

CHAPTER 7 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Introduction

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

This chapter deals with community facilities and services and outlines their existing conditions and future needs. As town residents are also County residents, it is important to review not only the town's resources but also the County's to ensure there is no overlapping of facilities and services.

General Government:

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

Town Hall

The Town Hall is an important symbol of the town government and should present a positive image of the town. Bowling Green's Town Hall was converted from an old USO Club building built in 1942. The building houses the town's administrative offices and Council chambers. It also has a large hall at the rear of the structure which is used for public and private functions.

County Courthouse and Offices

The courthouse and administrative offices for a number of Caroline County departments are in the Courthouse located off Main Street. Other offices are scattered in other buildings in the downtown area and in the renovated middle school (now known as the Caroline Community Center).

Public Safety:

Town Police

The Bowling Green Police Department provides police protection within the Town, with dispatching coordinated through Caroline County emergency communications. Current activity reporting provides a more complete picture of the Department's work than the prior description of staffing, vehicles, and facilities. From December 2024 through July 2026, the Department recorded 3,331 activities. June and July are combined into a single reporting period for both 2025 and 2026.

Activity Category	Reported Total
Property checks	1,090
Calls	883
Summonses	517
Warnings	420
Assists	238
Other activity	89
Arrests / warrants	35
Motor vehicle accidents	26
Larceny	17
Assault / domestic	16
Total activity	3,331

Future Needs: Continue monitoring calls and activity types, staffing needs, equipment, facilities, and service demands as the Town grows and public-safety conditions change.

Virginia State Police

The Virginia State Police provides assistance to the Town as requested and focuses primarily on highway patrol. No troopers are assigned specifically to Bowling Green; seven troopers are assigned to Caroline County. The State Police office formerly located in Town was scheduled to close July 6, 2026. State Police does not maintain a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) code specific to Bowling Green; its CAD technician identified 37 calls within Town during 2025.

Future Needs: Continue coordination with the Virginia State Police and monitor changes in office location, staffing, and service coverage affecting the Town.

Fire Department

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Fire protection is provided by the Bowling Green Volunteer Fire Department organized in 1947. The fire station is located off Courthouse Lane behind the Town Hall. The department provides service to the town and surrounding area. The department has 50 volunteer members who answer approximately 1000 calls per year. The department is supported by two engines, one first response and heavy rescue squad, one brush truck, one ladder truck, and one medic unit.

Future Needs: The fire department has requested a new building and more equipment to meet the needs of the community in the near future. County funds, along with private funds and money from the town, provide the budget for the department.

Rescue Squad

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

The Bowling Green Volunteer Rescue Squad provides emergency medical services to the town and surrounding area. The squad is located off Courthouse Lane next to the fire department. The squad's volunteer members answer approximately 1,500 calls per year. The squad is supported by three advanced life support units.

Future Needs: The building and equipment which supports the rescue squad is anticipated to be adequate for the near future.

Healthcare/Assistance:

Medical Facilities

Bowling Green residents have access to a range of healthcare and assistance providers located within Town limits. These providers include dental care, primary care, physical therapy, kidney care, family practice, rehabilitation and long-term care, psychiatric and mental-health services, and community assistance services.

Provider	Town Address
Campbell's Dental	117 Courthouse Lane
VA Primary Care Associates	121 Courthouse Lane
Select Physical Therapy	121 Courthouse Lane
Fresenius Kidney Care	102 W. Broaddus Avenue
Caroline Family Practice	102 W. Broaddus Avenue
Bowling Green Health Care Rehabilitation Center	120 Anderson Avenue

Provider	Town Address
Natalie Drawdy, PMHNP, LLC	236 N. Main Street
Allay Psychiatric Services, PLLC	204 N. Main Street, Suite 3B
Life Way Services	268 N. Main Street

Additional medical facilities are located in the Ladysmith area of Caroline County along Route 1. Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg is the closest major hospital serving Bowling Green residents.

