

VI. Community Facilities and Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Police Protection

The Town's Police Department is manned by a staff including 46 sworn officers: 1 Chief of Police, 2 Division Captains, 4 Platoon Lieutenants, 4 Platoon Sergeants, 1 Crime Prevention Sergeant, 4 Detectives, 1 D.A.R.E. Officer, 1 School Resource Officer, 1 Ordinance Officer, 1 Professional Standards Officer, 1 Drug Task Force Officer, 1 Evidence Technician / Custodian and 24 Patrol Officers. The Police Department also includes 10 Dispatchers, 1 Administrative Officer and 4 Record Clerks/Secretaries for a total of 61 full-time authorized employees. Equipment includes 37 vehicles: 3 Administration, 13 Support Services and 21 Patrol. 5 of the aforementioned vehicles are Sport Utility Vehicles and are used during times of inclement weather. The Police Department operates two 12-hour patrol shifts in a day utilizing 4 rotating Platoons with 8 patrol personnel assigned to each platoon. The Town's E-911 service and dispatching for all Town emergency services (police, fire, and rescue) is handled through the Police Department.

The Christiansburg Police Department was relocated to the Wimmer Building at 10 East Main Street in 2000. The move freed office space in the former location (adjoining the Town Municipal Building) for renovations. The new location between the Main Street Post Office and Wachovia Bank on the west and the Richardson-Horne Building (now offices) and the Town Municipal Building on the east places the Police Department across the street from the Montgomery County Courthouse and Jail.

The Town does not operate its own jail. Prisoners are housed at the Montgomery County Jail at 16 S. Franklin Street in Christiansburg, which is under the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's office. The Montgomery County Jail houses approximately 60 persons with a maximum capacity of 116 beds.

A regional juvenile detention center, the New River Valley Detention Home, located at 650 Graves Street, NW is owned and operated jointly by Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Giles County and Radford City. An appointed Commission represents the jurisdictions. The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice distributes additional funding to the facility.

Fire Protection

The Christiansburg Fire Department has provided fire protection since 1911. The Fire Department is manned by a paid full-time Fire Chief/Fire Marshall and 29 trained volunteer firefighters available to answer calls. Other officers within the Department

include an Assistant Chief, a Captain, and 2 Lieutenants. Dispatch service is provided by the Police Department staff, which answers all E-911 calls. The Fire Department members have received various awards and served distinguished roles in numerous associations.

The Christiansburg Fire Station is located at 110 Depot Street, NW near N. Franklin Street. The facility has 12 bays and was constructed in 1976. Because the Department answers calls in the County, some County-owned fire equipment is stored there and an agreement with the County allows the Town Fire Department to use this equipment on an as-needed basis. Equipment operated by the Department consists of a 1500 GPM Town Ladder Truck, a 1500 GPM Town Engine, a 2000 GPM Town Engine, a 300 GPM County Fast Attack Engine, a County Personnel and Equipment Unit, a County Brush Unit, a 750 GPM County Reserve Engine, a 1000 GPM County Tanker, a 1000 GPM County Engine, a Personnel Unit, a Station pickup, a Fire Prevention Unit, an unmarked Chief Unit, a Fire Chief Unit and an Assistant Chief Unit.

In addition to providing fire protection service to all residents within the corporate limits, the Christiansburg Fire Department also responds to calls within the immediate surrounding County areas. The Christiansburg Fire Department response coverage area includes: Route 11 to the foot of Christiansburg Mountain; down Ellett Road to Ellett Valley; I-81 out to Exit 109 along the right hand side of I-81; Exit 109 to River Bridge; to the North Corporate limits on North Franklin Street; Route 114 to the Pulaski County line; Route 11 to the Radford City limits; Route 8 for 3 miles past the Corporate limits; Pilot Road to Union Valley Road (5-6 miles). The Christiansburg Fire Department response coverage area is approximately 80 square miles.

Christiansburg Fire Department - Dec. 1, 2001 – Nov. 30, 2002 Call Distribution

Type of Call	Number	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Accidents	251	39.9%
Structure Fires	185	29.4%
Vehicle Fires	31	5.0%
Grass/Brush Fires	101	16.0%
House Trailer Fires	5	0.8%
Gas Spills, Odors, Leaks	18	2.9%
Dumpster Fires	10	1.6%
Electrical Poles on Fire	7	1.1%
Emergency Medical Assistance	7	1.1%
Malicious False Alarms	2	0.3%
Miscellaneous Alarms	12	1.9%
Total Calls	629	100.0%

Source: Christiansburg Fire Department, 2003.

The Christiansburg Fire Department responded to 629 alarms during the period from December 1, 2001 to November 30, 2002. As can be seen from the preceding table, the majority of the calls dealt with either motor vehicle accidents or structure fires (69.3% total), but there is a wide range of response needed.

Rescue and Emergency Services

A private organization, the Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Crew, Inc., provided rescue services to the community from 1947 until 1990, when the organization's building on Stone Street was deeded to the Town and the Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad became a Town instrumentality in January 1990. The Town completed a new Rescue Squad Building at 190 Depot Street, NW next to the Fire Station in 1997.

The Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad has a paid full-time Captain as well as 31 active volunteer crewmembers. Christiansburg Police Department staff handles dispatching services for the Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad. The Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad operate 3 basic life support units, 2 advanced life support units, one crash/rescue truck, one utility truck and two boats. Additional equipment operated includes 3 generators, and a car.

The Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad is a member of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads and is licensed as an Advanced Life Support agency by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. The Christiansburg Lifesaving and Rescue Squad serves the entire Town as well as a portion of Montgomery County (for a total service area of approximately 150 square miles) and handles over 2,000 calls for service each year. Lifeline Ambulance Service, a private service provider is also located within Town at 310 Bell Road, NE.

New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town of Christiansburg is participating in the development of the New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order for localities to be eligible for FEMA project funds. The New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan will incorporate all natural hazards affecting the Towns of Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Pulaski, Pearisburg, and Pembroke, as well as Pulaski County, Montgomery County, Giles County, Floyd County and the City of Radford. A plan concentrating on all hazards instead of each hazard individually will make the most efficient use of resources.

Hazard Mitigation entails localities enacting and enforcing building codes, zoning ordinances and subdivision ordinances to protect life and property. Localities have the responsibility of making the public aware of the hazards that present risks and the measures that can be taken to reduce risk and lose. Mitigation actions are not designed to improve the ability to respond in an emergency situation, but rather to reduce the need for emergency response.

Medical and Health Facilities

Christiansburg and the surrounding communities offer a variety of health care facilities with easy access to the Town's residents. The Montgomery Regional Hospital at 3700 S. Main Street in Blacksburg, in operation since 1971, is the nearest hospital to the Town. It is a

146-bed private facility located just north of the Town limits on Route 460. Expansion of this facility was recently completed.

The Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, at 2900 Tyler Road, is located near the City of Radford off I-81 and serves Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Floyd County, Giles County, Wythe County, Bland County, Carroll County and the City of Radford. The facility, which opened in March 1999, offers healthcare services in more than 25 specialties. Currently Carilion New River Valley Medical Center is licensed for 97 medical/surgical beds with approval from the state for an additional 13 beds.

The Montgomery County Health Department, which is part of the New River Health District, provides preventive health care and counseling services at its facility at 210 Pepper Street, SE. Services offered include family planning, tuberculosis testing, and a nutrition clinic. There are six private clinics within Montgomery County and roughly 45 dentists, five nursing homes, two hospices, and three home health care agencies.

Mental health care is available from Carilion Saint Albans Hospital in Pulaski County. Programs offered include those for eating disorders, alcohol and substance abuse, and panic and phobia. The Carilion Saint Albans Hospital will be relocated to the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in 2004.

Libraries

The residents of Christiansburg have ready access to millions of volumes of books. Nearby Virginia Tech and Radford University house the majority of these volumes; the remainder is available through the Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Floyd County branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System.

The Christiansburg Branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is located at 125 Sheltman Street, NW. A bookmobile operated by the Regional Library System serves more remote parts of Floyd and Montgomery Counties.

Museums

The Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, located at 300 Pepper Street, SE, offers historic displays of daily life in the early 19th Century. The second floor of the house is an art gallery featuring artists of Southwest Virginia.

There are plans to renovate the Edgar D. Long Building at 140 Scattergood Drive, NW for a museum dedicated to the Christiansburg Industrial Institute. Please see Chapter II "Location and Historic Overview" for more information regarding the history of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute and its contributions to African American education.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History, located in Blacksburg, offers programs and displays open to the public. An Educational Resource Center is available with nature-based kits to educate individuals about living creatures in the wild.

Schools

The educational needs of the citizens of Christiansburg are well served at all levels. Montgomery County Public Schools, which operates Christiansburg's public school system, is committed to providing the academic and vocational programs that will prepare the Town's students for a productive future. Moreover, adult and higher educational needs may be fulfilled through continuing education programs and the curricula of area colleges and universities.

Kindergarten - High School

The Montgomery County Public Schools School Board (with administrative offices located at 200 Junkin Street, NE and maintenance headquarters at 1175 Cambria Street, NE) is responsible for operating all public schools in Christiansburg. The Montgomery County Public Schools system operates the Christiansburg Primary, Christiansburg Elementary, Belview Elementary (outside Christiansburg limits), Falling Branch Elementary, Christiansburg Middle, and Christiansburg High School serving Town residents. The Christiansburg Primary and Elementary Schools are housed in two separate buildings at adjoining locations.

Christiansburg Primary is located at 240 Betty Drive, NW. The school is comprised of grades pre-kindergarten through second grade. Approximately 450 students attend Christiansburg Primary.

The Town is served by Christiansburg Elementary at 160 Wades Lane, NW, Falling Branch Elementary at 735 Falling Branch Road, SE, and Belview Elementary at 3187 Peppers Ferry Road, NW (outside Christiansburg corporate limits). A new \$23,000,000 Christiansburg Middle School was constructed at 1205 Buffalo Drive, which replaced the former location at 207 College Street, NW in Fall 2003.

Christiansburg High School, at 100 Independence Boulevard, NW, offers a wide range of academic and vocational courses. In addition to general and college preparatory courses offered at the High School level, the school system offers a comprehensive vocational education program with courses in Agriculture, Business, and Technology. Computer literacy is a focus of the school system on all levels, and computer training is available to students beginning in kindergarten.

Independence Secondary is an alternative education school located at 1180 N. Franklin Street (beside Christiansburg High School). Independence Secondary serves Montgomery County students in grades 8-12.

