte-Glades against six Florida counties of comparable size and concluded that Charlotte has the fewest full time equivalent staff of all seven counties.

The Charlotte-Glades Library System is a member of the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) which is a consortium of all types of libraries in southwest Florida. Through SWFLN Charlotte County libraries have access to a broad range of training opportunities as well as interlibrary loan support.

Technology continues to redefine the role of the libraries. In 2004 the library system purchased a web-based automation (TLC) which offers patrons remote access to their accounts, library holdings and databases 24 hours a day seven days a week. Patrons can check due dates, renew materials and place holds remotely. Through its web site the library system provides access to a variety of databases, some funded through the Florida State Library and some by the library system. Available databases includes ones on business information, journal articles and medical information, auto repair, antiques, tests and education (career, college, scholarship) resources among others. Unified searching of multiple databases, email notification for holds and overdues and expanded electronic reference services need emphasis. Staff technology training continues to be a priority.

Level of Service and Funding

The 2004 Florida Public Library Standards as adopted by the Florida Library Association and

endorsed by the Florida League of Cities and the Florida City and County Management Association set forth three levels of service: essential, enhanced and exemplary. Essential service levels for materials and space are 2 items per capita for libraries with service populations between 25,001 and 750,000 and 0.6 square feet per capita of building space. Currently, the Charlotte libraries provide 1.5 items per capita and 0.4 square feet of library space per capita. With the opening of the Mid-County Regional Library materials per capita will rise to 1.7 and square footage per capita to 0.49 county wide. South and West County, however, will continue to lag significantly behind the standards for collection and space.

The ability of the library system to meet the needs of the community is impacted by the amount of resources available to it. The Charlotte-Glades Library System is funded by ad valorem taxes, impact fees, monies from State Aid to Libraries, donations raised by the Friends of the Library, and individual gifts. Impact fees provide over 50% of the library's local materials budget. State aid to libraries is based on local operating dollars allocated to libraries.

E. Educational Facilities

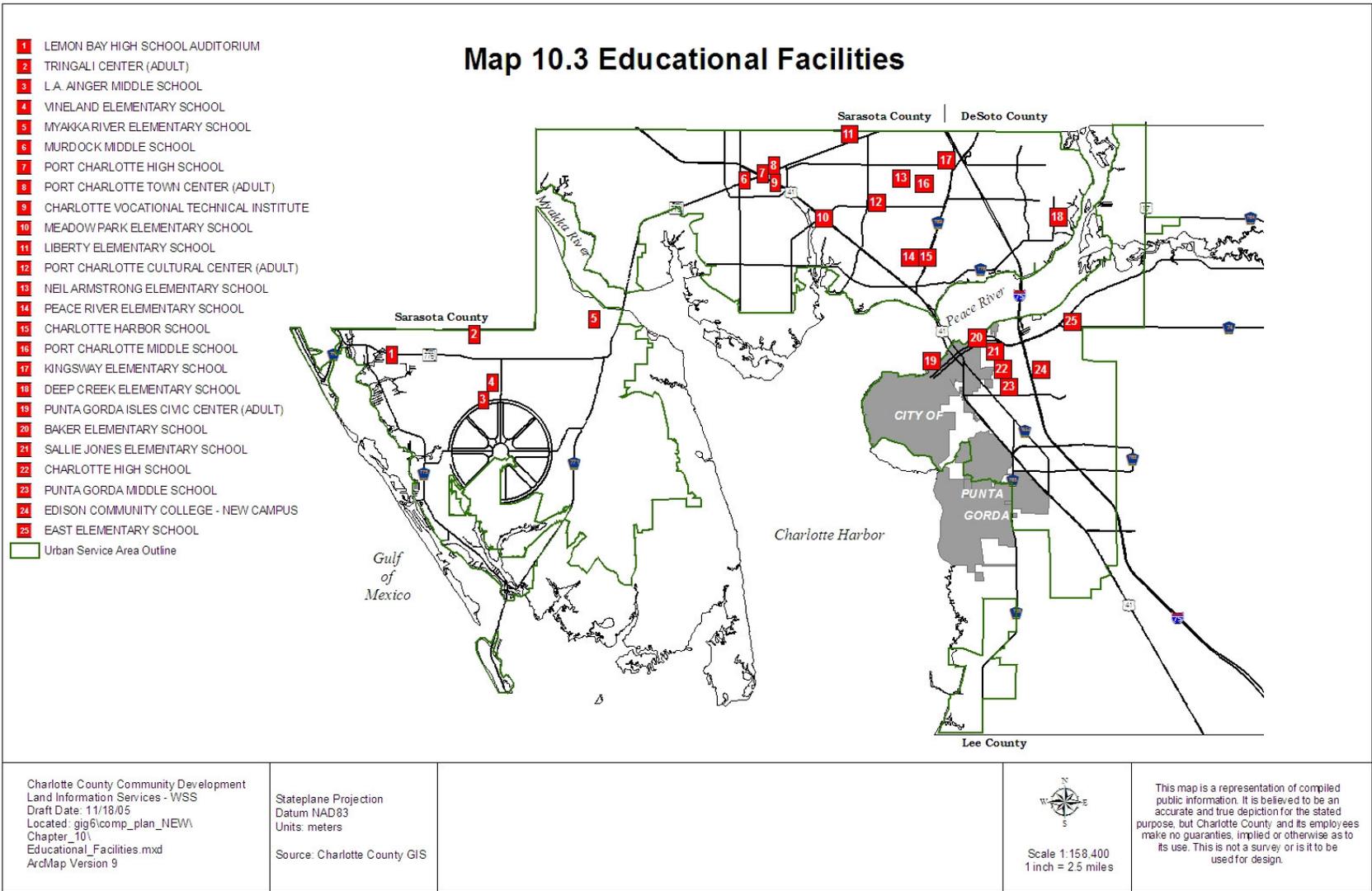
The educational facilities section of this element covers the following:

- Charlotte County Public Schools
- Private Schools
- Charlotte Vocational-Technical Center
- Charlotte County Adult and Community Education
- Edison Community College
- Florida Southern College Charlotte-De Soto Program
- Florida Gulf Coast University.

It also encompasses the broader topic of education in general.

Educational facilities - and public schools in particular - have a key role in effective community planning, and no small role in effective growth management. Schools are one of the most important factors that potential homeowners consider in choosing a location. New schools are an attractor of new development, particularly for single-household residences occupied by families with children.

Map 10.3 displays the locations of the major educational facilities in Charlotte County, including the seventeen public schools, Vo-Tech, and Edison Community College. Besides the three Adult and Community Education sites shown on the map, it should be noted that all of the public high school, middle and elementary schools also serve as Adult and Community Education sites depending on subject matter and availability.



Interlocal Agreement

Although the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Punta Gorda, and the Charlotte County School Board shared an open line of communication, there was never a formal process to follow with regards to how information was disseminated through the entities. Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes requires that the location of public educational facilities be consistent with the comprehensive plan and the implementing land development regulations of the appropriate local governing body. Section 163.3177(6)(h) 1 and 2, Florida Statutes, The Public School Facility Planning Interlocal Agreement, addresses the increasing student population and the demands this increase places on the community. The School Board, in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement for School Facility Planning, appointed a representative to review staff reports dealing with projects that might impact the school system. The Charlotte County's Comprehensive Plan, establishes policies to aid in the communication necessary for the groups to function efficiently.

The implementation of the Interlocal Agreement for School Facility Planning, adopted by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners on May 19, 2003, will provide the formal process to maintain the coordination of information to all parties regarding comprehensive land use and school facilities planning issues. Now that the process is formalized, the communication will be even more important to encourage collaboration with the School Board to provide and maintain a high quality public education system, which meets the needs of Charlotte County's existing and future population.

The adoption of the Interlocal Agreement for School Facility Planning will increase the exchange of locally-generated statistics between the involved parties. Figures like student population, school capacity, construction permitting activity, and land use planning will serve the county in better assessing land use amendment petitions, and will also give the schools a clearer picture on population growth and the areas in which this growth has and will occur. This will become increasingly important as the County continues to grow. While proposed school locations do not currently spur growth in adjacent neighborhoods, this may change as Charlotte County continues to urbanize. Using the County's ability to map current and future home construction, the schools will be better prepared for the timing of their school facility expansion and construction of new schools to serve the growing populations.

Charlotte County Public Schools

The School Board of Charlotte County is the principal provider of education services throughout the County. Twenty public schools serving pre-kindergarten K through grade twelve, as well as adult and vocational education schools, and special programs for children at risk form the Charlotte County Public School District. An English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program is in place at designated school sites to best meet the needs of limited English proficient students. The Charlotte County Public School system allows parents the opportunity to choose the school they want their children to attend. There are assigned districts, but as long as parents provide all transportation to and from school, students are allowed to attend a school other than the one assigned as long as space is available.

The Charlotte County School District is growing steadily with enrollment prior to the devastating

hurricane peaking at more than 19,522 students ranging from ages four to eighteen in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. In August 2004 a Category Four hurricane destroyed six of the twenty schools within the County. Over 1,200 students left the school district due to damaged homes. Enrollment is expected to return to its steady growth pattern within the next two to three years.

Table 10.6 2004-2005 Elementary School Enrollment			
Elementary Schools	Enrollment	Elementary Schools	Enrollment
Sallie Jones 1230 Narranja St., PG	736	Liberty 370 Atwater St., PC	888
*Peace River 22400 Hancock Ave. NW, PC	623	Myakka River 12650 Wilmington, PC	638
*East 27050 North Fairway Dr., PG	617	Deep Creek 26900 Harborview Rd., PC	954
*Neil Armstrong **12000 Midway Blvd, PC	876	Meadow Park 3131 Lakeview Blvd. NW, PC	902
Vineland 467 Boundary Blvd., PC	818	*Baker Center 311 E. Charlotte Ave., PC	134
Kingsway 23300 Quasar Blvd, PC	867		

Source: Charlotte County Public Schools. May 2005.

*Denotes school destroyed by August 2004 hurricane and replaced by a temporary modular campus. The School District plans to rebuild Peace River Elementary, Neil Armstrong Elementary, East Elementary, and Baker Center.

**temporary modular campus location.

Besides the programs at the ten elementary schools, there are additional programs that meet specific identified needs. These include: the Head Start Program and the Pre-K Disabilities Program.

The Early Head Start Program is a comprehensive early childhood program for children from birth to age four. It is a federally funded program for low-income families. The program provided a developmentally appropriate curriculum and comprehensive medical and dental screenings.

Baker Center houses Early Head Start students, birth to three-year old, pregnant women, and three-year old Head Start students. The Head Start program for four-year olds is available at all ten elementary schools. All eligibility for programs is based on family income. Head Start has earned accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. All Early Head Start classes are licensed through the Department of Children and Families.

The Exceptional Student Education Department offers a Pre-school Handicapped Program for children three to five years old. Eligible children are those disabled in physical, cognitive or emotional development, communication, vision or hearing. The Pre-K Disabilities Program offers educational services, self-help, and social and problem-solving skills, as well as speech/language

skills, occupational, and physical therapy to eligible children, and special classes and support groups for the parents. Two of these student groups are inclusion classes with Head Start.

There are four middle schools, which serve grades six through eight. One each located in Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, Murdock, and Englewood.

Table 10.7 2004-2005 Middle School Enrollment	
Middle Schools	Enrollment
*Punta Gorda 825 Carmalita St., PG	1,040
Port Charlotte 12000 Midway Blvd. PC	1,058
L.A. Ainger 245 Cougar Way, Rotonda West.	1,123
Murdock 17325 Mariner Way, PC	1,022

Source: Charlotte County Public Schools. May 2005

*Denotes school destroyed by August 2004 hurricane and replaced by a temporary modular campus. The School District plans to rebuild Punta Gorda Middle School.

There are three high schools in Charlotte County. The high school curriculum provides both generalized and specialized educational experiences preparing students for a variety of post-graduate endeavors, more specifically for continued education or for immediate entry into the workforce. Schools have sports programs, as well as active and ongoing co-curricular programs that include service organizations and subject-related organizations for students.

Table 10.8 2004-2005 High School Enrollment	
High Schools	Enrollment
*Charlotte 1250 Cooper St., PG	1,977
Port Charlotte 18200 Toledo Blade Blvd. NW, PC	1,999
Lemon Bay 2201 Placida Rd., Englewood	1,429

Source: Charlotte County Public Schools. May 2005

*Denotes a school destroyed by August 2004 hurricane and replaced by a temporary modular campus. The School District plans to rebuild Charlotte High School.

Each high school has an Advanced Placement Program, which gives credit and advanced college placement to students who successfully complete the Advanced Placement examination. Junior and senior high school students seeking academic courses may enroll in approved college courses at Edison College. Credits obtained in this manner are recognized by the high school, as well as Edison College. Technical courses are available to high school students at Charlotte Technical Center. The courses can be converted to credits which may be transferred to Edison College and applied toward an associate in science degree.

The capacities of the schools are listed below in Table 10.9:

Table 10.9 Existing and Projected School Capacities		
School Level	Existing Capacity*	Future Capacity*
Elementary	904	904
Middle	1,193	1,193
High	1,799	1,799

Source: Charlotte County Public Schools; March 2004

The existing capacities listed in Table 10.9 indicate the capacity within the current facilities. The future capacities listed are figures that are approved by the School Board; the Board has the authority to change capacities at any time, but it is reasonable to assume that current capacities will be maintained through to the year 2010. The School Board with state guidelines determines how many students can be accommodated in the existing facilities, and how many new schools have to be built to accommodate students.

The tables for school enrollment and school capacities are related. The relatively high enrollment numbers in elementary schools indicates that there will be a larger demand on middle and high schools in the future as students progress. The determination of future capacities is based on past enrollment patterns, estimates of migration to and from the county, as well as other factors. School District Staff and County Government Staff work closely to determine and map out growth areas. Although the County, School Board and City have experienced good communication over the years, Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes required that the location of public educational facilities be consistent with the comprehensive plan and the implementing land development regulations of the appropriate local governing body. Section 163.3177(6)(h) 1 and 2, Florida Statutes, addresses student population and the needs this increase places on the community as discussed previously in the Interlocal Agreement Section.

The Charlotte County Public School Board works with the Florida Department of Education in conducting facility surveys and determining future school capacities and future school construction. It is difficult to plan for future school needs due to changes in the growth rate and other demographic variables that can fluctuate every few years. The School Board works closely with community entities in identifying growth areas, and adjusts, through the survey process, its projections for facilities every five years and more frequently if necessary due to planned housing developments. For 2005 an 85,000 sq. ft. expansion is underway at the Technical Center for the Health Sciences. Additional renovations are planned at the Technical Center as the School Board will completely renovate the campus through a seven year projected phase in. The Academy and Child Care programs at the Technical Center are planned to expand into the current School Board office building adjacent to the Technical Center campus. Renovation and expansion has also begun at Lemon Bay High School. The 2004 hurricane destroyed six schools which are also subject to rebuilding during 2006, 2007, and 2008. The School Board plans to increase the capacity at three of the destroyed elementary schools in keeping with the 904 student capacity guidelines. The expanded five year plan includes an additional middle school and high school.

However, these longer range plans are subject to review and collaboration with the Florida Department of Education.

The cost of building a new school varies greatly, and is dependent on a number of variables such as: the type of school (elementary, middle or high); the kinds of auxiliary facilities that will be built along with the school; the size and capacity of the school; the school design (one or two story); the location; the fluctuating cost of construction; and the cost of the property and availability of property.

As a result of the numerous variables which have a large impact on the overall cost of a school, it is impossible to predict the cost of future school construction. The 2004 Hurricane Season escalated construction costs throughout the Country including costs for school construction.

Special Education Schools

In addition to mainstream public schools, the Charlotte County School Board also provides educational opportunities for students whose educational needs are not met in a traditional classroom setting. The following table lists these non-traditional schools:

Table 10.10 Charlotte County Special Education Schools		
School	Location	Enrollment
Charlotte Harbor School	22450 Hancock Avenue Port Charlotte	168
Crossroads Wilderness Residence Center	1601 Marion Avenue W. Punta Gorda	22
The Academy @ Charlotte Technical Center	18300 Toledo Blade, Blvd, Port Charlotte	354
Total Enrollment		574

Source: Charlotte County Public Schools. May 2005

Students from age three to twenty-one with moderate to severe mental handicaps are served at Charlotte Harbor School or at central sites within the county in accordance with each student’s needs. The enrollment for Charlotte Harbor School for the 2004-2005 school year was 168 students.

A new program was implemented for the 2004-2005 school year. The Suspension/Expulsion Alternative (SEA) Program is housed at The Academy. The program consists of one middle school teacher, one high school teacher, a social worker, and a behavioral specialist. The program is a mandatory program and is offered in lieu of expulsion. Students must work through a prescribed behavior program, attend school regularly, adhere to the Charlotte County Public School *Code of Student Conduct* and pass all academic classes before transition by the home school can occur.

For qualifying students from ninth grade through age 21 experiencing difficulty coping both academically and socially in traditional schools, for teen parents and for people who have dropped out of school, there is The Academy housed at Charlotte Technical Center. This alternative school offers students a smaller, more personal educational environment with competency-based learning options, flexible scheduling, and on-the-job training experiences. Hope Care Center, a day care program for the children of students is available if needed. This public, alternative secondary school

serves about 354 students.

The Crossroads Wilderness Residence Center is for male juvenile justice clients aged 13 to 18 years. Residents live at the center for approximately six to nine months. During their treatment stay, they attend school which is located on the premises. The centers serve 30 to 35 male youth offenders at any one time.

There are more than 1,600 people who serve as volunteers within the Charlotte County Public School District. The volunteer program is headquartered at the Port Charlotte Town Center Community Education sites. Volunteer programs provide both students and teachers with the much needed extra classroom assistance, as well as mentoring and tutoring interaction.

The School Board has a policy which states that the general public should have access to, and the use of, public school facilities at any time those facilities are not being utilized for required school programs or related school activities. There are approximately 180 use agreements on record consistently. Approximately 74 organizations composed of 34,170 participants use 17 different school sites. There is a set fee schedule for use of classrooms, media centers, cafeterias, gymnasiums, athletic fields, and auditoriums. Custodial, cafeteria, or technician fees are added if the event takes place outside of normal staffing hours.

