

# VIII. FACILITIES & SERVICES



2014

## Middletown, Rhode Island Comprehensive Community Plan

**MIDDLETOWN WILL STRIVE TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT SERVICES, A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND THE NECESSARY PUBLIC UTILITIES TO SUPPORT A DESIRED QUALITY OF LIFE.**

# VIII. Facilities & Services

## MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

### Supporting Documents

- Capital Improvement Plan, Town of Middletown, FY2013-FY2017 (*and updates*).
- Emergency Operations Plan, Town of Middletown, 2004.
- Middletown's Educational Future: A Strategy for Change, Fielding/Nair International for Middletown Public Schools, 2007.
- Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy, CDR Maguire for Town of Middletown, 2014.
- Phase II Stormwater Management Plan, Louis Berger for Town of Middletown, 2009.
- Water Supply System Management Plan. Pare Corporation for the City of Newport Department of Utilities Water Division, September 30, 2013.
- West Main Road/Coddington Development Center Plan, VHB & RKG for Town of Middletown, 2011.

### INTRODUCTION

One of town government's roles is to provide quality services and facilities that attract and keep residents and employers. The following Facilities and Services Element identifies and describes existing town facilities and their related services in Middletown. This element includes but is not limited to schools, public safety, library, solid waste management, and utilities. The recreation and open space system and facilities and the transportation system are covered separately in their own dedicated elements.

The purpose of the Facilities and Services Element is to lay the groundwork for future decisions related to these public facilities and services, to establish goals and policies regarding the provision of these services, and to integrate public services concerns into land use decision making. In the process of updating this element, planning staff sought to obtain information from various town departments and organizations and their concerns, comments, and updates have been incorporated.

A primary source for information on Middletown’s Facilities and Services is the town’s website: [www.middletownri.com](http://www.middletownri.com). The website offers descriptions, operations and contacts for town facilities and services, and information on town committees and boards.

**Facilities & Services Vision Statement: Middletown will strive to provide residents with high quality and responsive government services, a wide range of public facilities, and the necessary public utilities to support a desired quality of life.**

### Form of Government

The Town of Middletown operates under a charter adopted by town citizens, which is amended from time to time by vote of the citizenry. The Charter provides the framework for the operation of town government. It calls for an elected Town Council and an appointed Town Administrator. The seven-member Town Council is elected at-large during even numbered years. Councilors serve a 2-year term. The Town Council president, who is selected by the membership of the Town Council to serve for two years, is the ceremonial head of town government and presides over Town Council meetings. The Town Administrator is the chief executive and manages the day-to-day operations of town government. All town department managers, with the exception of the superintendant of schools and Town Solicitor, report to the town administrator. All town boards and committees, with the exception of the School Committee, are appointed by the Town Council, as is the Town Solicitor. The School Committee has five members elected by town citizens to staggered four year terms.

Below is a listing of and links to departments and committees on the town’s website:

| TOWN DEPARTMENTS: (AS OF 2014)           |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <a href="#"><u>Building / Zoning</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Planning</u></a>          | <a href="#"><u>Substance Abuse</u></a>    |
| <a href="#"><u>Engineering</u></a>       | <a href="#"><u>Police</u></a>            | <a href="#"><u>Tax Assessor</u></a>       |
| <a href="#"><u>Finance</u></a>           | <a href="#"><u>Public Works</u></a>      | <a href="#"><u>Technology</u></a>         |
| <a href="#"><u>Fire</u></a>              | <a href="#"><u>Purchasing</u></a>        | <a href="#"><u>Town Administrator</u></a> |
| <a href="#"><u>Human Resources</u></a>   | <a href="#"><u>Refuse Collection</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Town Clerk</u></a>         |
| <a href="#"><u>Library</u></a>           | <a href="#"><u>School Department</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Voter Registration</u></a> |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Senior Center</u></a>     |   |

| COUNCIL, BOARDS & COMMITTEES: (AS OF 2012) |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Beach Commission</u>                    | <u>Open Space &amp; Fields Committee</u>       | <u>Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force</u> |
| <u>Board of Canvassers</u>                 | <u>Pension Trust Fund Investment Committee</u> | <u>Tax Assessment Review Board</u>           |
| <u>Conservation Commission</u>             | <u>Personnel Board</u>                         | <u>Town Council</u>                          |
| <u>Economic Development Advisory Comm.</u> | <u>Personnel Review Board</u>                  | <u>Tree Commission</u>                       |
| <u>Juvenile Hearing Board</u>              | <u>Planning Board</u>                          | <u>Wind Turbine Committee</u>                |
| <u>Library Board of Trustees</u>           | <u>Roads / Utilities Advisory Committee</u>    | <u>Zoning Board of Review</u>                |
| <u>Mooring Assignment Committee</u>        | <u>Senior Center Board of Directors</u>        | <u>Committee for the Arts</u>                |

Map F-1 Town Properties & Facilities provides a map of the location of all town properties and facilities.

## EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### INVENTORY

The Middletown Public School System consists of three elementary schools including the Gaudet Learning Academy (located in the middle school), one middle school, one high school and an administration building. Table F-1 Middletown Educational Facilities, is a listing with location and contact information for all town educational facilities. Middletown Public Schools meet state and federal curriculum standards, meet federal requirements for special education as a participating member of the Regional Special Education Program, and comply with all state health and safety standards. An Educational Master Plan, “Middletown’s Educational Future: A Strategy for Change”, which includes recommendations for school facilities, was completed in 2007.

As of 2009, the system had approximately 50 elementary, 43 middle, 48 secondary, 39 special education and 26 special subject teachers. Seventeen teachers are employed with restricted dollars. Also employed by the school department are a Superintendent of Schools, an Assistant Superintendent of Academic & Technology Services, a Business Manager, and a Director of Facilities Management. There are four Principals, one Associate Principal, and one Assistant Principal. Additional staff is comprised of 19 clerical, 44 teaching assistants, 25 custodians and three technology support staff members. The FY2013 expenditure per pupil in Middletown was \$14,890.

| TABLE F-1 MIDDLETOWN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES                                  |   |                  |   |
|--|---|------------------|---|
| <i>School / Facility Name</i>  | <i>Address</i>                                | <i>Telephone</i> | <i>Website</i>  |
| Oliphant Administration Building   | 26 Oliphant Lane<br>Middletown, RI 02842      | (401) 849-2122   | <a href="http://www.mpsri.net">www.mpsri.net</a>  |
| Middletown High School<br>(Grades 9-12)                                      | 130 Valley Road<br>Middletown, RI 02842       | (401) 846-7250   | <a href="http://www.ri.net/middletown/mhs/index.html">http://www.ri.net/middletown/mhs/index.html</a>             |
| J.H. Gaudet Middle School (Grades 5-8) and Gaudet Learning Academy (Grade 4) | 1113 Aquidneck Avenue<br>Middletown, RI 02842 | (401) 846-6395   | <a href="http://www.ri.net/middletown/gaudet/index.html">http://www.ri.net/middletown/gaudet/index.html</a>       |
| Aquidneck Elementary School<br>(Grades K-3)                                  | 70 Reservoir Road<br>Middletown, RI 02842     | (401) 847-4921   | <a href="http://www.ri.net/middletown/aquidneck/index.html">http://www.ri.net/middletown/aquidneck/index.html</a> |
| Forest Avenue Elementary<br>(Grades K-3)                                     | 315 Forest Avenue<br>Middletown, RI 02842     | (401) 849-9434   | <a href="http://www.ri.net/middletown/forest/index.html">http://www.ri.net/middletown/forest/index.html</a>       |

## DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

### Middletown High School

Constructed in 1961, Middletown High School is located on a 22.45-acre site. It contains 43 regular and, approximately 8 smaller instructional spaces. The September 2011 enrollment was 744 pupils. Recent improvements include state of the art science laboratories, art rooms, and technology infrastructure upgrades.

### Gaudet Middle School

The Gaudet Middle School was constructed in 1968 on a 33-acre site. It contains 45 classrooms plus 8 smaller instructional areas. In 2009, the fourth and fifth grades were moved into the lower level of Gaudet Middle School into a small learning community. The library was remodeled. Enrollment in September of 2011 was 711, plus 197 students in the Gaudet Learning Academy (4<sup>th</sup> Grade).

### **Aquidneck Elementary School**

The Aquidneck School was constructed in 1954, added to in 1955 and again in 1994. Located on a 10.6-acre site, there are 24 classrooms plus a library, a gymnasium which is also used as an auditorium, an office, teachers' room, and a computer laboratory. The property is owned by the Assigns of John Clarke trust, which restricts the development of the site. As of September 2011, enrollment was 388 pupils in grades K through 3.