Caroline County Health Department

The Caroline County Health Department provides public-health services to Town and County residents. The department is located at the Caroline County Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike in Milford.

Caroline County Department of Social Services

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

The County Social Services Department provides various programs and services such as food stamps, temporary aid to needy families, fuel assistance and Medicaid eligibility determination. The office is located in the Caroline County Community Services building.

Recreation:

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

Libraries

Caroline County maintains three branch libraries with the main library, which services as the headquarters, being located at the Caroline Community Services building.

Parks and Recreation

The Town has secured funding through a partnership with KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit focused on expanding access to quality play spaces, to replace the existing Town playground with a new playground serving children ages 2 through 12. The playground will be designed with direct input from local children and families through a community Design Day and public survey. Construction will be completed with assistance from community volunteers. The project represents a significant investment in family-friendly recreational amenities and community-centered public space in Bowling Green.

There are no parks or recreation programs provided by the town. A small private playground is located off Anderson Avenue at the Lee Street Apartments. A private recreation club located on the north side of town off Route 2 includes a swimming pool, tennis courts and a picnic area. Caroline County maintains a 45 acre park adjacent to the Caroline County High School and Middle School which is approximately five miles from the Town of Bowling Green. The park consists of two softball fields, one lighted baseball field, picnic shelter, a cross-country trail and a multi-purpose field. Farmer Park is adjacent to the Caroline County School Administration Building south of Bowling Green.

Future Needs: Significant resources for large scale parks are not available. The County Park provides adequate large scale facilities within a reasonable distance. With the development of the Bowling Green Meadows Subdivision land was donated for Dickinson Park. Furthermore, opportunities to develop small sitting parks within the downtown area should be investigated in conjunction with the Bowling Green Downtown Revitalization Plan and the development of the Washington-Rochambeau Park project for which Caroline County received funding.

A recreation program would be too costly for the town to develop. Recreation programs are provided by the Caroline County Department of Parks and Recreation. It is not anticipated that the town will be developing its own recreation program in the near future.

Public Utilities:

Water System

The Town owns and operates a municipal water system supplied entirely by groundwater from the Potomac aquifer. The system is served by three active wells: Wells 1A, 4, and 5. Each well is disinfected by chlorination. The system provides 360,000 gallons of finished-water storage through one 200,000-gallon ground storage tank and two elevated tanks with capacities of 60,000 and 100,000 gallons.

The Virginia Department of Health waterworks design capacity is 360,000 gallons per day. The Town's groundwater withdrawal permit authorizes up to 90,700,000 gallons per year and 11,780,000 gallons per month and remains effective through December 25, 2039. During 2025, the system produced 53,396,200 gallons, averaging approximately 146,291 gallons per day and using 58.9% of the permitted annual withdrawal. At year-end 2025, the system served 948 connections and an estimated population of 1,233.

Water-System Measure	Current Figure
Active supply wells	Wells 1A, 4, and 5
Finished-water storage	360,000 gallons
VDH design capacity	360,000 gpd
Permitted annual withdrawal	90,700,000 gallons
Permitted monthly withdrawal	11,780,000 gallons
2025 production	53,396,200 gallons
2025 average daily production	Approximately 146,291 gpd
2025 connections / population served	948 / 1,233

Future Needs: Complete required well-field work, including replacement of Well 4 and any necessary pump-intake adjustments; evaluate additional or replacement wells as needed to preserve system capacity; continue investigating treatment needs associated with gross alpha radiation; implement water-conservation and distribution-system audit requirements; and coordinate growth with available water capacity.

Sewage System

The Town owns a wastewater treatment plant at 219 Anderson Avenue. The plant has a permitted average design capacity of 0.25 million gallons per day and a peak-flow capability of approximately 1.06 million gallons per day. Treatment includes screening and headworks, an oxidation ditch, secondary clarifiers, tertiary filtration, ultraviolet disinfection, and solids handling.