The Virginia Department of Education accredits all Montgomery County public schools; the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredits Christiansburg High School as well.

The following table displays historic enrollment by school for the Christiansburg Strand of the Montgomery County Public School system. As can be seen by the data, the Christiansburg Strand has grown in both total numbers as well as the percentage of the County's total enrollment over the past decade.

During the 2003-04 year, the Christiansburg Strand had a total of 3,389 students, or 36.3% of Montgomery County's 9,330 total enrollment. The Christiansburg Strand has seen rises in elementary, middle, and high school enrollment over the past decade. It should be noted, however, that students residing in Montgomery County attend the Christiansburg Strand schools.

1994-95 to 2003-04 Christiansburg Strand Historic Enrollment by School

School	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Christiansburg Primary School (PK-2)	369	371	379	399	388	436	443	433	444	441
Christiansburg Elementary School (3-5)	398	371	352	366	397	397	413	412	412	419
Falling Branch Elementary School (PK-5)	496	518	501	484	490	502	520	515	530	536
Belview Elementary School (PK-5)	233	244	239	230	216	203	216	214	247	249
<i>Elementary Subtotal</i>	<i>1,496</i>	<i>1,504</i>	<i>1,471</i>	<i>1,479</i>	<i>1,491</i>	<i>1,538</i>	<i>1,592</i>	<i>1,574</i>	<i>1,633</i>	<i>1,645</i>
Christiansburg Middle School (6-8)	728	737	740	761	763	737	717	762	800	766
Christiansburg High School (9-12)	868	876	946	949	974	967	958	971	967	978
Christiansburg Strand Total Enrollment	3,092	3,117	3,157	3,189	3,228	3,242	3,267	3,307	3,400	3,389
Montgomery County Total Enrollment	8,859	8,959	9,118	9,211	9,227	9,144	9,118	9,129	9,191	9,330
Christiansburg Strand/County Percent	34.9%	34.8%	34.6%	34.6%	35.0%	35.5%	35.8%	36.2%	37.0%	36.3%

Source: Montgomery County Public Schools – Enrollment Projections, DeJong and Associates, Inc., November 2003.

The following table displays enrollment projections for the next decade for public schools that serve Christiansburg. As illustrated, it is projected that the Christiansburg Strand will have a steady number of students. With Montgomery County enrollment as a whole also projected to stay fairly steady, the result is that the Christiansburg Strand will comprise a consistent percentage of County enrollment.

2004-05 to 2013-14 Christiansburg Strand Projected Enrollment by School

School	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Christiansburg Primary School (PK-2)	444	435	428	420	416	419	421	421	421	421
Christiansburg Elementary School (3-5)	429	433	431	433	423	416	410	405	408	410
Falling Branch Elementary School (PK-5)	531	538	531	524	513	508	507	505	506	507
Belview Elementary School (PK-5)	252	244	236	221	215	215	212	211	212	213
<i>Elementary Subtotal</i>	<i>1,656</i>	<i>1,650</i>	<i>1,626</i>	<i>1,598</i>	<i>1,567</i>	<i>1,558</i>	<i>1,550</i>	<i>1,542</i>	<i>1,547</i>	<i>1,551</i>
Christiansburg Middle School (6-8)	746	780	807	829	842	829	814	792	779	768
Christiansburg High School (9-12)	996	979	993	992	992	1,030	1,054	1,082	1,072	1,055
Christiansburg Strand Total Enrollment	3,398	3,409	3,426	3,419	3,401	3,417	3,418	3,416	3,398	3,374
Montgomery County Total Enrollment	9,377	9,426	9,447	9,411	9,357	9,346	9,307	9,315	9,331	9,311
Christiansburg Strand/County Percent	36.2%	36.2%	36.3%	36.3%	36.3%	36.6%	36.7%	36.7%	36.4%	36.2%

Source: Montgomery County Public Schools – Enrollment Projections, DeJong and Associates, Inc., November 2003.

The following table illustrates the results of the 2002 School Census conducted by Montgomery County Public Schools. As can be seen by the data, the Town of Christiansburg contributes 27.0% of the students to the County public school system. Also evident is the fact that the Town of Christiansburg makes up an even larger percentage of the County's Public School students among the younger age groups. This indicates that over time, Christiansburg will likely increase the demand that it now generates as younger students move into higher grades.

School Census 2002 – Census Breakdown

Ages	Town of Blacksburg	Town of Christiansburg	Christiansburg as a Percent of the County	Montgomery County unincorporated area	County Total
5	169	198	31.0%	271	638
6	176	244	32.2%	338	758
7	221	246	29.9%	357	824
8	230	231	26.4%	415	876
9	185	242	29.4%	396	823
10	201	223	26.8%	408	832
11	215	221	24.6%	464	900
12	220	239	26.8%	432	891
13	202	228	26.5%	430	860
14	217	208	24.7%	418	843
15	218	230	27.7%	383	831
16	217	223	26.2%	412	852
17	234	236	26.4%	425	895
18	218	214	26.4%	380	812
19	209	179	22.4%	412	800
Total	3,132	3,362	27.0%	5,940	12,435

Source: Montgomery County Public Schools, 2002.