Private Schools

Private schools in Charlotte County do not receive any public funding, and require that parents pay tuition fees for their children. Some of the schools offer subsidy programs to help offset the costs to families. Most of the private schools are church-supported or religious in orientation. Table 10.11 which follows lists the private schools in the county along with the grades they serve and their enrollment numbers.

Table 10.11 Private Schools			
School	Students Served	Enrollment for 1995/96	Enrollment for 2005/06
Community Christian School of First Baptist Church 20035 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte. 625-8977	PK-8	252	311
Port Charlotte Christian School (Assembly of God) 3279 Sherwood Road, Port Charlotte. 625-4450	PK-12	70	
Port Charlotte Seventh Day Adventist School 2100 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte. 625-5237	K-10	108	75
St. Charles Borromeo (Catholic) School 21505 Augusta Ave., Port Charlotte. 625-5533	PK-8	270	314
Genesis Christian School 19150 Helena Ave. Port Charlotte. 627-4849	Pre-school-7		140
Good Shepherd Day School* 401 W Henry Street, Punta Gorda 639-5454	Infants-8		191
Grace Community Day Care & School 4334 Laura Street, Port Charlotte 625-7011	Infants-2		130

Laurel Oaks Academy Inc. 4479 Melbourne Street, Port Charlotte. 764-0456	Pre- school-8	72	
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Source: Enrollment figures are collected from each of the individual schools. August 2005

In addition to the private schools listed above, there are many daycares and preschools serving infants and children; a few of the private schools serve children up to grade two or three. Also, many of the daycares and preschools are church affiliated. An inventory of daycare facilities is located in the Housing Element.

Charlotte Technical Center

Charlotte Technical Center is operated by Charlotte County Public Schools, and is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education. It is a specialized institution offering occupational, secondary, and adult education, and support services designed to assist individuals in attaining their career goals.

Programs offered include: auto technology, building construction, cosmetology, nail technician, culinary arts, practical nursing, patient care assistant, dental assisting, general and medical secretarial, accounting, web design, network support, electronics, early childhood education, and drafting. The General Education Diploma (GED) is also offered at the Technical Center and includes preparatory and remedial study and the State Examination. Last year, 333 individuals took the examination. New programs are always being considered, especially in relation to identified training needs for area employers.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the Technical Center had 1,021 full-time students and 2,180 part-time students. In the 2005-06 academic year, the center will be expanding, offering more classes which focus on early childhood education and health profession areas, with a continuing education emphasis. These classes will be added to accommodate a need for professionals to update their credentials and job skills.

Calculating the capacity of the Technical Center is more than a matter of size, but also a matter related to the scheduling of classes. Classes can be held at different times of the day to accommodate growing demands. Expansion of the Technical Center will be based upon growing community needs for career and technical training.

Charlotte County School Board Adult and Community Education Program

This program reaches all areas of the County. More than 1,900 students participated in the various parts of this program during the 2004-2005 school year.

In Englewood, daytime classes are offered in conjunction with Charlotte County’s Recreation and Parks Department at the Joseph Tringali Center. Evening classes and activities are offered at Lemon Bay High School. In Port Charlotte, there are two storefront sites at the Town Center Mall where secondary students and adults may enroll in a variety of non-credit classes. One community education storefront houses 18 state-of-the-art computer stations, with word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and direct internet access. In the Punta Gorda area, daytime classes are available at the

Baker Center.

There are a variety of programs and classes offered. Among these are:

- the *Literacy Program* aimed at eradicating illiteracy and provides individualized instruction in basic reading and writing skills. This program is delivered with the help of volunteers.
- the *English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)* program which provides goal directed instruction to speakers of other languages. The curriculum consists of instruction in speaking, reading, listening and understanding English, as well as the basic concepts of critical thinking, decision making, goal setting, and self esteem. An ESOL class is available also for career related instruction.
- Citizenship classes for people preparing to take the citizenship test. Due to the diversified incoming population of Charlotte County, there is a constant demand for this service. The class meets one night a week for two hours.
- various community education classes, including but not limited to: languages, arts, health, aerobics, current topics, computers, math, ceramics, dance, and golf. Seminars and informative programs on a variety of short topics such as hurricane preparedness, Ukrainian Easter egg painting, and travel experiences are also available. In the first fall term (six weeks, Sept. - Oct.), approximately 334 students were enrolled in 22 different courses. A second fall term (Nov. - Dec.) usually have a larger enrollment, since winter residents will be back in the area. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons, and evenings.
- the *Adult Disabled Program* offers classes two evenings a week at the Charlotte Harbor School. Currently, 21 students benefit from this program. There is a similar program at Lemon Bay High School, one night a week for 9 Englewood residents. This program is for adults who have diagnosed mental, physical and learning disabilities. Classes focus on such things as living skills, budgeting, getting an apartment, and are important in terms of the support they offer and the recreation they provide.
- *Life Skills for Senior Adult Learners* program; the most important goal of the classes offered is the realization of self-worth, dignity, and respect. The curriculum aims to provide senior adults with essential skills or knowledge such as, the concept of lifelong learning, an awareness and means of coping with lifestyle changes, encouraging intellectual stimulation, keeping the learner in touch with today's world, and motivating seniors to learn new ideas and rethink old ones to enhance quality of life. This program, introduced in the Englewood area in 1995-96, served 37 students. Due to growing interest in this program, services in the Port Charlotte were added in the fall of 1996, serving 39 students.

All of the above programs and classes are offered free of charge except for the various community education classes which are more hobby or special interest based. The rate for these classes is approximately \$1.50 per hour of instruction.

Edison Community College

The new 200 acre campus serves the resident of Charlotte County and surrounding areas. The college is part of the Florida Community College system. Student enrollment consists of 3,000 credit and non-credit students, 500 high school students taking dual-enrollment classes, and students obtaining their bachelor's degree from the articulation agreements set up by the college's University

Center. Additional Services include:

- Associate Degrees in Arts
- Associate Degree in Science
- Certificate Programs
- Professional Development and Continuing Educational classes
- Career Services
- Charlotte County Family YMCA facility
- Accredited child care facility
- Cultural Events and meeting rooms

Florida Gulf Coast University

The scheduled opening of the Florida Gulf Coast University occurred in the fall of 1997 and serves not only Lee County, but also serves the entire Southwest Florida region including Charlotte County.

The 760 acre campus is located south of Charlotte County near I-75 and Alico Road. The university provides undergraduate education with a wide range of programs in the arts and sciences, business, environmental science, computer science, education, nursing/allied health, and social services. The programs are designed for college transfer students as well as beginning freshman. As of 2004 the school had a student enrollment of 5,000 students consisting of both undergraduate as well as graduate students. Specialized degree programs draw students from not only Florida but from other states. The university reached Gold Key Status in 2003 and has grown to over 50 buildings.

IMPAC University

IMPAC, Improved Management Productivity and Control University is a private graduate university dedicated to meeting the educational needs of business. The school provides programs in business, behavioral science and technology, and the interface among these three areas are offered. The central focus in all programs is the linkage of academic learning with real life business goals and strategies. IMPAC University is now fully licensed by the State of Florida to offer graduate degrees.

Keiser College

Keiser College is located in Sarasota and has a student enrollment of 586. The school provides courses in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Health Services Computer Graphics and Design, Computer Networking and Security Management, Fire Services, Culinary Arts and others. The College provides AA, AS, AB degrees upon course completion.

Goshen College

Goshen College is also located in Sarasota has a student enrollment of approximately 510 and provides Degree Completion Programs, Technical Courses, and Certificates.

Manatee Community College

Manatee Community College is located in Venice and has a student enrollment of approximately 1,736. The College provides an AS degree upon graduation

New College

Another Sarasota school has a student enrollment of 647 and provides a Bachelor of Art degree upon

graduation.

Ringling School of Art & Design

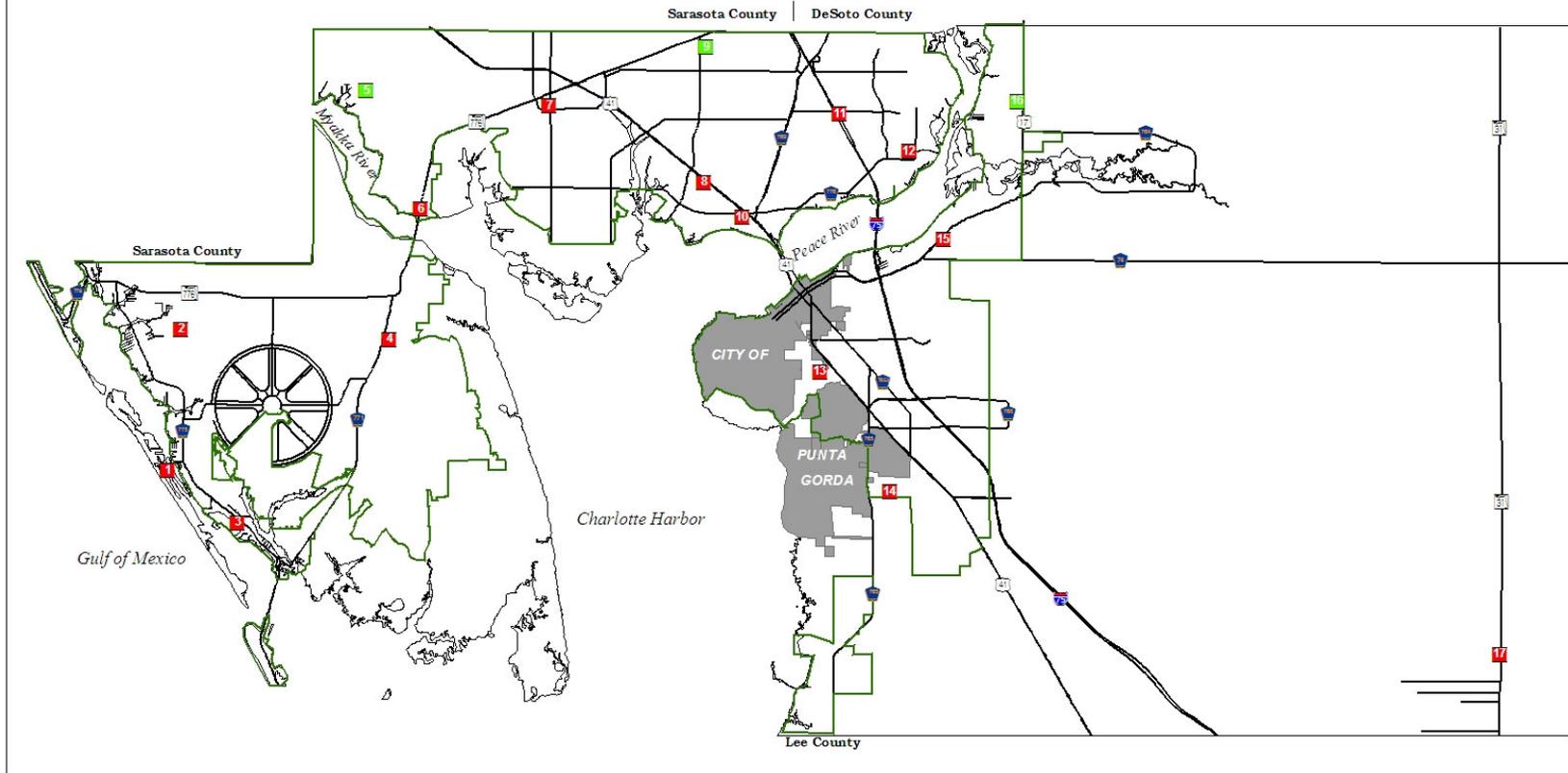
This school is also located in Sarasota and provides a variety of Art classes. Upon course completion the student receives a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Student enrollment is approximately 892.

F. Fire and Emergency Medical Services

There are a total of 205 personnel employed by the Charlotte County Fire & Emergency Medical Services. Of the 205 person staff, 173 are cross-trained in both emergency medical and fire suppression; 10 are trained in emergency medical services only; and 22 are for support services (secretaries, accounting clerks, etc.). The staff operates out of fourteen Fire and Emergency Medical Services Stations, and two Emergency Medical Services Stations which function within the jurisdiction of the Englewood Area Fire Control District. The Department will be constructing 3 additional fire stations within the next 3 years: Station-8 FY 05/06 Mid-County, Station-15 FY 06/07 Northwest County, Station-16 FY 07/08 Northeast County.

The locations of the Charlotte County fire/EMS stations as well as those under the jurisdiction of the Englewood Area Fire Control District and the Punta Gorda Fire Department are shown in Map 10.4. Charlotte County's fire stations, equipment and staff allocations are identified in Table 10.12.

Map 10.4 Fire/EMS Facilities



<p>Charlotte County Community Development Land Information Services - WSS Draft Date: 11/18/05 Located: gig6\comp_plan_NEW\ Chapter_10\ Fire_EMS_Facilities.mxd ArcMap Version 9</p>	<p>Stateplane Projection Datum NAD83 Units: meters Source: Charlotte County GIS</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 STATION 10, ACTIVE</td> <td>8 STATION 1, ACTIVE</td> <td>16 STATION 6, ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 STATION 13, ACTIVE</td> <td>9 STATION 8, PROPOSED</td> <td>17 STATION 16, PROPOSED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 STATION 14, ACTIVE</td> <td>10 HEADQUARTERS, ACTIVE</td> <td>17 STATION 9, ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 STATION 4, ACTIVE</td> <td>11 STATION 12, ACTIVE</td> <td>17 STATION 9, ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 STATION 15, PROPOSED</td> <td>12 STATION 11, ACTIVE</td> <td>17 STATION 9, ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 STATION 3, ACTIVE</td> <td>13 STATION 7, ACTIVE</td> <td>17 STATION 9, ACTIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 STATION 2, ACTIVE</td> <td>14 STATION 5, ACTIVE</td> <td>17 STATION 9, ACTIVE</td> </tr> </table>	1 STATION 10, ACTIVE	8 STATION 1, ACTIVE	16 STATION 6, ACTIVE	2 STATION 13, ACTIVE	9 STATION 8, PROPOSED	17 STATION 16, PROPOSED	3 STATION 14, ACTIVE	10 HEADQUARTERS, ACTIVE	17 STATION 9, ACTIVE	4 STATION 4, ACTIVE	11 STATION 12, ACTIVE	17 STATION 9, ACTIVE	5 STATION 15, PROPOSED	12 STATION 11, ACTIVE	17 STATION 9, ACTIVE	6 STATION 3, ACTIVE	13 STATION 7, ACTIVE	17 STATION 9, ACTIVE	7 STATION 2, ACTIVE	14 STATION 5, ACTIVE	17 STATION 9, ACTIVE	<p>Scale 1:158 400 1 inch = 2.5 miles</p>	<p>This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guaranties, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.</p>
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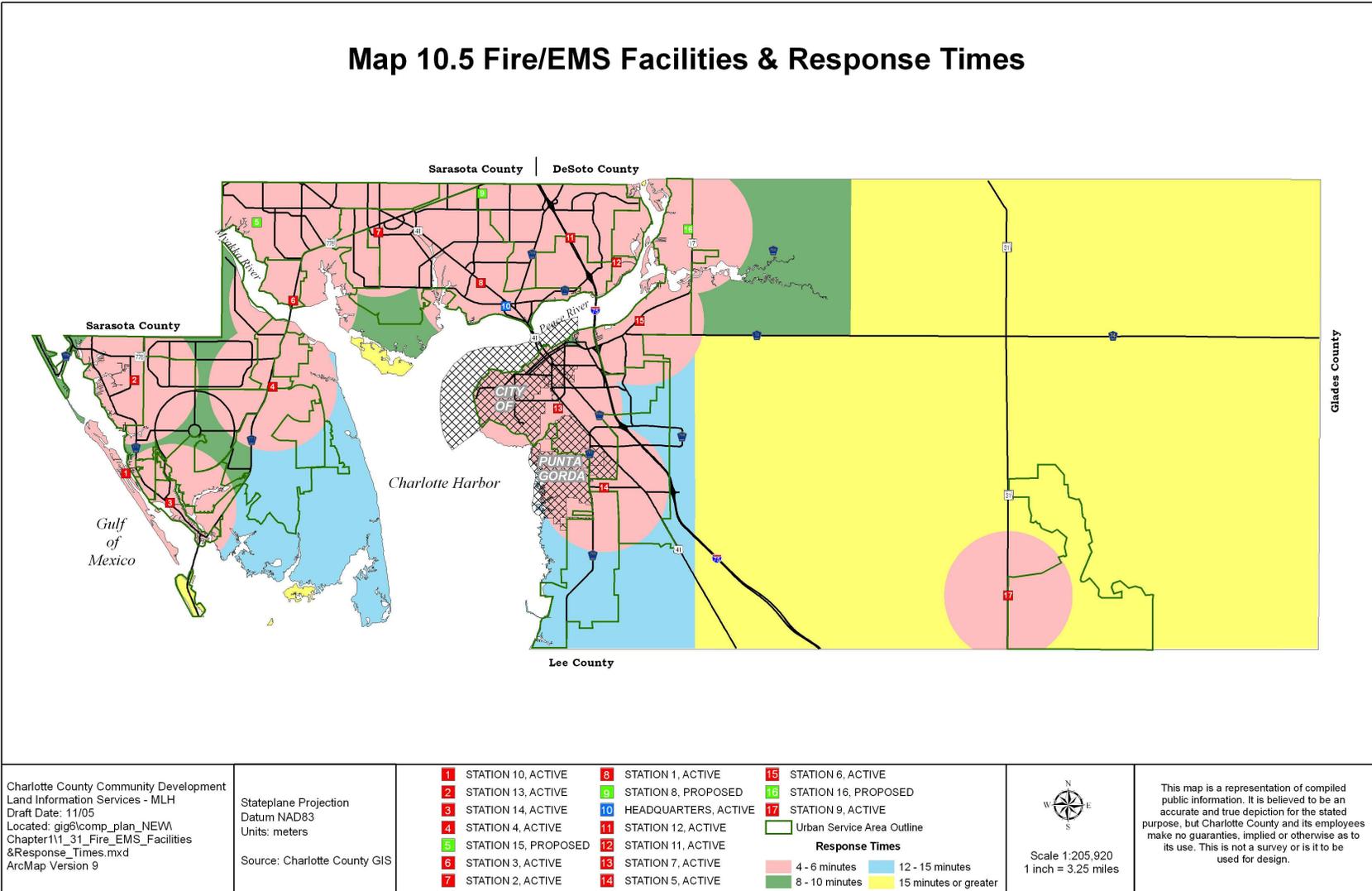
Table 10.12 Charlotte County Fire/EMS Stations							
Station Number	Location	Engine Cos.	Rescue Units	Ladder Trucks	Tanker Trucks	Brush Units	# of Staff*
Station 1	3631 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte	1 (ALS)	2				24
Station 2	1493 Collingswood Blvd. Port Charlotte	1 (ALS)	1	1			21
Station 3	4322 El Jobean Road El Jobean	1	1				12
Station 4	13600 Marathon Blvd. Port Charlotte	1 (ALS)				1	12
Station 5	26287 Notre Dame Blvd. Punta Gorda	1	1				15
Station 6	27589 Disston Avenue Punta Gorda	1 (1 ALS)	1		1	1	18
Station 7 Destroyed by Hurricane Charley	proposed to be replaced and relocated	1 (ALS)	1			1	15
Station 8 Headquarters	22429 Edgewater Drive Port Charlotte						22
Station 9	15500 Highway 31 Punta Gorda	1					6
Station 10	101 Gasparilla Way Don Pedro Island	1			1	1	10
Station 11	27055 Rushmore Ave. Harbour Heights	1					6
Station 12	2001 Luther Road Port Charlotte	1	1	1			18
Station 13	7406 Winchester Blvd. Englewood		1				6
Station 14	4780 Placida Road Englewood		1				6

Source: Chief Dennis DiDio, Charlotte County Fire/EMS. November 2005

*Represents the total staff of 3 shifts. NOTE: ALS indicates an engine with full paramedic capability.