The system serves approximately 550 sewer connections. During 2025, the plant treated 34.24 million gallons, averaging approximately 93,797 gallons per day, or 37.5% of its average design capacity. The peak day was 0.282 million gallons in April 2025. The collection system includes approximately six miles of gravity main, eight miles of force main, and multiple lift stations. Much of the gravity system consists of aging concrete pipe and brick manholes, and the Town has experienced storm-driven hydraulic overloading and recent main failures.

Wastewater-System Measure	Current Figure
Average design capacity	250,000 gpd
Approximate peak-flow capability	1.06 MGD

Wastewater-System Measure	Current Figure
Sewer connections	Approximately 550
2025 wastewater treated	34.24 million gallons
2025 average daily flow	Approximately 93,797 gpd
Share of average design capacity	37.5%
2025 peak day	0.282 MGD in April

Future Needs: Prioritize inflow and infiltration reduction and rehabilitation of aging collection infrastructure; maintain compliance with the wastewater permit and its ammonia schedule; continue monitoring average and peak flows; maintain sufficient funding for operation and capital improvements; and phase major development approvals in coordination with available treatment and collection-system capacity.

Education:

The Caroline County School Board operates the public school system serving Bowling Green students. Because the Town does not operate the school system, this section focuses on enrollment, capacity, facility condition, and planning considerations relevant to Town residents.

Schools

The principal public schools serving Bowling Green students are Bowling Green Elementary School, Caroline Middle School, and Caroline High School. Current planning information indicates that enrollment growth and facility capacity will require continued coordination between the Town and Caroline County Public Schools.

Enrollment and Capacity

Countywide enrollment is projected to increase from 4,564 students in 2023-24 to 5,380 students in 2033-34, an increase of 816 students. Bowling Green Elementary School reported current enrollment of 811 students compared with a capacity of 809 and is projected to reach 894 students by 2033-34. Caroline Middle School reported 1,000 students compared with capacity of 1,116, while the grades 6-8 projection reaches 1,197 by 2033-34. Caroline High School reported 1,278 students compared with capacity of 1,437, while the grades 9-12 projection reaches 1,612 by 2033-34.

School	Current Enrollment	Capacity	Capacity Reached	2033-34 Projection	Classrooms Needed
Bowling Green Elementary	811	809	2023-24	894	5
Caroline Middle	1,000	1,116	2028-29	1,197*	4
Caroline High	1,278	1,437	2030-31	1,612*	7

*Middle- and high-school figures are countywide grade-group projections for grades 6-8 and 9-12, respectively.

Facility Condition

Facility assessments identify deferred maintenance needs at each of the three schools. The Facility Condition Index is calculated by dividing deferred maintenance by current replacement cost. Each school falls within the 'Good' rating range of 5.1% to 10.0%, indicating that minimal minor repairs are needed and the building functions as designed.

School	Deferred Maintenance	Current Replacement Cost	Facility Condition Index
Bowling Green Elementary School	\$2,330,022	\$31,184,340	7.47%
Caroline Middle School	\$3,092,240	\$58,205,550	5.31%

School	Deferred Maintenance	Current Replacement Cost	Facility Condition Index
Caroline High School	\$4,685,389	\$88,980,980	5.27%

Future Needs: Coordinate with Caroline County Public Schools regarding enrollment growth, school-capacity milestones, anticipated classroom needs, facility maintenance, and the effects of new residential development on the schools serving Bowling Green students.

Financial Resources:

CONTENT UPDATE PENDING ADDITION OF NEW DATA/INFORMATION

Maintaining, expanding and providing new public facilities and services are tied to the town's ability to pay for them. The town uses its Capital Improvement Program to fund capital public projects. Services that are ongoing are funded by the annual budget. Adequately maintaining existing facilities before expanding or proposing new facilities should be a priority.