

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

Community facilities are those buildings and services that provide support to the general public. Although community facilities are often provided by public entities, many times private and semi-private organizations also offer services to the general public. The Township of Toms River is fortunate in its designation as the Ocean County seat. Because Downtown Toms River acts as the headquarters of Ocean County's government facilities, the citizens of Toms River have the benefit of those regional services offered by the County right in their hometown. However, the municipality itself also provides excellent resources to the community. The Township has a low crime-rate, quality educational programs, and a state-of-the-art senior center. Additionally, the Township is home to an expanding regional health center. The Community Facilities Map included in this plan identifies the existing facilities throughout Toms River that serve the general public. The intent of this element is to offer recommendations to maintain and improve upon the existing facilities to address the future needs of the municipality.

Government Offices in the Township of Dover: *A Regional Civic Center*

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA)

The NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA) has a branch office located on Hooper Avenue. The Office includes the Bureau of Housing and Community Resources, the Division of Medical Assistance and Healthcare Services, the Division of Youth and Family Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. A broad range of state-run social services is administered to area residents through this office.

OCEAN COUNTY COMPLEX

The county government buildings are primarily concentrated in Downtown Toms River. The complex includes the courthouse and jail, administrative offices, prosecutor's office, justice complex, and engineering, planning, transportation, and solid waste departments. The county complex is located mainly along Hooper Avenue between Madison Avenue and Water Street. The complex includes several buildings that provide regional administrative, judicial, and social services. A county-owned public parking garage and jury parking lot area also part of the complex.

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

Within close proximity to the county complex located at 33 Washington Street is the Toms River Township Municipal Complex. The complex houses nearly all of the Toms River Township municipal offices with the exception of the recreation department, senior and youth services, municipal court, emergency services and Department of Public Works.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works facility is located at the corner of North Bay Avenue and Church Road. The site is comprised of approximately 92 acres of land and involves a number of garage and storage buildings. The main garage includes six bays used for storage of some of the department's equipment and mechanical repair of the department's ten vehicles. The facility also includes several smaller garages, a salt barn, an office building and a radio tower that services the emergency communications for the Township as well as a number of cellular telephone providers. The facility underwent a 2,000 square foot addition in 1995 that included needed office space. More recently, a new roof was installed on the main garage building.

The Department of Public Works is separated into four divisions: the Divisions of Roads, Equipment Maintenance, Recycling, and Sanitation. The powers and duties of the different divisions are outlined below:

The Division of Roads provides construction and maintenance of township roads, snow removal, sign and traffic signal maintenance, and performs heavy street, road, drainage and park construction projects, and maintains all drainage facilities located on Township-owned property.

The Division of Sanitation is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste and operating and maintaining the township landfill.

The Division of Equipment Maintenance maintains all township-owned and controlled radio equipment, operates the centralized garage and motor pool, and undertakes performance analyses of township equipment.

The Division of Recycling administers the township recycling program, leaf collection program and operates and maintains the Toms River Township leaf yard and convenience center.

Toms River Township Youth and Senior Services

Planning for the Future, while Providing for the Past

The Township has recognized the need to provide for its developing youth and growing senior populations. The municipality has a strong senior community and numerous senior organizations. There is also a broad range of youth services provided by the Township's recreation department, the Board of Education, Ocean County Community College and private organizations.

Toms River Township Senior Center

The Toms River Township Senior Center is located on Garfield Avenue and provides a variety of community services and activities to senior residents. Senior residents of Toms River Township are offered information and referrals to such community resources as medical insurance, caregiver support services, utility and housing assistance, and tax preparation support. Additionally, adult day care and health checks

are available through the center to Toms River Township seniors. The center also offers a variety of exercise, social, and arts and craft activities.

Approximately 200 seniors every day visit the Senior Center. A recent addition to the facility completed in March of 2005 addressed the center's need for additional space. However, there is a need for more recreation space at the center including a walking track. The biggest problem that the center encounters is the need for better transportation. The center has its own transportation program to transport residents who are sixty years of age and older to and from the center. The center has an additional bus service for seniors needing transportation to other facilities throughout the municipality, but priority is given to medical-related transportation. Reservations are required two weeks in advance.

Additionally, Toms River Township has recognized the need for improved transportation for the elderly population residing on the barrier island and has joined area municipalities, Ocean County and New Jersey Transit in the establishment of the Island Senior Bus Service. This bus operates twice a day, three days a week and makes a number of scheduled stops at designated spots along the barrier island. It then transports these seniors to several stops on the mainland including local department stores, grocery stores and the Ocean County Mall. Special pickups are made by request for those residents who have physical difficulty walking to the designated pickup spots. Accommodations are made to transport barrier island seniors to area medical facilities.

Adult Communities

Toms River has always been an attractive location for retirees. The influx of seniors began as early as the 1950's when the Garden State Parkway made Toms River a convenient location for seniors from North Jersey. The low cost of living at the time and proximity to the beach were appealing to retirees, while they could still easily visit or be visited by their friends and family who remained in the northern part of the state. The senior population exploded in the 1960's and 1970's and continues to expand today. There currently are ten age-restricted communities in Dover. These communities are mostly concentrated in the Northern part of the Township and are listed in **Table 9**.

These communities are somewhat grouped together, with four of them relatively close to the Lakewood/Brick border, four along Route 70 in the northwestern corner and then two of the communities are located in a more central part of Toms River near the Route 9 intersection with the Parkway.