All Fire& EMS stations are funded through special assessments and impact fees. Several of the Fire stations were damaged to varying degrees due to the impacts of Hurricane Charley. The facilities damaged beyond repair were located in Mid-County and South County. Two of these facilities (Station 1 & Station 12 are being rebuilt at the same location and the third will be relocated (Station 7). The completion of these facilities will provide appropriate response times as shown on Map 10.5, and coupled with verbal and interlocal agreements, and barring any major county wide fire, will provide proper response time coverage of the county. At this time there are no deficits in the service response time for the County.

Map 10.5 Fire/EMS Facilities & Response Times



The Fire/EMS stations consist of apparatus bays, offices, kitchens, bunkrooms, locker rooms, lounges, and weight rooms. All new stations will be built to today's hurricane standards. The new facilities will be a prototype design, of Fire Station 13, which is expandable or contractible, and of a type of construction which will probably be utilized for future stations in Charlotte County.

Englewood Area and Punta Gorda Stations

The four stations that function within the jurisdiction of the Englewood Area Fire Control District are: Charlotte County Station 13 at 6868 San Casa Boulevard, Charlotte County Station 14 at 9495 Placida Road, Station 2 at 5060 Placida Road, and Station 4 at 403 Boundary Boulevard.

Charlotte County fire Stations 13 and 14 each have one advanced life support rescue unit (EMS), and have two staff working at each station at any given time. In total, they both have 6 personnel per station working over a three day time period. Stations 2 and 4 are operated by the Englewood Area Fire Control District, and they provide firefighting and first response services. Station 2 has one engine and berthing for four firefighting personnel. Station 4 has one engine, two staff vehicles, and berthing for six firefighting personnel.

In Punta Gorda, there are three fire stations: Station 1 at 1410 Tamiami Trail, Station 2 at 10051 Burnt Store Road, and Station 3 at 1623 Aquí Esta. Station 1 has two fire engines one 75 ft ladder truck with an additional spare engine in reserve, and 14 staff in total. Station 2 has one fire engine and eight staff in total; Station 3 has one engine and 2 personnel and provides firefighting services and first responder to City of Punta Gorda.

Equipment Inventory

The standard life expectancy of a fire engine is approximated at ten years front line then 5 years reserve. Rescue vehicles have a life expectancy of 5 years front line and then 2 years reserve. Some of the engines last longer than others, dependent upon usage. The units are not rotated between stations, so those at the busier stations require replacement sooner than others. Thus, the replacement of apparatus is staggered, preventing mass replacement, as well as maintaining a relatively stable budget from year to year

The Fire/EMS Department also has two fire boats. The first boat is a 29 ft fire boat that remains in the water. It is a Class B type boat capable of Fire and EMS services upon the waters of Charlotte County. The second boat is a 21 ft open whaler also with firefighting capabilities that is trailered by a utility vehicle, and utilized in Charlotte Harbor, the Peace River and canals when needed. The Charlotte County Fire and EMS Department also has four engines, four rescue vehicles and one ladder in reserve for support during break downs and yearly maintenance.

Interlocal Agreements

The Englewood Area Fire Control District, the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department, and the City of North Port Fire Authorities share automatic mutual aid with the Charlotte County Fire/EMS Department. If one fire department responds to an emergency within specified geographic boundaries, an automatic response is elicited from the neighboring fire departments. The Englewood Fire Control Department will go one mile into Charlotte County to aid in dealing with an emergency.

The City of North Port covers the northern half of Charlotte County, and the Charlotte County Fire/EMS covers the eastern portion of the City of North Port. There are also interlocal agreements with Sarasota County, the Bayshore Fire and Protection District, the Boca Grande Fire Department, as well as the City of Cape Coral and North Fort Myers Fire Departments. The Charlotte County Fire/EMS also is covered under the state wide mutual aid plan.

Planning Efforts

The Fire/EMS Department originally developed a Ten Year Station Location Master Plan (1990-2000) which was to determine the future needs of the County Fire and EMS services. The department now utilizes a Five Year Plan which is updated annually and provides 5 year projections.

The annual update keeps the data relevant to the changing conditions and growth within Charlotte County.

The new Five Year Station Location Plan (2004-2009) proposes that it would be in the best interest of safety, efficiency, effectiveness, and standardization for Charlotte County to consider future apparatus, stations, and personnel acquisition in accordance with growth and call volume.

Response Time Considerations

It is customary for fire departments to use response times as a basis for both the saving of lives and property. Response times range from being between 4-6 minutes (in the urban service area) and 12-15 minutes (in the rural service area). Future stations were planned by incident call volume and response times. A 4-minute response time is ideal, and the Five Year Study concluded that it was an acceptable solution for the County considering the existing development patterns. Some response contours will overlap; this is an ideal situation for developing sound fire protection. Some parts of the county do not fall within any response contours. For these areas, the county must decide whether to add a new fire station in order to provide coverage, or to accept the risk associated with lack of coverage as per the response time objectives, or to revise the service areas. (Map 1.31 in the Future Land Use Element shows the approximate response times for all areas in the County.)

The County's increasing population has increased the demand for Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The platted lands style that Charlotte County is known for are readily accessible through the road network and are known to attract arsonists. Because natural, cyclic fire has been suppressed in these areas for so long, fires in the platted lands can quickly spread due to the heavy fuel load, and pose a grave threat to the homes which occur throughout the platted lands. At times, the firefighters have to protect scattered homes that are in acres of otherwise vacant plats. This diversion of manpower sometimes allows fire to burn longer and spread further than if the firefighters were able to concentrate of controlling the blaze, instead of protecting individual structures. The limited extent of water lines in the platted lands further hinders fire fighting efforts in the more remote locations. Higher response times for fire and EMS services are found in the eastern (rural) part of the County. Fortunately, the County's coverage of stations within the urban service areas has improved dramatically as identified in Map 10.5 and the use of interlocal agreements whether verbal or written provide the backup services necessary to provide a level of service acceptable to our residents.

Other Considerations

The Fire/EMS Department educates citizens through the Department of Public Education Division with school programs, talks, clowns, displays and various other activities that aim to educate people in the area of fire prevention and safety.

There are no trends in terms of the types of emergency calls to which the department responds. The vast majority are medical calls, followed by vehicle accidents, brush fires, and structural alarms. The Office of Emergency Management is now under the command of the Fire Department due to their similar nature in handling natural disasters and hazardous material incidents.

One of the greatest challenges currently facing the Department is to provide fire protection throughout a sprawling urban service area, most of which is sparsely developed. In past years, the Charlotte County Fire and EMS Department has experienced remarkable increases in the numbers of alarms (the number of alarms in 2001-2005 increased 41%). Such continued increases warrant the consideration of additional expenditures to both improve and add facilities and personnel, or the seeking of viable alternatives as to the entire delivery system.

As Charlotte County continues to experience tremendous growth, it is imperative that fire prevention, firefighting, and emergency medical services remain sufficient to provide the County the protection it requires.

G. Emergency Management

The Charlotte County Emergency Management Office was established pursuant to Chapter 252 of the *Florida Statutes*. The office's purpose is to prepare for, effectively respond to, and recover from a wide array of both natural and technological hazards. The Emergency Management Office coordinates the activities of all government, private and volunteer agencies involved in a natural disaster or manmade emergency. The Office also maintains a list of persons requiring special assistance during emergency evacuation, supports American Red Cross efforts to obtain volunteers trained to manage emergency shelters, recruits volunteer amateur radio operators, provides a public awareness program for disaster preparedness and provides speakers. In short, the Office of Emergency Management is responsible for developing, maintaining, and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs.

Charlotte County is identified as probably the most vulnerable county in the state to the impacts from hurricanes and tropical storms according to the "Southwest Florida Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study 2001", (SWFRPC, 2001). This is due to extremely low elevations as well as the geographic makeup of the County which is bisected by two rivers and contains roughly 129 square miles of inland surface waters. This makes the County very vulnerable to storm surge and rainfall flooding. This fact is exacerbated by the County's historic platting which created large population centers near or on (miles of canals were included as part of the platting) the water. The majority of the platting in Charlotte County occurred in areas vulnerable to storm surges as shown in Map 10.6. Table 10.13 identifies 74% of the County's 254,577 platted lots occur within the Category 3 or less storm surge zones.

Table 10.13 Number of Platted Lots within Hurricane Vulnerability Zones		
Hurricane Vulnerability Zone	# of Platted Lots	% of Lots w/in Hurricane Vulnerability Zone
TS	18,292	7.18 %
1	15,218	5.97%
2	97,612	38.34%
3	57,573	22.62%
TOTAL	188,695	74.11 %

Source: Charlotte County Community Development and Charlotte County Land Information Services

Charlotte County had not experienced impacts from hurricanes since the 1960's. Most of the County's recent experience with hurricane preparedness has involved evacuations due to direct or indirect impacts of hurricanes as well as from rainfall or minor storm surge events.

There are four important points that should be kept in mind when considering hurricane evacuation in the County (*Hurricane Evacuation Study - Southwest Florida*. Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. 2001 II-C-1.):

- landfalling storms provide the worst flooding potential
- flooding will be worse south of the direction of the eye of the hurricane
- wind conditions making roads unsafe for travel will arrive well before the eye of the hurricane, and usually before flood waters inundate evacuation routes
- storm landfall prediction is not an exact science. Any approaching storm has the capacity to strengthen or veer, decreasing or increasing the flooding and surge potential of the storm.

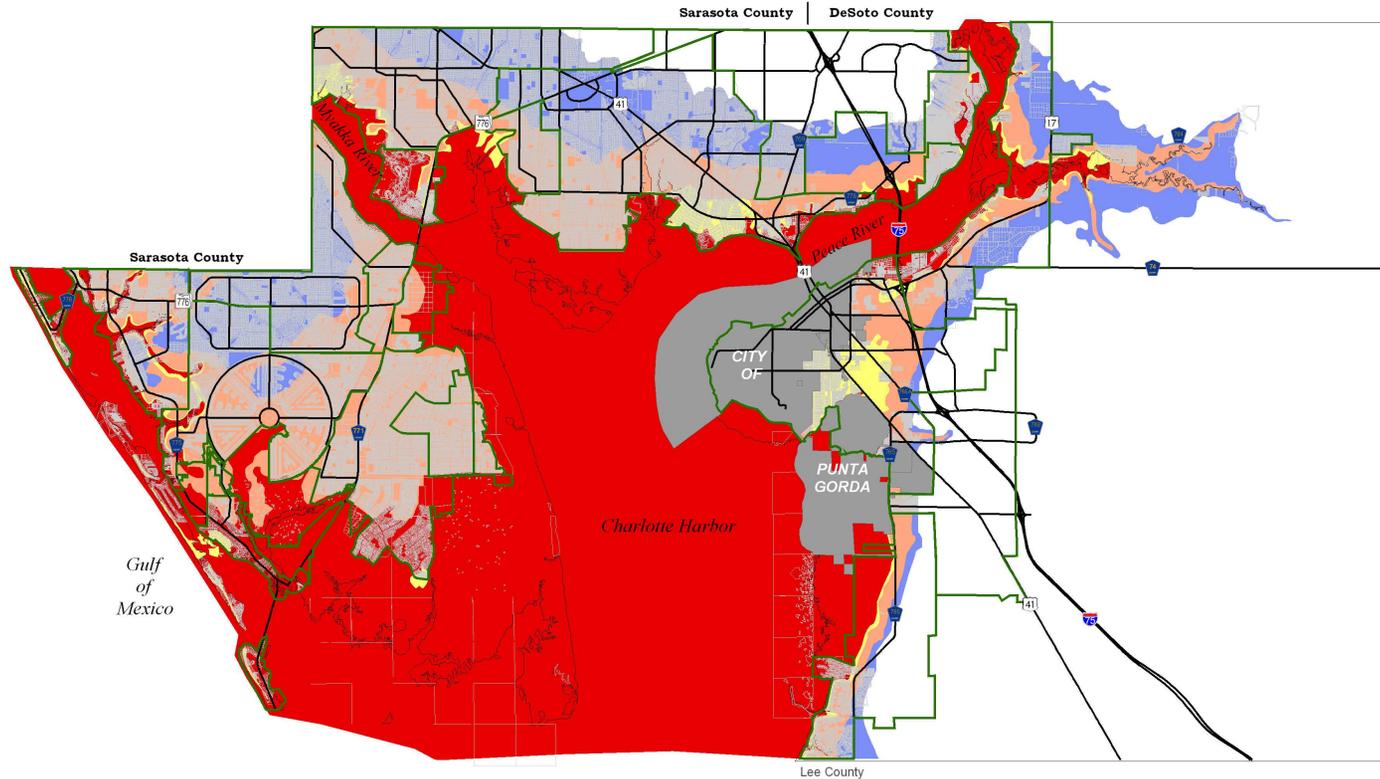
There are two basic elements to hurricane hazard; one is flooding due to storm surge and the accompanying rainfall, and the other is sustained winds in excess of 74 miles per hour up to and exceeding 155 miles per hour. Delineated parts of the county are in the various flood surge risk areas, whereas the entire county is within the wind vulnerability zone. See Map 10.6 Platted Lots with Storm Surge

Regardless of the storm, Charlotte County is susceptible to flooding, and because of this, residents are concerned with hurricane preparedness, evacuation and shelters. The Emergency Management Office must look at these areas and manage the County's response time as quickly and accurately as possible. The ability of the department to analyze and breakdown the incoming information during storm events is vital in accurately and efficiently developing plans immediately for affected areas. In doing so the department must rely on population planning information, number of vehicles and shelter availability. The department must be able to utilize the data to assist in implementing emergency plans quickly.

The Emergency Management Office was housed at an existing county facility located in the path of Hurricane Charley. The impacts from this storm caused significant roof damage. The County is looking to build a multi million dollar facility which will house not only the Emergency Management Office but also Fire/EMS Headquarters, Sheriff's Office Administration, 2-1-1 and an alternate 9-1-1

location. The existing facility was essentially carved out of an old warehouse building; however, the new facility will be built to new building codes, and designed to provide more space to include break out rooms, locker rooms, bunk space and a kitchen.

Map 10.6 Platted Lots within Storm Surge (Tropical – Category 3 Only)



Charlotte County Community Development
Land Information Services - WSS
Draft Date: 12/05
Located: g:\6\comp_plan_NEW\Chapter_10\Platted_Lots_within_storm_surge.mxd
ArcMap Version 9.1

Stateplane Projection
Datum NAD83
Units: meters

Source: Charlotte County GIS,
Charlotte County Fire Department,
Southwest Regional Planning Council

Storm Surge

- Tropical Storm - 3.1 to 5.7 Feet Above Mean Sea Level (MSL)
- Category 1 - 4.5 to 6.6 Feet Above MSL
- Category 2 - 8.3 to 12.3 Above MSL
- Category 3 - 11.3 to 20 Feet Above MSL

Urban Service Area Outline

Platted Lots

Scale 1:158,400
1 inch = 2.5 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantees, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.

