

Chapter 14: Public Facilities

Chapter Overview

The City's public facilities (see Exhibit 14-1) and associated activities provide a high level of service to residents and businesses and serve as an economic benefit by attracting new residents and businesses. As the City grows, its population shifts, or demands for service change, new public facilities and improvements to existing facilities will be needed. A number of issues related to the maintenance and management of public facilities and services have been identified as important to sustaining neighborhood livability and promoting economic vitality.

Beyond providing an appropriate level of service to meet current needs, the City must consider the impact of future development and investment on existing facilities and plan accordingly. The management and maintenance of the City's public facilities directly influence investment decisions by future residents, local institutions, and commercial enterprises. The goals, objectives, and strategies of this element reinforce the high level of service standards currently in place and are consistent with the City's long-range goals of economic development and neighborhood livability.

Level of Services

Capital expenditures to improve public facilities are often limited by fiscal constraints, and needed building improvements are deferred to meet other pressing needs. Facility and service planning would benefit from a comprehensive approach to assessing needs, identifying opportunities for coordination, and improving services. The City should develop a procedure for the annual assessment of facility needs and service adequacy to determine how well the City is meeting the needs and wishes of its citizens. Following the assessment, the City should develop level of service standards or other performance measures for all public facilities and services and incorporate them into the Capital Improvement Plan and annual operating budget. In some cases it may be more cost-effective to provide services on a regional basis. A Public Facilities Work Group, comprised of representatives from each City department, should be established to assist in identifying opportunities for coordinating facility and service operations throughout the City, as well as the region. This group would meet annually to review capital improvement projects.

Consolidation of Services

City government is among the largest owners of land and buildings with operations and departments that occupy over 100 buildings or complexes, including City Hall, eight fire stations, police and court facilities, social services and administrative offices, libraries and museums, and other general government buildings.

City investments in public facilities should lend support to existing neighborhood and commercial improvement efforts by improving citizen access to City services and



facilities. Level of service standards may identify areas of the City in need of additional resources such as meeting space or access to computers that could be accommodated in existing facilities or through multi-use facilities. For this reason, the City should consider co-locating new facilities or providing multiuse facilities to address identified community needs. Consolidating services into one facility may result in more efficient service delivery. Efforts to improve access to public facilities through bike trails and sidewalks should be considered with every new development or redevelopment plan, thereby creating safe connections between neighborhoods and facilities.

Educational Facilities

The citizens of Lynchburg are proud of Lynchburg City Schools and feel that it is one of the best assets the City has to offer. The school system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, three specialized schools, an administrative building and support facility. There also are numerous high-quality preparatory, private, and parochial schools located in the City, in addition to five colleges and universities. A sixth college, Sweet Briar, is located a short distance away in Amherst, Virginia.

Within the region, the City's schools are held in high regard. Many residents gave examples of people moving from the counties into the City in order to enroll their children in City Schools. The school system's educational resources are a tremendous asset to residents, business owners, and employers, as well as the City itself. A high quality education system and access to higher education opportunities are a major factor for families considering relocation to the region; often school quality is the most important issue in choosing where to live in the City or the surrounding counties.

The City and School Division have begun a joint effort to revitalize the physical condition and maintenance of school buildings. The 2014-19 Capital Improvement Plan lists numerous school related projects focused on increasing efficiencies, completing deferred maintenance and building renovation. The largest project in the Capital Improvement Plan is a new building to replace the current Heritage High School building constructed in 1976. The City should continue to invest in public schools and facilities and to advertise the City's commitment to high quality education by preparing and distributing accurate and timely information on school quality. The City should continue to provide a wide range of post-secondary educational opportunities and expand efforts to develop and coordinate training and continuing education programs among existing institutions.

Healthcare

Lynchburg is a regional health care center and an increasingly important regional center for health care education. CentraHealth, through Lynchburg General Hospital and Virginia Baptist Hospital, is the major provider of healthcare services for residents. The City is home to a variety of medical training programs, including Lynchburg College's Doctor of Physical Therapy, Centra Nursing School, Liberty University Nursing School,

and Lynchburg College Nursing School. Additionally, Liberty University is in the process of constructing a medical school in Campbell County.

The City should continue to encourage the development of partnerships between major health care providers and institutions of higher education to address work force development by meeting regularly with representatives from these partners to discuss possible joint projects.