**Table 9
Adult Communities in Toms River Township**

Map No.	Name of Community	No. of Units
1	Toms River Walk	60
2	Gardens of Pleasant Plains	457
3	Greenbriar Woodlands	1,250
4	Holiday City at Silverton – Phase I	602
5	Holiday City at Silverton – Phase II	936
6	Homestead Run Mobile Home Park	461
7	Lake Ridge	926
8	Raymore Mobile Home Park	44
9	Roberts Park Mobile Home Park	237
10	Shenandoah Commons	58
	Total Number of Units	5,031

Source: Ocean County Data Book

Alternative Living Facilities

Toms River Township also has nine alternative living facilities to accommodate its large senior population. The Ocean County Office of Senior Services categorizes alternative living facilities in Toms River into five types of facilities:

Comprehensive Personal Care Home – This type of facility is licensed by the Department of Health to provide room and board and to assure that assisted living services are available, when needed, to four or more adults unrelated to the proprietor. Each residential unit in a comprehensive personal care home is to house no more than two residents and has a lockable door on the unit entrance.

Congregate Apartment Housing – Specially designed multi-unit housing for independent to semi-independent people, which includes community social and dining facilities. Individual living units include a living room, and/or bedroom, bathroom and kitchenette. These facilities offer at least one hot meal per day and some housekeeping services, transportation and personal assistance.

Assisted Living Residences – These facilities are licensed by the Department of Health to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining, and to assure that assisted-living services are available when needed. Apartment units offer, at a minimum, one unfurnished room, a private bathroom, a kitchenette, and a lockable door on the unit entrance.

Residential Health Care Facilities – Licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health, this type of facility provides health maintenance and monitoring service under the direction of a professional nurse. They provide a room, meals, linens, housekeeping, personal assistance, personal laundry, 24-hour security, financial management, and recreation activities, as well as supervision of medication and limited health service. Rooms and baths may be private or shared.

Subsidized Housing – This rental housing is generally in the form of garden apartments, attached housing, or apartments in high-rise or mid-rise buildings.

The units have been specially designed for people who are age 62 or over and sometimes for the disabled as well. The state or federal government finances construction and/or rental costs. There are income limitations to be eligible for this type of housing and the amount of rent is generally based on the income of the household. Typically, there are long waiting lists for subsidized housing. The majority of alternative living facilities in Toms River are Comprehensive Personal Care Homes.

Township of Toms River Youth Center

The Youth Center, located in Bey Lea Park, provides services to Toms River residents aged six through seventeen who are experiencing difficulties in social, family and personal relationships. Counseling is available through individual, family and group discussions. The center emphasizes social skills and offers activities four days a week during the school year and on appointment basis. The center also runs an eight-week youth summer camp.

Cultural Resources

Library

The Ocean County Library System serves all 33 Ocean County municipalities with a total of twenty branches. The library headquarters is located in the Historic Village of Downtown Toms River. In addition to the headquarters' vast literary collection, the library also provides services to the public including family programs for all age groups, exhibits, book discussions and a variety of classes ranging from computer training to yoga instruction. The library recently completed an expansion, doubling its size.

Directly adjacent to the County Library Headquarters is the Bishop Building, named after Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, a local author during the post-civil war era. This building was constructed in 1941 using funds left by the estate of Mr. Bishop and his wife specifically for the establishment of a Toms River public library. The Bishop Memorial Library is home to the county's non-circulating genealogical and historical research collection.

Arts And Culture

Ocean County Historical Museum

Toms River Township has a diverse cultural foundation. Toms River is home to the Ocean County Historical Museum located in the Sculthorp House on Hadley Avenue. Construction of this historic house commenced in 1820 and was completed in 1866. The museum has several permanent exhibits that include Revolutionary and Civil War memorabilia, a history of the Lakehurst National Air Station, Native American artifacts and Barnegat Bay duck decoys. The museum also has continually changing exhibits on loan from local residents, which represent the native history, folklore, and lifestyles of the township.

Toms River Maritime Museum

The Toms River Maritime Museum located on East Water Street is dedicated to Barnegat Bay maritime heritage. The shallow nature of the Barnegat Bay has prompted the design of many unique boat types, some of which can be viewed at the museum. Additionally, the museum displays art, maps, clothing and other memorabilia that address the distinctive history of the Barnegat Bay.

The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts

The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts, located on the campus of Ocean County College, is home to the Ocean County College Theatre Company and the Ocean County College Concert Band. In addition, the Garden State Philharmonic is the Orchestra-in-Residence.

The Robert J. Novins Planetarium Sky Theater

The Robert J. Novins Planetarium is the largest and most active planetarium in New Jersey located on the Ocean County College Campus. The facility provides programming for children and adult/general admission. The facility also hosts laser shows.

One Flight Up

One Flight Up is an event venue for Toms River Artist Community (TRAC), artist and musicians, and the general public. This is a venue is home to the Listening Room, a monthly pop-up club for music and arts lovers in downtown Toms River. The Listening Room hosts two musical acts and one visual artists interacting in a unique space once a month. The Listening Room is striving to expand to a bio-monthly operation.

Activity Room at the Shops at 53 Main Street

The activity room is a community space located in Downtown Toms River that hosts painting parties and other art and cultural related activities and classes.