The following table displays fall membership projections for Montgomery County for a five-year period. The data indicates a slight decline in membership for the County as a whole, but as indicated earlier the Christiansburg Strand is projected to grow.

Projections of Fall Membership for Montgomery County by Grade, for School Years 2003-04 to 2007-08

School Year	Kinder-garten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Un-graded	Total Membership
2003-04	682	733	680	695	675	669	733	721	744	812	682	643	655	5	9,127
2004-05	701	691	701	677	696	671	671	739	724	824	716	617	616	5	9,049
2005-06	708	711	661	698	678	693	673	676	742	802	726	649	591	5	9,011
2006-07	673	718	680	657	699	675	694	678	678	822	707	658	621	4	8,965
2007-08	685	683	686	676	659	695	676	700	681	751	724	640	630	4	8,891
Average	690	707	682	681	681	681	689	703	714	802	711	641	623	5	9,009

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, 2003.

Tekoa Community School, a private, non-profit school located at 446 Depot Street, NE opened in 2001. Additionally, the Community Christian Academy, a private, non-profit school, is located at 95 Patricia Lane, SE.

Colleges and Universities

Not many localities can boast the selection of colleges and universities within such close proximity as Christiansburg. Virginia Tech, Virginia's largest university with approximately 26,000 graduate and undergraduate students, is located just north of Christiansburg in the Town of Blacksburg. Bachelor, master, and doctoral degree programs include Agricultural and Life Sciences, Architecture and Urban Studies, Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Education, Business, Human Resources, and Veterinary Medicine. Virginia Tech is recognized as one of the nation's leading research universities.

Radford University, located in the City of Radford, offers bachelor and master degree programs in Arts and Sciences, Business and Economics, and Nursing and Health Services among others.

The New River Community College offers classes at its main campus in the Town of Dublin and at a number of other locations throughout the New River Valley. Automotive Repair, Business, Nursing, and Drafting and Design are examples of programs offered at New River Community College. There is a NRCC branch in Christiansburg at 412 Roanoke Street.

Recreational Facilities

Public Facilities

The Town of Christiansburg is committed to providing superior recreational facilities for its residents. The Christiansburg Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the provision of both indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities. Since 1988, the Christiansburg Department of Parks and Recreation has been nominated three times for a National Gold Medal for excellence in the field of parks and recreation management.

There are over 120 acres of land in Christiansburg reserved for the recreational enjoyment of the Town's citizens and area residents. The Town's Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the operation of a variety of facilities and programs including neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and senior citizen programs.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

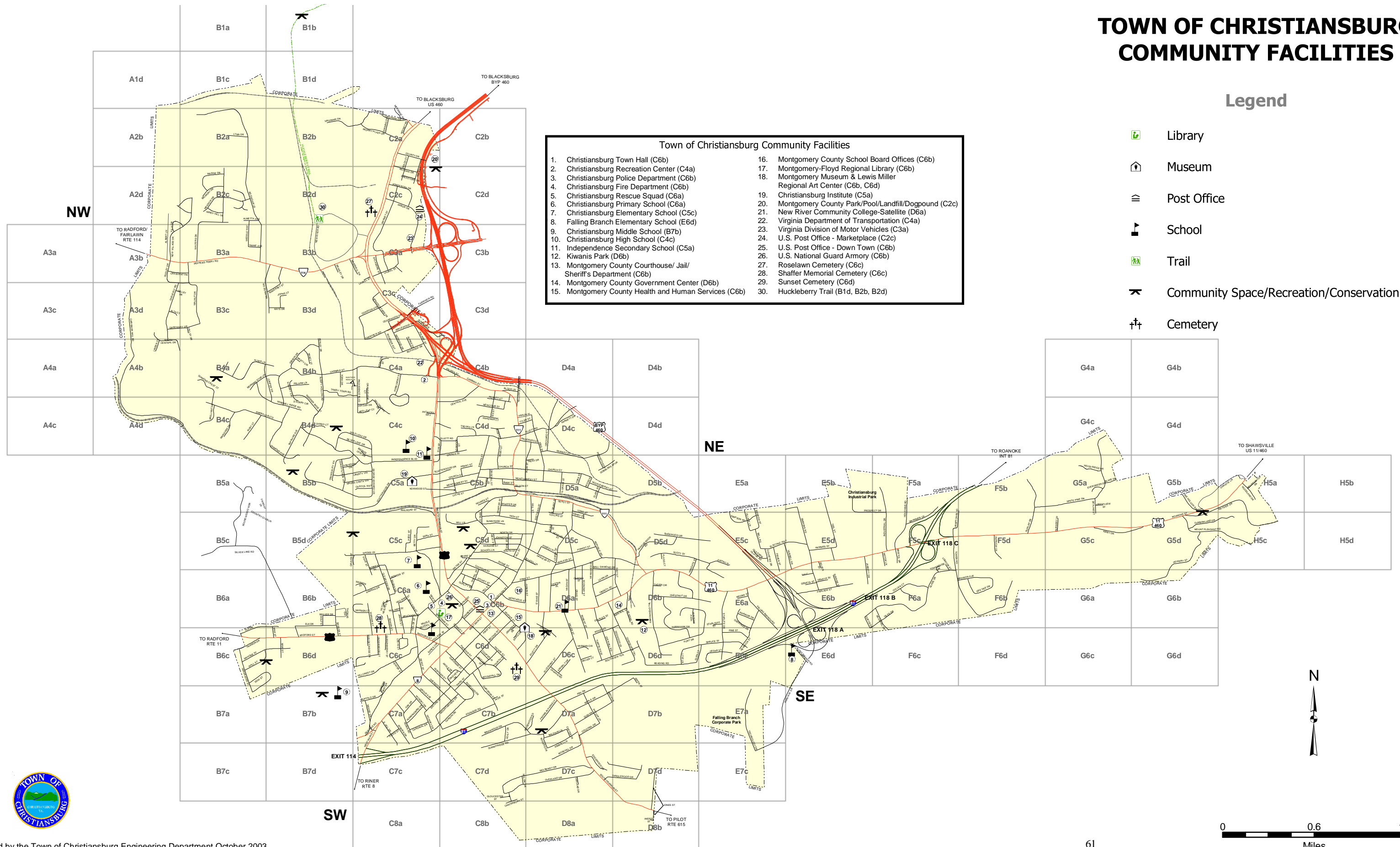
The Christiansburg Recreation Center is located at 1600 N. Franklin Street (on the southwestern side of the intersection with Cambria Street). The facility has four basketball courts, two racquetball courts, a weight room, cardio fitness room, a shuffleboard court, conference room, and administrative offices for the Department of Parks and Recreation. The facility also has meeting rooms available for public use and the Department of Parks and Recreation conducts various programs. In 1998, the Christiansburg Recreation Center received the "Best New Facility" award at the Virginia Recreation Society Conference for being the best new recreation facility in Virginia.

TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Legend

-  Library
-  Museum
-  Post Office
-  School
-  Trail
-  Community Space/Recreation/Conservation
-  Cemetery

- Town of Christiansburg Community Facilities**
- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christiansburg Town Hall (C6b) 2. Christiansburg Recreation Center (C4a) 3. Christiansburg Police Department (C6b) 4. Christiansburg Fire Department (C6b) 5. Christiansburg Rescue Squad (C6a) 6. Christiansburg Primary School (C6a) 7. Christiansburg Elementary School (C5c) 8. Falling Branch Elementary School (E6d) 9. Christiansburg Middle School (B7b) 10. Christiansburg High School (C4c) 11. Independence Secondary School (C5a) 12. Kiwanis Park (D6b) 13. Montgomery County Courthouse/ Jail/ Sheriff's Department (C6b) 14. Montgomery County Government Center (D6b) 15. Montgomery County Health and Human Services (C6b) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Montgomery County School Board Offices (C6b) 17. Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (C6b) 18. Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center (C6b, C6d) 19. Christiansburg Institute (C5a) 20. Montgomery County Park/Pool/Landfill/Dogpound (C2c) 21. New River Community College-Satellite (D6a) 22. Virginia Department of Transportation (C4a) 23. Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (C3a) 24. U.S. Post Office - Marketplace (C2c) 25. U.S. Post Office - Down Town (C6b) 26. U.S. National Guard Army (C6b) 27. Roselawn Cemetery (C6c) 28. Shaffer Memorial Cemetery (C6c) 29. Sunset Cemetery (C6d) 30. Huckleberry Trail (B1d, B2b, B2d) |
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The Senior Citizens Center is housed at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and offers exercise, arts, and educational programs. The National Guard Armory is also utilized by the Department of Recreation for its classes and programs. The Parks and Recreation Department also holds programs in many of the Public Schools within Town.

The Town has included plans for a new aquatic center in its Capital Improvements Program. The aquatic center is to be located on land currently owned by the Town between N. Franklin Street and Depot Street, NE. The aquatic center will house an indoor swimming pool and additional facilities.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

There are several Town-maintained facilities offering outdoor recreational opportunities in Christiansburg, including the fields and equipment at six public schools in Christiansburg. Town-owned neighborhood parks are on College Street, Depot Street, Summitridge Road, Ellett Drive, Wall Street and on Christiansburg Mountain at Wayside Drive. The Kiwanis Club sponsors Kiwanis Park that is used extensively by the Department of Parks and Recreation for its football, baseball and softball programs.

The Huckleberry Trail was opened to the public in 1998. The trail is 5.76 miles with the Christiansburg portion being approximately one mile in length. The trail, which connects downtown Blacksburg with the New River Valley Mall in Christiansburg, is open to non-motorized vehicles as well as pedestrians. The Christiansburg portion of the Trail is paved 10-foot wide which helps to accommodate passing. It is located within the former right-of-way of the Huckleberry train line.

Future extension of the Huckleberry Trail is planned as part of the N. Franklin Street-Peppers Ferry Road connector route (a Virginia Department of Transportation thoroughfare project), which is discussed in the Transportation Chapter. This route will feature a bicycle lane and sidewalks to be utilized as an extension of the trail. The long-term plans for the trail include connecting to downtown Christiansburg (including access to the Christiansburg Recreation Center, Christiansburg High School, and the planned aquatic center) and to the 90-acre Montgomery County Park on County Drive.

The Town also constructed the College Street Downtown Trail in 2002. The Town of Christiansburg maintains its sidewalk system, which is a continuing function. The Town sidewalk system supplements the Town trails. While the Town's trails are primarily used for recreational purposes, sidewalk pedestrian traffic is heavy, particularly in the downtown area.