Virginia Baptist Hospital



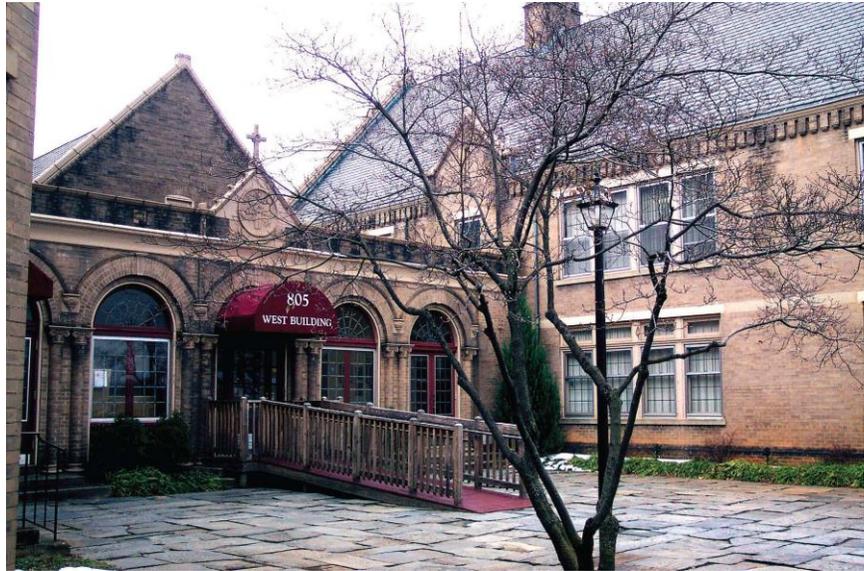
Public Safety

The Lynchburg Police Department, a nationally accredited law enforcement agency, provides community policing services with current staffing of 170 sworn officers and 32 civilian employees. The Police Department is headquartered within the Public Safety Building at 905 Court Street, but also operates out of three additional office facilities. . . The Police Department operates according to a “community policing” operational philosophy, through which police employees maintain daily interactive contact with a diverse spectrum of community members for purposes of identifying and solving community problems. Police officers are assigned to geographically defined areas of responsibility: their operational focuses include preventing crime and disorder, investigating criminal activity, prosecuting criminals, educating the public, maintaining a positive community environment, and other public safety functions. Maintaining close connections to the City’s neighborhoods provides the Police Department with a great deal of knowledge about neighborhood needs and means to improve the overall quality of life within neighborhoods. As the City begins to prepare the neighborhood conservation area plans and revitalization area plans recommended in Chapter3, Goals

and Policies, the Department of Community Development will continue to work with the Police Department in the areas of information sharing and plan development.

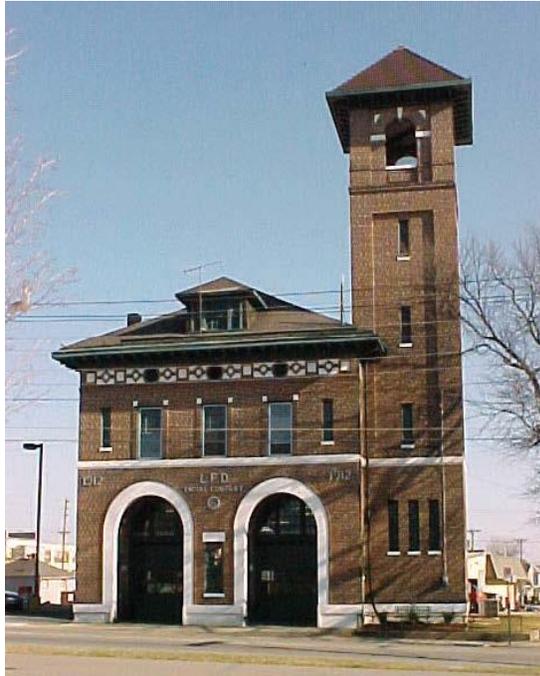
In addition to highlighting community partnerships and means of interaction, the *Lynchburg Police Department Strategic Plan FY2014-16* identifies key infrastructure and facility needs. Meeting these needs will require consolidating and replacing existing facilities, and exploring future use of smaller, collocated “precincts” throughout the City to improve response times and promote enhanced operational efficiency.

