

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter addresses possible impacts to the following community facilities and services: police protection services, fire protection services, emergency medical services (EMS), schools, solid waste management, recreation, and other providers potentially affected by the development of the Proposed Project. Existing conditions of current service providers, future conditions expected without the Proposed Project, and potential impacts of the Proposed Project are described in this chapter. Refer to Chapter 1, “Project Description,” for a detailed description of the Proposed Project. Locations of community facilities are shown in **Figure 3-1**. Information regarding existing and proposed conditions was obtained through written correspondence, telephone calls, and the website of emergency service providers, schools and hospitals in the City of Saratoga Springs. The interview logs and written correspondence with public officials used to prepare this chapter are found in **Appendix B**.

**PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS**

The Proposed Project is not expected to generate a substantial increase in visitors to the site. The Proposed Project is not expected to result in adverse impacts generated by additional new demands on community services in the areas of public safety, schools, health care and recreational resources.

**B. EXISTING CONDITIONS****PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES**

NYRA Security and the City of Saratoga Springs police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) provide public safety services to the Race Course. NYRA Security coordinates with the City of Saratoga Springs for emergency response to the Project Site. Overall, dispatch of City Public Safety services is through the Public Safety Department communication center (staffed 24 hours a day by two public safety dispatchers) located in City Hall at 5 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY. Police and EMS serving the Project Site are described below and the locations serving the site are shown in **Figure 3-1**.

*NYRA SECURITY*

NYRA Security consists of 300 trained security personnel that handle most of the security needs at the Race Course during the racing season. In the off-season when the Race Course is not in session, this number drops to 16 security guards.

Approximately 150 security personnel are security guards (seasonal); the remainder of staff is split between peace officers and fire marshals. There are 13 full time Peace Officers, 27 part time Peace Officers, and 110 Fire Marshalls. Traffic control at the Race Course gates is handled

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by NYRA Security with assistance from the City of Saratoga Springs Police Department. In general, NYRA Security handles most property issues and less serious crimes such as minor drug offenses. However, NYRA Security will coordinate with and request back up from the Saratoga Springs Police Department for more serious offenses during the racing season.

### *POLICE DEPARTMENT*

The Police Department operates out of the City of Saratoga Springs City Hall, which is located approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site. The City of Saratoga Springs is divided into four policing zones; each zone has one officer/car, one float car and one officer in the business district (either by foot or car). Shift minimum is six officers with additional officers assigned at night outside of racing hours. This does not include specialty units (traffic, detectives, administrators, etc.). The response time to the Project Site varies depending on the nature of the call, and is estimated by the Police Department to be two minutes or less. Calls for Police service City-wide totaled 30,463 in 2012 (see **Table 3-1**) which is slightly higher than 2011. Calls for Police service to the Project Site totaled 462 for the last three years (2010, 2011 & 2012) or an average of about 154 calls per year.

**Table 3-1**  
**Saratoga Springs Police Department Call Log**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Calls for Service	29,943	30,157	30,463
<b>Sources:</b> Source: Saratoga Springs Police Department Annual Report, 2011 & Department of Public Safety Annual Report, 2012			

### *New York State Police*

The New York State Police conduct a daily bomb sweep of the Frontside of the Race Course during the Track Meet. Officers from Troop G located in Latham, New York conduct this sweep. Occasionally, State Police will park a marked car at the main entrance gate at the end of the day, but do not typically have involvement in day-to-day policing of the Project Site.

### *FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)*

The Project Site is served by the City of Saratoga Springs Fire Department, headquartered at 60 Lake Avenue with a secondary station at 166 West Avenue. An additional fire station is currently under consideration to reduce response times on the City's east side.

The Fire Department is comprised of 58 professionally trained staff, of which four to six personnel serve the Project Area per shift. The Fire Department is responsible for EMS and Fire Services within the City of Saratoga Springs. The Fire Department equipment includes: (4) 1250 gpm engines, (2) aerial apparatus (95' and 105' platforms), (2) ambulances, (1) rescue, (1) brush truck and (1) hazmat unit. In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 77 fire calls district wide, down from 82 in 2011 (see **Table 3-2**).