Cycling enthusiasts are accommodated by the TransAmerica Bike Route (U.S. Bicycle Route 76), which enters the northeastern part of the Town from Ellett Valley on Ellett Road (State Route 723). The route then follows Cambria Street, NE to Depot Street, NE to E. Main Street to Radford Street, NW to College Street, NW. The route leaves the western portion of Christiansburg on Mud Pike Road (State Route 666) toward the City of Radford.

As part of the Recreation Plan, the Town adopted a revised Christiansburg Walkway/Bikeway Bike Plan detailing the Town's efforts to provide quality transportation and recreational opportunities to cyclists and pedestrians.

In 2004, the Town plans to open the Harkrader Sports Complex on approximately 11 acres on Buffalo Drive adjacent to the new Christiansburg Middle School. The area will provide sports fields and a walking track, with plans for recreational facilities including three baseball fields with two inlayed soccer/multi-purpose fields and a press box and concessions building. The school property itself is planned to include a main and an auxiliary gymnasium, an amphitheater, tennis and basketball courts, and a fitness equipment area.

The Town was approached by citizens about the possibility of a skateboard park to be located adjacent to the planned aquatic center. Town Council has stated that the Town will build the skateboard park provided sufficient donations are raised for the construction.

Montgomery County Park is a 90-acre facility located at Christiansburg's northeast corporate limits. It is the largest park in Montgomery County and includes a picnic area, swimming pool, and trails and is accessible to handicapped patrons.

The Montgomery County Coal Mining Heritage Park and Science Center is open in Merrimac, just north of Christiansburg. The park is planned in six stages and will provide a combination of educational and recreational services and facilities as well as providing additional features for Huckleberry Trail users.

The following is a list of parks in the Town of Christiansburg:

Harkrader Sports Complex – Located on Buffalo Drive, NW, has three baseball fields with two inlayed soccer/multi-purpose fields, a press box and concession building, and walking track. Planned to open in 2004.

Downtown Park – Located on College Street, NW, has multi-purpose playground equipment for children of all ages, horseshoe pits and basketball courts.

Town and Country Park – Located on Summitridge Road, SW, has multi-purpose playground equipment for children of all ages and benches.

Circle Park – Located on Ellett Drive, SE, has playground equipment for children of all ages, horseshoe pits and a basketball court.

Kiwanis Park – Located on Roanoke Street, SE, has two multi-purpose athletic fields, playground equipment, picnic shelter and horseshoe pits.

Depot Park – Located on Depot Street, NE, has playground equipment, basketball courts and a jogging/walking path.

Wayside Park – Located at the top of “Christiansburg Mountain” between Roanoke Street (U.S. 460/11) and Wayside Drive, SW is still being considered for future development. At the present time, the park has a picnic area.

Wall Street Park – Located on Wall Street, NW, has a picnic area. Future development planned.

Private Recreation Facilities

Just east of the Town, the Montgomery County Chapter, Inc., of the Izaak Walton League of America owns 118 acres of land, which include 2 fishponds that are stocked with rainbow trout. Facilities include 3 trap-shooting ranges, a rifle range, a muzzle-loading range, and 2 picnic shelters. Although primarily limited to members, the area is available for rental to groups.

The Meadows Golf and Country Club, adjoining the Town's western corporate limits, provides a golf course and other facilities to its members. Auburn Hills Golf Course, located in Riner (to the south of Christiansburg on Route 8), was completed in 1999. Additionally, there are several other golf courses located in the Blacksburg and Radford areas.

Ridgewood Swim Club, located at 200 Ridgewood Road, SW near the South Franklin Street Bridge over I-81 in the south section of Town, provides adult and children's swimming pools. Ridgewood Swim Club has offered swimming lessons to the general public and has made its facilities available to the Town's Senior Center for water aerobics.

The Rosa L. Peters Playground, originally donated as the Playground for the Negro Children of Christiansburg, located at 300 Depot Street, NE has an outdoor community pool and playground adjoining the Depot Street Park.

Future Public Recreation Facilities

The Town of Christiansburg has plans to construct a new aquatic center on a 17.1-acre site between N. Franklin Street, Depot Street, NE, and Mill Lane, NE. The facility will provide an indoor swimming pool as well racquetball courts, weight rooms, and classroom space to supplement the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The Town also has approximately 7 acres near Depot Street for use as a neighborhood park adjoining the planned aquatic center. Improvements to the park will include a skate park and walking trail.

The aquatic center site is adjacent to the Rosa L. Peters Playground, which will supplement the planned aquatic center.

The Town is in the final stages of closing its former landfill on Wades Lane. The 40-acre site may have future recreation potential, but at current the Town is awaiting final closure to make plans for the property.