### **Forest Avenue School**

The Forest Avenue School is located on a 10-acre site. As of September 2011, Forest Avenue School housed 366 pupils in grades K to 3. Constructed in 1957, with an addition in 1994, Forest Avenue houses 24 classrooms, a cafeteria, gym and a library. In 2008, a wing was remodeled into a small learning community.

### **Oliphant Administration Building**

The Oliphant Administration building is located on a 6.4-acre site and houses the Regional Special Education offices and Middletown Public Schools administration offices and personnel.

## **Building Capacity and Enrollment**

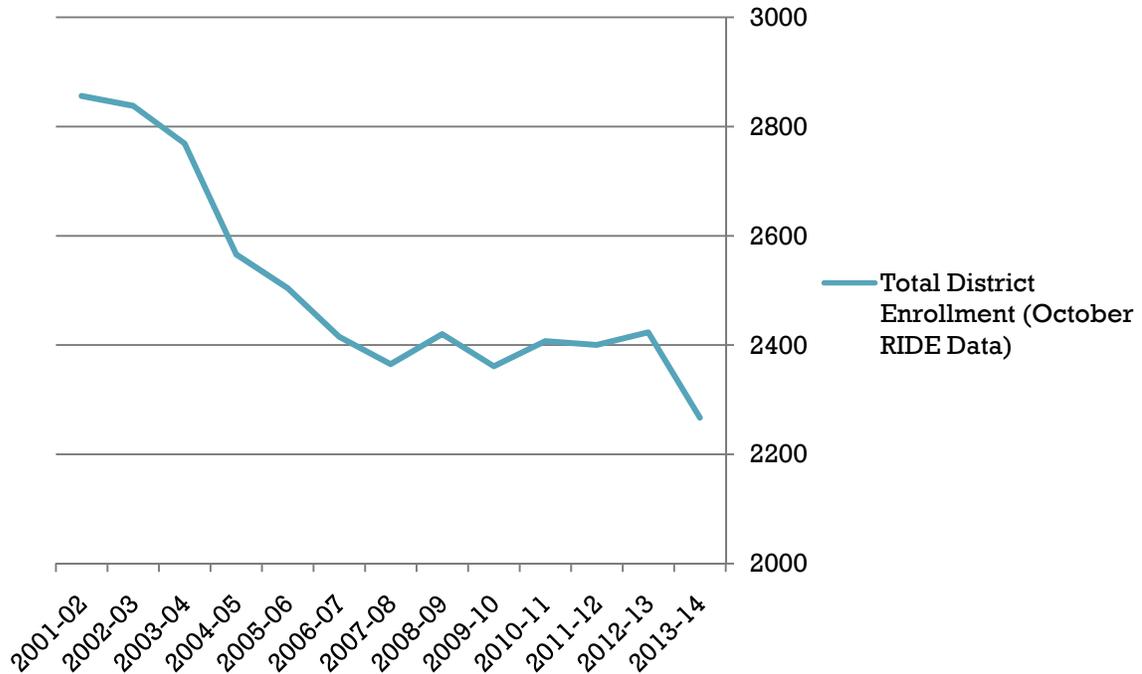
Table F-2 Current Enrollments and Estimated Pupil Capacities provides approximate maximum student capacities along with September 2014 enrollment figures. Estimated capacities were calculated in 2010 and assume present grade organization, present educational programs, and state mandated class sizes. In general, over the past decade, total district enrollment has decreased, as shown in Table F-3 and Figure F-1. Total district enrollment for Middletown for the 2000-2001 school year was 2,838. As of October 2013, a total of 2,267 students were enrolled in Middletown public schools. The town does not anticipate the need for the construction of new school facilities to address capacity needs within the next ten years.

| TABLE F-2 CURRENT ENROLLMENTS AND ESTIMATED PUPIL CAPACITIES |                 |                        |  |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| <i>School</i>  | <i>Capacity</i> | <i>Grades (Approx)</i> | <i>September 2014</i>                    |
| Middletown High School                                       | 845             | 9 – 12                 | 679                                      |
| Gaudet Middle School   | 813             | 4 - 8                  | 712 (plus 162 Learning Academy) =<br>874 |
| Aquidneck School   | 310             | K – 3                  | 382                                      |
| Forest Avenue School   | 350             | K - 3                  | 334                                      |
| Totals   | 2,318           | K-12                   | 2,269                                    |