The River Lady

The River Lady is a 150 passenger, 85' authentic reproduction of a paddle wheel riverboat. The River Lady splendidly captures the ambiance of a 19th century Mississippi Paddleboat. The River Lady hosts tours of the river and provides lunch and dinner cruises. Cruises include Historical lunch cruises, Dinner Cruises, and Dinner and Dancing Cruises. The River Lady is located on Robbins Parkway, next to the Water Street Restaurant.

Festivals and Special Events

Summertime in Toms River is an exciting time for the community. In addition to the numerous summer concerts, the township hosts many summer festivals. In 2005 a new summer event was added. The first annual Toms River Fest proved to be a huge mid-summer success in attracting local, regional and world-renowned entertainment to Toms River. The fair included concerts, rides, comedy shows, arts and crafts, and an abundance of food. The Toms River Regional School District, Chamber of Commerce and Toms River Township jointly sponsored the event and proceeds from the festivities

went to the improvement of Toms River Township's recreational sites and programs. The event officially kicks off the summer season events in early May.

Downtown Toms River is striving to become the arts and culture mecca of Toms River and Ocean County. In 2015, the Downtown placed twenty J. Seward Johnson sculptures throughout the downtown and in 2016 twenty Brain Hanlon Sculptures have been placed in the downtown. Downtown tie-in activities are also planned and marketed with the Sculptures. In 2016, the Downtown added:

1. Downtown Toms River Arts Stroll – Once a month special art event hosted on Washington and Main Street. Streets will be lined with visual artists, musicians, poets and performing artists. Shops & Restaurants will be open during the Stroll. Presented by Downtown Toms River BID and the Toms River Artists Community.

2. Historic Walking Tours – A guided tour provided by the Ocean County Historical Society. Tour provides exploring and learning opportunities about interesting people that have helped shape Toms River Township over the years. 4 Different Tours are offered, with each tour being approximately 1 and ½ hour in length and covering one mile.

3. Ocean County Library tie-in events – the Ocean County library will host various events during the summer to tie into the theme of the sculptures.

The Downtown Business Improvement District in partnership with the Ocean County Library, Ocean County Historical Society, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, Community Arts Project (CAP), Toms River Artist Committee (TRAC), and local businesses, artists, and musicians will continue to sponsor and plan events to develop Toms River Downtown into a year round Arts and Cultural Mecca for Ocean County.

Festivities in Toms River do not end in the summertime, however. The Township also hosts the second largest Halloween Parade (second to New York City), Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and First Night, an annual New Year's Eve Celebration. Restaurants host Painting Classes during the fall and winter seasons.

More information concerning the Arts and Culture Community can be found in the Arts and Culture Master Plan Element.

Toms River Regional School District
"Share the Vision"

The Toms River Regional School District serves Toms River Township, Beachwood, South Toms River and Pine Beach. The District consists of twelve elementary schools, three intermediate schools and three high schools. All of these schools, with the

exception of three of the elementary schools and one of the intermediate schools, are located within Toms River Township. Toms River Regional is the largest school district in Ocean County and serves over 15,000 students. It is also ranked as the largest suburban school district in the State of New Jersey, though four urban school districts exceed its size. The district has received recognition for excellence in special education and programs for gifted and talented students. All of the Toms River Regional Schools have special education programs and many of them also service the American Red Cross.

On August 22, 2016 Whitehall Associates, Inc. prepared a demographic study for the district. The demographic study indicates that there is a 10.86 percent decrease in birth rates in the Toms River Regional sending area within the past nine years. "This has contributed to a decrease in the school population. Care must be exercised to keep abreast of these changes and projections should be updated on a yearly basis." (Demographic Study, 8/22/2016).

Table 10 on the following page shows that enrollment in the Toms River School District has increased somewhat over the last five years. The district enrollment in the in the 2004-2005 school year was 17,590 and decreased to 15,732 in the 2015-2016 school year. Whitehall Associates, Inc. has projected a population decrease for the next five years if no new development is considered. New Developments after construction located in Toms River and Beachwood are projected to add a total of 585 students, although the rate of increase per year or the number of students per grade is unknown at this time. The steady population increase in the township indicates that families with school-aged children find Toms River Township to be an attractive place to live. Nevertheless, enrollments are expected to continue to increase, albeit at a more modest rate of increase than in the past.

Facilities Improvements:

Programming and New Academies:

The Toms Regional School District added full day kindergarten in 2015 to make it more competitive with surrounding communities. For the 2017- 2018 school year, Toms River Regional Schools will roll out three new career academies – "schools within schools" – at its three high schools. Each academy is adopting a curriculum that exposes students to diverse teaching methods, materials, perspectives, and peer groups. The Academies are designed to prepare students for specialized college programs in each area and provide high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) experiences. The first cohort of students will pave the way for multiple career academies and advanced courses at all three of our high schools in the near future.

At High School North, the Arts Academy will build on an already strong culture of arts-infused education, leading students to careers in the Performing Arts, Fine Arts, and Digital arts, while teaching them to apply their creative skills to other disciplines.

The STEAM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) at High School East includes Schools of Engineering, Biomedicine and Environmental Sustainability, with content in marine science, medicine, engineering, science research, genetics, advanced manufacturing, and more.

High School South students will be the beneficiaries of the new Business Academy. This academy will feature Schools of Finance, Entrepreneurship and Real Estate. The academies are a strong statement about Toms River Regional Schools' commitment to its students and the future of this community.

