

# Court Facilities

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary issue facing the County's criminal justice system is the provision of adequate court facilities and support functions. The criminal justice system and its associated facilities have recently seen an increase in demand in Fairfax County. This is comparable to the general increase exhibited throughout the region, state and country as more stringent laws are legislated and enforced for varying degrees of law violations.

### LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Meet all State standards for incarceration space, including the expansion of the adult and juvenile detention facilities.
- ✓ Provide the necessary facilities to maintain the efficient and expedient processing and adjudication of cases, maintain a central location for the main court system for the County to be convenient to all County residents and expand the courts.
- ✓ Provide a stratified system of juvenile facilities to house and process juveniles with varying degrees of legal difficulties, including expansion of the Girls' Probation Home and Boys' Probation Home.

Source: 2007 Edition of the Comprehensive Plan, as amended

## CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

The court caseloads in the Fairfax County judicial system have been experiencing steady growth for the past 10 years and current projections are for this trend to continue. The Judicial Center Expansion project will collocate all three courts - Circuit, General District and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts - in one building to facilitate the sharing of limited resources and to alleviate the confusion of two separate courthouses. The expansion project will include additional courtrooms for all three courts and functional support spaces for clerks' offices, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff's court services and security offices and the Public Law Library, as well as open office areas for County staff not permanently assigned to the courthouse, such as probation officers who are required to work out of the courthouse on a limited basis. The construction of the Judicial Center Expansion began in July 2004. Funding for this project was provided by the 1998 Public Safety Bond Referendum, a state reimbursement from the adult detention center construction and the General Fund.

In addition to the Judicial Center Expansion project, the existing Jennings Building requires major renovations to make it a functional and operational component of the courthouse. The Jennings Building is over 20 years old, and has not had any significant building renovations during this time. The building is used by over 2,500 people daily and has experienced significant wear to the public spaces and building systems. Expanded and renovated facilities for the public lobby/circulation spaces, cafeteria, Commonwealth's Attorney, Police Liaison, Sheriff's roll call facilities and Circuit and General District Court clerks' offices will be provided in the renovated Jennings Building. In addition, significant improvements to the building's life safety, mechanical and electrical systems will be made. Funding for this project was provided by the 2002 Public Safety Bond Referendum. This project does not include significant modifications required for the existing courtrooms. Renovations are anticipated to be completed over

several years. There are 25 courtrooms within the Jennings building which are in need of renovations including improved lighting, ductwork realignment and technology upgrades to keep the rooms operational. The cost to complete this work is currently estimated at \$600,000 per courtroom. Funding approved in FY 2007 and FY 2008 will complete four courtrooms, leaving 21 courtrooms remaining to be funded.

In conjunction with the Judicial Center Expansion and Jennings Building Renovation projects, requirements for improved security will be implemented. Design and implementation of security enhancements to the courthouse and the surrounding site are in response to a heightened threat level in the Washington D.C. metro area and will follow federal guidelines for courthouse design criteria. In addition, the Judicial Center Parking Structure was completed in early 2003 and provides approximately 1,900 parking spaces and upgrades to an existing surface parking lot.

Within the same complex, a 768-bed expansion to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) was completed in July 2000. The expanded ADC facility enables an average of 1,376 inmates to be housed daily, which is currently the approximate daily number. Renovation of the existing ADC facility was completed in summer 2002, and included upgraded and expanded facilities for prisoner intake/processing, Magistrate's offices, public and professional visiting, inmate property and record storage, administrative support areas and public lobby areas. Security screens were installed in the forensic housing areas in 2003 for inmate safety, and some of the computer hardware for the security system in the ADC was upgraded in 2004.



*Artist rendering of Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Expansion*

Currently the ADC includes a Pre-Release Center to house the Community Labor Force (CLF). The CLF is a safe low-risk offender labor force managed by the Sheriff's Office that provides, at no cost to the County, quick and efficient removal of trash, debris and graffiti throughout the County, maintains over 150 stand alone bus stops and performs landscape maintenance on over 250 acres of County-owned properties including the Government Center and the Public Safety Complex. In FY 2007, CLF services saved the County over \$1,134,000. In FY 2007, the CLF and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Storm Water Management Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining additional services that will be undertaken by the CLF which were currently performed through outsourced contract services. The CLF now maintains bus shelters, bus stops and trash containers in the eastern portion of the County, including four Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRDs). In addition, the CLF provides mowing services to all VDOT right of ways in the four CRDs. In the summer of 2007, a pilot program was started for mowing and trash pick up along Braddock Road.

Limited available space prevents the CLF from growing and expanding beyond its present level of approximately 50 inmates. Long term plans include establishing a self-contained, secure Inmate Work Training Center on property owned in the Chantilly area. This property is able to house up to 150 inmates supervised by Deputy Sheriffs, with storage for all CLF vehicles and equipment, as well as a staging area for daily operations. The vacated Pre-Release Center (PRC) could then be renovated to provide a full range of secure housing opportunities for female inmates, separate from the male inmate population. It is projected that by the year 2013, the inmate population will exceed the design capacity of the ADC by 15 percent, thus obligating the County to build alternate facilities at a location other than that of the Public Safety Complex. The relocation of all female inmates from the ADC to the PRC would address the housing needs for the increasing female inmate population and provide added relief and additional housing space to the Adult Detention Center.

In October 2006, a consultant completed a security assessment of the ADC. The study indicated that both the electronic and mechanical security systems (locks, intercoms, CCTV and card readers) require upgrading to fully support the expansion. The existing fragmentation makes the systems more reactive than proactive and requires more staff time to manage security. In FY 2008, funding was authorized to

begin the process of integrating, upgrading and completing the first portion of the four highest priority areas. The balance of the first priority projects will be completed with future funding, as available.