Shelters

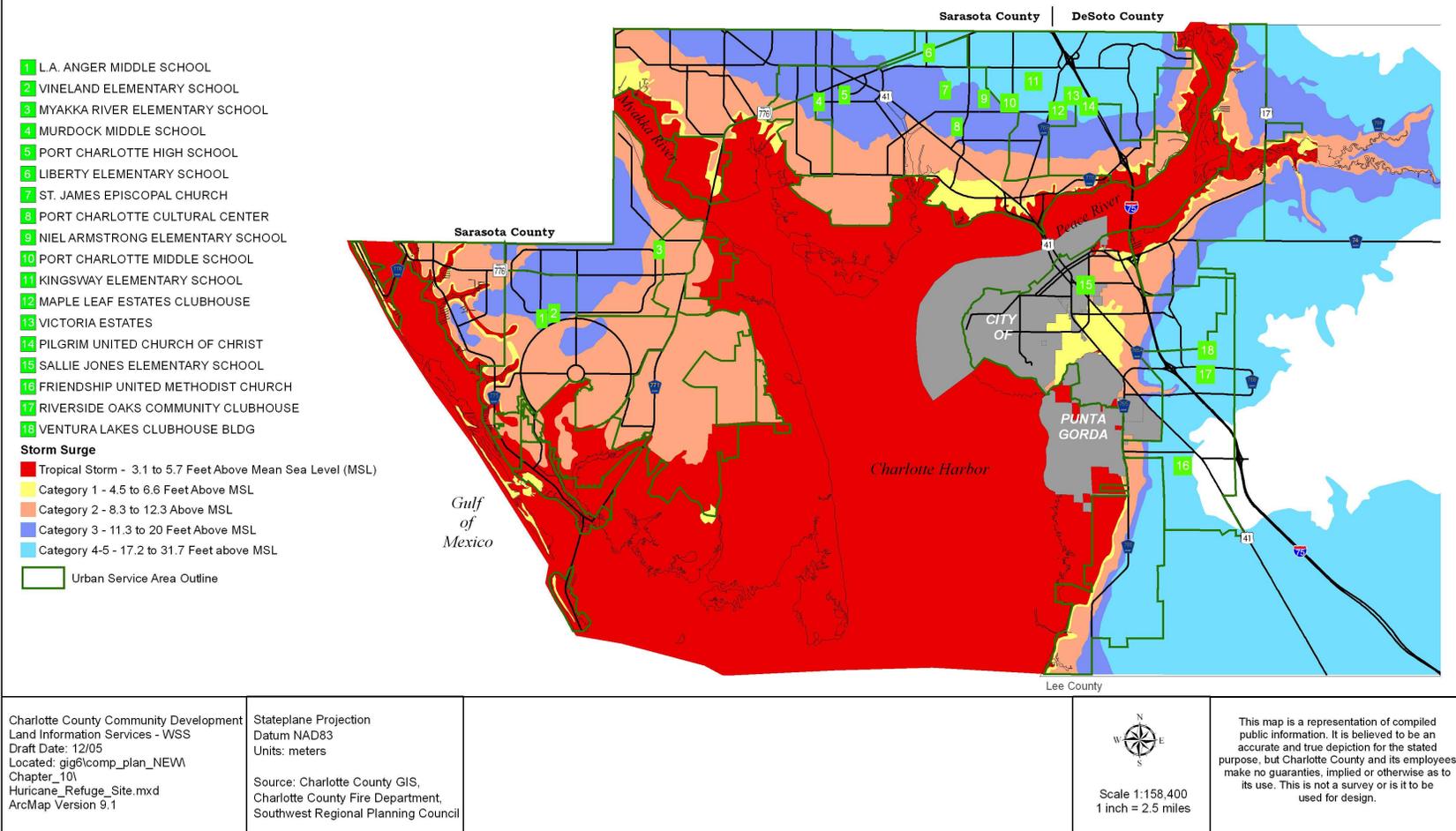
All of Charlotte County’s primary shelters are school facilities and are located close to the populations they are intended to serve. This is consistent with state, regional, and local policies which encourage, if not mandate, the joint use of public facilities, and also with the recent amendments to the Growth Management Act of locating public schools within population centers where they are both needed and where they can become the focal point of their communities (see Chapter 163.3177(6)(a), FS). Unfortunately, as shown by Map10.7, Hurricane Refuge Sites (with a correlating reference in Table 10.14), being located close to the County’s existing and future population centers places the County’s schools (and nearly all public facilities which could serve as shelters) within the Category 3 or less hurricane vulnerability zones. Because of their locations within the Category 3 or less zones, none of these shelters or refuge sites meets the certification requirements of the American Red Cross (ARC Rule 4496). Because the state has adopted ARC 4496 as part of its criteria for "safe" hurricane shelters, none of Charlotte County’s shelters or refuge sites meets the state requirements.

What does this mean to Charlotte County’s evacuees? The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s 2001 HES, identifies Charlotte County as probably the most vulnerable county in the state to the impacts from hurricanes and tropical storms. The number of people needing to evacuate depends on the severity of the storm event and, due to the County’s seasonal population, the time of year in which it occurs. As shown by Table 10.14, below, Charlotte County will generate anywhere from 14,732 evacuees in a landfalling July Tropical Storm to 177,996 in the event of a landfalling Category 5 hurricane in October. From the standpoint of shelter planning, the percentage of these potential evacuees will need to seek shelter other than with friends, family, or other private arrangement is the critical issue.

Table 10.14 Population Displacement Ratio						
Storm Category	Displaced		Not Displaced		Ratio	
	July	October	July	October	July	October
TS	14,732	26,108	141,415	151,888	0.1	0.2
1	38,854	52,433	117,293	125,563	0.3	0.4
2	105,968	124,261	50,179	53,735	2.1	2.3
3	136,436	156,885	19,711	21,111	6.9	7.4
4/5	156,147	177,996	0	0	Infinity	Infinity
Outside			0	0		

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council’s Report on Hurricane Evacuation Study 2001

Map 10.7 Hurricane Refuge Sites



According to a behavioral analysis study undertaken as part of the 2001 HES by Hazard Management Group, Inc as well as other pre- and post-hurricane behavioral studies, the County will require shelter space for between 12-24 percent of the population seeking shelter. For Charlotte County, the SWFRPC used an averaged figure of 15% based on a number of factors including demographics and the County's location. The breakdown of anticipated evacuees and the surplus or deficit of shelter capacity is illustrated by Table 10.15. This table only takes into consideration primary shelters such as schools and other public facilities.

**TABLE 10.15
2001 PRIMARY PUBLIC SHELTER CAPACITY LANDFALLING STORM**

STORM CATEGORY	SPACE	EVACUEES		PERCENT MET		SPACE NEEDED TO OPEN		SURPLUS / DEFICIT	
		JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER
TS*	9,800	14,732	26,108	66.5%	37.5%	2,210	3,916	7,590	5,884
1	9,300	38,854	52,433	23.9%	17.7%	5,828	7,865	3,472	1,435
2	5,200	105,968	124,261	4.9%	4.2%	15,895	18,639	-10,695	-13,439
3	1,000	136,436	156,885	0.7%	0.6%	20,465	23,533	-19,465	-22,533
3**	5,200	136,436	156,885	3.8%	3.3%	20,465	23,533	-15,265	-18,333
4/5***	1,000	156,147	177,996	0.6%	0.6%	23,422	26,699	-22,422	-25,699

*Mobile home and RV Residents will likely receive advisories to go to shelter

**Assumes shelters in the category 2 zone remain open.

***Assumes shelters in the category 3 zone remain open.

2001 PUBLIC SHELTER CAPACITY WITH SECONDARY REFUGES LANDFALLING STORM

STORM CATEGORY	SPACE	EVACUEES		PERCENT MET		SPACE NEEDED TO OPEN		SURPLUS / DEFICIT	
		JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER	JULY	OCTOBER
TS*	12,600	14,732	26,108	100.0%	100.0%	2,210	3,916	10,390	8,684
1	12,100	38,854	52,433	31.1%	23.1%	5,828	7,865	6,272	4,235
2	8,000	105,968	124,261	7.5%	6.4%	15,895	18,639	-7,895	-10,639
3	2,800	136,436	156,885	2.1%	1.8%	20,465	23,533	-17,665	-20,733
3**	8,000	136,436	156,885	5.9%	5.1%	20,465	23,533	-12,465	-15,533
4/5***	2,800	156,147	177,996	1.8%	1.6%	23,422	26,699	-20,622	-23,899

*Mobile home and RV Residents will likely receive advisories to go to shelter

**Assumes shelters in the category 2 zone remain open.

***Assumes shelters in the category 3 zone remain open.

Note: a 15% factor is used in the calculations but is not explained in the Hurricane Evacuation Study
It is assumed 12 – 24% of the population will seek shelter

There are, however, alternative options of hazard shelter available to the residents. These include both hotels/motels and friends/families. Of the 2,455 estimated hotel/motel rooms available in the County, 1,094 units would be available for a Category 1 storm and 319 units available for a Category 2 storm. The remaining 1,361 rooms are located along the shoreline within the Category 1 flood zone and are not counted. Table 10.16 below shows the additional capacity available to evacuees if hotels and motels are as secondary shelters.

Table 10.16 Percent Shelter Space Increase Due to Hotels/Motels		
Storm Category	Percent	
	July	October
TS	37.2%	21.0%
1	6.3%	4.7%
2	0.7%	0.6%
3	0.3%	0.2%
4/5	0.0%	0.0%

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Report on Hurricane Evacuation Study 2001

The 2001 HES states that although limited, the friends and family option provides additional shelter capacity which diminishes as the ratio of evacuees to those not affected increases as shown in Table 10.16. The HES further points out that if an assumption is made “that ratios of 1:1 or better (0.8:1, for example), will enable those seeking shelter with friends will find them. (sic) This constitutes 13% of the population. Ratios of worse than 1:1 (2:1, for example), will diminish the likelihood in proportion to the ratio. Given that assumption, all of those evacuees from a Category 1 storm wishing to stay with friends will be able to do so. However, during a category 2 evacuation, only 6.2% in July and 5.6% in October, of the evacuees will be able to stay with friends. Therefore, out-of-County evacuation loading will be reduced by only approximately these percentages or less by sheltering with a friend for a Category 2 evacuation.” Table 10.17, below, summarizes the percent shelter space increase due to friends or relatives.

Table 10.17 Percent Shelter Space Increase Due to Friends/Relatives		
Storm Category	Percent	
	July	October
TS	13.0 %	13.0 %
1	13.0 %	13.0 %
2	6.2 %	5.6 %
3	1.9 %	1.7 %
4/5	0.0 %	0.0 %

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Report on Hurricane Evacuation Study 2001

The preceding discussions are summarized in Table 10.18, below, which presents the shelter capacity situation for Charlotte County.

Table 10.18 Total Public and Private Shelter Satisfaction in Charlotte County				
Storm Category	July	Percent Met		October(1)
		July(1)	October	
TS	116.7%	150.2%	71.5%	134.0%
1	43.2%	50.4%	35.4%	40.7%
2	11.7%	14.4%	10.4%	12.6%
3	2.9%	4.2%	2.6%	3.8%

3*	6.0%	8.0%	5.3%	7.1%
4/5**	0.6%	1.8%	0.6%	1.6%

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Report on Hurricane Evacuation Study 2001

(1) Includes secondary refuges open

*Assumes shelters in Category 2 Zone remain open

** Assumes shelters in Category 3 Zone remain open.

In addition to primary and secondary shelter space, the County has also identified a number of secondary refuges which, according to the 2001 HES, adds 2,800 additional spaces. The effect of these refuge spaces is illustrated on the second half of Table 10.15.

As illustrated by Table 10.15, even with the inclusion of secondary shelters, refuges, and keeping shelters open during the category storm in which zone the shelters occur (i.e., keeping Category 3 shelters open during a Category 3 storm), Charlotte County still has a substantial deficit in shelter capacity for anything greater than a Category 1 Hurricane.

Trends

Traffic management has an important mitigating role to play in evacuation efforts. Also, there are considerations related to human behavior which play an important role. People may evacuate their homes at different times. They may choose to respond to evacuation recommendations all at once or in a more staggered fashion. Staggered response times could allow for better traffic movement. However, response times are difficult to predict or control.

Despite increasing populations and vehicle load, a comparison of evacuation times between the 1995 and 2001 Hurricane Evacuation Studies (see Tables F-3 and F-2) clearly illustrates that times have generally improved during the last planning period. This can be attributed to several factors, most importantly the road improvements discussed in the Transportation and Natural Resources and Coastal Planning Elements. The widening of SR 776 (and the increase in lanes over the Myakka River), the construction of Winchester Blvd., the widening of US 17, and the widening of Veterans Blvd have all increased the capacity of the County's road network. Other, non-structural improvements not available for the 1995 HES include the County's improved traffic management strategy and better hurricane tracking and movement forecasting technology which give Emergency Managers better data and longer preparation times if a storm approaches.

Notwithstanding this positive change, the County must still do everything in its power to ameliorate the threat posed by tropical systems as growth will continue to occur in vulnerable areas due to the over-abundance of platted lands. Fortunately, the County is well aware of this need, and has made progress in this area.

As provided in the above discussions, Charlotte County has made considerable progress in addressing hurricane evacuation and coastal planning issues. Even in regard to the locations of shelters (which is again a reflection of the platted lands problem), the County is making efforts to supplement the resources with which it must work in order to provide the best protection for its residents and visitors. Reflecting the importance the community places on hurricane evacuation concerns and coastal planning, the 1997 Comprehensive Plan contains numerous objectives which address these issues.

Notwithstanding this progress, the County needs to develop a program by which its shelter capacity may be increased. Potential methods for achieving this, along with a brief discussion of each, are enumerated below.

For more information regarding emergency shelters, refer to the Natural Resources and Coastal Management Element which contains a more detailed analysis of issues pertinent to this topic.

H. Health Facilities

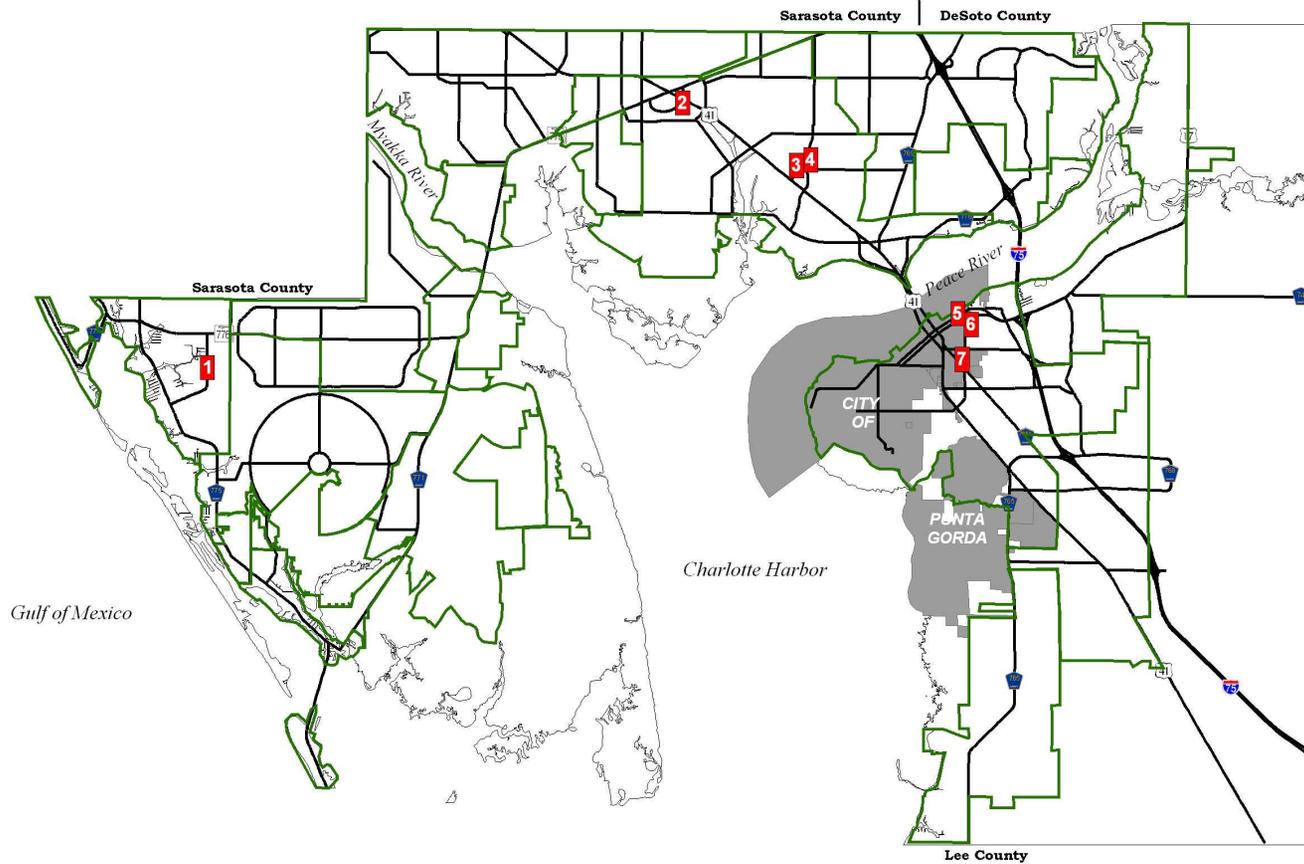
There are three hospitals situated within Charlotte County that provide medical services for citizens and visitors. Peace River Regional Medical and Fawcett Memorial Hospital both serve the Mid County area, while the Charlotte Regional Medical Center serves the South County area. There is also one hospital, Englewood Community Hospital, located in Sarasota County, which provides medical service primarily for the residents of West County. These hospitals are listed in the following table:

Table 10.19 Hospitals	
Hospital	Facilities and Services Provided
Fawcett Memorial Hospital 21298 Ocean Blvd. Port Charlotte Mailing Address: PO Box 494960 Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 238 licensed beds - 24-Hour Emergency Care Center, JCAHO Certified Stroke Center, Spine Care Center, Chest Pain Center, Wound Care Center - Intermediate Medical Care Unit - Pharmacy - Infection Control and Surgical Services - Fawcett Sports & Rehab Services, - Oncology Services and Clinical Trials affiliated with Moffitt Cancer Center - Diagnostic Imaging including: MRI, Mammography, Ultrasound, CT - Cardiac Catheterization Lab - Outpatient Surgery and Endoscopy - 2 Critical Intensive Care Units (ICU's) - 20-Bed Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit - Respiratory Therapy - Telemetry - Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Services - Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy - Free Physician Referral Service - Free community lecture series, Medicare claims assistance, health screenings & blood pressure testing

<p>Peace River Regional Medical 2500 Harbor Blvd.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 212 beds - pediatrics, day surgery, outpatient surgery cardiology, cardiac catheterization lab, emergency care, intensive care, cancer care - Chest Pain Emergency Clinic - Bearly Sick day care - The Birthplace (birthing rooms and gynecology unit) - Women’s Pavilion (for physical, emotional needs and education) - Physician Referral - Mall Walk Program - free educational programs on Heart Health, prepared childbirth, diabetes self-management, cancer seminars and screenings, pain management, autotransfusion
<p>Charlotte Regional Medical Center Hospital 809 E. Marion Avenue Punta Gorda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 208 beds - acute care surgery, general surgery, cardiac catheterization lab, intensive care, cancer care, emergency care - diagnostic services: X-ray, CT scanning, MRI, digital imaging, scintillation scanner, nuclear medicine, mammography, ultrasound, clinical lab - specialized treatment for alcohol, drug problems and emotional help - Regional Heart Institute - Vascular Screening Institute - Ask-A-Nurse program - Wellness Centers (exercise facility) - Walk-In Health Services
<p>Englewood Community Hospital 700 Medical Blvd. Englewood (Sarasota County)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 beds - emergency care, intensive care, outpatient services - courtesy van - women’s health and resource center - Women’s Wellness enter

Medical care in Charlotte County is comprehensive and readily available. Treatment in virtually every medical specialty is offered, and the latest technologies are utilized. The county’s hospitals provide a range of medical, wellness, and education services. They do so with highly trained physicians and nurses, along with the help of many hundreds of volunteers. Map 10.8 shows the locations of the major health facilities in the county, including hospitals, public health unit facilities, and community mental health facilities.