Sustainability:

The Toms River Regional School system has implemented numerous energy and cost saving initiatives including behavior modification plans. The school district is focused on becoming sustainable and will implement actions that will improve the facilities as is deemed feasible and necessary. The Regional School System has recently joined the Sustainable Jersey Schools Program and should be assisted in becoming certified. The school district has also retained a grants writer to assist in securing grants for program development, operation, etc. The grant writer is required to bring in three times salary in order to maintain position.

Ocean County College

The community is also served by Ocean County College, the first county college of New Jersey. The main campus of the college is located off College Drive near the intersection of Hooper Avenue and Fischer Boulevard in Toms River Township. The main campus is approximately 275 acres and lies on predominantly wooded land. Ocean County College offers Associate degrees, and also has a broad range of continuing education programs. Ocean County College partnered with Kean University to provide a four year liberal arts and Master's degree in 2006. Kean University and Ocean County College (Kean Ocean) have established a partnership that enables area residents to complete the upper division courses required for certain Kean University undergraduate degree programs and specific graduate programs on the campus of Ocean County College. This provides the opportunity for students to stay close to home and complete their college education in one convenient location. The college provides the added benefit of offering summertime programs for local youngsters.

Proposed Facilities Improvements:

Health Science Building - The Health Science Building's addition is planned for construction. The additional areas in the building will house the nursing program and allied health services. The building will provide enough room for Ocean County College to provide a four year nursing program with a matriculation partnership agreement. The Allied Health component will include simulation labs that will allow nursing students to

work with phlebotomists and other professionals, thereby providing nursing students with supervisory experiences. The Allied Services component will also include certificate programs for physical therapy, phlebotomists and similar programs.

Ocean County Votech Performing Arts Academy – The Ocean County Vocational Technical Performing Arts Academy is relocating to the Ocean County College campus. The vocational school is currently located in Hanger 1 on the Lakehurst end of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The relocation of the school allows the enrollment to expand from 300 students to a total of 400 students. The building will be a joint used building, utilized by the high school students during the day and by Ocean County classes after hours. The academy will function as a “two plus two” program, meaning that students enrolled in the program will receive a high school degree and an associate’s degree upon completion of the program. Junior and Senior level students in the program will matriculate at Ocean County College and take college classes, rather than AP classes. The estimated completion date for the building is August of 2019.

Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) – Ocean County College is installing a combined heat and power plant (CHP). The CHP generates electricity and the heating is used with an absorption chiller or direct heat for the boilers. Ocean County College has already installed 1400 chillers to centralize the heating and cooling for the campus. The system includes excess capacity to accommodate long term planning. The CHP system will include a complete loop system. Projected completion is five years from 2017.

Overall Vision and Recommendations

Ocean County College’s Vision is to become the boldest, most creative, and most innovative student-centered college in America. Ocean County should consider developing a partnership with an existing college geared towards science, engineering and technology and setup a program similar to Kean at Ocean. Ocean County College has begun a matriculation program with NJIT and is well on their way to developing such a program. Ocean County, Toms River and other partners should encourage this new partnership. The new partnership could potentially allow Ocean County College to educate local residents to become the next engineers that are needed on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, doctors that are need at Community Medical Center, and grow an entrepreneurial program to develop the next line of technology needed for the medical, health and wellness, military and green industries.

Other Schools

There are other organizations that provide primary educational services to Toms River Township. The municipality has 23 private nursery schools and kindergartens sponsored by various organizations. Additionally, there are two religious-based private schools, Saint Joseph’s Elementary and Monsignor Donovan High School. A list of all

schools located within Toms River Township are provided in the Communities Facilities list located in the Appendix of this Master Plan.

Emergency Services

The Township is serviced by its own Police Department and Volunteer Fire and First Aid Squads. The communications center for these emergency services is situated in Police Headquarters located on Oak Avenue. Emergency calls for service are recorded through the Spillman Computer-aided Dispatch and Record Management System. Police dispatch their own emergency calls, while the Fire Department handles all fire, first aid and other calls not specifically addressed by the Police Department.

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Headquarters

Toms River Township Police Headquarters is centrally located on Oak Avenue. The existing 49,000 square-foot facility lies on a seventeen-acre tract and houses the municipal court and the main police station. The original structure of the building was erected in 1975 with expansions constructed in the 1980's and again in 1991. The 1980's expansion incorporated the parts of the facility that are used today as the Municipal Court and police vehicle garage. The more recent 1991 expansion included more office space. Within the past two years, some further interior renovations have been performed that include new shooting range and new state-of-the-art communications center. The shooting range was a required upgrade in order to comply with OSHA standards for lead poisoning. The communications center, which has had a much-welcomed renovation over 15 years ago, is one of only a few of its kind in the entire state. However, an upgrade of the radio consoles, work stations and room as well as a redundant offsite communications center and back up radio and computer servers are necessary for disaster recovery.

Despite the numerous renovations and expansions that have taken place, the existing facility is at capacity and still does not meet the needs of the current police force. The original structure built in 1975 is comprised of reinforced concrete, which has presented a broad range of challenges in the expansion of the facility and has hindered the introduction of new technology. Nevertheless, expansions are imperative and the Department is constantly aiming to upgrade to more modern equipment.

Additional user-friendly office, storage and locker room spaces are essential for the Police Department. By law, the Department is required to keep records almost indefinitely. In order to make room for new files, a new records building was competed to facilitate the storage of all township archived documents, leaving room for slight expansion in the police garage, as it has become the storage space for a variety of equipment. As a result, all of the remaining police vehicles, including six police ambulances, the Emergency Service Unit (ESU) truck are stored outside. This presents a major problem in the wintertime when snow accumulates and the vehicles have to be

cleaned off before dispatching to a medical emergency. Additionally, the OEM Command center Vehicle is currently being stored at the Public Works garage due to lack of storage space at Police Headquarters. At the minimum, more parking spaces are required.