**Lynchburg
Police
Department
West Building**



The Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department provides emergency services for the residents of Lynchburg and those who enter the area to work or shop. The quick response times and excellent coverage have been identified as assets to both residents and business owners within the City. Twenty-five response zones are served by eight fire and rescue stations. The *Fire Department Strategic Plan 2011-2013* highlights the importance of developing a Facilities Plan to provide adequate space and furnishings for existing and future facilities. Two (Miller Park and Grace Street) have been identified as in need of replacement or relocation. The Department also continues to evaluate the need for additional fire stations to improve response times.

**Lynchburg Fire Department
Station No. 6**



The City is a member of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, created in November 1994 by member jurisdictions for the purpose of developing and operating a regional jail system; which was established by acquiring, renovating, and expanding existing jail facilities and constructing additional jail facilities. The Lynchburg Adult Detention Center, located on Clay Street, serves as the Regional Jail Authority's central administrative facility. Additional facilities are located in the Town of Bedford and in Amherst, Campbell and Halifax Counties. The Authority also serves the County of Appomattox, employs 410 persons and has a average daily inmate population in excess of 1,100.

The Department of Emergency Services, located at 3621 Candler's Mountain Road, is the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the City of Lynchburg. The Emergency Communications Center serves as the central point of contact for citizens of Lynchburg to request emergency and non-emergency public safety assistance. The department also provides a full array of public safety dispatch/communications services and oversees the City-wide Emergency Management program. The Emergency Operations Plan, which is a component of the Emergency Management Program, provides the framework to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency or disaster.

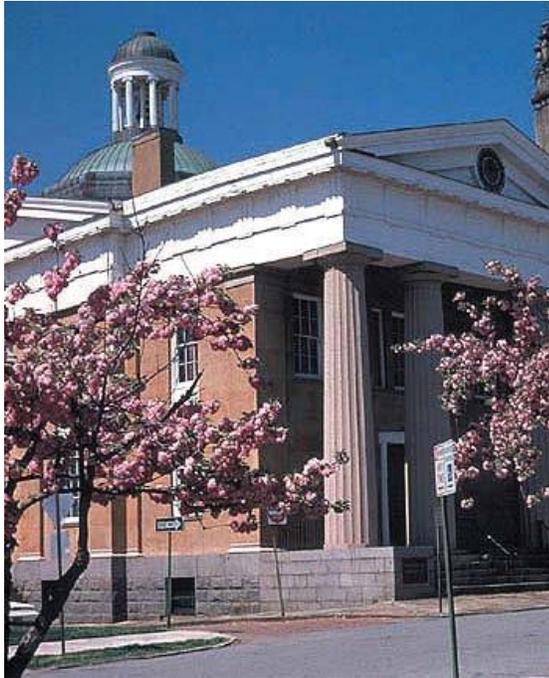
EOC Facility



Library & Museums

The Public Library headquarters, located at the Plaza Shopping Center, and the Downtown Branch Library in City Hall, provide the City and region with educational and historical materials, information, recreation, and cultural activities. The Jones Memorial Library, a private research library, shares quarters with the main branch of the City library on Memorial Avenue. The City also is exploring a Regional Library initiative with Bedford and Campbell counties with the goals of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

The City's Museum System is part of the City's Parks & Recreation Department and comprised of the Old Court House Museum, Point of Honor, and other sites throughout the City. Other private museums and historic sites and attractions, including Amazement Square, the Legacy Museum, Old City Cemetery, Anne Spencer House, Sandusky House, the Academy of Music, Fort Early, the Daura Gallery at Lynchburg College, and the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College serve the City and region. Chapter 11, History, Culture, Education, & the Arts, provides additional information about preserving and promoting the City's historic resources.

Old Court House Museum

The City also has a wealth of additional material that reflects the history of Lynchburg, including firefighting and public works equipment. This material offers an opportunity to showcase the City's history, especially its pioneering role as one of the first localities in the United States to construct a sewer system. It is also an opportunity to educate visitors about public safety, hazardous conditions in their homes, the origin of their drinking water, and related matters.