*Source: Middletown Public Schools*

| Table F-3 Middletown Public School October Enrollment 2000-2014 |                 |                  |                      |                  |                        |                      |                         |                           |                           |
|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | John F. Kennedy | Aquidneck School | Forest Avenue School | Forest Avenue II | Middletown High School | Gaudet Middle School | Gaudet Learning Academy | Middletown Public Schools | Total District Enrollment |
| 2013-14   | N/A             | 368              | 331                  | N/A              | 685                    | 676                  | 178                     | 29                        | 2267                      |
| 2012-13   | N/A             | 398              | 371                  | N/A              | 737                    | 711                  | 173                     | 33                        | 2423                      |
| 2011-12   | N/A             | 384              | 360                  | N/A              | 715                    | 709                  | 199                     | 33                        | 2400                      |
| 2010-11   | N/A             | 405              | 361                  | N/A              | 688                    | 743                  | 180                     | 30                        | 2407                      |
| 2009-10   | N/A             | 405              | 352                  | N/A              | 669                    | 747                  | 169                     | 19                        | 2361                      |
| 2008-09   | 359             | 318              | 299                  | N/A              | 643                    | 746                  | N/A                     | 55                        | 2420                      |
| 2007-08   | 334             | 309              | 274                  | N/A              | 674                    | 749                  | N/A                     | 25                        | 2365                      |
| 2006-07   | 344             | 337              | 276                  | N/A              | 682                    | 755                  | N/A                     | 21                        | 2415                      |
| 2005-06   | 352             | 347              | 294                  | N/A              | 719                    | 756                  | N/A                     | 36                        | 2504                      |
| 2004-05   | 343             | 375              | 320                  | N/A              | 714                    | 776                  | N/A                     | 38                        | 2566                      |
| 2003-04   | 371             | 371              | 316                  | 53               | 817                    | 841                  | N/A                     | N/A                       | 2769                      |
| 2002-03   | 404             | 391              | 403                  | N/A              | 790                    | 850                  | N/A                     | N/A                       | 2838                      |
| 2001-02   | 380             | 325              | 333                  | N/A              | 835                    | 834                  | N/A                     | 149                       | 2856                      |

*Source: RIDE*

**Figure F-1: Middletown Schools Total District Enrollment**

## Municipal Facilities

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Constructed in 2009, the Middletown Police Station is located at 123 Valley Road. The facility includes community meeting space. As of this writing, the Middletown Police Department employs 38 full-time officers, one animal control officer, two civilian clerks, one full-time maintenance person and a part-time civilian VIN inspector. As of 2011, the police department transitioned to a four-platoon, 12-hour shift structure. The four-platoon system puts seven officers on per shift (five patrol officers, one sergeant and a lieutenant). The Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to set staffing levels.

The department utilizes ComStat for the routine review of policing initiatives and acts on them through directions given at regular staff meetings and roll call.

In 2013, the total number of calls for service was 28,360. Total offenses for 2013 were 2,029 with 228 being felonies. The number of calls varies monthly, with a busy season from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is also an increase from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The

department has mutual aid agreements with the two other island communities, Newport and Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport.

The department maintains a fleet of 27 vehicles, including 14 marked cars, two motorcycles, a command center, one animal control vehicle and an all-terrain vehicle for summer use. In addition to the regular fleet, the chief and deputy chief are assigned a car and there are five detective cars and one seized vehicle which is used for undercover operations. The department also has a 20-foot boat that is used by the harbor master primarily from Memorial Day to Labor Day and five trailers for digital messaging boards

The Town's recently constructed police station was designed to meet the needs of the community well into the future. Given this and population projections showing a decline for Middletown, the Town does not anticipate the need for an expansion of police services within the next 20 years.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Middletown Fire Department is located at 239 Wyatt Road, adjacent to the town's Public Works Department. The station was built in 1955 and renovated in 1965 and 1989. As of this writing the Fire Department employs 32 full-time members including a Chief and Administrative Assistant. The Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to set staffing levels. All the firefighters are trained EMT's to the cardiac level. In 2010, the Fire Department received a total of 3,060 emergency calls (an increase of 1,003 calls from 2000). The department currently has three pumpers, one tower ladder truck, three rescues, one special hazards vehicle, one tanker, one brush truck, four command staff vehicles, and two utility trailers. The department has mutual aid agreements with other Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts municipalities and the Naval Station Newport Fire Department. The Fire Department has identified a need for a new/renovated fire station to better support a multi-gender workforce, and increase the storage room available for department equipment. An additional station or substation might also be considered to reduce response times to certain areas of town. In 2012 the town conducted a fire station siting study to assist with evaluating options. The study found that the current location is best to serve the town under a single-station scenario. To address the large volume of calls and reduce response times to the west side of town, the study suggests that a substation in the area of the East Main Rd./Valley Rd. intersection could be considered. At the time of this writing, voters approved a bond in support of an improved fire station and the town is proceeding with the renovation of the current station and a portion of the former police station in order to meet the needs of the Fire Department and also provide additional office space for the Department of Public Works. Plans for the new fire station / DPW facility were submitted to the Town in July of 2013 and construction is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of 2015.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Police Station on Valley Road serves as the location of the emergency operations center when activated. Under normal circumstances, the Fire Chief carries out emergency management functions from his or her office at the Fire Station. Communications with state and local agencies are maintained through various radio and internet systems with primary operations conducted through Rhode Island Emergency Management's WebEOC and 800 MHz radio system.