CHRISTIANSBURG AREA PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES Existing and Proposed

Facility	Approx. Acreage/Area	Amenities
Existing Area Facilities:		
Christiansburg Recreation Center/Senior Citizens Center – 1600 N. Franklin Street	62,000 square feet / 6.7 acres	62,000 square foot facility with 4 basketball courts, 2 racquetball courts, 2 weight rooms, game rooms, educational and recreational classes and programs
Senior Center – 1600 N. Franklin Street (inside the Christiansburg Recreation Center)	(included above)	Meeting rooms, exercise equipment, recreational classes and programs, health clinic
Huckleberry Trail – parallel to N. Franklin Street stretching from the NRV Mall to Blacksburg	5.76 miles (1.0 mile in town)	10-foot wide paved trail for hiking and non-motorized vehicles, picnic tables
Harkrader Sports Fields– Buffalo Drive, NW	11.0 acres	Open fields, walking track, 3 baseball fields with two inlayed soccer/multi-purpose fields
Downtown Park (beside the National Guard Armory) – College Street, NW	0.6 acres	Playground equipment, picnic area, play fields, benches, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, walking trail
Depot Park – Depot Street, NE	3.85 acres	Playground equipment, jogging/walking path, play fields, 2 basketball courts
Circle Park – Ellett Drive, SE	0.60 acres	Playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, basketball court, horseshoe pits
Town and Country Park – Summitridge Road, SW	0.79 acres	Playground equipment, picnic tables, benches
Wayside Park – Wayside Drive, SE (Rt. 11/460 at the top of Christiansburg Mountain)	0.9 acres	Picnic area
Wall Street Park – Wall Street NW	0.5 acres	Picnic area
Edgemont of Diamond Hills – Diamond Hills	20.0 acres	vacant
Gold Leaf Drive – future park	0.8 acres	vacant
Windmill Hills greenspace – Alder Lane, NW	3.4 acres	vacant
Christiansburg Primary School (Betty Drive, NW)	2.0 acres	Playground equipment, ballfield, open fields, basketball court
Christiansburg Elementary School (Wades Lane, NW)	2.0 acres	Playground equipment, ballfield, play fields, 2 basketball courts
Falling Branch Elementary School (Falling Branch Road, SE)	2.0 acres	2 Ballfields
Old Christiansburg Middle School (107 College Street NW)	3.0 acres	Ballfield, 4 basketball courts
New Christiansburg Middle School (1205 Buffalo Drive)	2.0 acres	2 gymnasiums, an amphitheater, tennis courts, basketball courts, fitness equipment area
Christiansburg High School (100 Independence Boulevard, NW)	6.2 acres	Track, open fields, lighted ballfield, 6 tennis courts
Kiwanis Park (Roanoke Street/Kiwanis Lane, SE)	5.5 acres	2 lighted multi-purpose athletic fields, playground equipment, picnic shelter, horseshoe pits
National Guard Armory (15 College Street, NW)	3,000 square feet	Gymnasium/auditorium, recreational classes and programs
Montgomery County Park (County Drive, NE in the County)	90.0 acres	Swimming pool, fitness trail, nature trail, picnic shelter
Montgomery County Coal Mining Heritage Park	29.2 acres	under development
Future Facilities		
Planned Christiansburg Aquatic Center (N. Franklin Street/Depot Street, NE/Mill Lane, NE)	17.1 acres	Swimming facilities, skateboard park, walking trail
Potential Future Facilities		
Wades Lane Park (Wades Lane, NW)	40.0 acres	Undetermined

Recreational Events

An annual Wilderness Trail Festival celebrating the Town's pioneer heritage is held in the Town of Christiansburg. The Festival features live music, craft sales, food vendors, informational booths, and a classic car show. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event, which was begun in 1973 as Country Square Day.

The Town of Christiansburg holds an annual "Back to School" parade in appreciation of the returning grade school students. In 1999, the Town of Christiansburg sponsored the first of what has been an annual Fourth of July fireworks display at the Christiansburg High School. The Department of Parks and Recreation coordinates the event, which features live music and recreational activities for the family.

Other Recreational Opportunities

With its proximity to nearby mountains and rivers, Christiansburg residents may enjoy year-round hiking, fishing, and camping within only a short drive from Town.

Approximately 19,200 acres of the Jefferson National Forest's total 703,000 acres are located in Montgomery County. The Jefferson National Forest offers many opportunities for hiking, backpacking, auto, tent and trailer camping, picnicking, and automobile travel. Hunting for both big and small game, as well as upland birds, is a popular sport. Warm water and cold water fishing is available to anglers and nature enthusiasts can find a great diversity and abundance of flora and fauna, in addition to magnificent vistas and beautiful scenery. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers 462 miles of hiking and camping in Virginia. The Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia, has a total of 2,100 miles. A short stretch of the Trail traverses the northern part of Montgomery County in the Jefferson National Forest.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is easily accessible to Town residents via U.S. Route 220 on the southern side of Roanoke and State Route 8 through Floyd. It provides scenic views, hiking trails, camping, picnic areas, fishing, lodging, interpretive programs, and various exhibits. In 1986, the Virginia Department of Transportation designated State Route 785 through Montgomery County to the Roanoke County line as a Virginia Byway. This route not only provides scenic beauty, but also has sites of historic value located along it.

Claytor Lake State Park, locally known as "the Lake," consists of 472 acres and is located on Route 660 off I-81 in nearby Pulaski County. The Park provides camping, picnicking, nature trails, boating, fishing, and cabins.

