

**VI. SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT**

**TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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### MAPS

- 6.1. Public Facilities
- 6.2. Sewer Service Areas
- 6.3. Water Service Areas

For revised *Services & Facilities Element VI*  
*Sewer Service Area Map 6.2*  
See amendment dated 3-10-97  
*in addenda*

### List of Technical Appendices\*

VI.A1.0 Town-Owned Buildings and Land

\*Technical Appendices are in a separate document.

## A. Introduction

A Services and Facilities plan enables a community to assess the capacities of its public services and facilities and to balance this against future demands. Thus, it allows a community to recognize, far in advance, the types of major public investments it will need to make in public services and facilities, or the restrictions it will have to impose on the timing and location of growth. As such, it becomes the basis for a systematic approach to long-term growth management in a well-planned, balanced community. In such a balanced community the carrying capacity\* of the Town's services and facilities, as well as other infrastructure and environmental factors, keeps pace with the timing and location of development.

When existing capacity thresholds of services and facilities are reached, new capacity must be created, for example, through the addition of a new school, or more sewer lines. Thus, services and facilities capacity is generally created in large increments (Schneider, et al., 1978). When a threshold is reached, capital improvements need to be planned and funded to create the needed capacity. Thus, the provision of services and facilities is closely tied to the Town's Capital Improvement Program.

This Element is organized according to thirteen distinct municipal facility/service functions:

- Municipal Government - General
- Wastewater
- Drinking Water
- Solid Waste
- Public Works
- Stormwater Management
- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Education
- Libraries
- Human Services
- Emergency Management
- Miscellaneous

For each municipal function a discussion of the existing inventory is presented, followed by an analysis which includes applicable standards of services and a statement of existing and future needs.

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\* Carrying Capacity is defined as the ability of a town to absorb additional growth without significantly degrading the services and infrastructure or the fiscal, social, or environmental quality.

**B. Municipal Government - General**

1. Inventory

The ability to provide public services and facilities is one of the most important functions of municipal government. The Town of South Kingstown aims to perform this function as efficiently as possible. Following is a summary of Town-owned buildings and land and a listing of the number and type of Town personnel.

a. Summary of Town-owned Buildings and Land

Town Hall	Wastewater Treatment Plant
Town Hall Complex	(in Narr., with Narr. & URI)
Transfer Station	Pumping Stations - Water & Sewer
Peace Dale Office Building	Water Supply Field & Water Tanks
3 Libraries	Town Garage
Education: High School, Jr. H.S.,	Beach Pavilion and Misc.
6 Elementary	Playgrounds and Recreation Lots
Police Station	Neighborhood Guild
2 Federal Housing Authority Projects	Municipal Animal Pound
	Town Roads
	Land: over 546.9 acres, of which
	107.3 acres is school land

For the location of some of these facilities, see Map 1. For a complete listing of Town-owned buildings and facilities, see Appendix VI.A1.0.

b. Personnel (1990-91)

During FY 1990-91, there was a total of 198 part-time employees (including summer), and a total of 160 full-time employees. A breakdown of the full-time Town employees includes:

19	officials/administration
19	professionals
15	technicians
33	protective service
2	para-professionals
32	administrative support
5	skilled craft and
35	service/maintenance.

(Sources vary; the above figures are from the, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, based on figures provided by South Kingstown, 1990.)

c. Organization

The Town of South Kingstown has a Town Council-Town Manager form of government. Under the provisions of the Town Charter, the Town Manager is the chief administrative officer of the Town. In this capacity, the Town Manager is responsible for central personnel management; capital and operating budget preparation; administration, direction and management of all municipal programs; and the preparation of specific issue reports as directed by the Town Council.

The Town Administrative Organization Chart (Figure 1) summarizes the general departmental organization of the South Kingstown municipal government.

d. Budget

The total Town budget for 1991-92 is \$36,908,637. Of this, \$7,904,094 is for the general Town operating program, which represents a 6.23 percent increase in the 1990-91 Town operating program budget. The total Town Capital Improvement Program Budget for 1991-92 for the General Fund is \$681,000. Of this, \$162,000 is for general Town government. For further information see the most current South Kingstown Budget and the Capital Improvement Program.

e. Additional Information - For additional information on general municipal government services and facilities refer to the most current South Kingstown "State of the Town Report" available at the Town Manager's office at the Town Hall.

2. Analysis

a. Standards - There are no State standards for the recommended numbers of most types of municipal employees. In the absence of State standards, there are no compliance requirements (personal communication with Daniel Beardsley, Executive Director of RI League of Cities and Towns, 1990).

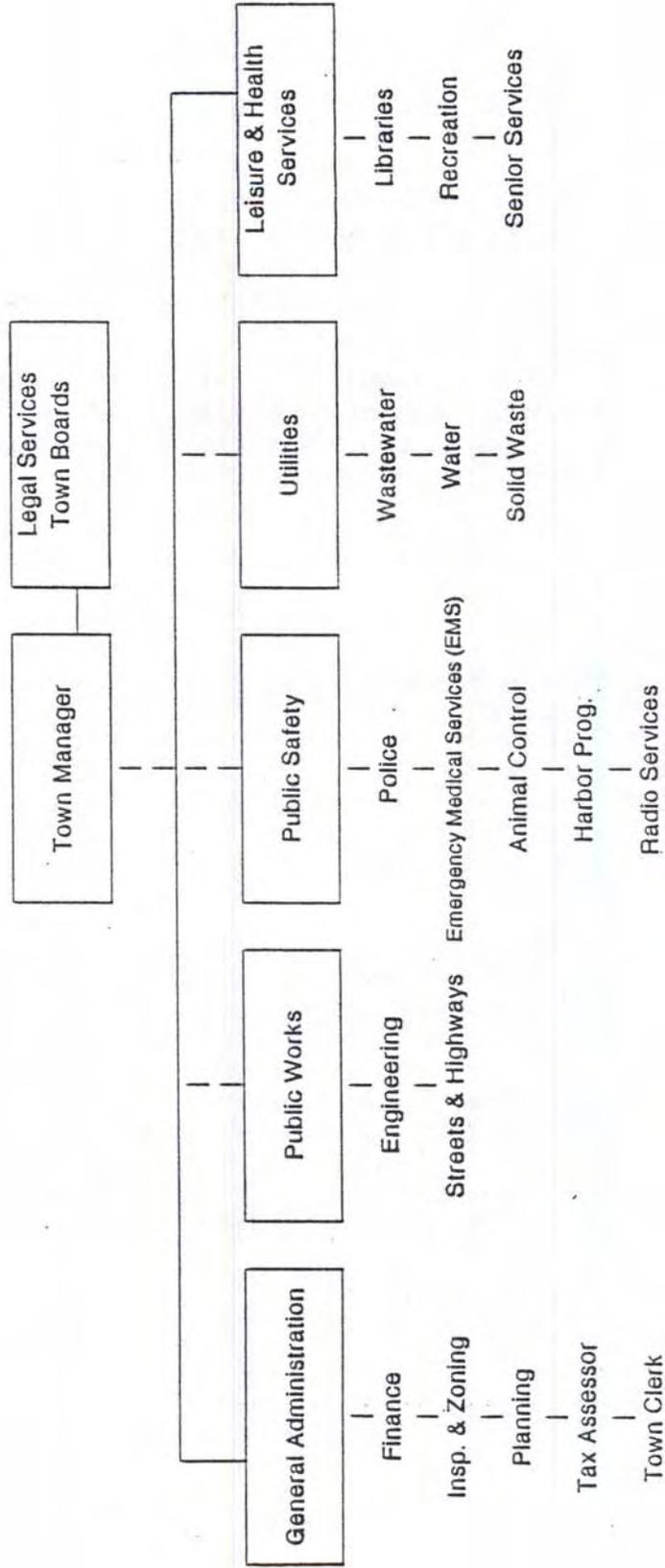
b. Existing and Future Needs

- Facilities and Equipment - The Town Hall was expanded and renovated in 1989 to meet existing needs. In addition, there are a number of other existing and future needs and planned projects to meet them. The most significant are as follows:

- 1.) Town Hall: Acquisition of 1.5 acres of area west of existing parking area; access to Winter Street and George Street; direct parking access adjacent to St. Francis Hall. These projects were included in the 1989-90 Capital Improvement Program and are in progress.

Figure 1

### TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN Administrative Organization



2. A formal public grounds maintenance program is being developed and needs to be implemented.
- Personnel - There are no definitive standards for administrative personnel within the Town. Currently, the Town Manager makes recommendations to the Town Council when administrative changes are required and includes the appropriate personnel costs associated with each position in the annual operating budget. Future population increases will necessitate the addition of Town administrative employees or the restructuring of departmental organization in order to maximize the efficiency of Town government. At the present time (1992) there is adequate space in the Town Hall to accommodate the present administrative employee level. Future space needs will be addressed through the short-range acquisition of land adjacent to the present Town Hall and through longer-range building additions.

## C. Wastewater

### 1. Inventory

Approximately 10 percent of South Kingstown's land area, which includes approximately 40 percent of the number of dwellings in Town, will be served by public sewers, with the completion of the Middlebridge system in 1992. The remaining 60 percent of residents will be on individual septic systems. (See Sewer Service Areas, Map 2) Sewered land area was calculated graphically by LBA based on actual land area covered on the 1990 sewers map. Percent of Town's population served by sewers was based on Town estimates of the number of dwelling units serviced by sewers (3900) as a percentage of the 1990 Census count of total dwelling units (9789).

- a. Facilities - The Town is served by two sewer systems: 1) the Town-owned system (under the Public Utilities Department) which serves Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Kingston, with Middlebridge sewers under construction, to be completed in 1992; and, 2) the State University of Rhode Island (URI) system, which primarily serves University-owned properties. Areas served are all interconnected, with URI sewage flowing into the Town system at the Kingston pump station. Combined South Kingstown and URI sewage is pumped to the South Kingstown wastewater treatment plant in Narragansett, near the South Kingstown border via the Silver Lake pump station. It is a regional facility serving South Kingstown, URI and Narragansett. It is a secondary treatment plant with an ocean outfall into Narragansett Bay. Capacity allotment and actual use of the treatment plant is shown in Table 1.

Table 1  
1990 Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity and Use

	<u>% Initially Purchased</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Actual Use Dry Weather</u>
South Kingstown	41%	1.69 mgd	1.1 mgd
U.R.I.	40%	1.65 mgd	0.7 mgd
Narragansett	19%	0.79 mgd	1.0 mgd
Total Capacity	100%	4.13 mgd	2.8 mgd

The 1990 total actual use in dry weather is 68 percent of capacity; and in wet weather is close to 80 percent due to inflow and infiltration of groundwater into sewer pipes, caused by pressure differential.

Source: South Kingstown Utilities Department, 1990

b. Personnel - There are 19 employees in the South Kingstown Utilities Department, of which a total of 12 employees are assigned to the Wastewater Division. The URI system is administered by one person in the Physical Plant Division of the University, in coordination with the Town Utilities Department.

c. Budget - For 1991-92, the regional wastewater program costs were as follows: \$1,527,834 for the operating costs, \$143,000 for capital improvements, and \$4,000 for contingencies. The three regional partners shared these costs as follows: South Kingstown: \$642,444, Narragansett: \$469,563, and URI: \$486,817, with an additional \$95,010 from users' fee septic revenue. For additional information see the most current South Kingstown Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

d. Additional Information - For additional information on the South Kingstown Wastewater Treatment Facility, see: Keyes Assoc., 1989, "Town of South Kingstown Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility," available from the South Kingstown Utilities Department.

## 2. Analysis

a. Standards - EPA regulation of sewage treatment plants (pursuant to 40 CFR 100-460) in Rhode Island has been delegated to the State. The Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) is contained in Chapter 46-12 of RI General Laws, "Pollution Discharge Elimination." Compliance with these standards is discussed below.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity: Rhode Island discharge permit regulations state that when a wastewater treatment plant reaches 80 percent of actual capacity, expansion must be started. Due to increasing wastewater influent flows at the regional wastewater treatment facility, additional volumetric plant capacity was required. The Town initiated Phase 1 of this expansion construction in 1990. The May 1991 Phase 1 completion and future expansion phasing are delineated as follows:

Phase 1: 0.87 million gallons per day (mgd) capacity by May 1, 1991 as follows:

South Kingstown: 0.435 mgd

Narragansett: 0.435 mgd

URI: 0.0 mgd (no additional capacity required)

Phase 2: add 2.04 mgd capacity by 2000

Phase 3: additional capacity to be added up to year 2010

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Water Quality: Rhode Island regulations require secondary treatment of wastewater which involves ocean outfalls. The South Kingstown wastewater treatment plant complies with all requirements of the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES). The treatment plant's State permit is in the process of being re-issued. Until a permit is re-issued the Town will continue to utilize the existing RIPDES permit. Thus, the South Kingstown facility is in compliance with the water quality standards which were in effect five years ago. It must now comply with newer more stringent standards regarding chlorination residual and certain metals. In order to comply, ultra violet disinfection or chemical de-chlorination may be utilized in Phase 2 of treatment plant improvements.

b. Existing and Future Needs - The wastewater treatment plant expansion requirements described under "Standards", above, were derived based on population projections, a present level of 70 gallons per capita per day (gpcd), other areas vary from 60 to 100 gpcd, and a rate of increase of 0.25 gpcd (which assumes water conservation measures are used). Infiltration must be added to present flows (even in dry weather) to obtain total use.

In addition to meeting present wet weather needs, expansion of the South Kingstown treatment plant is needed to serve future sewer extensions. Short-term plans for sewer extensions are the Middlebridge area of South Kingstown by 1992 (see below), and the northern section of Narragansett. URI has no immediate plans for expansion, and URI has indicated enough allocated use to meet present and future needs; thus, no expansion capacity is planned for URI.

The planned sewer extensions to Middlebridge account for 4 percent of the overall expanded Phase 1 1.69 mgd capacity allotted for South Kingstown (South Kingstown Utilities Dept.). Public water already has been brought into the Middlebridge area because private wells in the area were becoming contaminated by septic effluent, which periodically rises to the surface of the ground.

In April 1991, the Town of Narragansett passed a bond referendum to provide sewers to the northernmost section of Narragansett. This North End sewer expansion will increase significantly the future wastewater treatment plant capacity.

In 1993 the State Planning Council amended the Rhode Island Overall Economic Development Program. (OEDP) in order to establish water and sewer extensions to the West Kingston area as a top priority project for the State. This amendment would allow funding applications of approximately \$2.5 million to be made to the federal government. The Rhode Island Port Authority and Economic Development Corporation had requested this amendment to include the "West Kingston Industrial Park" for water and sewer extensions. If funded, the

project will consist of the construction of approximately 7600 lineal feet of gravity sewer line, 3400 lineal feet of force main, and a sewer pump station. The project also includes approximately 7500 lineal feet of a water transmission line to be serviced by the Kingston Water District. This project will provide infrastructure for approximately 120 acres in the industrial district, as well as to immediately surrounding areas.

Table 2 provides an estimate of future service population. These estimates are based on Keyes Associates' population projections. The LBA population projections are higher for 1990 and 2010, and lower for 1995.