The Town Administrator serves as the Director of Public Safety and the Fire Chief functions as the Director for Emergency Management. The Deputy Director for Emergency Management, a police department Lieutenant, helps coordinate the day to day planning for emergency management. These individuals meet regularly to develop emergency management contingency plans.

Two emergency shelters have been designated and are listed with the American Red Cross. They are: Gaudet Middle School (primary shelter) and Middletown High School (backup shelter). The town has entered into a municipal support agreement with the Red Cross for disaster assistance at the shelters. The Town has an Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) that was produced in 2004. This plan is currently being reviewed in preparation of changes needed to reflect Rhode Island Emergency Management's new EOP format. The Town has a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy produced in 2006 that was updated in 2014 through the assistance of a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant. The Town also has a tested and approved Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS) Response Plan.

Given that the Division of Planning has projected a population decline for Middletown over the next 20 years, the Town does not anticipate the need for additional emergency management services.

## **PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Middletown Public Library is located at 700 West Main Road. There are 6 full time staff members, 4 of which are professional librarians and 9 part-time staff members. A Board of Trustees, comprised of seven members appointed to staggered terms by the Town Council, oversees library operations.

The library collection contains 67,715 books, 3,271 serials, 4,397 non-print materials, as well as discount passes to area cultural institutions. There are 21 public computer stations with internet access. Public computer use in FY2011 was 20,803. Table F-4 Middletown Library Use Statistics provides a summary of annual library use.

| TABLE F-4 MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY USE STATISTICS (FY13) |         |
|--|---------|
| Total Circulation                                  | 175,314 |
| Interlibrary Loans                                 | 26,633  |
| Registered Borrowers Served                        | 12,285  |
| Number of Visits                                   | 173,477 |
| Reference Questions                                | 9,701   |

Library programs include Adult and Young Adult Summer Reading Programs, Story Hours, Crafts, Special Performers, Puppet Shows, Filmstrips and Holiday Programs. A book store, operated by the Friends of the Library, was added in 2008 and is now open five days a week.

Government services provided by the Library include use as a polling location, bibliographic instruction to teachers and students throughout the Middletown School system, access to school reading lists year round, state agency information, and support for IRS and U.S. Census activities.

Throughout its 150-year history, the Library has been housed in several Middletown locations. In 1979, the U.S. Department of Education deeded the Navy Day Care Facility to the Town of Middletown. The Day Care Facility was transformed with grant money and town funding into the current public library. In 2003, a 3,000 square foot addition to the 10,000 square foot building, expanded safer parking and walkways, and better security, was completed. Even though the building has undergone repair and renovation, it is reported to be in poor condition structurally. In conjunction with the West Main/Coddington Development Center Master Plan effort, there has been discussion of the need to replace the building and also consider moving operations to another location.

### **SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER**

The Middletown Senior Center is located at 650 Green End Avenue. It is staffed by two full time employees; an Executive Director and Facilities Maintenance/Assistant personnel. In addition to the two full-time employees, there is a nine member Advisory Board of Directors appointed by the Town Council.

The building that now houses the Senior Center was built in 1907. The Senior Center opened in 1989. Recent improvements include: window replacements (1999), handicapped ramp replacement (2002), new kitchen facility (2006), new furnaces (2008), a new roof (2009), and an enclosed awning over ramp area (2010). Deficiencies include no central air and need for additional space, as well as transportation services to offer transportation to members and isolated seniors in the community.

Middletown Senior Center programs, available to residents 55 years or older, include: meals, transportation, education, social services, exercise, health presentations and screenings, entertainment, gift shop, computer lab, and community soup to go. In 2013, MSC served 24,455 community and island residents, 6,485 congregate meals, volunteer hours of 20,547 with 125 scheduled programs/speakers. Seventeen fundraising events, twelve new classes added to program, along with nineteen weekly offered classes and scheduled ten trips, collaborated and arranged eleven community outreach programs.