There is also an immediate need for a multi-purpose training room to accommodate in excess of 50 police officers. The current training room is small and often exceeds its occupancy. The room does not allow for any type of hands-on training that is often required in police duty.

Substations

The Police Department currently has two fully staffed substations, in addition to police headquarters. The substations are located on the barrier island part of the Township as depicted on the Community Facilities Map (Map 4). The District 3 Substation in Ortley Beach is located in the Acme Plaza store front. The District 2 substation is located in the Ocean Beach Fire Department Building on Kittywake Ave.

Crime

Tables 11 and 12 below depict the number of property crimes and violent crimes in Toms River Township as compared to the national numbers. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimated that for every 100,000 inhabitants in the nation 2596.1 property crimes took place in 2016. The population of Toms River Township in 2014 was close enough to 100,000 to provide a direct comparison with the FBI statistics. In 2014, as shown on Table 11, property crimes totaled 2,466, below the national average. There were approximately 79 violent crimes reported in Toms River Township in 2014 as compared to a rate of 365.5 violent crimes per every 100,000 inhabitants in the nation, as shown on Table 12. Larceny and theft accounted for the largest percentage of crimes in 2014 at 77% of Toms River Township’s total crime rate.

Table 11
Property Crimes Reported in 2014

Crime	Toms RiverTwp.	FBI per 100,000
Burglary	484	542.5
Larceny/Theft	1960	1,837.3
Auto Theft	22	216.2
Totals	2,466	2596.1

Source: 2014 FBI Offenses Known to Law Enforcement

Table 12
Violent Crimes Reported in 2014

Crime	Toms RiverTwp.	FBI per 100,000
Murder	0	4.5
Forcible Rape	7	26.4
Robbery	30	102.2
Aggravated Assault	42	232.5
Totals	79	365.5

Source: 2014 FBI Offenses Known to Law Enforcement

A main goal of the Police Department is to control drug abuse. It is important to curb drug abuse because drug abusers and distributors are often the perpetrators of violent and property crimes. Heroin and Fentanyl are narcotics that have been on the increase. The Police Department has endured approximately 20-25 overdose deaths per year and with the introduction of Narcan, has been able to save over 60 people per year from that fate. The Police Department aims to crack down on serious drug offenders, which drives most crime.

Another problem that has been identified in neighboring municipalities is the influx of gangs. The Police Department has not identified the presence of gangs, but it is constantly monitoring the township to insure that gang-related crimes do not penetrate the municipality. The department has not identified any specific “crime spots” in town, but has identified certain areas that could become high crime areas and heavily patrol those areas.

Traffic

The main policing issues in Toms River are traffic and speeding. The township generally averages approximately two traffic related fatalities per month. In response to speeding complaints, the Police Department sets up message boards in problem speeding areas. After message boards are installed, officers then patrol the area and enforce speeding laws. The department issues over 10,000 traffic summonses per year, but summonses alone are not the answer. Most of the problem areas identified in Circulation Element of this Master Plan have also been identified by the Police Department. The implementation of the recommendations identified in the Circulation Element will greatly improve the department’s ability to effectively enforce traffic laws. Additionally, the Police Department has expressed the need for battery back-up traffic lights at key intersections in the case of a power failure or catastrophic event

FIRST AID SQUADS

The township’s five volunteer first aid squads operate in cooperation with both the Police and Fire Departments. Table 13 below depicts the name and location of each squad. Additionally, the Community Facilities Map (Map 4) shows the locations of the First Aid Squads.

Table 13
First Aid Squads

Name	Location
Dover-Brick First Aid Squad	123 Second Avenue
Toms River First Aid Squad	11 Irons Street
Silverton First Aid Squad	86 Main Street
East Toms River First Aid Squad	527 Garfield Avenue
Pleasant Plains First Aid Squad	42 Clayton Avenue

Source: Toms River Township Police Department

POLICE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Expand the existing police facility leaving the original building in tact but adding a parking garage over the existing compound and necessary buildings space for the needed expansion within that footprint.
2. Add more outdoor parking spaces
3. Build an Emergency Management/EMS Center off site on Church Rd. to house a redundant communications center, servers, training center and EMS vehicles.
4. Implement the recommendations of the Circulation Element – As the main policing issues in the Township of Toms River are traffic related, the recommendations of the Circulation Element should be implemented to improve the traffic flow in the municipality. The installation of a road connecting Route 37 to Route 571 through the Ciba-Geigy site is strongly recommended to provide a more efficient route for emergency vehicles to travel to southwestern Dover.
5. Install traffic lights with battery backup – Traffic lights with battery-operated backup should be installed at all significant intersections throughout the township. Intersections that should have immediate battery backup include Route 37 and Route 166, Hooper Avenue and Route 37, Fischer Boulevard and Hooper Avenue, Bay Avenue and Hooper Avenue.
6. Continue crime prevention programs – Continue the existing programs, such as DDACTS, that have successfully limited, crime and traffic related incidents, drug abuse and prevented gangs that have penetrated neighboring municipalities.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