Table 2

Existing and Future Sewered Population

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Narragansett	8,347	9,991	12,857	15,128	18,200
So. Kingstown	10,594	12,579	14,816	17,029	19,416
Univ. of R.I.	6,643	6,981	7,338	7,712	8,105
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25,584</b>	<b>29,551</b>	<b>35,011</b>	<b>39,869</b>	<b>45,721</b>

Source: Keyes Assoc., 1989, "Town of South Kingstown Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility," Lincoln, RI.

c. Future Sewer Extension Criteria - It is noted that the extension of public sewers is an important tool in land use planning. The extension of infrastructure improvements in general will shape urban growth and will, to a large extent, determine the growth areas of Town and conversely, which areas of Town will not experience significant growth. Sewer service is particularly important in determining future growth. Public sewers generally enable a more intensive use of the land than if individual sewage disposal systems (ISDS) are used. Public sewers will protect ground and surface water resources and alleviate public health problem associated with failing septic systems. However, there are additional threats to these water resources which accompany development: road run-off and lawn fertilizers are examples.

As provided in the Land Use Element, the Town wishes to encourage a central core/rural periphery pattern of settlement. This requires a more densely settled central area, consisting of the Kingston/Peace Dale/Wakefield area as shown on the Land Use Plan Map. Future sewer extension criteria must take this Land Use Plan into account. It must also consider the environmental benefits in extending sewers to environmentally sensitive areas. For example, the recent (1991) Middlebridge sewer construction project was justified on the basis of alleviating chronic water quality problems in Narrow. River caused in part by failing septic systems in the Middlebridge area.

Several criteria (not prioritized) should be used to target areas into which public sewer service may be extended.

1. Areas of existing ISDS problems or failures (e.g. Middlebridge);
  2. Available capacity of the regional wastewater treatment plant;
  3. Areas recommended in the Land Use Plan for future growth;
  4. Areas of severe limitations for ISDS placement;
  5. Proximity to wetlands, coastal ponds, groundwater resources and other environmentally sensitive areas;
  6. Coordination with existing and planned public water line locations;
  7. Economic feasibility; and,
  8. Grandfathered, nonconforming lots which are undersized according to current zoning.
- Relationship to Wastewater Management Districts - The Town has investigated the feasibility of a wastewater management approach to preserve the water quality of its coastal ponds. In the 1988 Wastewater Management Study (Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc., May, 1988) it was recognized that extending public sewers to the south shore region was "...not realistic due to the expense and related growth concerns it poses." The study recommended the creation of a Wastewater Management District for the coastal pond region. This district would emphasize an ISDS maintenance program; upgrading of failing ISDS; water conservation and wasteflow reduction measures; and future development guidelines. For further discussion of Wastewater Management Districts, refer to the Land Use Element and to the Natural Resources Element of this Plan.
  - Future Sewer Extension Plans - As of 1991, the only active plans for extending municipal sewers was into the Middlebridge area as previously discussed. In 1989, Keyes Associates recommended eight future sewer service areas in their report "Town of South Kingstown Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility." These included the Middlebridge area and the area adjacent to the Salt Pond Marinas along Pond Street. The remaining six future sewer service areas were adjacent to established sewer areas in the Wakefield and Kingston sections of Town. Two of these service areas were proposed to be located along Route 1 north of the present Government Center. Extension of sewers in these latter two locations would be inconsistent with the Land Use Plan and are not recommended in this Plan.

Map 6.2 Sewer Service Areas indicates certain areas in the central part of Town as being within a Future Sewer Service Area. This area is the general area of the Town where public sewer service should be considered for any significant new development. Individual developments must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if it is feasible to extend public sewers. The Town's Wastewater Management Ordinance should be amended to provide connection policies for land within this area. Generally, it is the policy of the Town to encourage public sewer service to these areas in order to mitigate contamination to ground and surface waters which may result from the cumulative impacts of septic systems in high density areas.

Future sewer extensions outside of the Future Sewer Service Area as shown on Map 6.2 may be permitted under certain circumstances. Areas where there is evidence of failing septic systems significant threat to environmentally sensitive areas may be provided with public sewers if such sewer extension will not result in a change in the land use pattern of the area.

That is, the sewers will not stimulate growth which is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. These areas are indicated on Map 6.2 as "Future Growth Areas."

With particular reference to the West Kingston Industrial area, public sewers may be needed within the near future. The Land Use Plan recommends that industrial zoning be retained for this area. The policies contained in the Land Use Element conclude that West Kingston is the only feasible area within the Town for significant expansion of industrial activities.

Based upon recent building trends, this area may soon be developed to the point where the cumulative impact of septic systems from domestic sewage generated by employees may pose a threat to ground and/or surface water resources.

As noted in the Economic Development Element, the American Power Conversion Corporation in 1993 announced plans to expand its present facility and to employ up to 1250 employees. This alone exceeds the projection of 904 new industrial employees presented in the industrial build-out analysis portion of the Land Use Element. A more realistic projection of total future employees which might be expected in the West Kingston industrial area was made in a 1993 study<sup>1</sup> which examined the environmental impacts from a total build-out of the area. Based upon the amount of available developable industrially-zoned land, it is possible that the area could support over 3,000 employees. The study analyzed the potential environmental impacts of such a build-out scenario. It was concluded that sewage generated by this amount of employees, even for so-called "clean industry" would result in an increase of nitrate concentration to the Chipuxet reservoir to levels as high as 1.86 mg/l. The study pointed out that it was also likely that additional nitrate loading would occur as a result of secondary urban development, and that public water service may also be required in the future. The study concluded that sewer service to the West Kingston industrial area is the best means by which it can be assured that, to the degree feasible, potential industrial contamination from pollutants is not discharged into the Chipuxet sole source aquifer.

Future sewer service could include properties on both sides of that section of Route 1 indicated as being within the Future Sewer Service Area on Map 6.2. Any proposed extension of sewers to serve the Route 1 Special Management District will be limited to the western side of the highway. This is indicated as a Future Growth Area on Map 6.2. The eastern side of Route 1 is located within the watershed of the Narrow River, and sewer service should not be extended to serve this area. The only exception to this policy would be two existing facilities, located on the eastern side of Route 1 north of the Government Center which might be considered for future sewer extensions. Those existing facilities are the Prout High School and the facility now or formerly owned and occupied by the Sisters of the Holy Cross & Passion. Both facilities are located within the Narrow River Special Area Management Plan. Sewer extension to those facilities might be warranted in the event that conventional septic systems fail. Sewer extensions would be strictly limited to the two facilities with no future tie-ins allowed that would result in development of the vacant portions

<sup>1</sup> Dowdell Engineering Associates and Sycamore Bray Inc. October 1992 (Revised September 1993). Waste Water Management Study of the West Kingston Industrial Area

of those two parcels. Likewise no other tie-ins would be allowed to adjacent property located on the easterly side of Route 1, north of the Government Center Complex.

Based upon the recommendations of the Land Use Plan and Land Use Element, the areas of the Town listed below may receive public sewer extensions in the future. No priorities are assigned to these areas. The Town should monitor growth patterns, environmental conditions, development proposals and availability of construction funding when evaluating public sewer extensions. In addition, the recommendations of the various elements of the Comprehensive Plan should be used as guide in evaluating proposals for sewer extensions.

### Future Sewer Extensions

#### Existing Areas

1. Old North Road/Diane Drive area of Kingston
2. Biscuit City Road to Upper South Road
3. Lower South Road (Curtis Comer Road to Dockray Street)
4. Route 1 (Albro Lane to Hillside Drive plat)
5. Pond Street/Winchester Drive area
6. Boat pump-out facility in Upper Salt Pond area
7. Prout High School
8. Existing Route 1 facility n/f occupied by Sisters of the Holy Cross & Passion
9. West Kingston Industrial Area

#### Future Growth Areas

1. Saugatucket Road/Rose Hill Road Industrial area
2. URI Research Park - location undetermined
3. Route 1 Special Management District

#### Areas Not Recommended for Public Sewer Extension at This Time

Areas outside of the Future Sewer Service Area (Map 6.2)

## **D. Drinking Water**

### 1. Inventory

a. Facilities - Approximately 80 percent of the Town's land area is -served by private wells (LBA estimate). The remaining 20 percent of the land area is served by one of the water systems listed below. These areas are business districts, fire district supplies, the University of Rhode Island, denser residential areas, and a few septic system problem areas (Table-3). It is noted that approximately 89 percent of Narragansett's water comes from sources in South Kingstown. This water serves virtually 100 percent of the residential population of Narragansett. Water systems in South Kingstown are:

Table 3  
Water Systems Facts

	South Kingstown South Shore	Wakefield	Kingston	URI
Ownership	Public	Private	Public	State
Legal Jurisdiction	South Shore & Middlebridge	Entire town jurisdiction	Kingston	URI—owned properties
Personnel	2 manual 2 administrative	10	2	1 (partly water)
Number of wells in use	2 (1 at a time effectively)	6 (+ reserve land)	2 (+ reserve land)	3
Total pumping design capacity****	1.6 mgd	7.5 mgd	1.4 mgd	4.4 mgd
Total actual use	0.5 mgd	2.7 mgd	0.4 mgd	0.5 mgd
Disinfection	Yes by 1994	Yes	No	No
pH correction**	Yes by 1992	Yes	Yes	No
Water quality problems?***	No	No	No	No
Extension plans in near future?	By '95 connect to Wakefield: system loops	By '95 connect to So. Kingstown well explored in '92 new well in '93	Update undersized transmission line	No

\* The South Kingstown Middlebridge system purchases its water from and is connected to the Wakefield Water Co.

\*\* Base chemical is added to raise the pH in order to reduce pipe corrosion.

\*\*\* All water officials verified that their systems meet current EPA standards.

\*\*\*\* This is design capacity and does not consider safe yield ( see Natural Resources Element, Section 2.4.2.).

Sources:

- 1) Jon Schock, So. Kingstown Utilities Director, 1990
- 2) Stanley Knox, Vice President, Wakefield Water Co., 1990
- 3) Henry Meyer, Manager of Kingston Water District
- 4) L. Robert Snell, U.R.I. Assistant Director Utilities Management
- 5) R.I. Dept. of Health, Div. of Drinking Water, 1990

- 1) Town of South Kingstown Water Department (under the Public Utilities Department), public:
  - South Shore system
  - Middlebridge system
- 2) Wakefield Water Co. (owned by General Waterworks), private: serves Wakefield, Peace Dale, Tuckertown and major sections of the Town of Narragansett
- 3) Kingston Water District, quasi-public: serves the Kingston area; 1990 legislation created the Kingston Water District, which has a slightly larger service area than the Kingston Fire District (see Figure 4) and provides service to the easterly portion of West Kingston
- 4) University of Rhode Island Water System, State: serves University-owned properties
- 5) Indian Lake Shores Fire District, quasi-public; water provided by Wakefield Water Co.; serves Indian Lake Shores area.

b. Groundwater - Groundwater is the sole source of potable water in South Kingstown. The Chipuxet, Mink, and Usquepaugh-Queen groundwater reservoirs underlie portions of South Kingstown and adjacent towns. In addition, there are public supply wells in the stratified drift deposits which surround Factory Pond, as indicated in Table 4.

c. Water Quantity

Table 4

South Kingstown Aquifer Supply to Public Water Systems

	<u>Chipuxet</u>	<u>Mink</u>	<u>Queen/ Usquepaugh</u>	<u>Factory Pond</u>
Avg. Daily Yield From Public Water System	1.3 mgd	2.7 mgd	1.1 mgd	0.5 mgd

For an explanation of these figures, refer to the Natural Resources Element.

d. Water Quality - Groundwater quality in South Kingstown generally is characterized by the State as high quality. A few localized areas are contaminated by septic system leachate or by leaks from underground storage tanks. Agricultural runoff and failing septic systems have raised nitrate levels to -be above natural conditions, especially in the Salt Pond area. However, nitrate levels in these areas are still well within current USEPA standards. As with most groundwater in the northeast, there are naturally occurring problems of high iron and manganese as well as low pH.

e. Wells - Most of the 13 wells supplying public water are gravel-packed wells approximately 50-100 feet deep. Depth to water table in the South Kingstown groundwater reservoirs varies from 1 to 28 feet where the public wells are located, to up to 210 feet on the glacial till ridges where some private wells are found. The Town generally has a plentiful supply of naturally

occurring groundwater, With well yields greater than 2 gallons per minute, which is more than adequate for private and public wells.

f. Budget - The Town-owned South Shore and Middlebridge water systems are funded through Town-accessed user fees. Funding for the Town-owned systems was as follows for 1991-92: \$259,197 for operating expenses, \$22,625 for material supplies, and \$99,500 for capital improvements, for a total of \$381,322. The total water systems appropriation in the Town Capital Improvement Program for 1991-92 was \$125,500. For additional information see the most current South Kingstown Budget and the Capital Improvement Program.

g. Additional Information - For additional information on the Town systems, see the most current "State of the Town Report" and the South Kingstown Budget. For more information on Town and other systems see, RI Dept. of Health, Division of Drinking Water Quality, 1990. "Public Water System Survey Statistics, Groundwater/Surface Water Systems" pp. 1-30.

## 2. Analysis

a. Standards - Public drinking water supplies are regulated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and by RI General Laws 46-13 and 42-35, last amended in 1989. Rhode Island has been designated by the USEPA as a primacy state with enforcement capabilities. State agencies involved in public drinking water management are:

- a) RI Department of Health - approves and monitors public water supplies (lead agency for regulating water quality);
- b) RIDEM - regulates both ground and surface waters;
- c) RI Water Resource Board - develops municipal water supplies;
- d) RI Department of Administration - develops land and water management plans.

• Water Quality - The State water quality regulations are directed primarily toward public water supplies. These regulations specify treatment standards for both surface and groundwater public supply sources. All water supplies in the Town meet these standards without treatment.

The State mandates a 100 foot separation distance between a private well and a septic system. The State also requires private well drillers to follow the standards defined in RI General Law 46-13.2.

The Rhode Island Water Resources Board does, however, regulate and approve new municipal potable water supplies.

The potential sources of contamination to both public and private drinking water are outlined in the Natural Resources Element.