The town will consider the future of the Senior Center facility during development of the Facilities Plan. A more handicap accessible building would be desirable.

### **PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY**

The Middletown Public Works Facility is located at 19 Berkeley Avenue, adjacent to the Fire Station. The building was built in 1955 and renovated in 1966. A salt pile storage facility was recently added to the site. The Public Works Department responsibilities include repair and maintenance of roads and sewer systems, sanding and plowing 130 miles of roadways, and managing stormwater runoff. The Newport Water Department is responsible for maintaining water lines. New office space for the Public Works Department is being provided as part of the Fire Station Renovation project.

### **TOWN HALL**

The Middletown Town Hall is located at 350 East Main Road. Built in 1885; and renovated in 1940 and 1989, the Town Hall supports a staff of approximately 25 and houses the Town Administrator's Office, the Town Clerk's Office, the Planning and Economic Development Department, the Building and Zoning Department, the Finance and Human Resources Department, Information Technology, the Tax Assessor's Office, and the Recreation Department. Land evidence records are also located in the Town Hall in a recently renovated land evidence records vault.

A new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) System was installed in 2011 with assistance from the Energy, Efficiency, and Conservation Block Grants administered through the State Energy Office. The building is currently adequate for the functions of municipal government. However, there is no room for expansion and parking is limited.

### **Former John F. Kennedy Elementary School**

Constructed in 1963, with an annex added in 1964, the Kennedy School is located on a 2.75-acre site. The J.F. Kennedy School was closed in the summer of 2009. Grades K to 3 were moved into Aquidneck and Forest Avenue schools. The fourth grade was moved to the Learning Center at Gaudet. The building is presently being leased for various uses on a short-term basis. The building is located within the core study area of the West Main / Codrington Redevelopment Plan which envisions a newly constructed mixed use village development on the school site and abutting town and surplus Navy land. The development plan may continue to include municipal uses to be housed on the site. but the town does not anticipate the need for a school at this location in the future.

## MUNICIPAL SERVICES

### REFUSE & RECYCLING

Middletown generated 2,116 tons of solid waste and 4,196 tons of recycling in FY 2014. Middletown consistently exceeds the state's 35% recycling goal and 50% diversion rate with a recycling rate of 41% and a diversion rate of 54% in recent years. The high recycling rate is due to the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Curbside Refuse Collection Program. Since its inception in November 2007, Middletown PAYT program has achieved the highest or second highest recycling rate in the State. Residents can contract privately with a private disposal service for solid waste pick-up or use the pay-as-you-throw system operated by the Town.

The town does not anticipate the need for expansion of refuse and recycling in the next 20 years as population projections show a decline for Middletown.

### SEWER

The Middletown sewer system is an extension of the City of Newport's sewer system. All sewage from the Middletown system flows in the Newport Wastewater Treatment Facility on Connell Highway in Newport. The Middletown system serves most of the west side of Middletown. Approximately 70% of the town is served by public sewer. Increasing capacity at the Newport Wastewater Treatment Facility is currently under investigation.

Map F-2 Middletown Sewer System, shows the coverage of the Middletown system. Areas not served by the system require Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) (septic sewage systems). The town recently conducted extensive mapping and camera inspections of the sewer system and will utilize this data for maintenance purposes. The Town has made extensive progress in eliminating stormwater impacts on the sewer system, and dramatically reducing the amount of infiltration and in-flow (I & I) of stormwater that is sent to Newport wastewater treatment plant for treatment. These efforts have resulted in substantial reductions in sewer system overflows during storms.

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Middletown has focused significant resources on stormwater drainage and management. The town has implemented a stormwater management ordinance and requires extensive review of all development to ensure that stormwater management complies with the State's Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual and town regulations.

A Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) was developed by the town in 2003 and is being implemented in accordance with state and federal regulations. The goal of the SWMP is to reduce the adverse impacts to water quality, aquatic habitat and human health by instituting

the use of controls on the unregulated sources of storm water discharges that have the greatest likelihood of causing continued environmental degradation. As discussed in the Natural and Ecological Resources element the town has and will continue to address its responsibilities regarding storm water management. As part of this effort the Town is investigating creation of a storm water utility enterprise fund to provide a necessary funding source.