As in the case of adult offenders, the need for juvenile detention and residential treatment space continues to grow. As a result of various past and future demographic and social factors, as well as recent state legislation, it is projected that additional detention space and facilities will be needed for juveniles at different levels of incarceration. These factors have been used as a guide to help develop the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court juvenile facilities capital program. A 66-bed expansion to the Juvenile Detention Center was completed in 1998. Additional projects required to address juvenile offenders include a new, replacement facility for the current, outdated Girls' Probation House and a Less Secure Shelter II.

## CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation** (Providence District):

\$123,236,000 for the design and construction of an approximately 316,000 square foot addition to the Jennings Judicial Center, including courtrooms, chambers, office space, necessary support spaces and site improvements. This project also includes the renovation of the existing 230,000 square foot courthouse and for improved security to the overall courthouse and surrounding site. The renovation will include significant renovations to life safety, mechanical and electrical building systems to create a functional and operational courthouse. This project is supported by the 1998 and 2002 Public Safety Referenda, a state reimbursement from the ADC construction and the General Fund.



2. **Jennings Judicial Center - Furniture and Equipment** (Providence District): \$12,600,000 for necessary Information Technology equipment and building support for the Judicial Center Expansion and Renovation project. Funding provides for the purchase of systems furniture and loose furniture and courtroom furnishings, as well as furniture for the jury assembly room, public waiting areas, the law library, the children's room, staff work areas and the cafeteria. All of these are necessary to make the Judicial Center Expansion fully functional.
3. **Girls' Probation House** (Springfield District): \$6,131,000 for design and construction of a new, approximately 11,500 square foot facility at the site of the existing facility. The program will continue to provide residential services for up to 12 girls as ordered by the Juvenile Court. The new facility is required to provide a replacement for an extremely outdated facility that is nearly fifty years old and was originally constructed as a motel. Program operations have been moved to the Juvenile Detention Center during the period of construction. Funding is supported by the 2004 Human Services/ Juvenile Facilities Bond Referendum.
4. **Less Secure Shelter II** (Providence District): \$4,349,000 for design and construction of a new, approximately 11,500 square foot facility at the site of the existing Juvenile Detention Center and the existing Less Secure facility. The new facility will provide 12 new beds to help alleviate overcrowding at the existing facility resulting from court-ordered assignments. The new facility will also allow for segregation of male and female juveniles who are ordered into the program. Funding is supported by the 2004 Human Services/ Juvenile Facilities bond referendum.
5. **Jennings Courtroom Renovations** (Providence District): This is an on-going project to address needed renovations in the existing 25 courtrooms within Jennings building which are not being renovated or moved as part of the Judicial Center Expansion Project. These courtrooms require improved lighting, ductwork realignment and technology upgrades to keep these existing court rooms operational. The cost to complete this work is currently estimated at \$600,000 per court room. This project is supported by the General Fund, as available.

6. **Adult Detention Center Security Enhancements** (Providence District): This is an on-going project to address needed security improvements in the Adult Detention Center (ADC) that were identified by an independent study of security deficiencies. The improvements will complete, integrate and upgrade mechanical and electronic security systems to enable Deputies to be more proactive to avoid security issues. There are four priority work areas. An amount of \$250,000 will complete the remaining portion of the first priority of work. Each of the remaining three priorities are estimated to cost \$1,000,000 each. As available, funding is planned at approximately \$300,000 annually.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES  
COURT FACILITIES  
(\$000's)**

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2008						Total FY2009-FY2013	Total FY2014-FY2018	Total Project Estimate
			FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013			
1. Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation / 009209	B, G, X	111,236	<b>12,000</b>					12,000		123,236
2. Jennings Judicial Center - Furniture and Equipment / 009218	G	10,200	<b>800</b>	800	800			2,400		12,600
3. Girls' Probation House / 04A001	B	4,517	<b>1,614</b>					1,614		6,131
4. Less Secure Shelter II / 04A005	B	800	<b>2,647</b>	902				3,549		4,349
5. Jenning Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations / 009223	G	2,300						0		2,300
6. Adult Detention Center Security	B, U	250			300	300	300	900		1,150
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$129,303</b>	\$17,061	\$1,702	\$1,100	\$300	\$300	\$20,463	\$0	\$149,766

Key: Stage of Development	
	Feasibility Study or Design
	Land Acquisition
	Construction

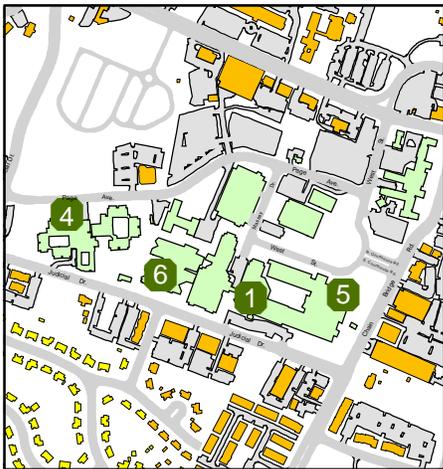
Notes:  
Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts.

Key: Source of Funds	
B	Bonds
G	General Fund
S	State
F	Federal
X	Other
U	Undetermined

# Court Facilities Project Locations



**Detail Map**



- 1 Judicial Center Expansion & Renovation
- 3 Girls Probation House
- 4 Less Secure Shelter II
- 5 Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations
- 6 Adult Detention Center Security

Note: Map numbers correspond to project descriptions in the text and cost summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected, fixed sites are shown on the map.