• Water Quantity - The State regulations only apply to the quality of public water supply. It is important to note that Rhode Island does not regulate the maximum quantity of water which can be withdrawn from either ground or surface water sources. The RI Water Resources Board does, however, regulate and approve new municipal potable water supplies. Private

water users such as business and industry may withdraw as much water from an aquifer as they wish. Large quantity users may adversely affect the groundwater characteristics of an aquifer. This will become an important issue as the demands on the resource continue to grow. The Town should support State legislation to provide regulations covering maximum water withdrawals.

b. Existing and Future Needs

- Existing Needs - The South Kingstown South Shore water system nears design capacity on three or four peak days of the summer. However, actual water availability has never reached a zero condition due to a reserve of 900,000 gallons in two elevated hydrospheriod tanks. Wholesale water purchase from Wakefield Water Company is anticipated to meet future development south of Route 1 via a possible interconnection. The Wakefield water system is already at 80 percent capacity but has reserve land for additional well fields in the Chipuxet Aquifer.
- A URI-based cogeneration plant generating both steam heat for URI and electricity for wholesale is currently being reviewed (1992). Water from the Chipuxet Aquifer would be used to operate the plant. Initial estimates of gross industrial water needed for this plant are 400,000 gallons per day, to be supplied by developing a new well on URI property. If this figure is reduced by the quantity of water which URI presently uses, plus water conservation measures and planned retrofitting of the existing steam distribution system, this plant would actually use a net total of approximately 300,00 gallons per day.
- Other water companies currently have adequate supplies, and either have no need for expansion, or have room to expand. The Kingston Water District is experiencing water storage and pressure related problems. To alleviate both storage and pressure problems the Department constructed a new water tower on Chestnut Hill Road in the spring of 1992.
- Future Water Service Extension Plans - There are no immediate plans for major water line extension, other than the previously mentioned plan to connect the Wakefield water system with the Town's South Shore system. Water service extension plans generally should follow the criteria for sewer extensions, and be considered in conjunction with sewer line extensions where municipal sewers are available. Future water service to adjacent Towns, particularly Narragansett, from sources within South Kingstown will require intergovernmental cooperation in protecting aquifers.

E. Solid Waste

1. Inventory

a. Facilities - Solid waste management is a function of the South Kingstown Public Utilities Department. The Town's solid waste facility is the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station (see "Public Facilities," Map-6.1). It is located on Rose Hill Road, and serves both South Kingstown and Narragansett. Current (1990-91) incoming tonnage is as follows:

Average use:	70 tons/day
Peak summer months' use:	130 tons/day
Design capacity':	480 tons/day

Source: South Kingstown Utilities Department, 1990

Thus the average use is 15 percent of design capacity, and peak use is 27 percent of design capacity.

There are no municipal curb-side collection services for general waste or recyclables. Residents bring their trash to the station or hire private haulers to pick it up.

The transfer station receives both general waste and recyclables. South Kingstown's present residential recycling program is voluntary. General waste and newspapers are taken to the Central Landfill and material recycling facility (respectively) in Johnston, Rhode Island. Other residential recyclables are sold as follows: the Town's transfer station operations contractor separates and sells recyclables removed from the solid waste stream. In addition, the Town receives revenue for glass and aluminum discharged at the voluntary recycling drop off facility.

There are commercial recycling facilities at the station for all RI Dept. of Environmental Management designated commercial recyclables, but only certain materials are now recycled from residents and commercial users due to current recycling markets.

- b. Personnel - The Town has two laborers at the transfer station. An outside contractor employs three to four laborers and three to four truck drivers.
- c. Budget - The Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station is funded primarily through user fees assessed to residents and haulers. A new transfer station building was completed in May 1991 to replace a building damaged by fire. In the 1991-92 six-year Capital Improvement Program a total of \$93,000 was allocated for the Solid Waste Program. This includes \$75,000 reserve programming, \$10,000 for computer system upgrade, and \$8,000 for truck scales improvements. For additional information, see the most current Town Capital Improvement Program.
- d. Additional Information - For additional information, see: 1) the most current South Kingstown State of the Town Report; 2) the most current South Kingstown Capital Improvement Program; and, 3) the South Kingstown Operations Plan for the South Kingstown Solid Waste Transfer Station.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes storage of a 5-day delivery capacity.

## 2. Analysis

### a. Standards

- Solid Waste Facilities Regulations - Regulations governing solid waste in Rhode Island are contained in Chapters 23-18.9, 23-19, and 42-17.1 of the RI General Laws, entitled, "Rules and Regulations for Solid Waste Management Facilities," Dec. 1, 1982. Regulations controlling recycling facilities are in the process of being approved, and should be published by the end of 1990. The above regulations are enforced by RI Dept. of Environmental Management, Division of Air and Hazardous Materials. The Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station currently meets the standards for solid waste facility licensing but is reviewed by the State on an annual basis.
- Mandatory Recycling - Commercial recycling is now mandated by State law. Residential recycling is State-mandated but municipalities are phased on-line once additional material recycling facilities are constructed. Recycling expenses are assumed by the State for the first three years of a city or town's participation in the State's residential recycling program. The State designates which materials recycling facility is utilized by each municipality once residential recycling commences. The implications of this for South Kingstown are explained below.

### b. Existing and Future Needs

- Implementation of a curb-side recycling program in South Kingstown has been delayed due to problems encountered by the State in developing adequate facilities capable of handling the volume of recycled waste generated by the Rhode Island cities and towns. Based on timetables established by RIDEM, the Town's entry into the State curb-side recycling program will not begin until 1993 at the earliest. The Town is exploring the feasibility and the cost-benefits of initiating a locally-developed program in advance of 1993. Discussions with RIDEM and RI Solid Waste Management Corporation are underway to determine what financial and technical assistance may be available.
- Currently there is no municipal curb-side residential waste collection service. However, the Town anticipates that curb-side collection may be provided as a local public service in the future.
- The Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station capacity is adequate for its users' needs for the next 15-20 years (South Kingstown Utilities Department, 1990), since it is now at only 27 percent of design capacity during peak use. As recycling programs become more successful, the volume of solid waste should decrease proportionately.
- The Town will continue to utilize the existing voluntary recycling area at the Rose Hill Transfer Station until such time that the State-mandated recycling program commences.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection: The State has sponsored state-wide household hazardous waste pick-up days since 1984. Towns may request that a pick

up be scheduled in their area, but the availability is limited to one to four programs a year. State budget constraints may end future programs.

## **F. Public Works**

### **1. Inventory**

The Public Works Department is made up of two divisions: the Engineering Division (Public Works Administration) and the Streets and Highway Division. These two divisions are summarized below. More detailed analysis of one of the functions of the Highway Division, stormwater management, follows in Section G.

- a. Engineering Division - The Engineering Division is housed in the Town Hall and has five full-time employees. The Division provides administration and engineering expertise for administering, planning and design of all public works programs and projects. This includes the operation of streets and highways, public grounds maintenance, street lighting, tree programs, and capital improvement projects. In addition, the engineering division assists all other departments in matters pertaining to engineering, drafting, and surveying.
- b. Budget - In 1991-92 the Engineering Division (under the title of Public Works Administration) had a total of \$164,253 in the Town Budget. There were no capital items budgeted for this division during the fiscal year. However, this division is responsible for the administration of the capital items budgeted for the Highways Division.

- Facilities - The Streets and Highway Division is centered at the Town garage located on Asa Pond Road in Peace Dale. The garage was constructed in 1974 and a new addition was completed in 1990. It consists of 17,200 square feet of building space on twelve acres. The addition added 4 truck bays which house 8 trucks, and areas for vehicle maintenance, welding and painting. Since 1986 a sander rack, salt shed and maintenance garage have been built, as well as the parking lot paved.

- Personnel and Duties - Streets and Highway Division - The Streets and Highway Division is supervised by the Public Works Supervisor who reports directly to the Public Works Director. The Streets and Highway Division has 21 full-time employees. They provide year-round maintenance on 12 bridges, and 351 streets, or 128 miles of Town roads, and partial services for 13 miles of private roads. The State maintains the State roads.

Five crews work under the Streets and Highway Division: the off-roads crew, the on-roads crew, the drainage crew, the lawn crew, and the traffic control crew. These crews perform road shoulder and road maintenance work, storm drainage work, lawn maintenance for Town buildings and parks, and traffic sign and guardrail work. All highway crews combine during winter months to provide snow plowing, sanding, tree trimming, and the manufacture of such concrete products as boundary markers. During the fall and spring all crews combine to perform a pick-up of large household items too cumbersome for homeowners to bring to the transfer station.

- Budget - Streets and Highway Division - The Streets and Highway Division operating budget in 1991-92 totaled \$1,116,392. In the Capital Improvement Program for this same period a total of \$486,000 was appropriated which included funding for road improvements, equipment acquisition, drainage, bridge repairs, and a sidewalk program.

c. Additional Information - For additional information, see the most current: 1) State of the Town Report; 2) South Kingstown Capital Improvement Program; and, 3) Town Budget.

## 2. Analysis

### a. Existing and Future Needs

- Engineering Division

The recent addition to the Town Hall provided suitable space for all full-time personnel for the immediate future.

- Streets and Highway Division

1) There are no future plans for expansion of garage facilities.

2) Expansion of the Town's Park and Recreation facilities has broadened the level and scope of municipal public grounds maintenance demands. To address this service need, the Town is reviewing options for the development of a formal grounds maintenance program provided through a centralized department.

3) There is an existing need for a substantial sidewalk program to connect existing sidewalk patterns, and to provide safer passage for school children and for pedestrians on heavily travelled roads. (See the Circulation Element.)

4) Current programs which should continue are: road improvement, drainage improvement, bridge improvement, sidewalk construction and maintenance, and equipment and vehicle acquisition. Programs to address these needed improvements have been developed by the Public Works Department and have been recommended for inclusion in the Town's Capital Improvement Program. (For more information see Circulation Element.) As the Town continues to grow, there will be a need for expansion and increased maintenance of roads, sidewalks, parks, and storm drains.

## **G. Stormwater Management**

### **1. Inventory**

The Town's storm drainage system is installed and managed by the Highway Division of the South Kingstown Public Works Department. Storm drainage systems are scattered all over South Kingstown, and the Town actively is expanding the system on an annual basis. Drainage systems tend to follow streets, and are discussed briefly in the Circulation Element. Certain areas along the Saugatucket and Narrow Rivers, and coastal areas are prone to flooding.

a. Facilities - The miles or number of pipelines are unknown; but there are 1,000 to 1,100 catch basins in the Town. The drainage systems are not interconnected. Most systems are small, with 4 - 8 catch basins and 2,000 - 3,000 feet of pipe. Most are enclosed piping systems, but natural drainage ways are used whenever possible. Discharges are to catchment basins, detention/retention ponds, streams and ponds, wooded swamps, overland flows and small ocean outfalls. There are no discharges into the sanitary sewer system. The water receives no pre-treatment with grease traps or disinfectants.

b. Personnel - There is a three person drainage crew consisting of a backhoe operator, light equipment operator, and a utility foreman.

c. Equipment - Equipment is rented for cleaning out drains and catchment basins once a year. There are no problems with storm drain maintenance.

d. Budget - Stormwater management maintenance comes under the budget of the South Kingstown Public Works Department, which had a total budget of \$164,253 for the Public Works Administration, and \$1,116,392 for the Streets and Highways Division in 1991-92. The drainage improvement program is funded through the Town's Capital Improvement Program, which allocated a total of \$120,000 for drainage improvements for 1991-92.

e. Additional Information - Additional information is available in the most current South Kingstown: 1) State of the Town Report, 2) Budget, and 3) Capital Improvement Program.

### **2. Analysis**

a. Standards - There are no formal State regulations governing stormwater management, but there are State guidelines which are outlined in RIDEM's "Recommendations of the Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Advisory Committee Regarding the Development and Implementation of Techniques and Guidelines for Stormwater Management, 1988." The State is in the process of formulating draft regulations which will be introduced into the Legislature in 1991. If enacted, these regulations will apply only to new construction.

- RIPDES - At this writing, the revisions to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations addressing stormwater management do not apply to South Kingstown. This is because the State of Rhode Island has not yet adopted the final NPDES regulations as part of the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge

Elimination System (RIPDES) regulations, which is the State version of NPDES (Chap. 46-12, 46-17 and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws). Once the NPDES regulations become part of RIPDES, they will be implemented gradually, with priority given to municipalities with over 100,000 people. In the meantime, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is interpreting the existing RIPDES regulations as not applying to stormwater (unless chemical or oil storage facilities). This is because the regulations govern point sources, and stormwater, even when conveyed in a pipe, is classified as non-point runoff.

- Environmental Laws - The following Federal and State laws and regulations contain elements which regulate certain aspects of stormwater management in South Kingstown: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers criteria; RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Program; and, RI Coastal Resources Management Council's Special Area Management Plans (SAM Plan).

- The following should be noted:

- 1) The South Kingstown Subdivision Regulations require that a drainage plan be submitted to the Planning Board at the Preliminary Plat review. While these requirements are effective, there are numerous other methods, such as performance standards, impervious surface coverage regulations, and steep slope coverage regulations that could be added to zoning and subdivision regulations if desired.

- 2) A problem encountered by the engineering staff is the lengthy review periods for projects regulated by State and Federal agencies. For example, reviews by RICRMC may take one to two years.

- 3) The Town currently is undertaking a stormwater management feasibility study for the Narrow River (1992) in conjunction with the Towns of North Kingstown and Narragansett. It may be appropriate to implement a similar study for the Saugatucket River watershed in the future.

b. Existing and Future Needs - There are a number of areas with existing needs for storm drainage improvements. These are: 1) the Ocean Ridge area; 2) the Matunuck/Blackberry Hill area; 3) the Green Hill/Seaside Village area; 4) the Snug Harbor area; 5) the Wakefield/Peace Dale area; and, 6) Perryville/Shannock and Gravelly Hill Roads.

Many of these are in the South Shore area of the Town, reflecting the problems of increased development there and the fragile resources.

In addition, the cumulative impact of drainage structures must be considered in all planning procedures.

## H. Police Protection

### 1. Inventory

a. Facilities - The South Kingstown Police Department is housed in the Public Safety Building on Route 1 in the southern part of the Town. (See "Public Facilities," Map 6.1) This building was constructed in 1963, with a second floor added in 1974. The Department has outgrown this facility and is actively looking for a new site which would provide access to major highways and to all areas of Town.

b. Personnel - The Chief of Police is in charge of the Police Department, which is divided into two Bureaus, the Bureau of Field Operations and the Bureau of Administrative Services. Each Bureau is headed by a Captain. There are a total of 66 full-time employees, 11 part-time employees, and 16 active auxiliary reserve police officers in the Department.

<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Part Time</u>
43 Sworn Officers	
7 Dispatchers	2 Dispatchers
2 Animal Control	2 Animal Control
7 EMS	6 EMS
<u>7 Civilian</u>	<u>1 Civilian</u>
66	11

c. Equipment - The Police Department has the following equipment: 12 patrol sedans; 2 utility 4x4 vehicles; 1 pick-up truck; 1 ESU van; 4 detective sedans; 1 Animal Control vehicle; and, 1 Class A-1 Rescue Vehicle.

d. Responsibilities - In addition to traffic and crime control, the South Kingstown Police Department is responsible for a number of programs, summarized below:

- Fire and Rescue Dispatch: The Police Department is responsible for Fire and Rescue dispatch. The Town's fire alarm is housed in the main Police Department dispatch.
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS): The Town of South Kingstown initiated a joint Emergency Medical Services Program with South County Ambulance and Rescue Corp on July 1, 1989. Together they provide primary Advance Life Support Rescue Transportation in the Town and mutual aid to surrounding communities when requested. The Town provides 80 hours worth of staffing coverage per week and has recently (1991) acquired a Class A-1 Rescue Vehicle for this purpose. The State Department of Health has licensed the Town of South Kingstown as the primary emergency medical service -transportation system, for the Town. The EMS Coordinator at the direction of the Police Chief supervises the day to day operation of 7 full time and 6 part time employees. The Town program has an active in-house training program. EMS staff look forward to more community involvement in the

future through EMS education and CPR programs. The program is now two years old and is working well.