## **PUBLIC WATER**

The availability of public water closely mirrors the sewer system, with approximately 75% of the homes in Middletown being serviced by public water. The Middletown water system is part of the City of Newport Water Department. All water services are managed and approved by the City of Newport Water Department.

No major expansion of the system is planned. However, the town should investigate options for providing expanded service to areas of town not currently served in order to provide improved fire protection and to provide public water service to neighborhoods where ground water quality is identified as a concern.

The Newport Water Department draws its supply from nine surface reservoirs located throughout Aquidneck Island and in the neighboring towns of Tiverton and Little Compton. Raw water is treated at the two water treatment facilities – the Station No. 1 Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Bliss Mine Road in Newport and the Lawton Valley WTP off of West Main Road in Portsmouth.

The NWD maintains a distribution system which services all of Newport, much of Middletown, and a small section of Portsmouth. With close to 200 miles of distribution piping, the system serves approximately 14,500 retail customers across Aquidneck Island, including ten connections with the Naval Station Newport, and sells water to the Portsmouth Water and Fire District on a wholesale basis. The service area population is estimated to be 40,000 people including approximately 75% of Middletown.

Collectively, the nine surface water reservoirs have a total capacity of approximately 4.3 billion gallons, with 3.9 billion usable gallons. The Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant is being replaced with a new treatment plant, which will be the only advanced treatment plant in the northeast, and the Station No. 1 Water Treatment Plant is currently undergoing extensive upgrades. This work is being performed to comply with the requirements of a 2008 Consent Agreement between the City of Newport and the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) that states that the NWD will eliminate the release of TTHMs into the water system by the end of 2014.

The residential average annual water use is estimated to be 47 gallons per capita per day for fiscal year 2012. Anticipated future demand for water can be met based upon estimates of 7.50 -7.96 MGD average daily demand and 13.30 -14.10 MGD maximum daily demand for

the year 2033 and a treatment capacity of 16 MGD. Newport Water Department does maintain land holdings for potential future development, should this someday be a consideration.

Drought is a specific emergency that can impact the system over an extended period of time. The Newport Water Department monitors drought conditions in its supply reservoirs and has historically imposed water use restrictions as a way of reducing demand in response to drought conditions. Middletown should also play a role in preparing for and mitigating all stages of drought. In addition to information-sharing and public education during times of drought, Middletown will ensure procedures are in place to respond to drought conditions through the establishment of a municipal drought management strategy. Please refer to Middletown’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (Appendix – page 46) for additional discussion on drought.

## FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

### WEST MAIN / CODDINGTON DEVELOPMENT CENTER



In 2011, the Town completed a study for the West Main / Coddington Redevelopment Area. The Core Study Area includes four publicly-owned parcels located on the west side of West Main Road totaling approximately 14 acres including the former J.F.K. Elementary School, the Middletown Public Library, the West Main Recreation Complex, and the vacant Navy Lodge property. The recommended redevelopment scenario is a mixed-use center development. The northern section of the redevelopment area was identified for potential locations for public facilities including possibly a new library.

| <b>FACILITIES &amp; SERVICES - Goals, Policies, &amp; Action Items</b>  |   |  |                         |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| <b>GOAL F-I: Provide high quality and efficient municipal services and facilities that meet the needs of residents</b>    |   |  |                         |
| <b>Policies</b>   | <b>Action Items</b>   | <b>Responsible Department</b>                                | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-I.A. Deliver town services in a cost effective manner   | F-I.A.1. Maintain and implement Strategic Plans for providing Town services   | Town Council; Town Administrator; Library; School Department | Ongoing                 |
|   | F-I.A.2. Continue to implement best management practices for efficiently providing and funding public services  | Town Administrator   | Ongoing                 |
|   | F-I.A.3. Continue to implement E-Town Hall to make public information, permitting, and other functions available electronically on the Town's website | Information Technology                                       | Ongoing                 |
| F-I.B. Reduce energy costs for the town   | F-I.B.1. Conduct energy audits and inventory power usage by all town facilities and vehicles, and implement energy saving measures                    | Town Administrator; School Department                        | Short-term (1-2 years)  |
| F-I.C. Make optimum use of existing public facilities and town owned land and sustain prior investments in infrastructure | F-I.C.1. Maintain town roads, sewers, and other public infrastructure in a high state of repair   | Public Works   | Ongoing                 |
|   | F-I.C.2. Consider preparing a long-term maintenance plan for town-owned properties  | Town Administrator   | Medium-term (3-5 years) |
|   | F-I.C.3. Develop a town facilities use, management and maintenance plan   | Town Administrator   | Short-term (1-2 years)  |
|   | F-I.C.4. Site municipal facilities in areas appropriate to their function and use   | Town Administrator   | Ongoing                 |