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Exhibit 14-1 Community Facilities

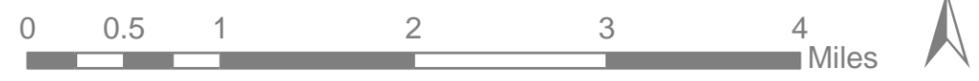
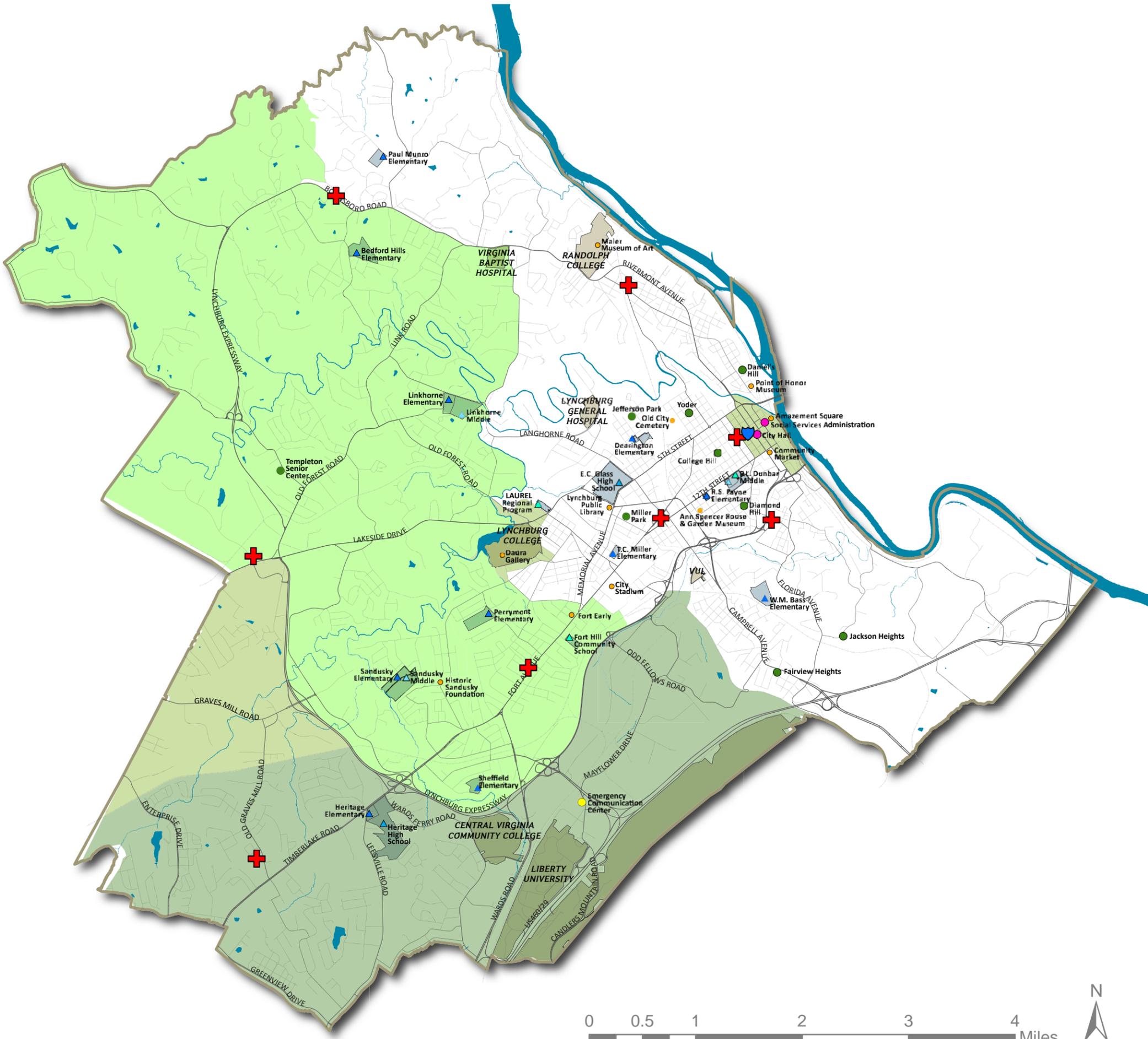
October 2013

-  Fire Station
-  Police Station
-  Emergency Communication Center
-  Local Government
-  Neighborhood Center
-  Other (Libraries, Museums, Community Market)

- Education**
-  Public Elementary School
 -  Public High School
 -  Public Middle School
 -  Public Special / Alternative

- Population Growth (see page 46)**
-  0 - 15%
 -  15 - 30%
 -  30 - 54%

-  Major Institutions
-  City Boundary



Prepared by:
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Planning Works