Map 10.8 Health Facilities



Charlotte County Community Development
 Land Information Services - WSS
 Draft Date: 11/18/05
 Located: gig6\comp_plan_NEW\
 Chapter_10\
 Health_Facilities.mxd
 ArcMap Version 9

Stateplane Projection
 Datum NAD83
 Units: meters
 Source: Charlotte County GIS

- 1 Charlotte County Health Department (Clinic)
 - 2 Charlotte County Health Department (Environmental Health)
 - 3 Columbia Fawcett Memorial Hospital
 - 4 Peace River Regional Hospital
 - 5 Charlotte Regional Medical Center
 - 6 Charlotte County Mental Health
 - 7 Charlotte County Health Department (Clinic)
- Urban Service Area Outline

Scale 1:205,920
 1 inch = 3.25 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guaranties, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.

In addition to the hospital facilities and services, Charlotte County residents and visitors can also benefit from several multi-specialty health clinics. Counseling and rehabilitation centers offer cardiac therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and treatment for substance abuse and stress.

Charlotte County Health Department

The Charlotte County Health Department is an agency of the Florida Department of Health. Prior to restructuring at the state level, it was known as the Charlotte County Public Health Unit and was an agency of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

The Charlotte County Health Department is a dually funded agency, receiving funds from both the state and the county. The role of the unit is to provide services to protect the health of the county’s residents and their environment. The services which the unit provides include clinics, community health, environmental health, communicable disease control, and vital statistics. Also, the unit operates a primary care program which coordinates all available health services and resources for low income eligible persons.

The Charlotte County Health Department’s facilities are listed in Table 10.20 below:

Table 10.20 Charlotte County Health Department Facilities and Services	
Services	Location
Clinics, Vital Statistics, Administration	514 E. Grace Street Punta Gorda. 639-1181
Primary Care Clinic*	Unit 54 – A Promenades Mall Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte
Clinics, Environmental Health Includes Primary Care Clinic, WIC Program	6868 San Casa Road Englewood. 474-3240 & 474-3249
Environmental Health	18500 Murdock Circle, Room 203 Port Charlotte. 743-1266
Women Infants Children (WIC) Program*	Unit 54 – A Promenades Mall Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte 941-255-7600

Source: Charlotte County Public Health Unit information brochure.

* Temporary relocated due to structural damage from Hurricane Charley

Charlotte Community Mental Health Services

Charlotte Community Mental Health Services, Inc., is the primary mental health provider in the County. From its campus located just outside the Punta Gorda City Limits, CCMHS provides outpatient counseling and psychotherapy, case management, crisis stabilization, the Charlotte Geriatric Residential Facility, The Haven Drop-In Center, Charlotte County Healthy Families, therapeutic family care, a mobile crisis team, and the Parenting Family Resource Center. CCMHS employs 210 full and part time employees and provided professional services to approximately 2,800

individuals for 83,000 units of services in 2001. It is reasonable to expect this caseload to increase proportionate to the County's population. People from all parts of the County utilize CCMHS which also provides emergency assessment and crisis intervention to all of the organizations in Charlotte County when those services are needed.

In addition to its core services, CCMHS is working with several community agencies to establish a homeless shelter within the County. The impetus of this work came from the Charlotte County Collective and the Charlotte County Assembly, public work groups that provide insight to the county's needs. The current plan is to have CCMHS donate land on its campus and attempt to secure capital funds from the sales tax extension or the S.S. Kresge Foundation to build the shelter. The Homeless Coalition will operate the shelter and CCMHS through a grant allocation from SAMSHA so that funding will be secured for wrap around services for people with severe mental illness or substance abuse problems.

CCMHS is funded by yearly contracts with the State of Florida, Charlotte County, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, the United Way, and by first and third party fees. People who utilize the organization's professional services pay on sliding fee scale according to their ability to pay when they do not have third party payers. CCMHS is authorized to receive Medicare and Medicaid payments for services rendered. Approximately one third of all the clients of CCMHS report an income of zero, and 75 percent of all clients report an income of less than \$15,600 (this figure includes the 33 percent who report zero incomes). Due to the constant demand and relative lack of resources, CCMHS is able to provide services only to those in immediate crisis. Those people who desire professional services for non-emergency problems cannot be served.

CCMHS is part of the network of community services provided in the County. It is important to the public safety of Charlotte County.

Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes

There are a variety of facilities and services for retirees in Charlotte County. These include centers for independent living, in-home care, assisted living or the full services of a nursing facility. The County has 55 assisted living facilities (ALFs), which allow clients to retain a residential lifestyle while obtaining some degree of assistance with normal personal tasks every day. ALFs in the county provide approximately 50 beds and over 700 apartment units. There are six state-licensed and fully accredited nursing homes, all of which provide both intermediate and skilled care. Together, the nursing homes provide almost 870 beds.

Even though there are numerous congregate living facilities and nursing homes in the county, there is a demand for more, especially affordable/subsidized facilities. When the baby-boomer generation starts retiring ten to twenty years from now, then this demand will increase considerably, requiring a significant addition of assisted living facilities and nursing homes. The Housing Element contains a more detailed discussion regarding these facilities.

I. Justice Facilities

This section of this element looks at the entire justice system - sheriff's office, courts, and corrections. Aspects concerning justice constitute one of the most serious challenges facing local governments.

Sheriff Stations and Patrol Districts

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is responsible for all law enforcement services in the unincorporated county and secondary services in the city of Punta Gorda. Duties include routine road patrol, criminal investigations, and assisting other government and law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff's Office offers many services in addition to law enforcement including: Civil Process, Victim Advocates, County Jail Operations, Crime Prevention, Community Policing, Police Athletic League, School Resource Officers, the explorer program for young people; a fingerprint identification program for preschool and elementary school children; community presentations in law enforcement topics such as drug abuse, fraud, home security; K-9 demonstrations; neighborhood watch programs; and public firearm safety courses.

Charlotte County has 524 full-time equivalent Sheriff's Office employees. They include sworn law enforcement and corrections deputies, jail support staff, court security, process servers, and administrative support functions such as Communications, Records, Training, and Accreditation. The breakdown of Sheriff's Office employees is shown in the following tables:

Table 10.21 Sheriff's Office Employees (by type)		
Employee Type	1996 Number	2005 Number
Sworn law enforcement including Court Security	221	259
Sworn Corrections and Civilian Support Staff	67	146
Law Enforcement Civilian support	106	119
Full time employees	394*	524

Source: Joy Cocuzzi, Planning and Research, Sheriff's Office. April 2005

Table 10.22 Sheriff's Office Employees (by function)		
Employee Function	1996 Number	2005 Number
Law enforcement	209	246
Court Security	13	15
Corrections	67	146
Civilian support	105	117
Total	394	524

Source: Joy Cocuzzi, Planning and Research, Sheriff's Office. April, 2005.

The Sheriff's Office works out of a number of facilities to support its services. There are currently four County Sheriff's districts in the process of being combined for a total of three district offices by

the end of 2005. See Map 10.9 which shows these districts as well as the locations of the sheriff stations, and Table 10.23 which provides street addresses.

The William Reilly Administrative Complex on Utilities Road near the airport serves as the headquarters hub for command functions and many of the support services. This includes the District Three Patrol Office, Human Resources, Finance, Investigations, Records, Information Technology Support, Communications, Supply and Inventory as well as the Crime Lab and Evidence Vault.

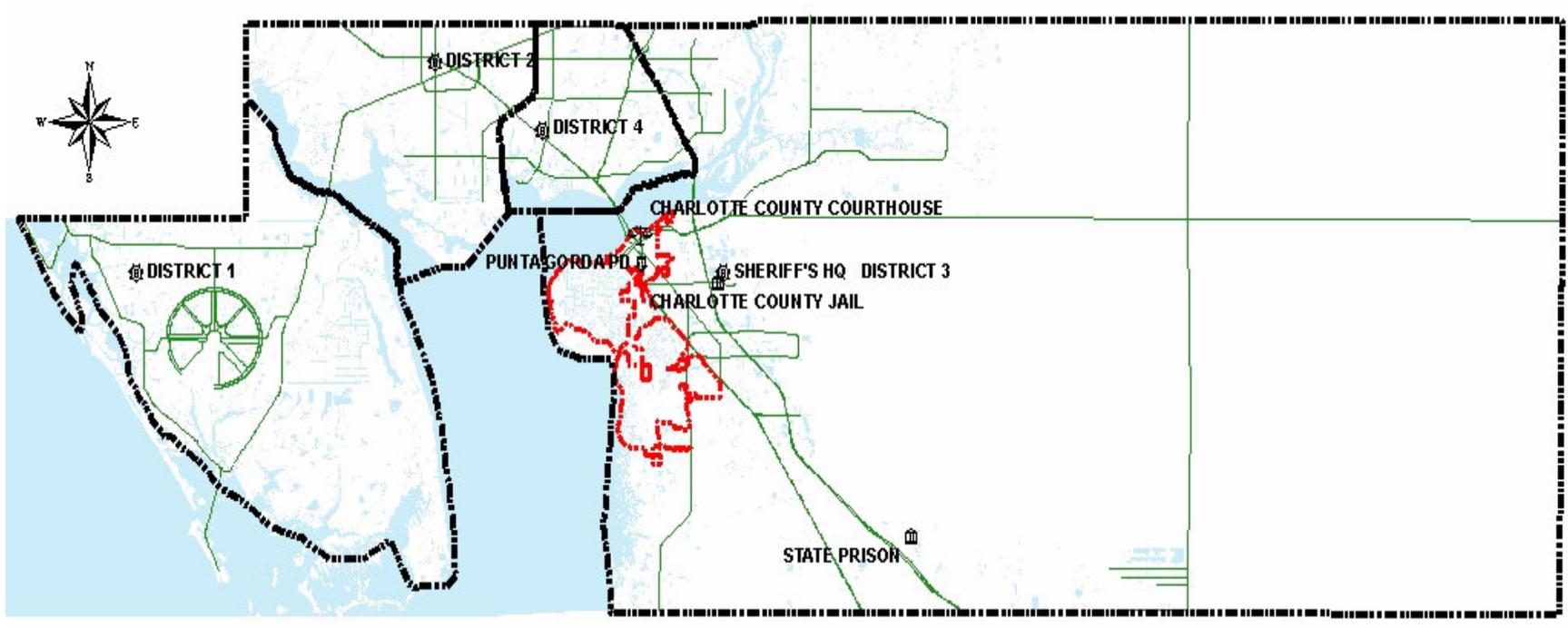
The Corrections Bureau operates from the County Jail Facility at 26601 Airport Rd including Intake, First Appearance, Court Rooms and all adult and juvenile booking and housing.

The Court Security Section operates from the County Court House on West Marion Ave., Punta Gorda and safeguards the judges, court rooms and court operations.

Training functions are conducted from the Training Center located at 25500 Airport Rd. adjacent to the gun range and maintenance garage.

The Air Patrol function operates in conjunction with mosquito spraying operations from a hangar at the Charlotte County Airport. Other peripheral locations include the Police Athletic League operating from the Tringali Center on McCall Rd. in Englewood and Community Relations and Crime Prevention Units that have direct public access from their central location in the Town Center Mall

Map 10.9 Existing Sheriff Locations and Districts



Source: Sheriff's Dept. April 2005

Table 10.23 District Sheriff's Stations	
District	Location
District One	6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood (941) 475-9005
District Two	989-B Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte (941) 627-8898
District Three	7474 Utilities Rd. Punta Gorda (941) 575-5370
District Four	3280 Tamiami Trail, Promenades Mall, Port Charlotte (941) 627-5635

*2005 combine D2&D4

In performing duties related to law enforcement, the CCSO is committed to the philosophy of community policing for identifying community problems and solving those problems. Organizational changes have been made to support delivery of service under this philosophy. These include: permanent assignment of officers zones to better know the people and problems in their areas, assignment of a dedicated community policing officer to attend community meetings and involve citizens in the problem solving process as partners. The officers are more visible and problem areas can be more easily identified with increased communications.

The CCSO shares facilities with other county functions to reduce capital costs and further streamline operations. The sharing of a helicopter and hangar with the Pest Management Division is a case in point. Two Sheriff's Office substations may be combined in the future to consolidate costs and streamline delivery of services based on geographic boundaries. With three offices in the three geographic areas of the county, future plans can be made to expand with the population and development base through small community satellite offices in neighborhoods throughout the County.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, the Utilities Road complex sustained significant damage. It is being repaired and hardened to continue serving as the central communications center and administrative offices for the Sheriff. The Emergency Management Office continues to operate from the same building. However, future plans include building a combination Headquarters complex, communications center and Emergency Operations Office adjacent to the Jail on Airport Road. This project is in the planning stages.

A feasibility study and needs assessment are currently underway to plan the expansion of the Jail Facility. The growth in the jail population, mental health care and legal issues concerning the separation of male and female prisoners are driving this expansion. Expansion will also accommodate a work release program and video visitation to enhance inmate management.

The District One patrol area includes the safety management of the Englewood area, the Barrier Island region, the Placida and Gulf Cove areas. It shares office space in the San Casa County Annex. District Two is currently based on Tamiami Trail north of the Town Center Mall. District Three is

located in the Utilities Road complex. District Four is the busiest district, handling the highest number of calls for service.

The Community Policing Section includes the Community Affairs Unit which is located in the Town Center Mall. The Crime Prevention component coordinates over 100 Neighborhood Watch Groups, provides prevention training and demonstrations, conducts business and home security surveys, and distributes information at public events and special programs. They present substance abuse prevention and child safety programs,

District Two has a Marine Patrol unit which is available for special duties such as missing persons searches or specific calls for marine service. Three employees are dedicated to this unit.

A K-9 Unit comprised of eight deputies and their canine partners have the responsibility of tracking and conducting area searches for criminal suspects, lost persons, or drugs. The K-9 Unit also performs public demonstrations.

The CCSO provides Courthouse Services consisting of court liaison and courthouse security. A video first appearance system allows defendants to enter their pleas from the jail, reducing some need to transport inmates to the courthouse for hearings where pleas are given.

The Domestic Violence Deputy serves as a liaison between the Sheriff's Office, the Clerk of the Court's Office, and the court system in dealing with domestic violence victims. In 2004 this Officer handled a case load of 996 cases and accompanying documentation and court appearances. A Victim Advocate has been added to serve the growing number.

The CCSO provides substance abuse/drug counseling and treatment services to clients while in jail and after their release, as well as providing intervention and counseling services to juveniles. The Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Counseling Program is operated from an office on Toledo Blade Boulevard in Murdock

Interlocal Agreements

There is a mutual aid agreement in place ensuring that operational assistance is available from other Sheriff's Offices within the state during times of crisis, catastrophic disasters, civil unrest or jail escape. The Sheriff has a cooperative agreement with the Lee County Sheriff's Office to accommodate law enforcement on Gasparilla Island/Boca Grande which lies within Lee's jurisdiction but is physically accessible through Charlotte County. There is a working agreement between the Punta Gorda City Police and the CCSO to provide concurrent services with the Punta Gorda City Police being the initial primary responder within the city limits.

Crime and Prevention

The growth in population is a driving factor in the demand for public safety services which in turn increases the number and type of initiatives that must be implemented to respond to calls and curb crime. The number of calls for service for law enforcement is directly related to population. The calls for service Crime is not in and of itself related to population growth. Crime is related to the

socioeconomic and cultural issues that come with population growth. Therefore, it is possible to experience the growth in population and endeavor to keep crime levels low through proactive and prevention programs.

In 2000, there were 120,308 calls for service. Using 3.7% average rate of increase based on previous years, we can project the number of calls for service in 2010 to be about 181,979. Responding to calls for service is a core responsibility of the Sheriff's Office in dealing with crime. Calls for service may or may not be associated with crime levels. But the key is that when called, the Sheriff's Office responds.

The Crime Rate is measured by the FDLE as the number of crimes that occur for each 100,000 population. The last official crime rate for Charlotte County was for the year 2003. The rate was 3,265 crimes per 100,000 population. In 1993, the crime rate for Charlotte County was 3,054. Therefore in the last 10 years, the crime rate has increased by 6.9% while the population has increased 25%. It is the goal of the Sheriff's Office to continually assess the incidents of crime and address causes through targeted patrol and prevention programs.

There is a correlation between poor commercial planning and the demand for law enforcement services. Strip commercial development makes patrol work very difficult, and creates a favorable situation for burglars, loiterers and elements that contribute to the incidence of crime. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) is an extreme problem area in terms of traffic and difficulty to patrol. The way in which a place grows has an impact on the safety of that area. The destruction of many stores, offices and buildings from hurricane Charley leaves another element of decay to contribute to crime.

Aside from population growth, there is no doubt that crime waves are fueled by drugs, guns, unemployment, and breakdowns in family life. All of these factors need to be addressed by society but cannot be solely within the domain of the Sheriff's Office.

Property crime is the biggest measurable problem in the County. However, we experienced a spike in violent crime in the disorder following Hurricane Charley. Traffic Enforcement and safety is one of the highest priorities of residents of Charlotte and a directed effort has been focused on traffic enforcement. A continuing problem is substance abuse by young people and the criminal problems that accompany drug abuse. An emphasis has been placed on reaching young people in the schools with prevention problems and positive contacts with School Resource Officers. The increasing demographic of young people in a formerly predominant retirement community is fueling the need for more proactive programming in the activities of youths at both the school and after school levels.

Contributing to rising juvenile crime is the insufficient number of facilities and organized activities intended for the County's youth. Moreover, there is an abundance of places where juveniles can congregate without any form of supervision. Changing demographics are also an important factor to consider. There are growing numbers of youth and young children in the County. To prevent major juvenile problems in the future, preventive strategies should be implemented with the children of today. Prevention programs should take priority over an incarceration approach. These concerns are especially serious because youth violence is more random; the rise in juvenile crime is at the core of

rising fear in recent years.