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| F-I.D. Meet the future water needs of the community   | F-I.D.1. Work with the Newport Water Department to establish a municipal drought management response strategy to coordinate with the RI Water Resources Board during times of drought | Public Works  | Short-term (1-2 years)  |
|   | F-I.D.2. Consider extending waterlines to currently unserved areas for fire protection and public water supply  | Public Works  | Long-term (6-10+ years) |
| <b>GOAL F-II: Support consolidation and sharing of public services and facilities that result in an increase in cost-effectiveness without negatively impacting the quality of service provided</b>                         |   |   |                         |
| <b>Policies</b>   | <b>Action Items</b>   | <b>Responsible Department</b>                       | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-II.A. Enhance and expand intergovernmental cooperation and consolidation  | F-II.A.1. Investigate opportunities to share equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and services to maximize the benefit to taxpayers   | Town Administrator; Town Council; School Department | Ongoing                 |
| <b>GOAL F-III: Deliver high quality public education and school building facilities in order to promote excellence in public education and fully meet the community’s responsibility to provide for the next generation</b> |   |   |                         |
| <b>Policies</b>   | <b>Action Items</b>   | <b>Responsible Department</b>                       | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-III.A. Ensure that school programs meet the educational needs of students and facilities have adequate capacity to accommodate enrollment demands   | F-III.A.1. Adopt an Education Facilities Plan   | School Department; Town Council                     | Long-term (6-10+ years) |
|   | F-III.A.2. Maintain and upgrade school facilities   | School Department                                   | Ongoing                 |
|   | F-III.A.3. Provide school facilities that support year round community utilization by all residents for recreation, meeting space, and other uses.                                    | School Department; Town Council                     | Ongoing                 |
|   | F-III.A.4. Develop a Technology Plan to adapt to changes in communications, facilities and equipment.   | School Department                                   | Short-term (1-2 years)  |

| <b>GOAL F-IV: Provide programs, services, and materials for all ages that encourage a love of reading, life-long learning, and cultural enrichment</b>   |  |   |                         |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Policies</b>  | <b>Action Items</b>  | <b>Responsible Department</b>                           | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-IV.A. Continually improve access to library services and facilities  | F-IV.A.1. Continue to gather materials that enhance and enrich library collections                                       | Public Library; School Department                       | Ongoing                 |
|  | F-IV.A.2. Explore opportunities to increase the number of library users, materials circulated, and program participation | Public Library  | Ongoing                 |
|  | F-IV.A.3. Periodically evaluate demand for library services, including resource needs, and modify programs as needed     | Public Library  | Ongoing                 |
|  | F-IV.A.4. Investigate replacement of the library facilities  | Public Library; Town Council                            | Long-term (6-10+ years) |
| <b>GOAL F-V: Provide high-quality law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency dispatch services in a cost-efficient, coordinated, and cooperative manner that meets the needs of the town's residents, workers, and visitors</b> |  |   |                         |
| <b>Policies</b>  | <b>Action Items</b>  | <b>Responsible Department</b>                           | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-V.A. Maintain public safety facilities, resources, and personnel to the highest degree of readiness  | F-V.A.1. Utilize data and program performance measures to monitor outcomes from public safety efforts                    | Police Department; Fire Department                      | Ongoing                 |
|  | F-V.A.2. Work with the Newport Water Department to expand the public water system to provide fire protection coverage    | Town Council  | Long-term (6-10+ years) |
| F-V.B. Plan for appropriate disaster mitigation preparedness, response, and recovery   | F-V.B.1. Implement activities identified in the Town's Adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (See Appendix)               | Fire Department; Police Department; Planning Department | Ongoing                 |

| <b>GOAL F-VI: Provide solid waste and recycling management in an economical and environmentally sound manner</b> |  |                               |                         |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Policies</b>  | <b>Action Items</b>  | <b>Responsible Department</b> | <b>Timeframe</b>        |
| F-VI.A. Continue to exceed the state’s minimum recycling rate of 35% and minimum diversion rate of 50%           | F-VI.A.1. Promote public awareness through community education programs that reduce solid waste, increase recycling, and ensure the proper disposal of household hazardous waste | Public Works                  | Ongoing                 |
|  | F-VI.A.2. Explore options to locate and manage a town composting facility  | Public Works                  | Long-term (6-10+ years) |