- Emergency Service Unit: This unit is regional in scope and is prepared to function in prolonged or technical situations where regular patrol efforts are exhausted or inappropriate, such as hostage complaints, missing person searches, and riots. Eight Department members are active in this unit.
- Animal Control Program: The Animal Control Program investigates animal complaints received or initiated by the Police Department. The program is staffed by one full-time officer.
- Harbor Patrol Program: The Harbor Patrol Program is directed by a Harbormaster who has the authority to enforce boating regulations in South Kingstown. Narragansett recently started their own Harbor Patrol Program (1991) with control of certain moorings. The South Kingstown Program utilizes a patrol craft which is owned by Narragansett and owns a small rubber boat which is used by Narragansett. The Harbor Patrol is staffed by a part-time Harbormaster and off-duty Police Department personnel.
- Anti-Drug Program: This program has been presented in the Town's elementary schools for the past three years. A detective and four patrol officers present the Program, which has been very successful.
- Neighborhood Crime Watch: South Kingstown's Neighborhood Crime Watch Program operates in 16 neighborhood villages throughout Town. Through this networking South Kingstown Police representatives reach 500 dwellings which receive monthly newsletters. The Program is funded through four consecutive annual grants provided the Police Department through the Governor's Justice Commission, with minimal in kind cost to the Town. Department representatives routinely meet with the various crime watch groups to discuss ways of reducing the incident of crime in those areas. Records reflect that crime has indeed been reduced in neighborhoods where such groups exist.

e. Crime Prevention - South Kingstown is not a high crime area; and there have been no recent capital crimes (murder or crimes committed with a deadly weapon) in the Town in the past few years. However, crime is increasing with increased population levels. The types of crimes which increased most from 1988 to 1989 are juvenile crimes, assault with a dangerous weapon, and shoplifting. For additional information, see the most current South Kingstown Police Department Annual Report.

f. Mutual Assistance - The State Police will come to the aid of the South Kingstown Police if called; and the South Kingstown Police help the State with Route 1 and Route 138. Also, all police departments respect the concept of mutual aid and, would respond to a situation calling for more personnel. The Emergency Services Unit is an example of an established mutual aid agreement.

g) Budget - The 1991-92 Budget for the Police Department was \$2,226,052. This figure does not include some of the programs discussed above, which have separate budgets (see the most current Town Budget). Police Department expenditures through the Town Capital Facilities Program for 1991-92 were \$8,000. For additional information, see the most current Capital Facilities Program.

h) Additional Information - For additional information, see the most recent South Kingstown: 1) "State of the Town Report," 2) Budget, and 3) Capital Improvement Program.

## 2. Analysis

a. Standards - There are national standards promulgated by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a private agency based in Virginia. However, accreditation from this agency, based on compliance with their standards, is strictly voluntary. Municipal police departments may comply and then pay for accreditation which gives them lower liability insurance costs.

Many of the other municipal Police Departments, including South Kingstown's, disagree with the use of these standards, and would much prefer an in-state process of accreditation. There is an effort to obtain State legislation to create "The Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council" under Title 42 of RI General Laws. If this proposal is passed, all RI police departments will comply with these standards, which will help increase the efficiency of law enforcement in Rhode Island.

### b. Existing and Future Needs

- Public Safety Building - The most urgent need regarding both existing and future conditions is the acquisition of land for and construction of a new, centralized public safety building. There is an active search underway for land for a new building which would meet the following locational requirements: 1) a central location near Wakefield; 2) access to major roads; 3) a minimum of 7 acres in size; 4) elevation suitable for installation of antennae; and, 5) reasonable land cost.

- Equipment - The Police Department has identified needs for equipment, which are included in the South Kingstown Capital Improvement Program (see Section N, "Goals, Policies and Implementation" for more information).

- Staffing - There are no State or Federal standards which are recognized universally for assessing the adequate number of any kind of Police Department employees. According to the Police Executive Research Forum, there is little evidence that one level of staffing is significantly better than another. There are too many variables to obtain meaningful results from either comparisons of existing employee ratios with other Police Departments, or projection of existing or regional average ratios to predict-future employee needs.

The South Kingstown Police Department assesses its needs for additional employees on an annual basis based on actual experience, and plans and budgets accordingly. Future population increases will necessitate additional Police Department staffing,

which will occur on an as needed basis. The design and construction of the proposed new police station should reflect the need for additional police officers and the support staff that will be needed by the year 2010.

## **I. Fire Protection**

### **1. Inventory**

Fire protection services in the Town of South Kingstown are provided by two volunteer fire districts: the Kingston Fire District and the Union Fire District. The Kingston Fire District serves Kingston and the University of Rhode Island with one fire station and obtains its water from the Kingston Fire District water system. The Union Fire District serves the remainder of the Town with eight fire stations and obtains its water from the Town and Wakefield water systems. The Indian Lake Shores Fire District provides no direct fire protection services. Its fire service is provided by the Union Fire District, and its water is supplied by the Wakefield Water Company.

a. Personnel - Each of the two fire districts in the South Kingstown Fire Department is overseen by its own five-member elected Board of Wardens. Both districts of the Fire Department are staffed by volunteer fire fighters. The Kingston Fire District has 42 volunteer firefighters and one part-time chief (volunteer with stipend). The Union Fire District has 150 - 200 volunteer firefighters; one paid full-time mechanic; and, one paid part-time chief.

b. Equipment - The Kingston Fire District has two fire engines; one Chief's car; one ladder truck; and one rescue vehicle. There is no foam truck, but trucks do carry 25 gallons of foam concentrate.

The Union Fire District has 16 fire engines; one 100-foot ladder truck; one Chief's car; one mechanic's car; two special services vehicles; and two class A 1,500 gallons per minute pumpers. In 1991 two trucks were added to carry 100 gallons of foam capacity each.

c. Toxic Chemical Storage - Foam is sometimes used to fight certain chemical fires and boat fires because of diesel and gas. There are no major sources of toxic chemicals stored within the Union Fire District. The Kingston Fire District reports that there is toxic chemical storage within their district; but this has not been a problem with regard to fires.

d. Mutual Aid - There are signed mutual aid agreements among the Kingston and Union Fire companies and the companies of the Central League. This includes every municipality north and west of South Kingstown, in addition to Narragansett, for a total of 18 departments and districts.

e. Fires - In 1989 -1990 the Union Fire District responded to 367 alarms. Of these, 215 were false alarms, 6 were rescues and 146 were fires. During the same time period, the Kingston Fire District responded to 950 alarms. Of these, 488 were false alarms, 250 were rescues, and 212 were fires. Both fire districts- report no major problems with fire suppression or water availability.

f) Emergency Medical Service - The Kingston Fire Department's "Rescue Six" has provided first response emergency medical service to the north half of the Town for approximately twenty years. In 1989 Rescue Six responded to 325 medical assistance calls. It further provides heavy rescue/Jaws of Life coverage to the entire Town.

g) Budget - Each fire district has its own budget, separate from the Town Budget, which it raises primarily through property taxes. Their charters authorize them to raise money in this way.

For 1992-1993 the Kingston Fire District Budget was \$210,862. Property owners in the Kingston Fire District were taxed in 1992 -1993 at a rate of \$1.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

For 1991-1992 the Union Fire District Budget was \$579,871. The property tax rate for property owners in the Union Fire District during that year was \$0.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

h. Additional Information - For additional information see the most recent or current fire districts' Annual Reports of the fire chiefs, and the South Kingstown Police Department Annual Report.

## 2. Analysis

a) Standards - There are two sets of standards which govern fire protection. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets the legal standards, which are followed in court challenges. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) sets standards for the purpose of setting fire insurance rates. In order to best protect residents, the fire districts in South Kingstown use both sets of standards.

- NFPA Standards - There are no State standards for assessing the adequacy of number of fire fighters. Standards are available, however, from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). For towns in the Northeast with populations between 10,000 and 24,999, the average number of volunteer fire fighters per 1,000 population is 2.0, and the high is 13.5. (There are no available statistics for all-volunteer fire departments in towns above 24,999 population.) Using South Kingstown's 1990 population of 24,631, and its lowest estimate of volunteer fire fighters (192) give the Town a ratio of 7.8 fire fighters per 1,000 population. Thus, South Kingstown's ratio of volunteer fire fighters is almost four times the average. However, this is not as

good as it first appears, because, in spite of the number of volunteers, the actual response level (i.e. the number of volunteers responding to a fire) is below ISO standards'.

The purchase of new equipment is in the planning stages now, in order to comply with new National Fire Protection Association "1500" standards, which were recently incorporated into Rhode Island General Laws under Chap. 23-28.4, entitled, "Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program." These standards are not yet law, but will become law soon if the State Legislature votes them in. In the meantime, South Kingstown's fire districts are both using the pending standards as guidelines and have begun to implement the necessary improvements.

- ISO Standards - The Insurance Services Office (ISO) classifies fire districts for insurance rating purposes. The classes range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest. These classes are based on the ISO's assessment of a fire district's fire suppression capabilities, which are rated using a check list of qualifications. As of January 1991 Kingston Fire District was rated 5 (improved from 6). The Union Fire District was rated 5. The highest rating a volunteer group can receive is a 4. These ratings are reviewed and reissued every 10 years. The Union Fire District's rating is now over 8 years old and does not reflect many recent improvements, such as the new West Kingston fire station. The current ratings will improve, and consequently insurance rates will decrease for property owners, when the two fire districts institute some needed improvements in procedures, equipment and training.

The needed improvements in both fire districts include: changes in the telephone service and dispatch circuits, a number of improvements in equipment, an increase in the average response of Fire Department members, improvements in training, and improvements in water flows. Also, both fire districts received ratings lower than the ideal of "1" because all sections of the districts were not within the recommended distance from engine companies. These ratings and needed improvements should be taken as a guide, not a concrete standard which must be achieved. This is because the ISO standards do not adequately reflect conditions in South Kingstown, and because of the problems associated with using numerical standards in general -as explained in the section on Police.

b. Existing and Future Needs

Both fire districts will have to bring their equipment and training programs into compliance with the State standards. The districts have plans for this and implementation of these plans has begun.

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' The most recent ISO ratings gave South Kingstown fire districts credit for the average response of fire fighters (as a percentage of the total credit) as follows: Union Fire District - 4.78 percent in 1981; Kingston Fire District - 2.69 percent in 1983. The maximum possible credit is 15+ percent.

- More Volunteers - Under the new State law, both volunteer as well as paid fire fighters must take certain courses. Since many lack the time to do this, volunteer numbers may fall unless incentives are found to attract volunteers. There are presently no plans to institute a paid fire department in South Kingstown. It is difficult to predict accurately the number of fire fighters that will be needed. Instead, assessment and recruitment should occur on an annual basis.
- Development Location - Although all development in South Kingstown is within the new NFPA acceptable limits of distance from fire stations. (5 miles for scattered residential development), it is more advisable to locate development, especially higher density development, within 1.5 miles of a fire station (ISO, 1990). The Town should consider the location of fire stations when planning for future development.

**J. Education**

1. Inventory

The Town of South Kingstown has nine public schools, which provide education from pre-kindergarten through high school levels. (Refer to Map 6.1.) Three private schools (Monsignor Clark, Meadowbrook-Waldorf and Prout) and the main campus of the University of Rhode Island are also located within the Town. In addition, the Adult Learning Center of Washington County is based at the Government Center in Wakefield. The Town school facilities and their respective enrollments are below:

Table 5

Town School Facilities

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Fall 1991 Enrollment</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity**</u>	<u>Recommended Capacity***</u>
South Kingstown High School	9-12	836	864	803
South Kingstown Jr. High	7-8	528	630	572
Hazard Elementary	5-6	211	200	
South Road Elementary	K-6	412	360	360
Wakefield Elementary	K-4	368	310	316
Peace Dale Elementary*	K-4	273	265	658
West Kingston Elementary	K-6	373	365	366
Matunuck Elementary	K-6	384	365	388
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,385</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>3,463</b>

\* Includes Stepping Stone Kindergarten

\*\* These figures are from Fall of 1990, before new addition to Peace Dale Elementary.

\*\*\* Includes Peace Dale Elementary new addition, and closing of Hazard and Stepping Stone (Sheathelm, August 1, 1991)

Source: South Kingstown School Department, 1990.

From the table above, it can be seen that most of the Town's schools are near or exceed capacity. Their needs for expansion and improvement are discussed below under "Existing and Future Needs."

a. Personnel - The public school system is administered by the South Kingstown School Department. Policy making, contract negotiations, budgeting and review of all school matters is conducted by the South Kingstown School Committee, a seven member board elected for four-year, staggered terms. Under the School Committee is the Superintendent, followed by other administrators and staff, school principals and teachers.

b. Curriculum and Instruction - The South Kingstown public school system offers a full curriculum and instruction for pre-kindergarten through high school. Some of the additional programs offered include: vocational-technical training, special education, instruction for limited-English proficient, compensatory education, gifted/talented programs, tutor training, alcohol awareness, and programs for adults completing high school. In addition, there is a wide range of extra-curricular activities offered.

c. Budget - South Kingstown public schools are funded primarily through a Transfer to School Fund from the Town's General Fund. This provides property tax support necessary to meet the approved cost of elementary and secondary education. The debt service for all school buildings is provided through the Town's General Fund. The-1991-92 total budget for Town schools in South Kingstown was \$20,857,423. Of this total, approximately 4.6 million dollars came from State aid. This is 1.4 million dollars less than the State aid received in 1990-91. The future provisions for State aid are uncertain at this time, and should not be relied upon until the State fiscal crisis has been resolved. The needed expansions and renovations for South Kingstown's schools are being funded through bonds under the Town's Capital Improvement Program. For additional information, see the Town's Capital Improvement Program and the most current school budget.

d. Enrollments - Enrollments in the South Kingstown Public Schools for the period 1980-81 to 1990-91 are shown on Table 6. During the first half of the 1980's, the total school enrollment was relatively stable. Enrollments increased by approximately 20 percent from 1984-85 to 1990-91, a period during which there was unprecedented building activity in the Town.

e. Additional Information - For additional information see: 1) the most current school budget; 2) the most current Capital Improvement Program; 3) the most current School Department Annual Report; 4) a 1988 report prepared for the School Committee, "Planning for Educational Facilities in South Kingstown, Rhode Island"; and, 5) "Planning for Educational Facilities in South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Second Look" (August 1, 1991).