CCSO Future Requirements

There are many needs to be addressed in the future in regard to the provision of criminal justice services. Additional personnel will be needed to handle increasing numbers. Proactive prevention programs are needed to stem the inevitable growth of crime and calls for service that come with population growth and economic development. Children and youth programs are both in place and being developed. The anti-drug abuse curriculum known as D.A.R.E. will be taught in Charlotte County schools grades 5 and 7 for the first time.

Essential to the provision of effective law enforcement services, is the need for cooperative planning. It is the only way to accommodate growth and ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and deputy sheriffs while dealing with crime and safety issues of society and this community. The CCSO will continue to try to develop partnerships with the community to deal with problems, both criminal and social. Also, liaisons will continue to be developed between the CCSO and other governmental agencies to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement and safety efforts.

The Sheriff's Office together with County officials should develop a five year plan on the hiring of personnel and purchasing of equipment for the Sheriff's Office based on calls for service and growth. Equipment such as radios and computers should be replaced regularly, and there should be regular hiring increases at a controlled level. Given the scarcity of funds, it would also be wise for the Sheriff's Office to continue searching for alternative funding sources which will enhance operations and ease the community tax burden.

Facilities have been impacted by growth and hurricane damage. The Reilly Administrative Complex will be repaired and administration will continue to operate from the Utilities Rd. location until the new Headquarters- Emergency Operations Complex are built. The District Offices, while initially reorganizing from four to three to streamline service delivery by geographic barriers, will expand in the future through satellite community policing offices located in the neighborhoods served. The first satellite office envisioned may be for Murdock Village. When built out, there will be a significant need to develop a community policing presence along with the development.

The Communications Center will be relocated to the new Headquarters – Emergency Operating Center complex to accompany Emergency Operations.

The Jail Expansion in the planning stages will address the housing and legal issues that come with crowding and support a work release program. Mental health issues for special needs inmates can be addressed through the expansion. Juvenile housing and detention issues pose difficult problems that are currently being handled out of county. As the county demographic becomes younger, we will need to plan for juvenile detention and treatment facilities. As the court dockets grow, so will the need for additional judges and courtrooms to handle the cases.

The Sheriff's Office has adopted a five year strategic planning system designed to tie growth and budget planning to population growth, calls for service and a desired level of service expected to be

maintained. Equipment such as radios and computers will be replaced regularly based on service life and warranty. Personnel increases to reach the desired service level to provide proactive policing, will be tied to the same ratio. The Sheriff's Office also searches for alternative funding sources such as grants to supplement programs.

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)

The Florida Highway Patrol is a state agency serving Charlotte and Lee Counties from their office in Venice. FHP has countywide jurisdiction and will provide law enforcement when called upon to do so, but its main responsibility is handling all traffic related problems such as accidents, disabled vehicles and traffic violations.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), a state agency with headquarters in Tallahassee, has a regional office in Fort Myers which serves Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties. FDLE is responsible for investigating crimes, assisting local law enforcement agencies with major crimes, and providing security for the Governor during local visits. The CCSO reports crime statistics regularly to the FDLE which, in turn, reports crime and law enforcement activities to the FBI.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

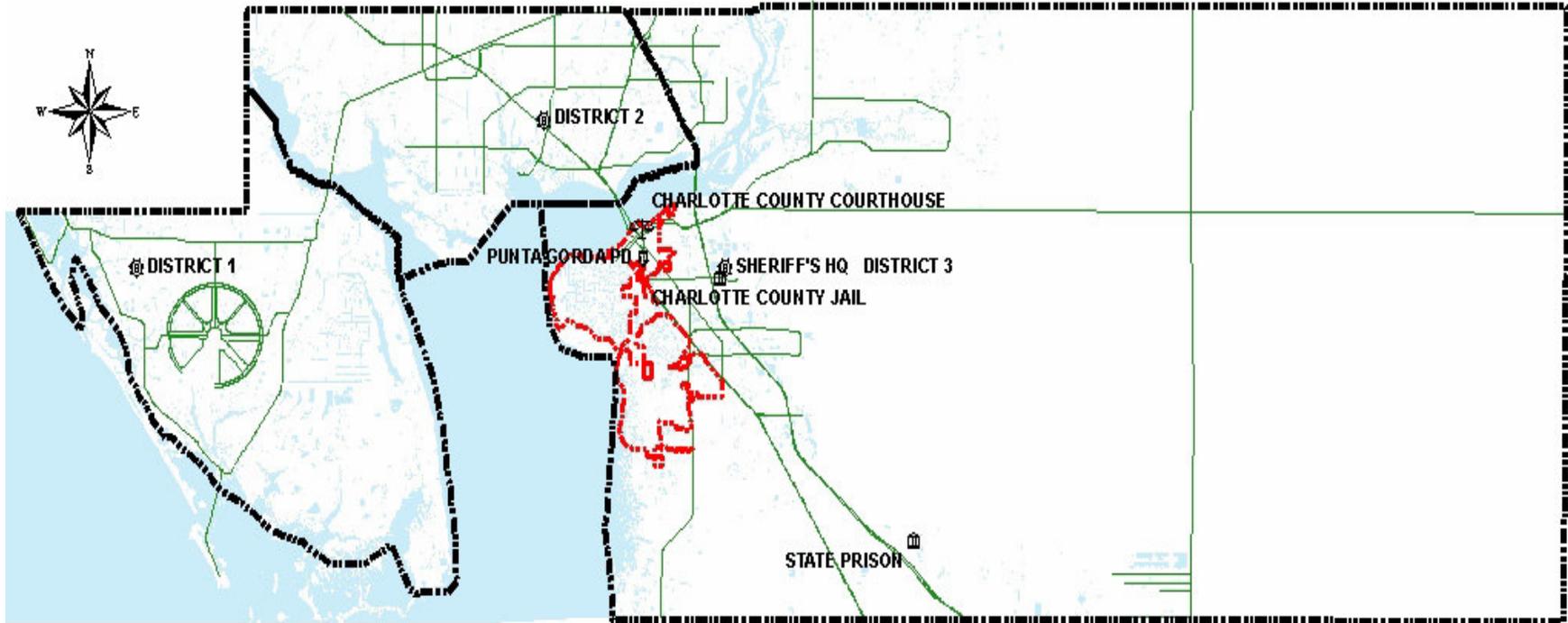
The Florida Marine Patrol and Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission were merged into one agency as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission on July 1, 1999 per voter mandate of the 1998 General Election. The Ft. Myers Field Office of the Southwest Region Division of Law Enforcement serves Charlotte and Lee counties. The Southwest Region Headquarters is in Lakeland.

The Division emphasized compliance with recreational/ commercial fishing and hunting regulations. They enforce state and federal laws that protect threatened and endangered species, they enforce laws dealing with commercial trade of wildlife and wildlife products, and they enforce boating safety laws and regulations. The Division is a partner with other state law enforcement agencies pursuant to Florida's Mutual Aid Plan, administered by the Department of Community Affairs. They perform search and rescue and provide information and assistance to citizens and visitors.

US Marshals Service

The US Marshals Service was designed as an arm of the federal judiciary to execute its orders. The US marshals are involved in transporting inmates and ensuring the security of the federal courts. They work with a number of different agencies regarding logistics, hardware and software. The US Marshals office which serves Charlotte County is located in Fort Myers along with the US District Court's Division of the Middle District of Florida.

Map 10.10 Proposed Realignment of Sheriff's Office District Boundaries



Source: Sheriff's Dept. April 2005

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

In accordance with Chapter 94.209, Laws of Florida and Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) provides supervision, counseling, case work, completion of court reports, and monitoring of juvenile delinquents and their parents. The mission of the DJJ is to provide a full range of programs and services to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency in partnership with families, schools, communities, and law enforcement and other agencies. The department is committed to a balanced approach that increases public safety, provides department and offender accountability, and affords opportunities for youth to develop into responsible citizens.

The DJJ is a state agency with offices in Punta Gorda that coordinates its efforts with local organizations such as the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, the Punta Gorda Police Department, the court system, and the Charlotte County juvenile justice councils. It is state funded except where programs are contracted out, in which case the County provides some funding.

A priority issue for the DJJ is to promote local government and community involvement by creating partnerships focused on delivering juvenile justice programs and services specific to district needs. Effective prevention, intervention, detention, and commitment services and programs require cooperative planning and coordination between local government, law enforcement, schools, judges, state attorneys, public defenders, social service agencies, community organizations, clergy, businesses, juvenile justice providers, parents and youths. Charlotte County has a juvenile justice council and a district board which provide a vital link between the DJJ office and the County community. The County government should continue to be involved and participate in cooperative approaches to the issue of juvenile crime.

The Judicial System

Charlotte County has two levels of courts: the County Court and the 20th Judicial Circuit Court. (The 20th Judicial Circuit encompasses Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Collier and Lee Counties.) The state pays the salaries of all judges and their secretaries. The state and counties share most of the remaining expenses, with the county providing the facilities used by trial courts.

The County Court which is a court of limited jurisdiction, handles among other things: county and city ordinance violations, including traffic infractions; minor offenses (misdemeanors) which provide for a maximum sentence of one year or less in the county jail; and civil cases such as landlord-tenant and small claims disputes.

The Circuit Court which is a court of general jurisdiction, handles, among other matters: domestic relations cases such as dissolution of marriage (divorce), guardianship and juvenile delinquency; major criminal offences (felonies) which can result in imprisonment in a state institution; probate matters, such as the processing of wills and settling of estates of deceased persons; civil cases involving amounts large amounts of money and appeals from county court judgements, except when

a state statute or provision of the state constitution is held invalid.

All of the courts are currently located in the courthouse in Punta Gorda 350 East Marion Ave. The judicial center is a symbol of the County, and the design of the new justice center has made it a part of the community fabric, in a visual, social, and business, as well as a functional sense.

As an alternative to formal court proceedings, the Charlotte County Court Administrator's Office manages a small claims court mediation program. Drug Court and Mental Health Court operate from the Justice Center.

The Florida court system also has five district courts of appeal which have appellate jurisdiction for most cases (Charlotte County cases would be appealed in the Lakeland district court), and a Supreme Court at Tallahassee.

The US court system has three district courts in Florida. Charlotte County belongs to the middle district which is served by a federal court in Fort Myers. The federal judiciary deals with civil and criminal cases, and has three layers of courts (district courts, circuit courts of appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court). Charlotte County's Circuit Court of Appeal is located in Atlanta.

The Courthouse and the New Justice Center

The new justice center was occupied in 1999. It doubled the courtroom capacity to eight courtrooms and covers 160,000 square feet of space. It houses all functions related to the functioning of the judicial system, including the States Attorney and the Public Defender, Sheriff's Civil Service Office and Clerk of the Courts. When built, it was anticipated that the justice center would meet the needs of the County at least until the year 2010, however it is anticipated that the justice center will meet the needs of the County at least until the year 2010.

Map 10.10 includes the location of the justice center and the county jail.

Jail

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office opened a new County Jail in February of 2001, shown on both Maps 10.9 and 10.10. It is a 528 bed detention facility at 26601 Airport Road, Punta Gorda. The former jail was razed shortly thereafter. The jail is a direct supervision facility for pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates with a local sentence up to and including 364 days. This means that inmates are housed according to a classification system in pods with inmates of similar classification. At its opening, the jail housed 186 inmates and was expected to meet the needs of the county for at least 10 years. A short four years later in 2005, the jail houses between 475 and 500 inmates daily creating a need for additional housing. A needs assessment is underway for jail expansion to address the needs for expanded dormitory capacity, mental health services for inmates, video visitation, the separation of the intake and release functions, mandated separations in housing for juveniles and females and a work release program. Each of these issues can be addressed at the time of the jail expansion project being planned.

The personnel needs have expanded with the inmate population. The staff consists of 105 certified

corrections officers and 41 civilian support staff. Over 7500 persons were booked into the jail in 2004, with an average length of stay of 24.1 days. Contract services are used to supply medical and food service functions. Video court rooms are utilized for court proceedings and arraignments.

J. Human Service Facilities

Human services are provided in Charlotte County by public, private and non-profit agencies. Churches, religious organizations, and support groups also provide human services to their membership and the community. Each organization provides selected services that are based on its funding availability and targeted to serve specialized needs. Eligibility criteria are determined by the individual agencies.

An inventory and analysis of human services is included in this element because social and physical planning are tightly woven together and work interdependently. An investment in human services planning as part of this comprehensive plan can have tremendous impact on overall local quality of life. Much of the impetus for recognizing interdependence of physical and social planning comes from the changing context in which we find ourselves - a context characterized by changes in the role of the state, privatization, and increasing diversity and inequity.

The provision of human services is largely impacted by state and federal government. Federal welfare reform in the 1990's radically changed the scope of services that had been provided for more than thirty years. The Florida Department of Children and Families has already seen the privatization of several of its programs and the trend by state government toward privatization and local devolution continues. Sometimes it is cheaper to outsource projects, and to allow local control over service priorities. However, privatization often includes reduced funding and transfers increase liability away from the state agencies to the private agencies and local government.

During the last several years, the County has taken the initiative to utilize several advisory boards and committees in an effort to prioritize and fund local service needs. These boards and committees include the Indigent Health Care Advisory Board, the Affordable Housing Authority Board, and the Community Action Agency Advisory Board. Recognizing the response to the needs of our youth, in early 2004 the Board of County Commissioners requested that the Governor reinstate the Children's Services Council.

Prior to the hurricane season of 2004, the County and local community recognized the need and the value in working closely together to prioritize needs and coordinate service delivery. Many public-private partnerships existed to link human service providers, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, and volunteers. Post hurricane season of 2004, the human services community developed an even stronger desire to work together in the recovery efforts by pooling funding resources, identifying unmet needs, and coordinating service delivery. An out growth of the recovery efforts, the non-profit agency Inter-Faith, Inter-Agency Network of Charlotte County (IINCC) was formed to assist in the collaboration of human services agencies, available resources and volunteers. Other Coalitions such as the Homeless Coalition, the Emergency Assistance Clearing House, (E.A.C.H.), the Charlotte County Collective (C3), Our Charlotte Elder Affairs Network(OCEAN),

and the Alliance for a Safe and Drug Free Community, continue to educate and advocate on behalf of the of their target populations and to promote coordination and cooperation among the County's human services providers.

On July 1, 2005, the County implemented the recognized 2-1-1 telephone line which provides information and referrals to local residents on Health and Human Services available to assist them. Currently there are over 420 health and human services agencies and 650 programs which are available to County residents. This telephone call center also serves as an excellent resource for the human services agencies in providing accurate information on available resources, identifying unmet needs, and coordinating the local service delivery system.

The County will continue to be challenged by the needs of its most vulnerable populations. In addition to the special needs of our children and youth, the County's aging population, which will continue to grow with the retirement of the "baby boomers", will require that their needs be considered in developing priorities and funding for long-term health care. Affordable and appropriate housing, prescriptions, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, transportation and family support are but a few of the other issues facing the very elderly population.

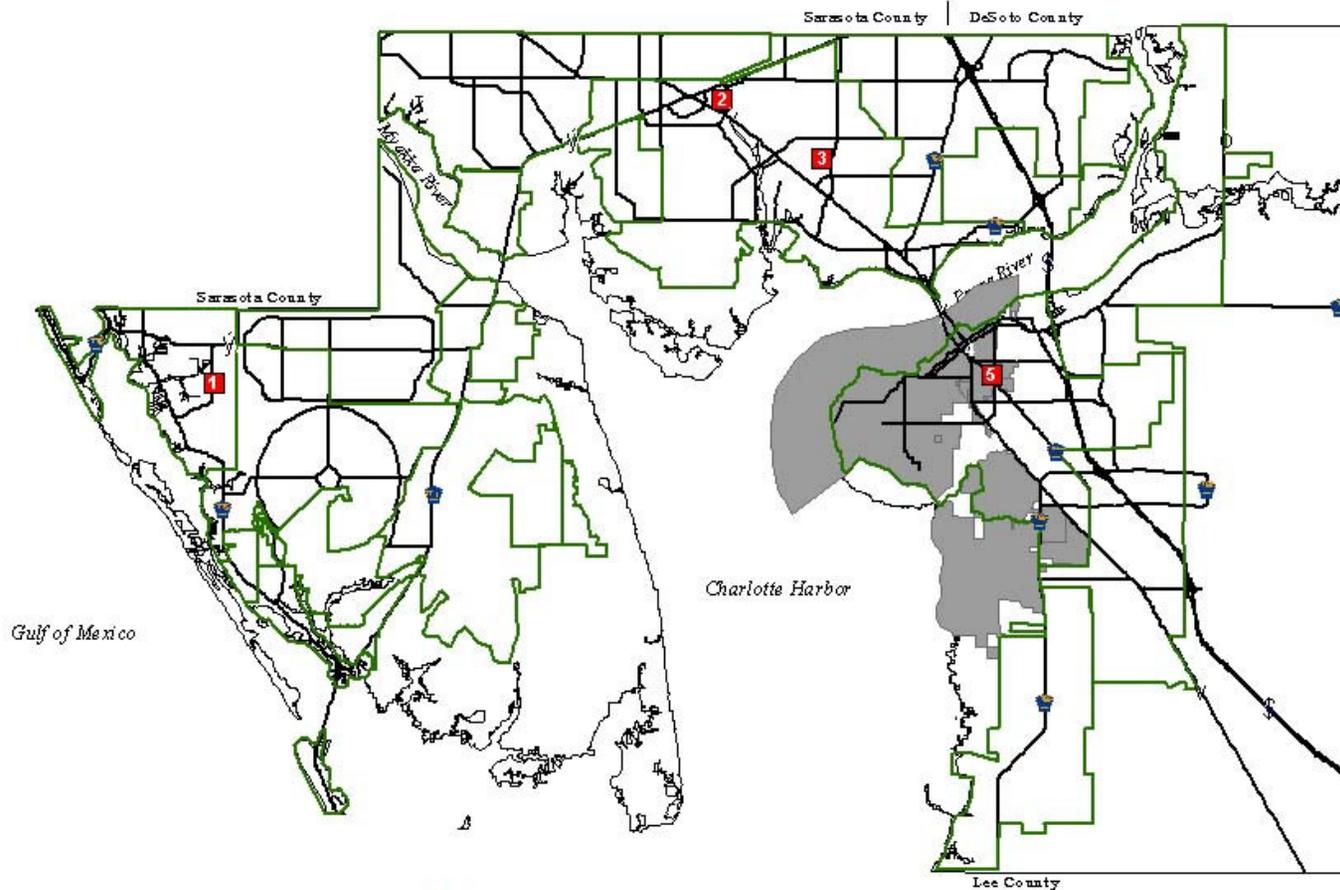
The main agencies that provide human services in the public sector in the county are the Charlotte County Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services, the Charlotte County Health Department, and Charlotte Community Mental Health Services. These are the primary public and private agencies that serve the economic and medical needs of low-income and indigent county residents. Map 10.11 shows the locations of the main human service facilities. (The Charlotte County Health Department and Charlotte Community Mental Health Services are described in the health facilities section. They are mentioned here because of the huge social benefits they have for Charlotte County. Also, they coordinate their services with other human services agencies.)

Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families is a state agency which has many functions. It serves everyone from infants to senior citizens.

The Department of Children and Families provides a wide range of programs and services: aging and adult services, children and families protective supervision, children, youth and families (voluntary family services, child protection investigation, and foster care), developmental services, emergency preventive dental program, an economic services/payment unit, emergency financial assistance for housing program, Florida adoption reunion registry, and project independence (career counseling, job training, etc.).

Map 10.11 Human Services Facilities



Charlotte County Community Development
Land Information Services - WSS
Draft Date: 11/18/05
Located: g:\5\comp_plan_NEW\
Chapter_10\
Human_Services_Facilities.mxd
ArcMap Version 9

Stateplane Projection
Datum NAD83
Units: meters
Source: Charlotte County GIS

- WIC & NUTRITION
- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, VITAL STATISTICS
- VETERANS SERVICES
- SOUTH COUNTY ANEX
- HUMAN SERVICES, WIC & NUTRITION, VITAL STATISTICS
- URBAN SERVICE AREA OUTLINE


Scale 1:205,920
1 inch = 3.25 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be accurate and the depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantee, implied or otherwise, as to its use. This is not as they or its to be used for design.

Charlotte County's Department of Social/Senior Services

The County's Department of Human Services is under the direction of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners. It employs social workers, case managers and program specialists who determine eligibility for several county, state, and federally funded grant programs which provide assistance to individuals and families. Services provided through these programs include 2-1-1 information and referral, economic counseling, hospital and prescription assistance, indigent burials, emergency food assistance, and home energy and utility assistance. As a result of the large percentage of seniors in Charlotte County, the Department has a separate division which serves only seniors, and focuses on aging issues and concerns. The senior services division began operations in the early 1970's, and mainly offered congregate meal service. With additional grant funding from the Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, several programs have been added such as the Alzheimer's disease Initiative, the Medicaid Waiver Program, and the Home Care for Elderly Program. Other senior services include: case management, case aide, screening and assessment, homemaker, personal care, respite, transportation, companionship, congregate and home delivered meals, nutrition education, chore, emergency alert response, and outreach. Participation in human/senior services programs currently ranges between 1,000 and 1,500 people per year.

Other Programs and Services

There are so many other social programs and services available in Charlotte County. A sampling of these programs and services include:

- *The Charlotte County Veterans Services with offices* located at the Port Charlotte Cultural Center, West County Annex in Englewood and Punta Gorda, provides advice, counseling, and assistance in filing for U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs benefits such as pensions, compensation, death benefits, health care, etc. The office also assists eligible claimants with State of Florida veterans' benefits such as disabled veterans license tags, real estate tax exemptions, and more.
- *The Charlotte County Health Department provides a wide variety of programs for the community:*
 - *Primary Care* the primary care program provides coordinated, comprehensive, health care for acute and chronic diseases. Included are diagnoses, treatment, patient education regarding specific illnesses and their prevention, as well as good health maintenance practices. Examples of these services include: Physical examinations, medical management of hypertension, diabetes, heart and lung ailments, infectious diseases and other health problems not requiring a specialist or hospitalization. Primary care services are provided on a sliding fee scale basis. Fees are based on income and family size at the initial visit and annually updated. Primary care services are available by appointment.
 - *Women's Health* the Women's Health program provides family planning, cancer and sexually transmitted disease screening, as well as treatment for uncomplicated gynecologic problems through our Primary Care clinic at all three clinic sites. Fees are on a sliding scale according to income.
 - *Women, Infants and Children (WIC)* The WIC Program serves pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants and children who are economically disadvantaged and at specific nutritional risk. Income eligibility is set at 185% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Nutritional risk includes, but not limited to such factors as: anemia, inadequate growth patterns, complications of pregnancy. The WIC Program provides not only nutrition education, but also food vouchers for purchase of specific nutritious foods. Comprehensive nutrition counseling and services are offered as an integral part of all personal and public health services.

- *KidCare*: The Florida KidCare program is a state initiative to improve the health of hundreds of thousands of Florida's children. Funded through federal, state and private partnerships, Florida KidCare is a high quality, low cost, full benefit health insurance program for children and teens, birth through age 18, who are not covered by any other health insurance.
- *Vital Statistics*: The Vital Statistics Department under the direction of the State Registrar is responsible for the uniform and efficient registration, compilation, storage, and preservation of all vital records for Charlotte County. Primary functions of the department include assuring total registration of birth, death, and fetal deaths and ensuring that the confidentiality and integrity of all vital records are maintained.
- *Environmental Health*: Environmental Health programs are designed to ensure the safety and sanitation of our environment by enforcement of public health laws. Typical activities include inspections, complaint investigations, plan reviewing, permits and regulatory enforcement. The following are typical environmental health programs.
- *Charlotte County Homeless Coalition*: The purpose of the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition is to prevent homelessness and hunger in Charlotte County by assisting individuals, families and children who are in imminent danger of becoming homeless. This is accomplished by providing shelter, food and financial assistance and working to change the personal and societal conditions which lead to homelessness. The Homeless Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by government, corporate, individual and United Way support.
- The *Charlotte County Council on Aging* acts as an advocate for the elderly. The Council assists the elderly in filling out insurance/medicare forms, visits with the homebound, and provides discount transportation under the T.O.T.E. program (Elderly transportation clients pay only 25% of Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda taxi fares.)
- The United Way of Charlotte County: Many programs partner with The United Way has been serving the Charlotte County community since 1966. For all these years, the generosity of donors has made possible programs that distribute basic needs and assistance, strengthen families, help kids succeed, prevent crime and violence and promote health and independence among the elderly. The United Way draws on the resources of the entire community, both human and financial, to support programs in our area. Each of our member agencies relies on volunteers to help provide these critically needed services. A list of the partners is found in Table 10.24 Below.

Table 10.24 United Way 2005 Partner List			
Name	Address	Phone #/FAX #	E-Mail
AMERICAN RED CROSS	1300-D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, FL 33953	Office 629-4345 Fax 629-7385	ccredcross@earthlink.net

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY	3440 Conway Boulevard, Suite D, Building 1 Port Charlotte, FL 33952	Office 625-6164 Fax 625-6392	bbbsofcc@comcast.net
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF THE SUNCOAST	101 West Venice Avenue, Suite 34 Venice, FL 34285	Office 473-4003 Fax 485-0604	info@bbbssun.org
BOY SCOUTS, SW FLORIDA COUNCIL	1801 Boy Scout Drive Fort Myers, FL 33907	Office 936-8072 Fax 936-7864	ghampton@bsamail.org or bswalden@earthlink.net or atibble@bsamail.org
CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF VENICE, INC.	23081 Harborview Road, 2 nd Floor Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980	Office 629-9990 Fax 629-7744	charlottecharity@comcast.net
CENTER FOR ABUSE AND RAPE EMERGENCIES (C.A.R.E.)	Post Office Box 510234 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0234	Office 639-5499 Fax 639-7079	carefl@comcast.net and donna-care@comcast.net
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OF SW FLORIDA, INC	22107 Elmira Boulevard Port Charlotte, FL 33952	Office 766-8333 or 888-343-6991 Fax 239-277-1647	rmuschong@cilfl.org
CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	1700-A Education Avenue Punta Gorda, FL 33950	Office 639-8300 Fax 639-6831	ccmhs@sunline.net
CHARLOTTE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING	3456 Depew Avenue Port Charlotte, FL 33952	Office 627-2177 Fax 627-9565	councilonaging@earthlink.net
CHARLOTTE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION	25550 Harborview Road, Unit 3 Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980	Office 764-4340 Fax 764-4343	mary.brumley@charlottefl.com
CHARLOTTE COUNTY HOMELESS	P.O. Box 380157 Port Charlotte, FL 33938-0157	Office 627-4313 Fax 627-9648	director@cchomelesscoalition.org

COALITION			
CHARLOTTE HIV/AIDS NETWORK (CHAN)	Post Office Box 495523 Port Charlotte, FL 33949-5523	Office 625-2437 Fax 625-6650	chaninc@earthlink.net
CHARLOTTE HIV/AIDS PEOPLE SUPPORT, INC (CHAPS)	18200 Paulson Drive, Building 1, Units A1&2 Port Charlotte, FL 33954	Office/Fax 625-2552	candj@nut-n-but.net
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SW FLORIDA	3900 Broadway, Building B, Suite 1 Fort Myers, FL 33901	Office 239-939-2808 Fax 239-939-4794	jturner@cac-swfl.org or pjacoby@cac-swfl.org
CHILDREN'S HAVEN AND ADULT COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.	4405 Desoto Road Sarasota, FL 34235	Office 355-8808 Fax 359-8520	childrenshaven@comcast.net
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF FLORIDA	1940 Maravilla Avenue Fort Myers, FL 33901	Office 613-0909 or 334-0222 Fax 334-0244	roseann.albertario@chsfl.org
CROSSROADS WILDERNESS INSTITUTE	45991 Bermont Road Punta Gorda, FL 33982	Office 575-5790 or 639-2232 Fax 575-5792	cwi-ed@cwi.ami-fl.org
DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER HOME (D.A.S.H.)	Post Office Box 1484 Englewood, FL 34295	Office 475-8722 Fax 475-8722	dash@gl3c.com
EPILEPSY SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA	1900 Main St. Suite 212 Sarasota, FL 34236	Office 953-5988 Fax 366-5890	director@seizuredisorders.org
GIRL SCOUTS, GULFCOAST COUNCIL	2909 Olympic Street Sarasota, FL 34231	Office 921-5358 Fax 923-5241	yvonneb@girlscoutsgulfcoastfl.org
GOOD SAMARITANS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY	Post Office Box 494752 Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4752	Office 639-3335 Fax 639-3353	

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANKS	2126 Alicia Street Fort Myers, FL 33901	Office 334-7007 Fax 337-1399	joycejacobs@earthlink.net
HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS	24901 Sandhill Boulevard, Suite 8 Punta Gorda, FL 33983	Office 743-8347 Fax 743-9236	carolmoyer@msn.com
NEW OPERATION COOPER STREET	Post Office Box 963 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0963	Office 639-3034 Fax 639-7829	cooperstreet@hotmail.com
PREGNANCY CRISIS CARELINE	Post Office Box 495146 Port Charlotte, FL 33949-5146	Office 625-5576 Fax 625-4557	oliviabecker@aol.com
RSVP	2285 Aaron St. Box 16 Port Charlotte, FL 33952	Office 613-2299 Fax 613-0255	RSVP@helbing.net
SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CENTERS, INC	27420 Voyageur Drive Harbor Heights, FL 33983 <i>Mail to:</i> 2350 Scenic Drive Venice, FL 34293	Office 743-5353 Fax 743-3913	ngreen-irwin@seniorfriendship.com
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMMUNITY PHARMACY	1282 Market Circle, #6 Port Charlotte, FL 33953	Office 766-9570 Fax 766-1896	aceferrara@comcast.net
TIME OUT RESPITE CARE	24246 Harborview Rd Port Charlotte, FL 33980	Office 743-3883 Fax 743-4369	torch@tnh.net
VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS	23312 Harper Avenue Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980	Office 625-8501 Fax 625-8032	vipofcc@earthlink.net
VOICES FOR KIDS OF SW FLORIDA, INC	13180 N. Cleveland Avenue, #226 Fort Myers, FL 33903	Office 997-5437 Fax 997-5439	melanie@voicesforkids.org or jill@voicesforkids.org or voicesforkids@earthlink.net
Y.M.C.A., CHARLOTTE FAMILY	19333 Quesada Avenue Port Charlotte, FL 33948	Office 629-0909 Fax 629-9630	pversnik@charlottecountyyymca.com
Y.M.C.A.,	Post Office Box 1823	Office 475-1234	pryan@ymcaeng.org or

ENGLEWOOD FAMILY	Englewood, FL 34295	Fax 474-2866	mziegler@ymcaeng.org
YOUNG LIFE	12410 SW Sheri Street Arcadia, FL 34269	Office 766-7314 Fax 624-0697	ylchad@earthlink.net

Source: United Way of Charlotte County February 16, 2005

- *Our Charlotte Elder Affairs Network (OCEAN)* is an agency that is concerned with elder issues such as public/private health, and the availability of human/social service organizations. Its purpose is to provide information about Charlotte County services, make referrals to assisting agencies, analyze unmet needs and possible solutions, as well as serve as an advocate for senior citizens. Speakers are available upon request.
- The *Charlotte HIV-AIDS Network (CHAN)* provides assistance and support to people with HIV and AIDS. It offers a hotline service, volunteer assistance, support groups, a food pantry, advocacy, and referral to other available services.
- The *Youth Motivator Program* makes a difference for over 200 school children throughout the Charlotte County school system.
- *Children & Families First* is a program located at two different school sites in the County, Meadow Park and Vineland Elementary Schools. Each site offers a variety of social services and educational programs for students and families.

Emergency Shelters and Interim/Transitional Housing

Among the needed social services in the County are shelters and housing for survivors of violence and abuse and also for youth. Currently, there are two such facilities: the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (CARE) and Domestic Abuse and Shelter Homes (DASH). Also, Community Mental Health Services was spearheading an effort to build a youth shelter.

Last year, CARE helped 1,613 people. There were 59 children and 97 families who stayed in the shelter, and 81 people counseled regarding sexual assault. The center is in the south-County area, and has 22 beds in a range of bedroom sizes, as well as shared kitchen facilities. The number of people staying in the shelter varies from day to day. The shelter is not currently used at capacity; it will probably be about four or five years before the shelter is used to its full capacity. The people who use the services of CARE are not charged any fees. CARE coordinates a number of services with other agencies, and conducts outreach work.

Dash, Inc. serves a four-county area consisting of Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto and Manatee. DASH, Inc. will provide transitional housing and direct services to primary victims and their families (men, women and children/teens). These services include, food, transportation, mandatory psycho-counseling referrals relating to domestic abuse, substance abuse, and anger management, as well as life management and parenting skills. All services, remedies and methods of recovering financial assistance will be utilized to assist the families in their “new beginnings” goals. While in a DASH, Inc. shelter, no fees will ever be charged for any of the services we provide. Self-esteem through self-sufficiency, encompassing safety will be our ultimate mission.

The youth shelter which was planned to open before the end of the 1996 year has been canceled. It

was not able to obtain funding for operational costs, and thus also lost its capital funding. Right now Charlotte County youth are being sent to a Lee County shelter. Given the changing demographics of the county, the planned eight-bed shelter would have likely been used at full capacity very soon. New youth shelter facilities are still needed here in Charlotte County.

K. Cultural Resources Facilities

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department assists in coordinating and facilitating cultural resource activities throughout the County. The department consists of five divisions which are committed to providing quality programs and facilities for both the residents and visitors of Charlotte County. Although Charlotte County may be most noted for its natural resources such as the Charlotte Harbor and fishing, there are many cultural events and activities taking place throughout the year.

Cultural life in Charlotte County is diverse, vital and growing. Activities range from art lessons and gallery exhibits, to community theater groups, choral groups, symphony orchestras and Broadway road shows. Cultural programs are in place throughout the County for both children and adults, which include painting, craft, piano, instrument and voice lessons and dance, music and theater groups.

The official arts agency of Charlotte County is the Arts & Humanities Council. The Council is funded through local, state and grant dollars. It was formed in 1986 to stimulate greater awareness and appreciation of the importance of arts. Although, the Arts and Humanities has received major funding cuts over the last ten years. The Council does still offer a variety of programs including educational activities, and the Art in Public Places program. It represents and promotes more than 60 associated organizations. The Council advocates, supports, and develops cultural life in the county through various activities; an annual cultural calendar, a bimonthly newspaper, an Arts in Public Places program, an all-arts festival in February an Arts Awards Program, lectures, workshops, an after school arts program and community outreach.

The Council enhances the quality of life in Charlotte County by promoting, financially supporting, and coordinating cultural organizations and artists. It does so by providing leadership in planning and developing arts and humanities programs, education, services, and facilities by serving as liaison with regional cultural organizations, all levels of government and the private sector. Over the years, the Council has granted more than \$230,000 to non-profit art groups, artists and teachers for the purpose of expanding music, theater, dance, humanities and visual arts in the community. With the decrease in funding, many of their programs will be greatly reduced. Organizations who received funding in the past will find it necessary to expend additional efforts in fundraising as well as preserving the arts to the community.

Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium

The *Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium* which was located in Punta Gorda had a seating capacity of over 2,000 people, a professional proscenium stage, with professional sound, lighting and rigging capabilities, and meeting rooms. This facility provided a variety of recreational and social

activities for the residents. It was used for all types of functions, including ballet, Broadway shows, spectator sports, roller skating, dancing, and a variety of trade shows and hobby fairs. This facility was destroyed as a result of Hurricane Charley in 2004 and is being competitively bid to be rebuilt. While the loss of this building temporarily reduces the service that the County could provide to the residents, the opportunity that a new building will provide to the residents will allow for much better and improved services.

The County will supplement this facility with a million dollar temporary structure which will allow a variety of events to continue until a new improved facility is completed. The 20,000 square foot temporary structure will be set up in the fall of 2005. The structure features 16,000 square foot of event space, a stage area with lighting and sound, dressing rooms, and a caterer's prep area. It is believed that this structure will be able accommodate most of the events that are usually scheduled. This structure will be utilized until the new auditorium is replaced.