Montgomery County has public boat ramp access to the New River through Department of Game and Inland Fisheries sites located at Whitethorne (from Rt. 460, Rt. 655 west for 6.8 miles, then left on Rt. 652 for 0.2 mile, and right on Rt. 623 for 1.0 mile) and at Claytor Dam (Rt. 232 to Rt. 605 south 2.0 mile of Radford). Neighboring Pulaski County has public boat ramp access to Claytor Lake at Allisonia (Route 693), Dublin (Rt. 660 7.0 mile

southeast of Dublin), and Harry Dehaven Park (from I-81, south on Little River Dam Road 5.5 miles, west on Poor House Road 2.5 miles to Park, follow signs to ramp) as well as shoreline access to the New River at the Peppers Ferry Bridge (from Fairlawn, east on Route 114 to Bridge, right turn under the Bridge). Neighboring Giles County has 4 public boat ramp and shallow water access points to the New River: at the Town of Glen Lyn on Rt. 460, 0.5 mile east of Rich Creek on Rt. 460, north of Narrows on Rt. 649, and at the Snidow Park Landing in the Town of Pembroke on Snidow Road (Rt. 623).

There are a number of popular recreational fishing areas on the New River readily accessible to Christiansburg residents. These include Claytor Lake Dam to Interstate 81, Radford City Park, the Route 114 Bridge, and the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries boat ramp near Whitethorne. Good streams for smallmouth bass include the North and South Forks of the Roanoke River, Bottom Creek, and Little River, especially near the Snowville-Graysontown area. There is a white bass fishery at the dam on the Little River near its confluence with the New River.

In July 1998, President Clinton designated the New River as one of fourteen American Heritage Rivers. As part of the American Heritage River Initiative, a Federal River Navigator was hired as a liaison to work with communities in the watershed to help identify federal opportunities for project implementation. Projects can involve economic revitalization, natural resource protection, education and training, and historical and cultural revitalization.

Pandapas Pond is an 8-acre man-made impoundment at the headwaters of Poverty Creek north of Blacksburg. In addition to an extensive system of trails radiating from it, a one-mile loop trail around the pond offers a leisurely hike. The trail is maintained cooperatively by the U.S. Forest Service and the Wildlife Society of Virginia Tech.

Nine streams in Montgomery County are noted for recreational fishing. The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries (VCGIF) lists Mill Creek and Spring Branch as supporting a wild trout fishery. "Put and take" trout fishery streams in Montgomery County include South Fork Roanoke River (rainbow and brown trout), Tom's Creek (brook and rainbow trout), Craig Creek (rainbow trout), and Poverty Creek (rainbow trout). Bottom Creek, Elliott Creek, and Smith Creek are recommended by the VCGIF for use as put and take trout fisheries, along with periodic fingerling stocking.

Social Services

The Town of Christiansburg is served by the Montgomery County Department of Social Services at 210 Pepper Street SE. Programs include temporary assistance for needy families, energy assistance, Medicaid, adoption services, court services and employment services for welfare recipients, plus other beneficial programs. The five Departments of Social Services of the New River Valley are known collectively as the Partners for Self-Sufficiency (PSS). The Partners for Self-Sufficiency Program provides services and support for clients with learning disabilities, substance abuse problems, transportation problems, and other difficulties.

Postal Service

The United States Postal Service has a downtown office at 2 E. Main Street and a large office at 350 Arbor Drive, NE. There is also a Federal Express office located on Roanoke Street as well as pick-up and delivery by a variety of carriers.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY ISSUES

Historic Preservation

In 1982, the Christiansburg Chamber of Commerce commissioned the Architectural Design Group of Roanoke to prepare a comprehensive study of Downtown Christiansburg. The study was funded by downtown business owners and the Town and focused on revitalization of the downtown area through facade improvements, streetscaping, increasing recreational opportunities, and improving the traffic circulation through this area. The final report, which made recommendations on physical design improvements and renovations, was presented to the Town and Montgomery County.

Community response was positive; however, due to such factors as cost and timeframe, most property owners were not in favor of immediate, widespread renovation. They chose instead to implement improvements on an individual basis and without a formal schedule. To date, several properties, such as the Old Town Mall, have been developed per the plan. Other efforts have included landscaping and parking improvements for existing businesses as well as new public and private development in the downtown area. In 2000, the Town of Christiansburg renovated the Wimmer Building, originally constructed in 1948, at 10 E. Main Street for the Christiansburg Police Department.

Please see Chapter II "Location and Historic Overview" for more detailed information regarding the history of Christiansburg and listings of some of the Town's many historic structures.

Street Trees

The Town of Christiansburg was awarded a \$75,000 Downtown Development Grant for design of streetscaping on Main Street in Fiscal Year 2000-2001. Gay and Keesee, Inc. was awarded the downtown streetscaping design contract. The Town of Christiansburg was awarded a \$150,000 Downtown Development Grant for construction in Fiscal Year 2001-2002, received \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2002-2003, and is applying for approximately \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2003-2004. The project was begun in 2002-03 in conjunction with the Town's Municipal Building project.

Dare to Care Program

In 1991, the Town expanded its Department of Parks and Recreation to include a new recycling and anti-litter program entitled "Dare to Care about Christiansburg". This program encourages citizens to recycle and adopt public spots/streets for the purpose of keeping them free of litter. Through fiscal year 2001-02, three public spots and thirteen public streets have been adopted.

Non-profits/Community Service Organizations

The Town of Christiansburg considers itself lucky to have a fine assortment of non-profits/community service organizations serving the area such as the Jaycees, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Freemasons, Moose Lodge, Ruritans, Community Housing Partners, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the New River Valley, and the Red Cross.