**Table 3-2**  
**Saratoga Springs Fire Department Call Log**

	2010	2011	2012
Fire Calls	71	82	77
EMS Calls	71	82	136
<b>Sources:</b> Source: Saratoga Springs Fire Department, 2013			

The main Fire Station is located 1.3 miles from the Project Site. EMS is primarily provided by Mohawk Ambulance Service, a private carrier. Operational experience has led to the Fire Department being called in if patient transport is needed due to the limited number of private carrier ambulances present on the site at any given time. In addition, when the Race Course is in session, the Fire Department keeps an Engine at the Project Site, to reduce response time in the event of an emergency situation.

*Mohawk Ambulance Service*

First response EMS is primarily provided by Mohawk Ambulance Service. Mohawk Ambulance has three ambulances onsite during the meet. Each ambulance is staffed by two personnel and at least one of these personnel is a New York State Certified Paramedic, the other is typically an emergency medical technician. Of the three ambulances stationed at the Race Course one is for the general public and the other two are specifically for the jockeys, trainers, and those involved in the racing activities. Mohawk Ambulance works in concert with the NYRA first aid station. If backup is required, the Saratoga Springs Fire Department Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) service is called via the 911 system.

*NYRA EMT Service*

NYRA contracts with CHS, a private company specializing in onsite health care, to provide basic life support EMT services to the Race Course (both general public and the trainers). In addition to CHS, NYRA also has a first aid station on site staffed by a physician during the meet.

*Interagency Coordination*

At the start of the racing season each year, a coordination meeting between the New York State Police, Saratoga Springs Police Department, Saratoga Springs Fire Department, FBI, NYRA upper management and NYSDOT (site access and roadway safety) is held to discuss security issues at the Project Site.

**SCHOOLS**

There is no enrollment demand generated by the Race Course, either from full-time residents living on the premises or from the seasonal employees that live on the property before and during the race season. The following information about local school resources is provided primarily to set the context of school district operations in and around the Project Site.

*SARATOGA SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

The Project Site is located within the Saratoga Springs Central School District (SSCSD), which includes the City of Saratoga Springs and portions of the Towns of Greenfield, Malta, Milton, Saratoga and Wilton.

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The SSCSD includes six elementary schools (Lake Avenue, Greenfield, Geyser Road, Dorothy Nolan, Division Street, and Caroline Street). The district also includes the Maple Avenue Middle School, the Senior High School and an Administration Building.

The Caroline Street Elementary School is located closest to the Project Site, at under a half mile or a one minute drive. Maple Avenue Middle School is located approximately two and a half miles or an eight minute drive. The Senior High School is located approximately two miles or an eight minute drive from the Project Site.

Enrollment for the SSCSD for 2011-2012 was 6,667 Students, which is a decrease from 6,812 for the 2010-2011 school year. Average class size has remained 23 for the last three school years. In addition, Professional Staff levels have remained virtually steady at 52 for the last three school years (see **Table 3-3**).

**Table 3-3**

**Saratoga Springs Central School District Enrollment Trends**

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Enrollment	6,807	6,812	6,667
Average Class Size	23	23	23
Professional Staff	53	52	52
Paraprofessionals	110	115	115
Assistant Principals	9	9	9
Principals	8	8	8

**Sources:** The New York State District Report Card: Accountability and Overview Report 2011-12

### *PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS*

The Project Site is proximal to several private and/or parochial schools including:

- Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs, 122 Regent Street, Saratoga Springs, NY (less than one mile from Project Site).
- Saratoga Independent School, 459 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY (approximately three and a half miles from Project Site).
- St Clements Regional Catholic School, 231 Lake Avenue Saratoga Springs, NY (less than one mile from Project Site).
- Saratoga Central Catholic School, 247 Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY (approximately one mile from Project Site).