**Table 6**  
**Enrollments 1980-81 through 1990-91**  
**South Kingstown Public Schools**

SC YR	K	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	TOTAL
80-81	206	187	171	195	179	191	229	218	202	232	226	211	205	68	2720
81-82	194	204	166	170	195	189	211	246	222	218	206	208	206	82	2717
82-83	208	203	187	153	180	196	194	230	254	231	195	200	218	91	2739
83-84	228	212	191	187	156	184	194	209	234	262	222	185	200	67	2731
84-85	215	251	197	187	175	166	187	202	211	245	238	197	181	77	2729
85-86	230	291	232	190	186	183	163	214	221	222	240	209	210	32	2823
86-87	231	317	217	229	208	197	185	197	213	237	215	245	216	26	2933
87-88	228	300	254	221	237	204	203	204	207	222	229	208	234	35	2986
88-89	243	309	250	261	218	243	202	221	205	210	222	214	197	30	3025
89-90	274	304	276	246	257	237	256	215	229	222	213	208	201	30	3168
90-91	289	346	272	259	247	252	239	266	215	227	214	204	210	31	3271
SC YR	K	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1112		UNGR	TOTAL

\*Transition room started in 1984-85, reported as Grade 1, H.H. Sheathelm 8-1-91

Source: Planning for Education Facilities in South Kingstown, RI, A Second Look by Herbert H. Sheathelm, August 1, 1991

## 2. Analysis

### a. Standards

- Capacities: Generally accepted utilization standards were used to calculate school capacities in the report prepared for the School Committee, "Planning for Educational Facilities in South Kingstown, Rhode Island." The inadequacies in capacity can be seen from Table 5. Expansion and renovation needs are summarized below under "Existing and Future Needs."
- Curriculum: The entire South Kingstown school district's program follows the guidelines for the Basic Education Program for the State of Rhode Island, which evaluates Rhode Island school districts on a five-year cycle. Although facilities are overcrowded, both the junior and senior high schools have been designated as "exemplary" by the U.S. Department of Education in the recent past.
- Board of Regents: The Rhode Island Board of Regents must approve the necessity of all school projects approved by bond issue funds to qualify those projects for State aid. In South Kingstown's applications for Regents approval for school construction projects, the Town's school system "has shown good evidence of excellent planning and community involvement and has received consistent projects approval." (pers. comm., Celeste Bilotti, 1991)

### b. Existing and Future Needs

- Expansions and Renovations

Needed expansions and renovations of South Kingstown's public schools to correct existing problems and to allow for future growth are being funded through bonds and annual appropriations. Projects are budgeted and scheduled systematically through the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. These needs and plans are summarized below:

1. High School: additional classroom space needed. An addition of 20 classrooms is planned for the high school, and Hazard Elementary School will be renovated for high school purposes; also considerable renovations of the existing high school will be undertaken during the next six years. A 1991 study was done to determine whether an addition to the High School or a new High School should be built. The Board of Regents has approved the construction of a new High School. However, in November, 1991, the School Committee endorsed a long-range construction plan for a High School addition and renovations to be completed in September of 1994 at a projected cost of 10 million dollars.

2. Junior High School: more rooms and facilities needed. An addition for general facilities is planned; also considerable renovations will be undertaken during the next six years.

3. Elementary Schools: more classroom space needed. Twelve classrooms and 4 ancillary facilities have been added at existing building locations; and a new 24-classroom elementary school was started in 1991 on the Peace Dale Elementary School property, as an addition to the existing school. Also it is likely that renovations will be undertaken at the elementary schools during the next six years.

c. Impact of Future Growth - Between 1977 to 1985 South Kingstown school enrollments declined. However, since 1986 they have been increasing. Enrollments have been projected to increase, based on the 1990-91 enrollments, from 3,274 students in 1990-91 to 3,772 students in 1995-96 and to 4,018 by 2000-01 (Rhode Island Department of Education, 1991). Projections beyond 2000-01 are not available at this time.

The largest increase is expected to occur at the secondary school level. Thus, additional classroom space, in addition to what is already planned to meet existing shortages, may be needed in South Kingstown's schools by the year 1999.

In the 1991 study of the Town's educational facilities (Sheathelm, August 1, 1991) it was noted that the Town has acted in the past to provide necessary school facilities as the need occurred. However, it was noted that the present enrollment (1991) exceeds the recommended capacity, and there is a projected system-wide need for capacity of 1300 within ten years. For example, the recent addition to the Junior High School increased the recommended capacity to 572. The 1990-92 enrollment was 481. However, enrollment for grades 7-8 is projected to continue to increase reaching 692 by 1997-98. It will be necessary to add capacity to the Junior High School once again in the near future. The report further stated that the most critical facility need exists at the high school. An addition was constructed in 1987. The 1990-91 enrollment was 855 (excluding special education) while the recommended capacity was calculated to be only 803. Enrollment at the high school is projected to continue the increase started in 1989-90, so it will become necessary to provide increased capacity in the very near future.

The Build-Out Analysis projects population increases in the Town based on the growth rates of the past twenty years (Land Use Element, Section D). This trend would have the effect of nearly doubling the Town's population within the next thirty years. Such rapid and continuing growth would have similar effects on the school population. New housing developments in South Kingstown can be expected to produce about 0.5 K-6 students per dwelling unit (Sheathelm, Herbert H., 1988). The cost of providing education for these new students will be offset partially by a Special Reserve Fund which is funded through impact fees paid by developers of subdivisions in South Kingstown (see Chapter 14.9 "Policies and Implementation" for more information).

## K. Libraries

### 1. Inventory

a. Facilities - The public library system in South Kingstown was established in 1975 and consists of a central building in Peace Dale and two branches, Robert Beverly Hale Library in Matunuck and Kingston Free Library in Kingston (see "Public Facilities," Map 6.1). The Town's library buildings are in the process of renovation, as explained below under "Existing and Future Needs."

b. Personnel - The South Kingstown Public Library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Town Council. The library system has a staff consisting of eight full-time and 18 part-time employees, for a total of 13.9 full-time equivalent positions (1992).

c. Circulation - For the fiscal year 1991, total circulation for all three libraries was 188,599. There are a total of 6,810 active library card holders in the South Kingstown Public Library system. The library is a member of the Rhode Island Cooperating Libraries Automated Network (CLAN), a group of 33 independent public libraries in Rhode Island that have entered into an agreement to circulate library materials to anyone with a valid CLAN card, to allow reciprocal borrowing, and to provide patrons with easy access to all members' collections. At Peace Dale Library, the central library, circulation has increased by 36 percent since the renovations were completed in March 1990. Thirty percent of Peace Dale's circulation is to non-South Kingstown residents, primarily Narragansett, Charlestown, and North Kingstown residents. The total number of books in the library system is 58,712 as of June 30, 1991. In addition, the audiovisual holdings, which include audio cassettes, books-on-tape, compact discs, records, and video cassettes, total 1,918 items.

d. Budget - The total appropriation for library services for fiscal year 1992 was \$389,426. Of this total, \$317,426 was funded through the local tax appropriation which represents 81.5 percent of the Town library system's annual operating revenues. The remainder of the funding for library services is derived from private endowments, a combination of State and Federal funds administered by the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, and overdue fees. In addition, the library renovation program, which began in November, 1988, has received thus far \$1,237,000 through the Town's Capital Improvements Program, funded through bonds, grants, and third party/program funds.

e. Additional Information - For additional information see the South Kingstown Public Library section of the most current South Kingstown "State of the Town Report."

### 2. Analysis

a. Standards - The Rhode Island Department of State Library Services sets minimum standards with which libraries in Rhode Island must comply to receive State funding. The standards are: one full-time equivalent staff member for each 3,500 population, and 1.5 items per capita. An item is defined as material in any physical format which is acquired

and/or catalogued as an entity (RI Dept. of Library Services, 1983). Although the State does not require libraries to meet minimum numeric standards for seating or circulation, it does indicate that libraries should make provisions for adequate seating for library users and that every library should have a five-year-long-range plan and a collection development policy (RI Dept. of Library Services, 1983).

State standards then require a Town of 25,629 people to have a minimum of 7.3 full-time equivalent staff members. Currently the library system has 13.9 full-time equivalent staff members, and 2.2 books and items per capita as compared to the State's minimum standard of 1.5 items per capita. The Town library system does exceed the minimum standard for the number of full-time employees required because it has to provide adequate staff at all three buildings. State Library Minimum Standards are based solely on total population served and do not provide a category for branch library systems. In addition, approximately 30 percent of the library system's users are non-residents and 10 percent are University of Rhode Island students.

b. Existing and Future Needs

- Existing Needs for Expansion and Improvements - In order to meet existing needs for library services, facility improvements and additional space, the South Kingstown library system is in the process of a building expansion and renovation program. The central library building in Peace Dale completed a 1.2 million dollar expansion and renovation in 1990. Minor expansion and renovation of the branch libraries to meet the Town's needs for library services is planned: Renovations to the Robert Beverly Hale Library were completed in August, 1991. The total cost was \$297,250. Renovations to the Kingston Free Library are estimated to begin during 1993. Funds for this library system renovation program are provided through the Capital Improvement Program and other third party sources, and are reimbursed by the Department of State Library Services at a rate of 50 percent on all grants, bonds, and interest costs. These improvements will correct present inadequacies and bring the library space up to par with the needs of the population.
- Other Existing Needs - In addition to the facility expansion and improvements discussed above, additional library needs are discussed below.
  - 1) There are needs for more automation, including: public access catalogs, public access printers and various reference databases on CD Rom.
  - 2) Additional funding for books and audio-visual materials is needed.
  - 3) Parking space is needed for the Kingston Free Library.
- Future Needs - While the State standards for libraries are met now, they are not the standards the South Kingstown Library follows in determining its own needs. In the State of the Town Report, the Library Director has documented a different set of standards/needs based on actual usage-circulation, number of reference questions, and in house usage. The Town Library personnel use these internal experiential assessments to determine more accurately both existing and future needs in short-term

increments. Their current determinations for employees and materials meet and exceed State Standards.

Based on this internal assessment, actual usage by patrons and the demand for types of materials, both print and non-print has increased by 20 percent. Thus, the library needs to acquire more materials, and therefore increase its budget and staff to meet existing and future patron demand.

## **L. Human Services**

### 1. Inventory

a. Services - There is quite a variety of human services offered in South Kingstown. These services are too numerous to discuss in detail, thus, they are summarized on the following page. A number of these services are partially funded by the Town, as indicated in Table 7. Two of these services are primarily administered by the Town, and thus, are discussed in more detail. These are the Neighborhood Guild, and the Department of Senior Services.

b. Personnel - The Town has a seven member Human Services Advisory Commission, created by the Town Council in 1975, to advise the Council on human services. The Commission works with social service agencies in the Town to improve and to coordinate the delivery of services and reviews human service programs to make recommendations for Town funding.

In addition to the Human Services Advisory Commission, in 1989 the Town hired a Director of Senior Services. The Director initiates direct service programs (Elderly Transportation and Adult Day Care) and coordinates existing senior programs.

c. Budget - In 1991-92 the Town Budget included a total of \$223,492 for human services. Of this amount, \$68,375 was for transfer to the Department of Senior Services. The remainder was allocated to the human service organizations listed on the following page; and a small amount went to the General Public Assistance Administration to help administer the State Welfare program.

Table 7  
Summary of Human Services

<u>Name of Agency</u>	<u>Town Financial Support in 1990-91</u>
Alternatives Inc.	No
CANE Day Care Center	Yes
Clearinghouse for Volunteers	No
Cooperative Extension	Yes
Elder Resources, Inc.	No
Elderly Care, Inc.	No
Elderly Transportation Program	Yes
F.I.S.H. (meals on wheels)	No
Health Center of South County	Yes
Hospice	Yes
Indian Run Elderly Housing	No
Johnycake Center of Peace Dale	Yes
Larry Tetreault Sr. Center (Sr. Youth Assoc.)	Yes
Narr. Indian Health Program	No
Oliver Watson House	Yes
Peace Dale House and Peacedale Estates	No
Problem Pregnancy Support Community	No
RAN Association (education advocacy & referral)	No
RI Legal Services	No
Saint Dominic Savio's Boys Center	No
Samaritans	No
Seniors Helping Others	Yes
South County Center for the Arts Annex	No
South County Chapter RIARC (retarded citizens)	Yes
South County Community Action	Yes
South County Hospital	No
South County Emergency Shelter	Yes
South Kingstown Adult Day Care	Yes
South Shore Mental Health Assoc.	Yes
Sympatico	Yes
Visiting Nurse Services	Yes
Volunteers In Action	Yes
Women's Resource Center	Yes
YMCA	No

d. Neighborhood Guild

The Neighborhood Guild was built in 1908-1909 and deeded to the Town in 1940. Guild activities include all ages, ranging from the infant Well Baby Clinics to senior citizen programs. The activities offered are primarily recreational and include athletics, music, art, dancing and bridge. Use of this facility has increased 50 percent since 1986 to about 3,000 people per month. In order for the Neighborhood Guild to continue to meet the needs of the community, expansion is needed, particularly an indoor gymnasium. The cost of operating the facility and expanding it is covered primarily by a trust fund and reinvestment income from this fund. The South Kingstown 1991-92 Capital Improvement Program proposes to finance the expansion of the Neighborhood Guild with proceeds from the Reinvested Income fund. The planned expansion of the Neighborhood Guild will help maintain centralized indoor recreation facilities in the Town.

e. Town Senior Services

Recognizing the need to develop a municipal role in the delivery of senior services, South Kingstown operates an elderly transportation program and an adult day care program, a residential care/assisted living facility.

- Elderly Transportation Program: The objective of the Elderly Transportation Program is to provide non-medical transportation for the Town's senior citizens (age 60 and over) in need of assistance. Rides are provided for a variety of errands and appointments.
- Adult Day Care Program: The Adult Day Care Program is Town-operated and was established in 1989 from a Town Council initiative. It is in the Fellowship Hall of the Wakefield Baptist Church. The program provides an array of services designed to provide day care services to older persons dependent upon continual family support and supervision. The center is staffed by four employees and volunteers from the general community. The program also provides respite and emotional support to family caregivers.
- Oliver Watson Home: The Oliver Watson Home is a Town-operated residential care and assisted living facility for older adults that provides personal assistance, lodging and meals for residents not requiring medical or nursing care as provided in a health care facility. Residents, as a result of age and/or physical or mental limitation require these services but are capable of self-preservation in emergency situations.
- Senior Citizen Recreation Program: The Senior Citizen program targets the population of active adults aged 55 and older and seeks to provide them with a variety of wholesome and appealing leisure alternatives. The objective of the program is to provide-activities that will be:
  1. physically, mentally and socially stimulating
  2. both regular in occurrence and diverse in nature
  3. appropriate to the age, need, interest and ability of the participants

4. financially within the participants means
5. physically within the participants means

The program is divided into the following components:

1. Activities - parties and luncheons (12 per yr.), ballroom dancing (8 per yr.) and movies (16 per yr.)
2. Classes - creative writing, beginning and intermediate line dancing, senior exercise, craft classes, bridge lessons, and oil painting/drawing class
3. Trips - van trips and bus tours to various activities and points of interest
4. Referrals and Meetings - miscellaneous informational presentations

A part-time Senior Coordinator works twenty eight hours per week coordinating the programs and activities for senior citizens. Instructors are hired for the classes that are taught and other Recreation Department staff assist with parties and special events.

A major component of the Senior Citizen Services budget is the bus trip program. This program has grown extensively over the years in response to the demand. Trips are open to all ages and in many cases offer an opportunity for three generations to participate in the activity together. The bus trip program consists primarily of one day excursions with occasional overnight trips available. Trips are designed to provide senior citizens access to: the arts (i.e. museums, plays); historical sites (i.e. Ellis Island); educational activities (i.e. cathedral tour); and, seasonal events (i.e. autumn foliage tours).