“Fire protection for the town is the responsibility of two fire districts, Toms River Township Board of Fire Commissioners, Districts 1 & 2. The boards accomplish this by using six volunteer fire companies. Having all volunteer fire companies in a town as large as ours is quite an accomplishment. The fire companies are independent of each other, but work together. The six companies have a fire officers association. That association works to provide the best fire protection for the town. They continually review the town’s changes and their resources and then create response policies and procedures to keep up with those changes. The Chiefs of each fire company along with the association present their requests and policies to the boards. The boards independently review their companies’ requests. The boards meet to discuss and approve any items that involve township wide matters.” – Toms River Township Citizens Advisory Subcommittee “B”

The Township of Toms River Fire Department is the largest volunteer fire department in Ocean County. The department is comprised of six companies totaling ten firehouses

and approximately 350 volunteers that service two fire districts. The department also includes the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Fire Academy and cooperates jointly with the Police Department to operate the Emergency Communications Center located at Police Headquarters. Each fire district has a five member Board of Fire Commissioners that is publicly elected to oversee the entire department.

Fire Districts

Fire District #1 covers the southern, western and eastern sections of Dover, while Fire District #2 covers all of northern Dover. Fire Companies #1 through #4, comprising six firehouses, are responsible for Fire District #1, and two fire companies (#5 and #6) comprised of three firehouses are responsible for Fire District #2. Until recently Fire District #1 included a seventh firehouse that was located in Ortley Beach. The Fire Department recently demolished that firehouse and plans to construct a more modern facility. In 2003, the Fire Department received 20,149 emergency calls for service. In addition to all fire related calls, which amounted to 2,403 incidents in 2003, the Fire Department dispatchers also handle calls for the township's six first aid squads and EMS.

Two of the firehouses in downtown Toms River (corner of Iron and Water Streets, Robbins Street across from Town Hall) are being consolidated into a single new firehouse at the top of Iron Street. The repurposing of the two buildings to be vacated will be the topic of one or more future redevelopment plans to be developed and adopted in the downtown.

Bureau of Fire Prevention

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is responsible for enforcing fire codes and regulations. The bureau conducts fire inspections, issues certificates of smoke detector compliance for all residential sales and performs fire investigations. The bureau also strives to educate the public about fire safety and prevention and runs a juvenile fire-watch program administered by its own full-time fire educational officer. The educational officer works directly with the Toms River School District in providing fire prevention education to students from kindergarten thru twelfth grade. The Bureau of Fire Prevention has also developed two brochures on fire prevention that have been distributed to Ocean County College and the Toms River Township Senior Center. While these programs have been useful, the bureau would be greatly enhanced if it were to set up an office for the educational officer in the Toms River Township Municipal Building so that the entire Toms River population can be targeted for fire prevention education rather than just small groups. The Bureau of Fire Prevention also has established a successful smoke detector distribution program.

Fire Academy

Located on Church Road, this state-of-the-art fire academy is a state-approved fire training facility. The facility provides state-mandated training for area firefighters. It is one of only three facilities of its type in Ocean County and therefore provides education and training for firefighters of other municipalities in addition to the Toms River Fire Department. Some of the major components of the facility are a smokehouse/drill tower

and building burn room that simulate a smoke-filled environment, to train firefighters in building rescue and interior fire-fighting. The facility also includes propane simulators, a vehicle extraction pad and a trench rescue/confined space simulator. The Township Police Department also uses portions of the facility for training.

Technology is the main component in need of regular upgrading in the Township Fire Department. The department is constantly seeking upgrades in its fire prevention and, in particular, in its communication technologies. In recent years, the Department of Homeland Security has required municipal emergency agencies to provide increased local data in order to link local emergency personnel on a national level. This has put added importance on the need to keep up with modern emergency technology.

Medical Facilities

Saint Barnabas Community Medical Center is Ocean County's largest and most active healthcare facility. It is also the largest non-teaching university in the state. Its thirty-five acre main campus is located just west of the Garden State Parkway on Route 37 in Toms River. The Community Medical Center was established in 1961 and today employs over 600 physicians and 2,000 associates. The center serves over 220,000 patients each year. Community Medical Center sponsors a number of programs for area seniors, meals on wheels, visiting nurse service, adult day care and the Township's Senior Center located on Garfield Avenue. Additionally the Saint Barnabas Behavioral Health Center provides services for those suffering from mental health problems and drug or alcohol dependency. Another major medical facility in Toms River is the Health South Rehabilitation Facility and the Children's Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY¹

The focus on making community facilities more resilient to natural disasters largely emanates from the Township's experience of Superstorm Sandy. A number of studies have documented the Storm's effects on community facilities. The 2016 Downtown Circulation Neighborhood Plan, focusing on mobility in downtown Toms River, reports storm surge flooding and failure of Water Street, a designated Coastal Evacuation Route intended to serve as a means of egress during emergency events.

During the public outreach events associated with the preparation of the Township Strategic Recovery Planning Report (SRPR), residents reported water issues in several community facilities, including the Fire Department on Water Street and the downtown Post Office. Residents expressed concern over community facility emergency operations during Sandy, including:

- Exclusion of non-Township residents who needed aid from Toms Rivers' two shelters;
- Need for better means of distributing information during a power outage;

¹ Sustainable and Resilient Section and recommendations within this Master Plan element was prepared by Heyer, Gruel and Associates as part of the Toms River Sustainability and Resiliency Master Plan Update, October 2016.