### **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

#### *SARATOGA HOSPITAL*

The closest hospital to the Project Site is Saratoga Hospital, located at 221 Church Street, in Saratoga Springs approximately two miles or six minutes from the Project Site. Saratoga Hospital facilities contain 171 beds and provide emergency, inpatient care to nearly 40 percent of the County's inpatients and over 100,000 outpatients each year.

The Saratoga Hospital system also includes 18 other facilities throughout Saratoga County, varying from urgent care to family health facilities and rehabilitation centers.

The closest urgent care facility to the Project Site is Wilton Medical located at 3040 Route 50 Saratoga Springs, approximately four miles from the Project Site.

As noted above under emergency services, the first responders to health care needs during the racing season are internal to the Project Site since NYRA provides for on-site EMT and physician services. NYRA contracts with CHS, a private company specializing in onsite health care, to provide basic life support EMT services to the Race Course (both general public and the trainers). In addition to CHS, NYRA also has a first aid station on site staffed by a physician during the meet.

### **SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING**

Currently, solid waste from the Project Site is handled by Waste Management, a private carrier.<sup>1</sup> During the off-season the site has approximately 25 dumpsters comprised of 12 eight yard dumpsters and 13 six yard dumpsters, which are emptied once a week. During the racing season, the barn area utilizes 25 six yard dumpsters and 27 eight yard dumpsters, which are emptied twice per week. The Food Service buildings utilize three 30 yard trash compactors which are emptied four times per week (seven tons of garbage per dumpster or 84 tons per week). The Lowlands area utilizes two 30 yard dumpsters, which are emptied twice a week during the meet (seven tons of garbage per dumpster or 28 tons of garbage per week).

There is no formal recycling program at the site. All aluminum is informally recycled by the Backstretch workers who typically collect bottles and cans on the site.

Solid waste is processed at the Waste Management Facility in Hudson Falls, New York. Construction and Demolition debris is brought to the Fort Edward, New York facility, where it is sorted and transported to the High Acres, New York Waste Management Facility.

### **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

The City operates a variety of Recreational (Rec) Centers throughout the City as listed in **Table 3-4** below. The Project Site is located less than a mile away from the East Side Rec Center, located at 226 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs. East Side Rec Center has a variety of sports fields including baseball, tennis, basketball and a skateboard park. In addition, the City maintains Congress Park; a 17 acre passive recreational park in downtown Saratoga Springs less than one mile away from the Project Site, home to the historic Canfield Casino, walking trails, ponds, a carousel and sculpture gardens.

Saratoga Spa State Park, a 2,500 acre New York State Park, located approximately 0.5 miles or six minutes from the Project Site provides numerous trails, natural springs, tennis courts, golf courses, public pools, as well as the National Museum of Dance & Hall of Fame, the Saratoga Automobile Museum and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. This facility also includes a hotel and conference center (Gideon Putnam Hotel) and an Event Hall (Hall of Springs).

The Saratoga Race Course itself is open to the public throughout the horse racing season as well as off season for events ranging from horse shows, 5k runs and walks and other fundraisers.

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<sup>1</sup> Liquid waste, including manure waste, is discussed in Chapter 9, Sanitary Sewer. Solid waste generated during construction is discussed in Chapter 18, Construction.