The Senior Citizen Program is greatly utilized by eligible South Kingstown residents. For 1994 participation in applicable programs/activities was as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Events</u>
Luncheons	216	9
Clam Bake	126	1
Ballroom Dances	172	7
Monthly Movies	132	15
Senior Van Trips	300	28
Line Dancing	1,032	95
Bridge Lessons	511	42
Creative Writing	325	35
Oil Painting	1,222	118
Senior Exercise	2,034	135
Crafts	113	19
Bus Trips	1,482	26

It is anticipated that the Senior Citizen programs will continue to grow both in scope of services and attendance in response to meeting the needs of an ever increasing number of participants.

- Elderly Homeowners Tax Exemption Program: The Town has an existing program to provide tax relief for eligible senior citizens. A maximum tax credit of \$400 is available to elderly homeowners who qualify. Eligible citizens must be 65 years of age or older and must occupy and have owned the subject residential premises for the past five years. Program participants must be legally domiciled in South Kingstown and have a combined gross income not exceeding \$18,000.

The exemption formula used states that the property tax shall be equal to four (4) percent of the applicant's gross income, provided that the maximum tax savings does not exceed the \$400 limit. For the 1995 tax roll there were 184 total applicants for the tax exemption program. A total of 181 applicants received the maximum \$400 tax exemption.

f. Additional Information

There is no comprehensive source describing all of the human services offered in South Kingstown. Data for this Comprehensive Plan was gathered from a variety of sources, the most helpful being interviews with South Kingstown's Personnel Director and Senior Services Director.

2. Analysis

a. Standards - Licensing for the human service facilities is through various State agencies. The facilities must meet State standards (such as Department of Health standards for food service) in order to retain their licenses and remain in operation.

- Adult Day Care Program: The Town's Adult Day Care Program does not need to comply with the National Council on Aging guidelines since it receives no Federal funding. However, given the potential that Federal funding may at some time be provided to this facility, it may be advisable to incorporate a review of these standards and guidelines when developing and/or operating this program. These standards and guidelines are not intended, however, to serve as minimum standards which must be met, but rather these references are intended to serve as goals toward which to strive in the development and operation of adult day care centers and multi-purpose senior centers. In addition to these Federal standards, the Town's Adult Day Care Center must receive annual certification from the RI Department of Elderly Affairs in order to continue to operate.
- Elderly Transportation Program: The drivers for the Elderly Transportation Program must be certified in cardio pulmonary resuscitation, as well as have a chauffeur's license.
- Neighborhood Guild: The nursery school operations are licensed by the State of Rhode Island.
- Oliver Watson Home: The Oliver Watson Home is licensed by the State of Rhode Island under Chapter 23-17.4 of the General Laws entitled "Sheltered Care Facility Licensing Act," as amended. As such, the Oliver Watson Home must observe

standards prescribed in the rules and regulations promulgated by the licensing agency with respect to program operations.

The licensing agency for this program is the RI Department of Health. The license is renewable annually upon application to the licensing agency and subject to inspection and approval of the licensing agency and the division of fire safety.

b. Existing and Future Needs

- Senior Programs: There is a need to coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities and strengthen them to provide community-based, rather than institutional, services. This need will increase in the future as the population of elderly residents grows. The most dramatic increase in the numbers of older people is occurring in the over-80 population. This group is the most likely to need assistance in the future.
- The Adult Day Care Program is currently located within the Wakefield Baptist Church operating under a lease agreement with the Church for space occupied by the program. The existing lease terminates on April 30, 1992, with an option to extend the lease through April 30, 1994, if both parties consent to such an extension. The temporary nature of this program site indicates a need to identify a permanent location for the Town-operated program.
- Additional Programs: Based on the existing demand for participation in indoor recreation programs, there is a need to expand indoor recreation facilities. The Town Recreation Commission has adopted facility standards for some indoor recreation space which are based on the National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines.

**M. Emergency Management**

1. Emergency Response

In the event of a disaster the Town of South Kingstown has developed a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and a Defense Civil Preparedness and Hurricane Plan. Each contains pertinent information and guidelines should any number of different disaster situations occur. Each of the plans specifies such pertinent information as: identification of key responsible officials; emergency facility locations; and, detailed appropriate response procedures.

a. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan - Prepared in order to meet the requirements set by the Federal Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Action of 1986 (SARA, Title .111), the plan provides for a higher degree of preparedness to handle incidents involving the transportation, storage and use of hazardous materials.

Currently sixty nine (69) facilities in South Kingstown are documented as either using extremely hazardous substances or being a fuel or storage facility for such substances. U.S. Route 1 and along with R.I. 138 and R.I. 108 are transportation routes used by numerous hazardous substance transporters. An accidental spill or release of any of these materials poses a threat to the citizens of South Kingstown. The Hazardous Materials Response Plan contains the following necessary information in order to prevent or appropriately respond to a hazardous materials disaster:

1. Planning Responsibilities - The District Three Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC 3) developed and distributed the plan. LEPC 3 is comprised of officials, emergency management personnel and businesses from the towns of South Kingstown, Narragansett, Charlestown, Westerly, Hopkinton, Richmond, Exeter and New Shoreham. The Commission is also responsible for supervising annual chemical incident exercises in the district.
2. Direction and Control - The ERP specifies that alerting procedures shall be carded out from the South Kingstown Police Station Dispatch Center. Emergency situations are classified into three levels and each indicates appropriate procedures to be followed for public warning and evacuation by emergency personnel under a unified common structure.
3. Management & Coordination - In accordance with RIGL 30-15-12, the South Kingstown Town Manager, as chief executive officer, is ultimately responsible for protecting lives and property in an emergency situation. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan also outlines the responsibilities of 22 other agencies and officials including the Town Council, Police Department and Red Cross. Copies of the ERP are at the offices of individual district Fire Chiefs, Chief of Police, Town Manager, and Office of Risk Management.

b. The Defense Civil Preparedness and Hurricane Plan - Adopted by the Town Council in 1984, this plan established the South Kingstown Defense Civil Preparedness Agency. The purpose of the Agency is to properly minimize risk of natural or manmade catastrophe through effective preparedness; to clarify and strengthen the roles of municipal agencies and officials in the event of a disaster; to provide prompt rescue for persons threatened by disaster; and to assist with restoration, recovery and rehabilitation of persons and property affected by disaster.

The Hurricane Plan contains a notification of officials who shall be immediately notified in an emergency. The Plan also contains the following five elements:

- Police Department Hurricane Evacuation Plan
- Utilities Department Hurricane Preparedness Plan
- Marina Operation and Available Emergency Equipment
- Public Works Department Hurricane Planning
- Hurricane Action Checklist

Copies of this plan are located at the offices of: Town Manager; Union Fire District Chief; Kingston Fire District Chief; Communications Dept.; Public Works Dept.; Department of Elderly Services; and, the Police Department.

c. Emergency Response Center - In 1992 the Town of South Kingstown entered into an agreement with the American Red Cross to provide for resident assistance during times of disaster. The agreement provides for an Emergency Operating Center (EOC) for coordination of services. The South Kingstown Public Safety Building on Route 1 is designated as the EOC. Moreover, the Town agreed to establish emergency shelters at the following locations: Tootell Gym at the University of Rhode Island; South Kingstown High School; South Kingstown Junior High School; South Road Elementary School; Wakefield Elementary School; and, Peace Dale Elementary School.

## 2. Mitigation Measures

The Town has adopted and instituted measures to minimize the risk and mitigate the impacts resulting from events such as a hazardous materials spill, storm flooding or hurricane damage. These preventative steps include the following:

a. Haz-Mat Training - All officers of the South Kingstown Police Department receive a minimum of four (4) hours of hazardous materials training while cadets at the State Police Academy. In addition to the training, each officer is in possession of The Guide to Hazardous Materials, developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Likewise, all police cruisers contain a copy of the guide. Police officers have historically attended other State sponsored workshops dealing with a variety of subjects concerning hazardous materials management.

b. Regulated Construction Within Flood Zones - Sections of South Kingstown fall within flood zone areas as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These areas are subject to storm damage and flooding from 100 year storm events (A zones) or storm damage from 100 year events with associated wave action (V zones). The Town has established a High Flood Danger District (HFD) under Article 12 of the Zoning Ordinance. The High Flood Danger District extends from the ocean to the coastal ponds located along the south shore area. Residential dwelling development within these areas is restricted. Construction of any residential structure requires a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Review.

Before a special use permit is granted, an applicant must satisfactorily demonstrate that the proposed structure will not result in any conditions which will be detrimental to public health, safety or welfare. Submission requirements include preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement along with detailed construction plans that comply with strict design and materials criteria set forth in Article 12.

c. Hurricane Safety Guidelines - As a part of the Hurricane Plan adopted in August 1984, South Kingstown developed a Hurricane Action Checklist and Hurricane Safety Guidelines. These documents are intended to provide for unified citizen response in the event of a hurricane emergency.

d. Tree Maintenance - The Town employs a tree warden whose responsibilities include removal of downed trees, large branches and shrubs resulting from storm damage. The tree warden is presently a part-time position and removal of storm damaged trees is performed on a limited basis. At present the Town does not have a preventative maintenance program that specifically addresses tree removal and/or trimming.

## **N. Miscellaneous**

### **1. Municipal Animal Pound**

a. Facilities and Personnel - The Municipal Animal Pound was built in 1980 and consists of 1,219 square feet. Only dogs are accepted. The facility has 12 runs and an average of 27 dogs per month are cared for at the pound. The Municipal Animal Pound has one full-time employee, the Animal Manager, and one part-time employee. The Town's Animal Control Officer brings stray dogs to the shelter. Funding is through the Town Budget, which provided an allocation of \$45,903 in 1991-92.

b. Animal Rescue League - Unclaimed dogs are taken from the Municipal Animal Pound to the Animal Rescue League in South Kingstown. This is a shelter which takes stray and unwanted dogs and other animals and puts them up for adoption. It is funded through, private donations and payments from Narragansett. Narragansett has no municipal pound, and thus, uses the Southern RI Animal Rescue League Shelter as its pound.

c. Existing and Future Needs - There are no future plans for the expansion of the facilities. According to the Animal Control Officer, future development will increase the number of stray dogs, but it is hoped this can be offset through educating the public about the Town's leash law.

### **2. Indoor Recreation**

a. Facilities - Indoor recreation facilities in South Kingstown which are available for residents' use are: the Neighborhood Guild (see "Human Services," Section 12.0), the YMCA, and the pool and gymnasium at the University of Rhode Island. These facilities are used by the Town on a fee basis, however.

b. Existing and Future Needs - These facilities may be insufficient and not adequately available to the public. Thus, there is a need for more indoor recreation facilities in the Town. The Town should consider building or buying an indoor recreation facility with adjacent towns. Also, the Town should work with URI to secure public access to their planned indoor field house. (The public already has access to URI's existing indoor recreation facilities for a nominal fee, but transportation to these facilities is needed -- see "Human Services"). Planned expansion of the YMCA and the Neighborhood Guild will alleviate some of the need for indoor recreation facilities. Expansion of the Neighborhood Guild will add space and facilities which will maintain centralized indoor recreation facilities in the Town.

3. Health Care Facilities

a. Facilities - The main health care facility in South Kingstown is the South County Hospital, Inc. The Hospital is a 100-bed acute care community hospital serving South Kingstown and surrounding towns. As a not-for-profit corporation it maintains a policy of service to all, regardless of ability to pay. Funding is handled through a third party payor system (Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance, etc.), private pay and bequests. A one-time State grant of \$47,280 was received in the 1989/90 fiscal year. In the 1989/90 fiscal year, it treated a total of 5,177; inpatients and handled 31,414 outpatient visits in the Emergency Room and Express Care.

Other medical facilities available to South Kingstown residents include the Treatment Center in North Kingstown, and the Health Center of South County, which serves primarily low and moderate income people. Ambulance service for South Kingstown residents to South County Hospital is provided by the Emergency Medical Services Department of the South Kingstown Police Department, working in conjunction with the South County Ambulance Corps, a volunteer organization.

b. Existing and Future Needs - South County Hospital is very well equipped and extraordinarily high tech. Statistically it serves one of the fastest growing communities in the State and thus, it is important that it remains so. At the same time, the Hospital recognizes that there are certain procedures that must continue to be referred to larger hospitals within the health care system, such as neurosurgery and open heart procedures. The number of women delivering babies in South County is increasing and the need to expand maternity services at the Hospital will soon become a priority. The impact of future population growth on the facilities is difficult to predict due to continuing changes in health care procedures.

**O. Goals, Policies, and Implementation**

1. Consistency with State Guide Plan

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requires that a Services and Facilities Element be included in municipal comprehensive plans, and, together with the guidelines in the "Rhode Island Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan," specifically states what should be included. The Act states that a goal of the comprehensive planning process is ... "to promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the availability of existing and proposed public and/or private services and facilities" (sec. 45-22.2-3 (c) 1). It further states that "Rhode Island cities and towns ... shall plan for future land use which relates development to land capability ... and provides for orderly provision of facilities and services" (sec. 45-22.2-5 (A) 1). The Act summarizes the required content of the Services and Facilities Element as follows: it ... "shall provide an inventory of existing and forecasted needs for facilities and services used by the public. . . The policies and implementation techniques must be identified for inclusion in the implementation program element" (sec. 45-22.2-6 (F)).

2. Goals

**Overall Goal of the Services and Facilities Element**

**To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.**

**Goal 1**

**To provide high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner as required to serve an expanding community.**

**Policy 1.1** - To continue to update and to improve the governing structure and procedures of local government.

**Implementation**

- The Charter Review Commission is preparing (1992) recommendations for revisions to The Town Charter.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office

**Policy 1.2** - To seek several land acquisitions for parking and access for the Town Hall.

**Implementation**

- Several land acquisition projects to provide parking and improved access for the Town Hall were included in the 1989-95 Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department

**Policy 1.3** - The Town is aware that renovations (and future expansion of Town use) are needed for the Peace Dale Office Building and recognizes that this historical symbol should be preserved.

**Implementation**

- There are funds for this renovation in the 1991-92 Budget, and it and any subsequent development shall be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the historic character.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Town Council

**Policy 1.4** - The Town will continue to provide a high level of administration functions.

**Implementation**

- The Town shall review the adequacy of municipal government administration services in accordance with internal standards, and in conformance with modern management practice.

Responsible Party: Town Council and Town Manager's Office

## **Goal 2**

**To provide effective wastewater management through a variety of strategies designed to protect public health and the natural environment.**

**Policy 2.1** - The Town supports an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all State and Federal standards.

### **Implementation**

- The Town shall comprehensively re-evaluate the adequacy of the wastewater treatment facility every five years when its license is renewed. An annual review shall also be undertaken.  
Responsible Party: Public Utilities Department

**Policy 2.2** - The Town will address existing problem areas, through an evaluation of a variety of sewage treatment alternatives which are cost effective, environmentally sound, and assure residents' safety.