- Need for places to stay and places to obtain fuel; and
- Need for handicapped equipment in shelters

In terms of planning for future events, the Ocean County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014) analyzed 164 critical facilities in Toms River and found that seven facilities are vulnerable to wildfires and nine are located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Three facilities may be permanently inundated and two isolated in the event of a three-foot sea level rise. The 2016 Toms River Community Vulnerability Assessment also mapped critical facility inundation under different storm and sea level rise conditions, with the following facility impacts:

Critical Facility Vulnerability	
Conditions	Impacted / Inundated Facilities
Current 100-Year Flood	Dover-Brick First Aid Squad Ortley Beach First Aid Squad First Station/EMS – Fischer Boulevard East Dover County Building – Cattus Island Park* County Building – Parks and Recreation* Toms River Fire Station #2
Sea Level Rise of 0.8 ft. (2030)	None
100 - Year Flood in 2030	All those impacted in current 100-year flood East Dover First Aid Squad
Sea Level Rise of 1.5 ft. (2050)	All those impacted in 2030 100-year flood Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Station (Kittiwake Avenue)
100-Year Flood in 2050	All those impacted in 2030 100-year flood Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Station (Kittiwake avenue)
Sea level Rise of 3.5 ft. (2100)	All those impacted by 1.5 ft rise Dover-Brick First Aid Squad Ortley Beach First Aid Squad Fire Station / EMS – Fischer Boulevard East Dover
100-Year Flood in 2100	All those impacted in 2050 100-year flood Silver Bay Elementary School

*Note that the Township does not have jurisdiction over flood-proofing County buildings.

Sustainable and Resilient Recommendations

1. Updated the equipment used by emergency personnel in accordance with the Township’s Post Sandy Capital Improvement Plan, Township Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Toms River Township Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan.
2. Meet or exceed all State and Federal requirements for the number of emergency personnel in accordance with the Township’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and Toms River Township Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan.
3. Continue to renew the Township’s infrastructure, prioritizing work on infrastructure that requires elevation or some other type of flood mitigation in order to operate during flood events.

4. Encourage strategic locations of emergency facilities and traffic routes that provide fast and easy maneuverability to all areas of the Township.
5. Ensure the expansion of community facilities to account for current and future growth, siting facilities within walkable/bikeable distances from population centers to expand equitable access and non-motorized trips.
6. Continue to provide high quality civic, library, medical and other community facilities to meet the broad ranging needs of the municipality.

The following new objectives and recommendations are suggested to incorporate resiliency and sustainability into planning for new community facilities:

1. Locate all new community facilities outside of the 100-year floodplain, areas anticipated to inundate with a 3.5-foot sea level rise, and facilities that would be impacted during the 100-year floodplain given a 3.5-foot sea level rise.
2. Relocate mainland community facilities located in the environmental hazard areas listed above, including the following facilities:
 - a. First Station/EMS – Fischer Boulevard East Dover
 - b. Toms River Fire Station #2
 - c. East Dover First Aid Squad
 - d. Silver Bay Elementary School
 - e. Downtown Post Office**
3. Community Facilities serving an emergency response function on the barrier island communities cannot be moved outside storm flood hazard areas and still provide rapid response services. The critical community facilities located on the barrier islands should therefore be elevated and otherwise upgraded to best withstand storm damage in their current locations, including:
 - a. Dover-Brick First Aid Squad
 - b. Ortley Beach First Aid Squad
4. Implement strategies relevant to the resiliency of community facilities in Toms River including Ocean County's 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan, including:
 - Purchase and maintain generators for Toms River Regional Schools to continue critical community services during utility interruptions and storm events, so that they can also function as emergency shelters.
5. Implement recommendations related to community facilities and emergency management procedures in the 2015 "Getting to Resilience" Report, all of which can also be used to earn additional points for the NFIP CRS rating program, including:
 - Develop a pre-flood plan for public information projects that will be implemented during and after a flood;
 - Create and maintain a Flood Information section of the Township website through the Public Program for Information (PPI);
 - Work with Ocean County and neighboring municipalities to expand sheltering options;

- Work to be designated as a StormReady Community by the National Weather Service;
 - Formalize emergency management cooperative efforts between neighboring municipalities;
 - Update the Evacuation Plan to include more information;
 - Consider creating a Township specific Continuity of Operations Plan;
6. Implement community facilities improvement recommendations in the Township's 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, including: build an Emergency Management/EMS Center off site on Church Road.

Recommendations

- ***Prepare for potential shifts in school enrollment*** – Toms River Regional School District is anticipating a decline in enrollment, unless all the projected housing units are constructed within the next five years. However, the development pressure on North Dover fueled by the development of new Planned Unit Developments along Route 9 and the explosive growth in Lakewood may cause a shift that could impact school enrollment in North Dover. The school district will have to continuously monitor development trends and the birth rate within the Toms River Township Regional School sending area and create a facilities plan based on these projections.
- **Continue to develop programs that attract families to Toms River** – Toms River Regional School District has added a full day Kindergarten program and is in the process of creating three specialized academies. The Toms River Regional School system should continue to partner with Ocean County College, NAVAIR, Community Medical Hospital, and other organizations to ensure that students are well prepared to enter the work force to continue their education.
- **Expand the existing police facility** - leave the original building in tact but add a parking garage over the existing compound and necessary buildings space for the needed expansion within that footprint. Evaluate opportunities for land acquisition in North Dover for a future substation in anticipation of population growth from new development along Route 9 and in North Dover.
- **Increase Parking** - Add more outdoor parking spaces to the Police Headquarters Facility
- **Build an Emergency Management/EMS Center** – Construct an Emergency Management/EMS Center off site on Church Road or elsewhere on Township-owned vacant land in an appropriate location to house a redundant communications center, servers, training center and EMS vehicles.

