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7.1 Police and Emergency Services

O'Fallon currently employs 45 officers equaling 1.75 officers for every 1,000 persons. While taking many other variables into account, including calls-for-service, traffic counts and sales tax revenue, the City tries to maintain a ratio between 1.65 and 1.9 officers per 1,000 residents. The current growth of the community, as it adds between 850 and 1,100 new residents each year, indicates that hiring roughly two new officers annually would be needed to maintain the recommended ratio. The majority of the costs associated with hiring and training additional officers are absorbed through the General Fund. The Police Department will also be utilizing grant opportunities to purchase technology and other resources. Regarding EMS services, the need for employees, equipment, and facilities is based on call demands. Over the course of the last three years, demand for EMS services have increased between 13 and 20% annually. If this trend continues, a third fully staffed ambulance will be necessary to keep response times at an acceptable level.

Primarily because of increased development near the Interstate 64 interchange, the location of calls has shifted in the City. The previous primary location of calls was in the City's older core areas. The shift in demand for service is now located in the growing commercial area located near Hartman Lane and West Highway 50. The demand for both police and ambulance services has increased considerably in this vicinity. This increased demand on services puts a considerable drain on police service, with calls mostly associated with commercial development consuming an increasing proportion of the department's time. The department's largest increase in calls involves traffic accidents and property crime calls, including thefts. The continued growth of the City's commercial developments will continue placing increasing demands on existing police services. While each shift has a minimum of five officers on duty, the stacking of non-emergency calls is periodically required due to peak times and days. As a general comparison, the City of Fairview Heights, which is dominated by commercial development, has a similar number of police officers as O'Fallon and approximately 5,000 fewer residents. This is obviously due, in part, to the number of calls associated with their large commercial base. Future annexations also directly affect the police department and its ability to deliver service. As the farmland on the

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City's fringe develops, and the City's population grows, the need for additional public safety resources will continue to increase. As the City's population begins to grow north of Highway 50 and west of Simmons Road, the need for an overpass on the west-end of town will also increase.

All officers are based at the O'Fallon Public Safety Facility on Seven Hills Road. The Public Safety Facility was opened in 2004 and is projected to adequately serve the Police Department and Emergency Medical Services for the next 25 years.

7.2 Fire Department

The City of O'Fallon is protected by a 41 member volunteer fire department. This department is a joint entity of the City of O'Fallon, the O'Fallon-Shiloh Valley-Caseyville Fire Protection District (OSVCFPD)—a rural district, and the O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Department. The three entities share station houses, equipment, and manpower, and exercise an "automatic" mutual aid agreement. Station houses are located in O'Fallon at 106 E. Washington (#1) and at the corner of State & 3rd Streets (#2), with a third station in Shiloh. The fire department serves a 42 square mile area including the City of O'Fallon, most of the Village of Shiloh, O'Fallon Township, and small portions of Caseyville and Shiloh Valley Townships.

The Department believes the volunteer system can be sustained for the next ten years. However, demands for increased administrative work, fire inspections, and public service programs are beginning to strain the volunteer system. These public service programs include: offering fire prevention classes, assisting businesses with fire escape plans and how to place and use fire extinguishers, all the activities during fire prevention week and making fire prevention presentations to organizations. These are done outside of fire fighting and are completely managed and conducted by volunteer firefighters. The department estimates it will need, at some point in the near future, administrative positions to help satisfy the increasing demands placed on the department.

The Department maintains an ISO rating of 4 and has set a goal of achieving a rating of 3 by 2007. Improvements to be addressed to achieve an ISO rating of 3 include physical improvements to the water system and dispatch center, and Pre-Plans for all commercial and multi-family facilities.

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Strict inspections and adequate sprinkler systems provide the best fire prevention. The City's commercial occupancy permit program is instrumental in making a more fire-wise community by catching hazardous conditions before they cause a problem.

Growth of the City of O'Fallon has caused the Fire Department to consider the location of its fire stations. The Department is currently evaluating three alternatives for a new firehouse in the northwest quadrant of O'Fallon near Milburn School/Porter-Simmons Road. By 2010, the Department projects a need for a new station in the northeast quadrant of the city near Troy-O'Fallon Road/Scott-Troy Road. This may also involve the relocation of one of the downtown stations to this quadrant to eliminate the overlapping service areas of the two older, downtown stations.