### **Implementation**

- This is being done in the Middlebridge sewer extension. Future sewer extensions into other problem areas will follow the recommendations of the Land Use Element.  
Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Department
- The Town will cooperate with the State to secure funding for the extension of public sewer and water service to the West Kingston industrial area.  
Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department; Public Utilities Department

**Policy 2.3** - The Town will integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions.

### **Implementation**

- The Town Council shall appoint a wastewater management system representative to the Chipuxet Aquifer Management Committee. The Planning Department shall work to coordinate the policies of area water suppliers with wastewater management needs.  
Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department; Public Utilities Department

**Policy 2.4** - The Town will expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame, based on improvements in technology and the relative needs and fiscal responsibility of each user group (South Kingstown, Narragansett URI).

## Implementation

This is being done through a six-year phased expansion plan. At present, a 1.6 million dollar expansion is being funded through approved bonds, grants and third party/program funds.  
Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Department

**Policy 2.5** - The Town supports the development of a marine pump-out facility at Point Judith Pond.

## Implementation

- The Town currently is developing a feasibility plan for installing a pump-out facility in Upper Point Judith Pond.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department; Waterfront Advisory Committee

### Goal 3

**To integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.**

**Policy 3.1** - The Town will promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development.

## Implementation

- This has been included in the Comprehensive Plan (see Land Use Element). The location of potential sewer extensions was considered in developing the land use policy and Land Use Plan Map. To conform with State regulations, the Town zoning and subdivision regulations must be consistent with the Land Use Plan Map.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Planning Board

**Policy 3.2** - The Town will address the needs of surrounding communities which may want direct ties or carry-in service with South Kingstown's sewer plant.

## Implementation

- This will be addressed upon request of the Town Councils.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department

**Policy 3.3** - The Town will provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones, and other high and medium high density residential areas. In unsewered areas with severe septic limitations, only low-density development should occur. High density development should not occur in areas where there is no public sewer and water available at the time of development.

## **Implementation**

- The Town has adopted amendments to its Wastewater Management Ordinance/Connection Policy. It will continue to implement this Ordinance to carry out the policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board

**Policy 3.4** - The Town will minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines, which simply connect high density areas.

## **Implementation**

- The Town shall revise zoning and subdivision regulations accordingly.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board

- Should public sewers be extended to serve the West Kingston industrial area, service connections along the main trunk line will be restructured.

**Policy 3.5** - The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

## **Implementation**

- The Town shall evaluate future water extension proposals with regard to the location of existing and proposed water and sewer lines, problem areas, and the overall growth pattern endorsed by the Comprehensive Plan.

Responsible Party: The Planning Department; the Planning Board; the Public Utilities Department

**Policy 3.6** - Extension of public sewers to the West Kingston area shall be restricted to the existing industrially-zoned properties. Limited areas of adjacent residential and commercial land may be provided with such service on an as-needed basis. It is the policy of the Town, however, that this sewer extension not be permitted to justify increased densities or changes in land use in areas located above or near valuable water resources.

## **Implementation**

- The Wastewater Management Ordinance shall be amended to contain explicit criteria for such connections.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Utilities Department

## **Goal 4**

**To manage and to protect existing water resources for present and future residential and non-residential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town.**

**Policy 4.1** - The Town supports an overall water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town.

### **Implementation**

- The Town shall work toward establishing a demonstration program through the Chipuxet Aquifer Management Committee and the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.  
Responsible Party: Planning Department; Town Council

**Policy 4.2** - The Town advocates the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown. The Town is committed to the establishment of programs for aquifer protection and groundwater resource management.

### **Implementation**

- The Town has adopted a Groundwater Protection Overlay District (1991). The Town shall: 1) develop a priority list and funding strategy for direct purchase of development rights for the most important aquifer recharge areas; 2) implement a Well Head Protection Area for public supply wells; and, 3) consider requiring water conservation plumbing for new development in environmentally sensitive areas to be implemented via an amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance.  
Responsible Party: Planning Department

**Policy 4.3** - The Town supports the conservation of water in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore water system.

### **Implementation**

- A program of water conservation will be developed in conjunction with a Wastewater Management Program to be initiated in the salt pond region of Town. See the Natural Resources Element.  
Responsible Party: Planning Department; Conservation Committee

**Policy 4.4** - The Town recognizes the need to prioritize water uses (i.e. residential vs. nonresidential).

### **Implementation**

- The Town shall seek legislation on either Town-wide or regional basis to regulate priority of water use, (see discussion in Natural Resources Element).  
Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board; and Conservation Commission.

**Policy 4.5** - The Town will comply with the Rhode Island Department of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water.

**Implementation**

- The Town Public Utilities Department shall continue to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with standards and a comprehensive five-year evaluation. Any necessary system improvements are addressed in the Town's annual operating budget and the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Department

**Policy 4.6** - The Town supports measures to provide a continual supply of potable water to its residents.

**Implementation**

- The Town shall develop an emergency water supply plan and an emergency spill response plan.

Responsible Party: The Planning Department and the Public Utilities Department, working in conjunction with adjacent towns and water suppliers.

**Goal 5**  
**To integrate sewer and water extension decisions in accordance with the Land Use Plan.**

**Policy 5.1** - The Town recognizes the priority of servicing areas already experiencing problems with well water quantity or quality.

**Implementation**

- The Town shall give priority waterline extension to areas with contamination of well water. Drinking water contamination caused by constituents for which there are federal standards also will be given priority consideration.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Public Utilities Department

**Policy 5.2** - The Town supports the interconnection of all of the Town's water systems in order to safeguard and provide emergency back-up for these systems.

**Implementation**

- This has been proposed (1991) for the South Shore and Wakefield water systems, funded through a combination of public/private funds. Similar connection possibilities should be studied for the other water systems.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Department

**Goal 6**

**To develop and to implement a solid waste management strategy which focuses on waste reduction, litter control and recycling, and waste management programs which are cost-effective and self-sufficient to the greatest extent possible.**

**Policy 6.1** - The Town recognizes the need for community recycling.

**Implementation**

- The Town shall review the feasibility of instituting curb-side collection for both residential waste and recyclables. The Town shall develop a mandatory curb-side program when State funding is available. According to State officials, municipal recycling programs cannot be expanded until a second State material recycling facility has been constructed.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Departments

**Policy 6.2** - The Town recognizes the need to investigate potential contamination from landfills.

**Implementation**

- Identified problem areas should be investigated to determine the scope and severity of contamination, and corrective measures that should be undertaken.

Responsible Party: Town Council; and Town Manager's Office

**Goal 7**

**To maintain an effective public works program which recognizes the importance of the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient roads, bridges, sidewalks, stormdrains, and parks to serve its residents.**

**Policy 7.1** - The Town will continue its long range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks, and stormdrains in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Implementation**

- These programs are all being planned for implementation and are funded through the Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Utilities Department; Public Works Department

**Policy 7.2** - The Town supports a formal public grounds maintenance program.

## Implementation

- A Parks Superintendent will be hired by the Town during FY 1992-93 to develop and implement a maintenance program.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department

**Policy 7.3** - The Town supports an adequately staffed and equipped Public Works Department.

## Implementation

- The Town shall evaluate the staffing and equipment needs required to accomplish proposed work programs. A more comprehensive assessment of the capacity of the organization to meet public works needs shall be conducted at five-year intervals.

Responsible Party: Public Works Department; and Town Manager's Office

### Goal 8

**To develop and to maintain a long-range program of effective stormwater management designed to protect its residents from flooding, to control erosion and sedimentation, and to maintain both surface and groundwater quality and quantity.**

**Policy 8.1** - The Town supports an overall stormwater management program which is based on preventative design, thus avoiding future costs of mitigation measures. This will include regulations for impervious surface coverage, construction on steep slopes, and stormwater retention/detention. Care will be taken to consider groundwater recharge, flood and erosion control, and environmentally sensitive areas. Such a program will comply with the current stormwater management guidelines and regulations of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

## Implementation

- A review of the Town's compliance with these standards shall be done: a) as legally required; b) with the preparation of the Public Works Department operating and capital budgets; c) every five years.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Public Works Department

- This is being addressed partially through a pilot project initiated in 1990, with Aqua fund monies by the towns of South Kingstown, Narragansett North Kingstown. [The Narrow River stormwater Management Study (1991-1993)]. Additional studies should be conducted with the Saugatucket River watershed.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Public Works Department

- An erosion and sediment control ordinance shall be adopted.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board

**Policy 8.2** - The Town will locate and inventory existing municipal stormwater facilities and will work toward correcting problems for existing drainage in a manner which considers the surrounding drainage patterns.

## Implementation

- The Town currently is upgrading stormwater facilities in a number of areas, especially in the South Shore area, funded through a six-year Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Public Works Department; Planning Department

### Goal 9

**To continue the Town's support of a professional police force, dedicated to upholding the law, assuring the safety and best welfare of the Town's residents and respecting the rights of all citizens. The Town recognizes that provision of adequate police facilities are vital to the health and safety of its citizens.**

**Policy 9.1** - The Town will provide an adequately-sized and centralized public safety building.

## Implementation

- This is included in the 1990-96 Capital Improvement Program's six-year planning program, to be funded primarily through bond issue, with some third party/program funds, if available.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office

**Policy 9.2** - The Town supports maintaining an appropriate level of service through a combination of volunteer and professional staff.

## Implementation

- The Police Department shall continue to conduct an annual analysis of existing and future needs, in coordination with the writing of the Town Budget and Capital Improvement Program. A more comprehensive analysis shall be performed every five years. Annual measurements which will help assess performance shall include such items as number and experience with service calls, crime rate and type, and accident reports. Results of this analysis shall be checked against personnel and equipment. The Town staff will continue to assess emergency medical services program needs to ensure that appropriate service levels are met.

Responsible Party: Police Department; Town Manager's Office

**Policy 9.3** - The Town will provide an adequate amount of police equipment, especially radio, dictaphone, data management and photography equipment.

## Implementation

- The most important equipment needs are being met. Additional equipment purchases will be made in conformance with the Town's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Police Department

**Policy 9.4** - The Town will maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chief's Association standards.

**Implementation**

- Such a certification program has been planned and is being considered for adoption by the State. Until the State implements such a program, the South Kingstown Police Department will follow its present internal evaluation process.

Responsible Party: Police Department; Town Manager's Office

**Goal 10**

**To continue to support the concept of a volunteer fire department and to assist the fire districts in their efforts to provide protective services.**

**Policy 10.1** - In response to a recent State mandate requiring fire fighting training, the Town will encourage participation in the required training programs. Such incentives are needed to maintain an adequate volunteer force.

**Implementation**

- The Town shall develop incentives to encourage more people to become volunteers.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Fire Departments

**Policy 10.2** - The Town's fire departments will develop a plan to comply with the new equipment standards promulgated under State law.

**Implementation**

- The fire departments are in the process of developing such plans, and have already begun a gradual implementation of this plan by ordering some of the needed equipment.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Fire Departments

**Policy 10.3** - The Town supports the efforts of the fire districts to improve their ISO ratings and general level of operation.

**Implementation**

- The "Improvements Statements" written for the Town's fire districts by the Insurance Services Office shall be reviewed by the Town's fire chiefs to determine if there are cost-effective ways to improve the fire department's ratings, which are based on fire suppression capabilities. These reports shall be included in their long-term plans.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Fire Departments

- The Town shall evaluate the fire departments' compliance with ISO standards annually, to coincide with the annual budgets. A more comprehensive evaluation shall occur every five years. The Town will consider preparing a 10-year implementation plan, as that is the time interval for ISO evaluation and classification.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Fire Departments

- The fire department shall use the compliance standards to develop to its own internal evaluation criteria, to be used annually and more comprehensively every five years, to assess existing and future needs.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Fire Departments

**Goal 11**

**To provide Town residents with the opportunity for a quality education, and superior school facilities.**

**Policy 11.1** - The high quality of South Kingstown's education program should be maintained and continually improved.

**Implementation**

- New programs shall be considered and existing quality shall be maintained.

Responsible Party: School Department; School Committee

- The Town shall continue to comply with the Board of Regents standards for education facility construction approval and funding. The School Department shall conduct more comprehensive five-year evaluations increments of the Rhode Island Basic Education Program.

Responsible Party: School Department; School Committee

**Policy 11.2** - The Town supports development of school facilities to keep pace with expansion of school population and with the defined educational programs of the school system.

**Implementation**

- These needs are addressed through six-year plans included in the 1990-91 Capital Improvement Program, to be funded through bonds. Planned and funded improvements are as follows:

a) High School: an addition of 20 classrooms is planned and Hazard Elementary School will be renovated for high school purposes. Renovations of the existing high school are planned for the next six years. See Services and Facilities Element.

b) Junior High School: an addition for general facilities is planned. Renovations of the existing junior high school are planned for the next six years.

c) Elementary Schools: 16 new classrooms will be added at existing building locations. A 24 classroom elementary school addition is being built at the Peace Dale Elementary School. Renovations are planned for all schools during the next six years.

Responsible Party: School Department; School Committee; Town Council; Town Manager's Office

**Goal 12**

**To maintain a Town system of public libraries to meet the diverse needs of our citizens through expanded and improved library services and facilities.**

**Policy 12.1** - To meet the community needs for library services, the Town will expand and renovate library facilities at the Kingston Library.

**Implementation**

- This is an ongoing program which will be funded through bond, grants, and third party/program funds.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Library Board of Trustees

**Policy 12.2** - The merits of creating a Town Department of Public Libraries, in view of the fact that the Town owns two of the three existing libraries, will be explored.

**Implementation**

- This would require amending the Town Charter in conformance with State Law and in cooperation with the Town Library Board of Trustees.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Library Board of Trustees

**Policy 12.3** - The Town supports compliance with all State requirements and standards.

**Implementation**

- The Town Library System shall continue to comply with the RI Department of State Library Services standards in order to continue to receive State funding. In addition, the Library shall continue its present course of annually assessing needs according to internal standards of performance based on actual usage. This annual assessment shall continue to coordinate with assessments for funding through the Town's operating and capital budgets, and grants requirements. Additionally, a more comprehensive review is needed every five years, especially regarding large-scale facility improvements.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Library Board of Trustees.

**Goal 13**

**To provide the citizens of the Town with a wide range of effective human service programs and facilities, in cooperation with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups.**

**Policy 13.1** - To coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services.

## Implementation

- The Town should be a facilitator in coordinating this effort, preferably using senior citizens to do much of the work involved.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Director of Senior Services; Human Services Advisory Commission

**Policy 13.2** - The Town supports a wide range of effective human service programs.

## Implementation

- The Town shall evaluate the value of voluntary compliance to standards outlined in this section. In addition, the Town shall consider developing internal standards for various agencies in order to annually assess their performance and needs. There are guidelines to assist in this, for example, the National Council on Aging's "Senior Center Standards and Self Assessment Workbook." These annual evaluations should take into account feedback from daily operations, to correct existing problems, and analysis of indicators such as increase in the number of elderly, to anticipate future needs. Annual evaluations should be coordinated with reviews needed for funding and planning. In addition, the Town-operated programs should conduct a more comprehensive evaluation every five years.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Director of Senior Services

### Goal 14

**To provide the citizens of the Town with an indoor recreation facility capable, of housing a wide range of recreation and community activities in a central building or complex.**

**Policy 14.1** - The Town supports the expansion of the present facilities at the Neighborhood Guild by acquisition of sufficient adjacent land and construction of appropriate building additions.