**Table 3-4  
Saratoga Springs Recreation Facilities**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Distance to Project Site</b>
Saratoga Springs Recreation Center	15 Vanderbilt Ave	Community Room, Game Room, Racquetball Court, Multi-Purpose Gymnasium	1.1 miles
East Side Recreation Park	226 Lake Ave	Playgrounds, Spray Fountain, 3 Basketball Courts, 6 Tennis Courts, Handball Court, Skate Park, 1 Football Field, 6 Baseball Fields, Paved Track	< 1 mile
West Side Recreation Park	166 Division St	Playground, Spray Fountain, 3 Tennis Courts, 2 Basketball Courts, 4 Baseball Fields	1.5 miles
North Side Recreation Park	5 Clement Ave	Playground, 2 Lacrosse/Soccer Field	1.8 miles
Veterans Memorial Park	10 Adams Rd	Playground, Spray Fountain, Baseball Field, 4 Softball Fields, 2 Basketball Courts, 4 Tennis Courts, Jogging Path	3.4 miles
East Side Skate Park	226 Lake Ave	Ramps, Rails, 1/4 Pipe, Half-Pipe	< 1 mile
Vernon/Weibel Arena Ice Rink	30 Weibel Ave	Regulation Sized Rink, Seats 500 & Olympic Sized Rink, Seats 1500	2.3 miles
Congress Park	E. Congress St	Springs and Passive Recreation	< 1 mile
High Rock Park	High Rock Ave	Springs and Passive Recreation	1.4 miles
Saratoga Casino and Raceway	342 Jefferson St	Soccer Fields- NOT OWNED BY CITY	1 mile
<b>Sources:</b> Email Correspondence with John Hirliman City of Saratoga Springs Recreation Department			

### C. FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The “Future Without the Proposed Project” (also referred to as the “No Build” condition) provides a baseline condition that is evaluated and compared with the incremental changes due to the Proposed Project. Conditions in the Future Without the Proposed Project are assessed for the 2024 analysis year.

The City of Saratoga has identified numerous No Build projects including residential and commercial development, mostly located outside the ¼-mile study area of the Proposed Project. These projects would be expected to be complete and operational by the future 2024 analysis year (see Chapter 2, “Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy”). Overall, in the future without the proposed project there will be additional demands on the City’s Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services and an increased enrollment at area schools. In general, these community services will be required to accommodate any additional demand through management of existing resources and/or expansion of resources as necessary. The assessment of new demand and potential mitigation measures specific to any one project could be identified as part of a project’s approval (and any required environmental analysis under SEQRA).

Specific to the Project Site, and as noted in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” ongoing or background project work undertaken by NYRA includes a continuing effort to improve

infrastructure and code compliance (improved fire prevention and safety measures) of the Race Course which will reduce the likelihood of potential emergency service incidents in the future.

## **D. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES**

#### *POLICE DEPARTMENT*

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to significantly increase attendance at the Race Course or result in a significant increase in demand for police services. Independent of the Proposed Project, coordination between NYRA and service providers are ongoing and needs are evaluated regularly.

The proposed improvements to Race Course Facilities would be expected to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety at the Race Course and overall site operations. No changes to the NYRA security operations or the coordination with City and State Police are anticipated to result from the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to the Police Department.

#### *FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)*

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to significantly increase attendance at the Race Course or result in a significant increase in demand for fire or EMS services. Independent of the Proposed Project, coordination between NYRA and service providers are ongoing and needs are evaluated regularly.

The improvements proposed as part of the project would be expected to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety at the Race Course and overall site operations. Further, the proposed renovations would update and modernize Race Course facilities requiring that the buildings be brought up to code and include the latest fire safety measures. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to the fire or emergency medical services.

### **SCHOOLS**

As with existing conditions, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to increase year round populations in the City and there would be no effect on the Saratoga Springs Central School District.

### **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to increase year round population or significantly increase attendance at the Race Course. Therefore, with the existing resources including the EMT services already contracted by NYRA, the Proposed Project is not expected to generate an increase in demand or result in significant adverse impacts to healthcare facilities.

### **SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The Proposed Project is not expected to generate significant amounts of additional solid waste and recyclables (aside from horse manure that is managed separately from regular solid waste).

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Solid waste and recycling will be managed in the same way that current waste is handled on the Project Site. It will be carted by private carrier and disposed of in Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Waste Management Facilities. Similarly, construction-generated waste would be managed and disposed of by private carriers in accordance with applicable regulations. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to solid waste and recycling services would result from the Proposed Project.

### **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Proposed Project would result in improvements to Race Course facilities that are anticipated to provide an expanded range of services, products and an enhanced entertainment experience adding to the Race Course's recreational opportunities. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to recreational facilities would result from the Proposed Project.

### **MITIGATION**

No significant adverse impacts to community services would result from the Proposed Project and no mitigation would be required. \*