- **Implement the recommendations of the Circulation Element** – As the main policing issues in the Township of Toms River are traffic related, the recommendations of the Circulation Element should be implemented to improve the traffic flow in the municipality. The installation of a road connecting Route 37 to Route 571 through the Ciba-Geigy site is strongly recommended to provide a more efficient route for emergency vehicles to travel to southwestern Dover.
- **Install traffic lights with battery backup** – Traffic lights with battery-operated backup should be installed at all significant intersections throughout the township. Intersections that should have immediate battery backup include Route 37 and Route 166, Hooper Avenue and Route 37, Fischer Boulevard and Hooper Avenue, Bay Avenue and Hooper Avenue. Township should coordinate with the Ocean County and NJ DOT to ensure that battery backup lights are installed on County and State owned roads.
- **Continue crime prevention programs** – Continue the existing programs, such as DDACTS, that have successfully limited, crime and traffic related incidents, drug abuse and prevented gangs that have penetrated neighboring municipalities.
- **Improve transportation services for senior citizens** - The major issue identified by the Township’s Senior Center coordinator was the lack of transportation for senior citizens. It is recommended that the township improve and expand their existing senior bus service. This will improve the safety and welfare of the entire community, as well as enhance the quality of life for senior citizens in Dover.
- ***Locate new areas to expand the Community Medical Center and support offices*** - The Community Medical Center is a growing hospital that provides a valuable service to the township and the entire region. However, the area in which the hospital is located is nearly built out. Therefore, the township should seek additional locations in other areas of Toms River for hospital medical uses. Revitalization, infill development, and redevelopment sites should also be investigated in the area surrounding the hospital.
- ***Require sidewalks and curbing in all new construction and renovation projects on public streets.*** With an increasing number of school-aged children in Toms River Township, their safety is a growing concern. Several residential areas throughout Toms River have sidewalks on only one side of the street or lack them entirely. The township should ensure that developers of any new housing developments be required to install sidewalks on both sides of the street and connect them to existing sidewalks in other neighborhoods.
- **Support the Growth of Ocean County College and encourage them to develop a full matriculation program with NJIT** or other engineering, science, technology college campus to provide educational opportunities to Toms River

and the greater region to support the military, health, wellness, and green industries.

- **Updated the equipment used by emergency personnel** in accordance with the Township's Post Sandy Capital Improvement Plan, Township Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Toms River Township Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan.
- **Meet or exceed all State and Federal requirements for the number of emergency personnel** in accordance with the Township's Hazard Mitigation Plan and Toms River Township Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan.
- **Continue to renew the Township's infrastructure**, prioritizing work on infrastructure that requires elevation or some other type of flood mitigation in order to operate during flood events.
- **Encourage strategic locations of emergency facilities and traffic routes** that provide fast and easy maneuverability to all areas of the Township.
- **Ensure the expansion of community facilities to account for current and future growth**, siting facilities within walkable/bikeable distances from population centers to expand equitable access and non-motorized trips.
- **Continue to provide high quality civic, library, medical and other community facilities** to meet the broad ranging needs of the municipality.
- **Locate all new community facilities outside of the 100-year floodplain**, areas anticipated to inundate with a 3.5-foot sea level rise, and facilities that would be impacted during the 100-year floodplain given a 3.5-foot sea level rise.
- **Relocate mainland community facilities located in the environmental hazard areas**, including the following facilities:
 - a. First Station/EMS – Fischer Boulevard East Dover
 - b. Toms River Fire Station #2
 - c. East Dover First Aid Squad
 - d. Silver Bay Elementary School
 - e. Downtown Post Office**** Not under the jurisdiction of the Township
- **Community Facilities serving an emergency response function on the barrier island communities cannot be moved outside storm flood hazard areas and still provide rapid response services. The critical community facilities located on the barrier islands should therefore be elevated and**

otherwise upgraded to best withstand storm damage in their current locations, including:

- a. Dover-Brick First Aid Squad
- b. Ortleigh Beach First Aid Squad

- **Implement strategies relevant to the resiliency of community facilities in Toms River including Ocean County’s 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan**, including:
 - Purchase and maintain generators for Toms River Regional Schools to continue critical community services during utility interruptions and storm events, so that they can also function as emergency shelters.

- **Implement recommendations related to community facilities and emergency management procedures in the 2015 “Getting to Resilience” Report, all of which can also be used to earn additional points for the NFIP CRS rating program**, including:
 - Develop a pre-flood plan for public information projects that will be implemented during and after a flood;
 - Create and maintain a Flood Information section of the Township website through the Public Program for Information (PPI);
 - Work with Ocean County and neighboring municipalities to expand sheltering options;
 - Work to be designated as a StormReady Community by the National Weather Service;
 - Formalize emergency management cooperative efforts between neighboring municipalities;
 - Update the Evacuation Plan to include more information;
 - Consider creating a Township specific Continuity of Operations Plan;

- **Implement community facilities improvement recommendations in the Township’s 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, including: build an Emergency Management/EMS Center off site on Church Road.**

The Communities Facilities Map shows vacant land that is publicly owned and not dedicated through conservation easement, purchase with a dedicated open space fund or that is included on the Township’s Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI). These properties that are owned by the Township are reserved for future use for community facilities, including wetland mitigation, storm water management, emergency services, public works or municipal parking.