## Implementation

- This program is currently being funded through the Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department

### Policy 14.2

The Town supports a cooperative effort with other public and private recreation for shared use of facilities.

## Implementation

- The Town will seek to expand its current programs being operated at the University of Rhode Island, the YMCA and other private recreation facilities.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department

## **Goal 15**

**To maintain an effective emergency management response program that recognizes the importance of providing protection to citizens and property through public education, municipal preparedness plans and adequate training of key personnel.**

**Policy 15.1** - The Town supports an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response.

### **Implementation**

- An investigation of available training materials and programs will be conducted, including contact with RIEMA and FEMA.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Police Department

**Policy 15.2** - The Town will ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training.

### **Implementation**

- The Town will investigate existing training programs available to determine their application for Town personnel.

Responsible Party: Planning Dept.; Town Manager's Office; Police Department

**Policy 15.3** - Institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by wind blown trees

### **Implementation\**

- The Town will re-examine the existing tree trimming program to redirect efforts towards preventative maintenance in areas more likely to suffer storm damage, particularly coastal areas.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Conservation Commission; Tree Warden

**Policy 15.4** - Encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage.

### **Implementation**

- The Town will examine its present guidelines and regulations to see where possible measures can be instituted and encouraged that reduce storm damage potential.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

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# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PREPARED FOR THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

### LEGEND

#### ■ PUBLIC FACILITIES

- 1 - Town Hall
- 2 - Peace Dale Office Building
- 3 - Schools (13)
  - Includes U.R.I. and 3 private schools.
  - Two schools share buildings with other schools.
- 4 - Fire Stations (9)
- 5 - Police Station
- 6 - Libraries (3)
- 7 - Highway Garage
- 8 - Rose Hill Transfer Station
- 9 - Animal Rescue and Dog Pound (2)
- 10 - Neighborhood Guild
- 11 - Y.M.C.A.
- 12 - South County Hospital

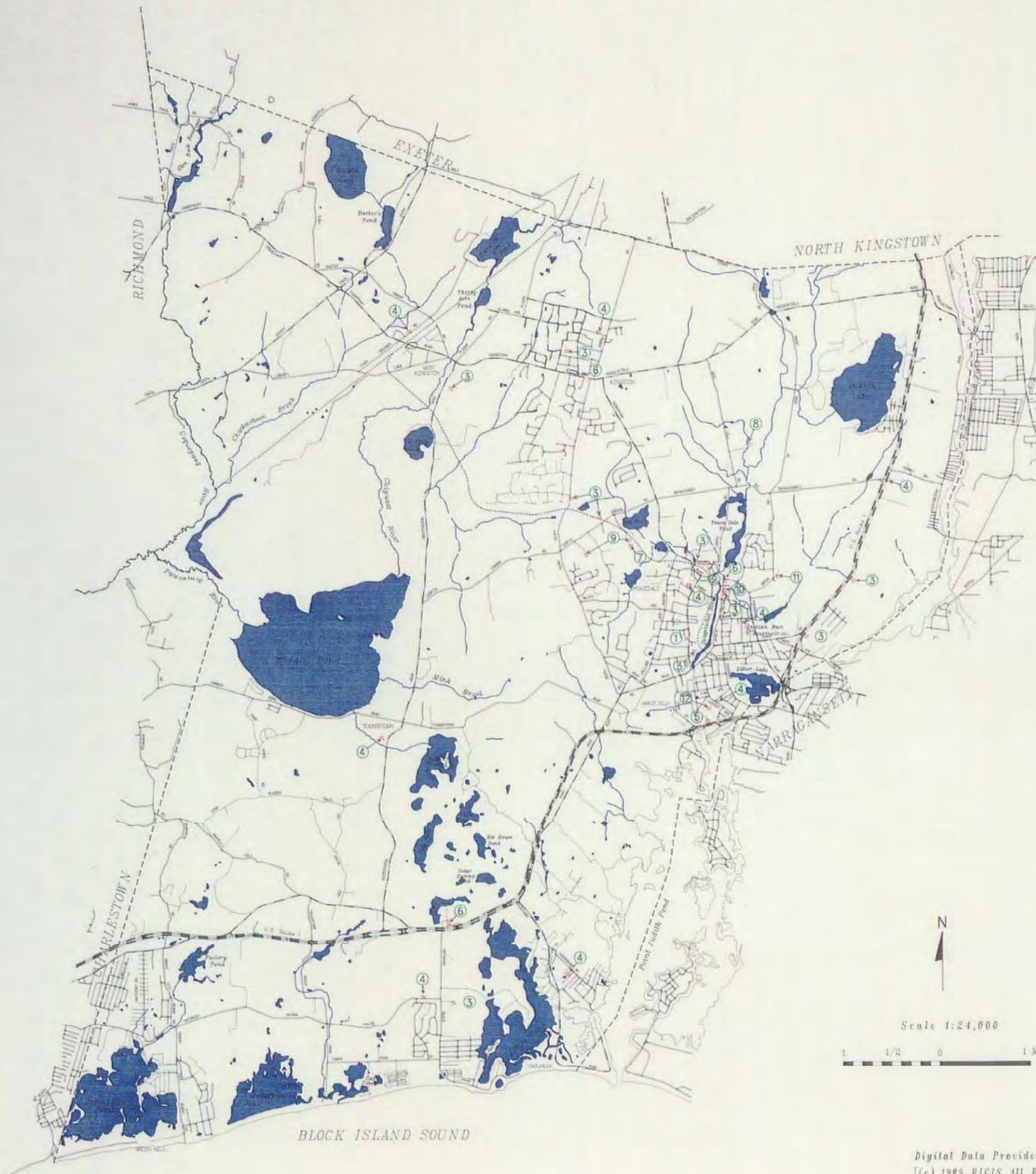
--- Municipal Border

#### ROADS

- Federal Highway
- State Owned & Maintained
- Town Owned & Maintained
- Privately Owned
- Railroad

#### SURFACE WATER

- Streams
- Ponds and Lakes



Scale 1:24,000

1 1/2 0 1 MILE

Digital Data Provided by RICIS Database  
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Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.  
Date: 1991

Map  
6.1

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
 PREPARED FOR THE  
 TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI.

SEWER SERVICE  
 AREAS

LEGEND

 **Future Growth Areas**

EXISTING SEWERS

 **Town System (Including Middlebridge)**

 **URI System**

 **FUTURE SEWER SERVICE AREA**

 **Pump Station**

 **Municipal Border**

ROADS

 **Federal Highway**

 **State Owned & Maintained**

 **Town Owned & Maintained**

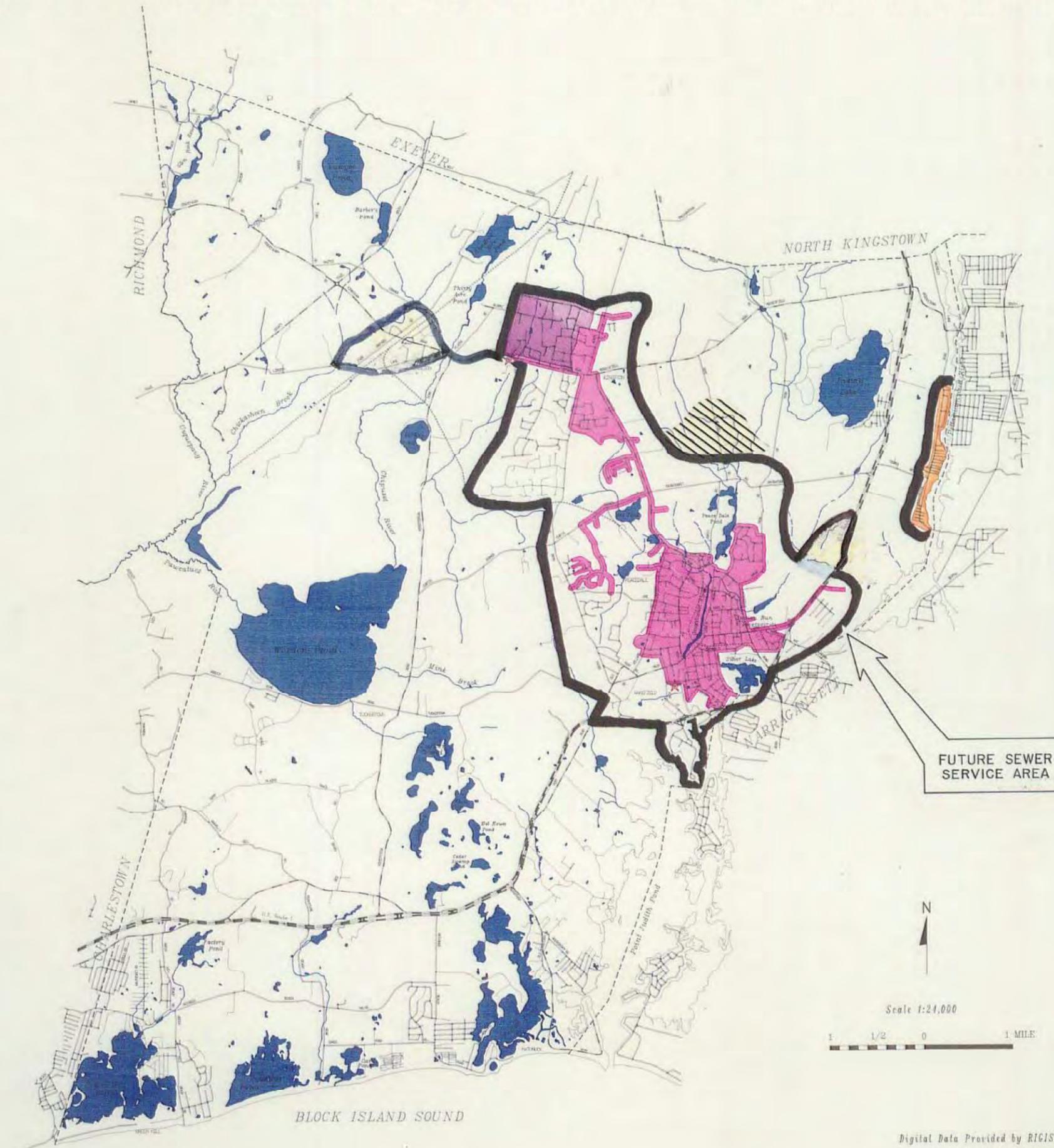
 **Privately Owned**

 **Railroad**

SURFACE WATER

 **Streams**

 **Ponds and Lakes**



FUTURE SEWER SERVICE AREA

*For revised Services & Facilities Element  
 Sewer Service Area Map (c. 2  
 See amendment dated 3-10-97  
 in addenda*

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 Date: 1991 Rev. 1994, 1995

Figure  
**6.2**

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PREPARED FOR THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI.

## WATER SERVICE AREAS

### LEGEND

#### WATER SERVICE AREAS

-  T.S.E. South Shore Water System
-  T.S.E. Middlebridge Water System
-  Wakefield Water Company
-  U.R.I. Water System

-  Kingston Water District
-  Existing Water Service System

-  District Boundary

-  Water Towers and Tanks
-  Wells

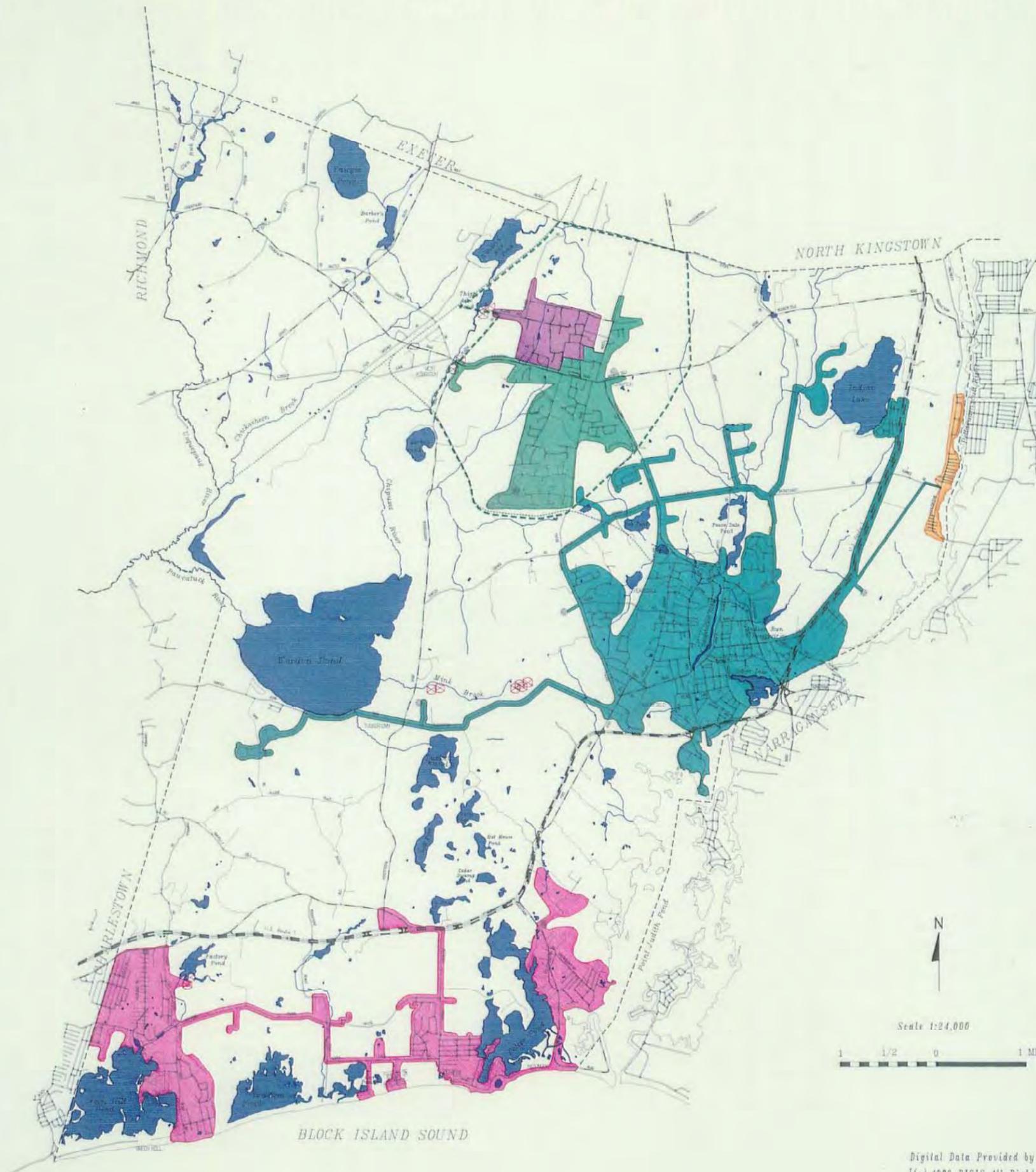
-  Municipal Border

#### ROADS

-  Federal Highway
-  State Owned & Maintained
-  Town Owned & Maintained
-  Privately Owned
-  Railroad

#### SURFACE WATER

-  Streams
-  Ponds and Lakes



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Date: 1991

Figure  
**6.3**