Port Charlotte Cultural Center

The *Port Charlotte Cultural Center* is a county-owned facility which is privately managed and operated by a non-profit Board of Directors. The Cultural Center was expanded and remodeled as part of the 1998 Sales Tax Extension. It is located in the mid county planning district and serves a wide variety of customers through its programs. It houses a 418-seat theater, the Port Charlotte Public Library, an Activities Center, Continuing Education classrooms and the offices of the County's Veterans Service Officer. Operated by a paid staff of approximately 30 people and a volunteer staff of over 1200, the Cultural Center facilities have helped to enhance the educational, recreational, physical and mental well-being of residents and visitors for 30 years. The Cultural Center is a focal point for many of the County's senior population, by providing adult education, cultural, recreational, and social activities. The Cultural Center was expanded and remodeled as part of the 1998 Sales Tax Extension.

Charlotte County Historical Center

Within the County, the Historical Division of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department provides historical education and historic preservation services through the Charlotte County Historical Center, which replaces the Florida Adventure Museum. The Center works with the Historical Advisory Committee to the Board of County Commissioners, as well as local regional and state historical organizations and individuals. The Center is better able to meet the needs of the community by networking and sharing technical expertise in cooperation with the Sarasota County History Center, a division of Community Services. Utilizing an informal mutual aid approach, professional historical staff from the Sarasota County History Center assisted the Charlotte County Historical Center in preserving the historical collections and initiating a Damage Survey of Historical Resources during the record 2004 hurricane season.

Visual Arts Center

The *Visual Arts Center* in Punta Gorda is home of the Charlotte County Art Guild. It is a not-for-profit organization that has been in existence for over 30 years. It has an exhibit hall, gift shop, student galleries, classrooms, and the Wayne B. and Donna Goff Gallery which is an ever changing exhibit of the artistic talents of the Art Guild members.

Charlotte County Fair

The *Charlotte County Fair* held for two weeks annually, and hosted by the Charlotte County Fair Association, Inc., provides enjoyment to visitors and residents alike with a large variety of exhibits, activities, and musical performances.

Charlotte County Performing Arts

The *Charlotte County Performing Arts Center* was originally a concept which began in 1996 and grew out of a school district project to replace a 1926 school auditorium. A collaborative funding effort between the Charlotte County School Board, The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, The City of Punta Gorda, and the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs Grant, resulted in the opening of the 900 seat theatre in 2003. The facility not only provides professional quality performing arts performances, but also meets the original high school demand for an auditorium, a band room, choir room and adjacent classrooms.

Inventory of Cultural Resources

There are many other active cultural groups and organizations that provide cultural activities for the residents of Charlotte County:

- The *Arts and Humanities Council* is the official arts agency for Charlotte County, promoting more than 60 associated organizations. The Arts and Humanities have received major funding cuts over the last ten years. The Council does still offers a variety of programs including educational activities, annual grants-in-aid awards, Art in Public Places, Very Special Arts, and the Arts in Education program.
- The *Society for Entertainment and Arts Development (S.E.A.D.)* provides educational programs for the youth of Charlotte County. Currently, they are sponsoring only three programs for the community as opposed to the ten programs they were sponsoring in 1997 due to severe budget cuts. Currently, they are sponsoring only three programs for the community as opposed to the ten programs they were sponsoring in 1997
- The *Charlotte Symphony* is in its 25th season. The concerts feature nationally known guest artists and a variety of classic symphonic music with performances at the new Charlotte Performing Arts Center.
- The *Charlotte County Jazz Society* is dedicated to increasing the availability of jazz music in the area and to furthering the study and appreciation of this original American art form.
- The *Charlotte Players* are the oldest performing arts organization in the county. The Theater was organized in 1961 out of an acting class. They perform five mainstage productions a year. The performances will be held at the Port Charlotte Cultural Center Theater.
- The *Sea Grape Gallery* is a cooperative of 25 local artists that showcases established and developing artists' work.
- The *Charlotte County Fair Association* holds a fair for two weeks every November featuring a large variety of exhibits, activities, and musical performances. The Association purchased and developed a site in Mid County directly across from the former Ranger Stadium, now know as Charlotte Sports Park. Activities are held there throughout the year providing enjoyment to visitors and residents alike with a large variety of exhibits, activities, and musical performances
- From January to March, the *Lemon Bay Performing Arts Series* is held at Lemon Bay High School featuring a variety of performing arts groups. (The school has a fine arts auditorium

which seats about 700 people. Its use is limited, however, because it is needed by the high school for most of the year.) Throughout the year the thespians and drama students produce and perform for the residents and visitors of Englewood.

There are a wide variety of other fine performing groups are the *Friends of Music*, the *Charlotte Chorale*, *The Englewood Artisan Guild*, and the *Charlotte County Art Guild*. The small non-profit cultural groups in the county continue to grow in size and number and provide cultural activities by private or independent sponsors.

Future Needs.

The arts and humanities are important to the well-being of the county. The Arts and Humanities have received major funding cuts over the last ten years. The last economic impact study conducted by the Council indicated that audience size had grown 28% in the past four years (1992-1996). With the reduction in funding for the arts and humanities, an updated study is not likely to occur.

Charlotte County continues to utilize programs that seek to improve the aesthetics of the county. The challenge inherent in such an effort would be to aid in contributing to a sense of community. Public art continues to be integrated into the urban fabric and should address all those issues that contribute to community identity. A variety of options are open to address public art with issues such as history and place, tourism and economic development, transportation, infrastructure, and the environment. A public art program could be integrated with such things as seating areas, trees and bushes, light and water, streets paving patterns, and sounds. Interest in the Community has grown and newly formed groups are promoting Community Planning in many areas of the County. As Charlotte County continues to grow, these issues become more important to the year round and seasonal residents.

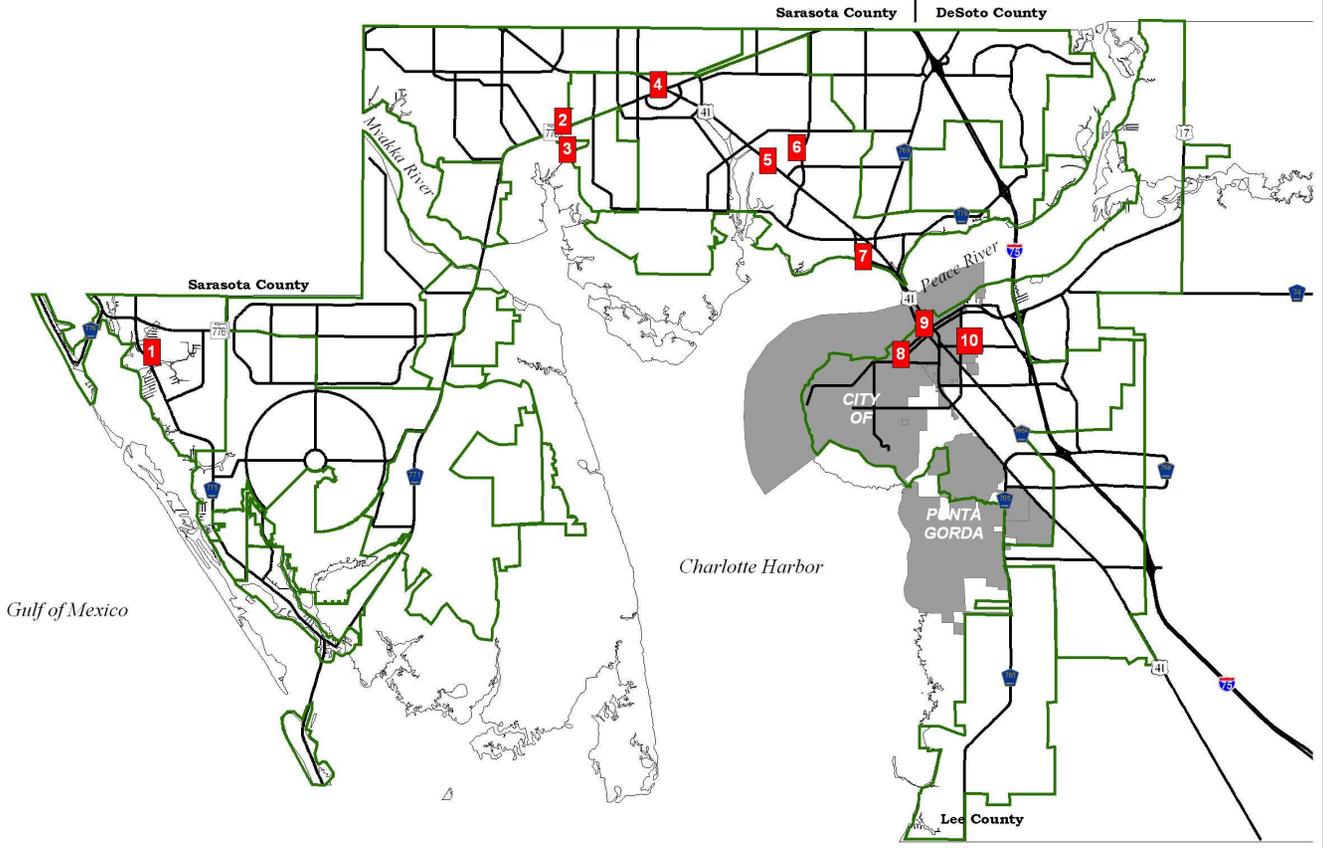
It would be beneficial for the County to consider the adoption of a public art and design ordinance that would allocate a small percentage of the budgets of eligible County capital construction projects for public art. It could emphasize artistic works that create a sense of place, that improve the design qualities of the public infrastructure. Opportunities for community participation in the public art and design program should be given high priority. Also, the County could consider the development of an annual awards program that would give recognition to design excellence in public and private development projects in Charlotte County. The County administration would have to go through a process of building consensus about the scope and applicability of the ordinance. They would have to coordinate with Florida Arts Council in the Division of Cultural Affairs in the Florida Department of State.

The completion of the justice center provided an opportunity for artists of the community to portray their art within the halls of the new facility. This trend is found in the Murdock Administration Building where local artists are granted space on a monthly basis to display and sell their artwork. The new pavilion at Englewood Beach also gave artists a chance to show off their works. Plans are being discussed regarding the restoration and best use for the old courthouse in Punta Gorda. It is centrally located and would contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the County.

Map 10.12 shows the locations of the previously listed cultural facilities in Charlotte County.

Charlotte County will continue to work with the Arts & Humanities Council to develop a public art program that seeks to improve the aesthetics of the County, increase civic and social pride, as well as increase community identity. This is to be accomplished through expanding facilities as necessary. This is especially true with the new replacement of the Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium. The new facility will be designed to accommodate the growing needs of the community that the old auditorium could not facilitate. Its physical and technological design will become a strong economic base by providing a facility for small scale conventions, exhibitions, and conferences. Charlotte County may consider a voter referendum or revenue from the penny sales tax, regarding a capital improvement project for the determination of a funding source and/or completion of the facility.

Map 10.12 Cultural Facilities



Charlotte County Community Development
 Land Information Services - WSS
 Draft Date: 11/18/05
 Located: gig6\comp_plan_NEW\Chapter_10\Cultural_Facilities.mxd
 ArcMap Version 9

Stateplane Projection
 Datum NAD83
 Units: meters
 Source: Charlotte County GIS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Lemon Bay High School | 7 Historical Center |
| 2 Charlotte County Fair Grounds | 8 Charlotte County Art Guild |
| 3 Charlotte County Stadium | 9 Charlotte County Auditorium |
| 4 Charlotte Players Theater | 10 Charlotte County Performing Arts Center |
| 5 Arts & Humanities Council | |
| 6 Cultural Center |  Urban Service Area Outline |


 Scale 1:205,920
 1 inch = 3.25 miles

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guaranties, implied or otherwise as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.

IV. Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Within financial feasibility, Charlotte County will provide high-quality and accessible community facilities and services which meet the information, educational, recreational, safety, health, welfare, and justice needs of its citizens.

Objective 1.1: Charlotte County will provide general government public facilities and services to meet the needs generated by new and existing residents of the community.

Policy 1.1.1: Charlotte County will develop personnel growth and space needs plans to assist in the determination of necessary public facilities and services.

Policy 1.1.2: Charlotte County will develop and implement a master plan for space programming which includes projections for growth.

Policy 1.1.3: Charlotte County will encourage urban center development (compact and diverse) with the siting and design of its future community facilities and services.

Policy 1.1.4: Charlotte County will place a high priority on flexibility in design, and will seek to share facilities where appropriate.

Objective 1.2: Charlotte County will continue to provide effective levels of pest management and aquatic/exotic vegetation control in accordance with state statutes and the needs of the County's citizens.

Policy 1.2.1: Charlotte County will continue to provide pest management services which minimize adverse effects on the balance of the County's ecosystems by using the most environmentally safe federally and state approved products and methods.

Policy 1.2.2: Charlotte County will continue to monitor developments in the field of Integrated Pest Management and implement those which result in improvements to Charlotte County's program.

Policy 1.2.3: In its implementation of an Integrated Pest Management program, Charlotte County will, to the greatest extent practical, strive to augment its use of chemical agents by identifying and applying existing and emerging biological and physical treatment alternatives with the potential for effecting desired and necessary levels of control with the least negative environmental impact.

Policy 1.2.4: Charlotte County will continue to protect human life by employing the best available monitoring and treatment methods recognized by the American Mosquito Control Association, the Florida Mosquito Control Association, and federal and state environmental agencies.

Policy 1.2.5: Charlotte County will continue to research and evaluate its existing mosquito control program and if needed, or desirable, make necessary changes for the benefit of the people of the County.

Policy 1.2.6: Charlotte County will provide educational programs to the citizens of Charlotte County regarding: elimination of residential breeding areas; public protection against mosquito transmitted diseases; the mosquito life cycle; best management practices for residential aquatic weed control.

Policy 1.2.7: Charlotte County will continue to expand treatment areas subject to control efforts and programs, and improve capabilities through the implementation of the above policies.

Policy 1.2.8: Charlotte County will identify, prioritize, and seek approval to initiate activities to alter areas of the County where physical modification of surface water drainage would result in reduction of potential mosquito breeding sites.

Policy 1.2.9: Charlotte County will continue to review development proposals which include surface water drainage and will recommend changes as appropriate to reduce mosquito breeding potential and to assure access for treatment as necessary.

Objective 1.3: Charlotte County will provide and maintain a high-quality, accessible system of public libraries to meet the information, educational and recreational needs of Charlotte County's residents and visitors.

Policy 1.3.1: Charlotte County will maintain or increase identified levels of service, and will continue to incorporate funding for public libraries in the County's impact fee system, as allowed by law.

Policy 1.3.2: When financially feasible, Charlotte County will use the latest technology to supplement the library's services and to improve the ability to provide information.

Policy 1.3.3: Charlotte County will provide hours of operation to best serve Charlotte County's residents and visitors which will include a variety of weekday, evening, and weekend hours at all of the library locations.

Policy 1.3.4: In order to make optimal use of the new technologies and provide quality public service, Charlotte County will provide ongoing training and continuing education for all library staff.

Policy 1.3.5: Charlotte County will increase materials and square footage to meet the community's information, educational and recreational needs.

Policy 1.3.6: Charlotte County will implement a long-range library plan in order to ensure practical and coordinated management.

Objective 1.4: Charlotte County will coordinate with the School Board to provide a public education system which meets the needs of Charlotte County's existing and future population.

Policy 1.4.1: Charlotte County will establish mechanisms designed to coordinate with the Charlotte County School Board, in order to provide, to the greatest extent possible, compatibility between local land use and public school planning.

Policy 1.4.2: Charlotte County will coordinate with the School Board to permit the joint use of school sites and County facilities with similar facility needs, such as libraries, parks and recreation facilities, health care facilities, and emergency shelters.

Objective 1.5: Charlotte County will both maintain and expand, when necessary, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services delivery system in order to provide the highest level of safety and protection to its citizens and property.

Policy 1.5.1: Charlotte County will coordinate the Five Year Stations Location and Master Plan with this comprehensive plan and its urban service area strategy.

Policy 1.5.2: Charlotte County will continue to work with Interlocal Agreements to strengthen response times.

Policy 1.5.3: Charlotte County will continue to advance its technology and equipment with changing times.

Objective 1.6: Charlotte County will provide for the safety of its residents and visitors by maintaining or improving emergency storm plans.

Policy 1.6.1: Charlotte County will explore opportunities for developing sheltering possibilities, especially for shelters in the category 4 or 5 hurricane storm surge zone.

Policy 1.6.2: Charlotte County will develop a mitigation plan to reduce the effects of natural hazards.

Objective 1.7: Charlotte County will endeavor to support those public facilities and services that provide for the health, safety, and well-being of County residents.

Policy 1.7.1: Within budgetary constraints, Charlotte County will support the maintenance

and expansion of services that provide for the public health, safety, and well-being of Charlotte County residents.

Policy 1.7.2: Charlotte County will encourage outreach and education efforts regarding mental and physical health, physical and emotional abuse prevention and recovery, substance abuse, and gang interdiction.

Policy 1.7.3: Charlotte County will seek to identify and prioritize services that target health, safety, and the well-being of Charlotte County residents, including the most vulnerable individuals in the county which include children, the disabled and the frail elderly.

Policy 1.7.4: Charlotte County will foster cooperation and coordination within the County to establish a clear direction which minimizes duplication of effort and maximizes community resources.

Objective 1.8: Charlotte County will provide support to the County Sheriff's Office which will strengthen their policing capabilities and help to secure the safety of residents and visitors.

Policy 1.8.1: Charlotte County will engage in cooperative planning to accommodate growth and ensure safety. The County will encourage partnerships between public and private sectors and between community groups, local government and law enforcement agencies in order to amass and share information regarding planning and design practices that succeed in enhancing safety.

Policy 1.8.2: Charlotte County will develop, with the Sheriff's Office, a five-year plan for the hiring of personnel and purchasing of equipment such as radios and computers, and explore possibilities for replacing old and deficient facilities.

Objective 1.9: Charlotte County will support the development of the arts and arts-related activities, thereby enhancing the quality of life, civic and social pride, and community identity for its residents and visitors.

Policy 1.9.1: Charlotte County, working with the Arts & Humanities Council, will support the development of a public art program that seeks to improve the aesthetics of the County, increase civic and social pride, as well as increase community identity.

Policy 1.9.2: Charlotte County will endeavor to expand its facilities and become a venue for more conventions, small scale exhibitions, and conferences.

Policy 1.9.3: Charlotte County will consider the development of an annual awards program that would give recognition to design excellence in public and private development projects in the County.