The City should also continue to ensure the construction of east-west roadways, which will improve connectivity throughout the City and enhance response time. The need for fire services in these growing areas will also increase as these homes age and become more vulnerable to fire. Providing volunteers to meet the increasing demands and maintaining the viability of the volunteer system will be a challenge into the decade.

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7.3 *City Parks and Recreation Services*

The City of O'Fallon owns approximately 175 acres of public park space. The four parks that comprise this total include: Community Park (40 acres), Hesse Park (22 acres), Thoman Park (4.5 acres), and Rock Springs Park (109 acres). Community Park serves as an active community park and Hesse Park and Thoman Park serve as neighborhood parks. Rock Springs Park is reserved as a passive park.

The facilities at Community Park are in the process of much needed renovation. Memorial pool, which was built in 1957, was completely renovated in 2001. The opening of the pool at the new private indoor facility on Seven Hills Road has helped meet the need for another pool within the community. Rock Springs Park has recently undergone development as a passive recreation area, which includes nature trails, picnic areas, informal recreational areas and restroom & parking facilities. The City obtained funds to make improvements to open this park, which included developing access from Third Street extended. In addition, the City provided adequate parking facilities.

The City developed a Park Master Plan, which includes: maintaining and upgrading the Community Park, developing more biking and walking trails, creating more non-sports related programs, developing the new Family Sports Park, and acquiring new park ground in the growing areas of the City. The Cavins Center has received substantial internal and external renovations with Illinois FIRST funds.

Recreation amenities can be found in the open spaces along the city's creeks, particularly Engle, Ogle, and Rock Springs Branch. These areas provide an opportunity to integrate these natural resources into the city's open space network. These areas have potential as passive linear parks linking active recreational areas with one another, as settings for jogging, exercise and bike trails, and as natural conduits for stormwater drainage. This issue is addressed more fully in the Environmental Framework Plan and the Parks Master Plan.

With the existing and anticipated population growth, especially in the northeast portion of the city, additional parkland must be built to service the expanded population and residential areas. It is recommended that 13 new park areas are developed/dedicated in conjunction with the implementation of this plan and the implementation of the proposed Parks, Open Space and Greenways Master Plan. The general locations of the recommended future park areas are shown on the Public Facilities Map. The site locations, quantity of sites and park type are general

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recommendations that are subject to land availability, funding sources, residential growth and the level of community support. It is recommended that the City take steps to procure and/or acquire rights to property in the general vicinity of the recommended park areas. Alternative locations should be considered based upon land availability, cost and the level of intrinsic value prospective sites may offer.

Since the adoption of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update, the City has completed improvements to Rock Springs Park and Thoman Park (4.5 acres) and has acquired land for the establishment of Family Sports Park. Over the same time period, the City removed the 1st Street Pocket Park and Holiday Park. The design for Family Sports Park includes 11 soccer/multi-purpose athletic fields, 12 ball diamonds, a recreation complex, picnic shelters, an internal trail system, dog parks, and a lake. Phase I, funded in part by a FY05 LWCF Grant and FY06 OSLAD Grant from the State of Illinois, includes four lighted multi-use baseball/softball diamonds, pavilions, a playground, a section of multi-use trail and parking.

Recreational Trails and the Bicycle Facilities Plan

In January, 2005, the City of O'Fallon adopted a Bicycle Facilities Plan as prepared by Trailnet, Inc. and James Pona and Associates with Southwestern Illinois RC&D. The main objectives outlined in the plan are to develop recreational trails as an important element in the City's transportation and recreation system and establish programs to effectively and safely use the recreational trail system. The main components of facilities as outlined in the plan are listed below.

1. Trails

It is proposed that several additional trails be developed and interconnected – through a system of recreational trails and bicycle lanes – with the three existing trails in Hesse, Rock Springs, and St. Ellen Mine Parks. These trails will become the backbone of O'Fallon's new interconnected trail system, and would ensure the preservation of alternative transportation, recreation, and environmental habitat corridors as residential development continues. The new trails would be developed within designated greenways as well as the proposed Gateway Connector corridor and would include: North Extension of Hesse Park Trail; Ogles Creek Trail; Engle Creek Trail; Rock Springs Branch Trail; Silver Creek Trail; and a trail on the proposed Gateway Connector Alignment.

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2. On-Street Bikeways

The On-Street Bikeway System consists primarily of accommodations intended to facilitate travel connections for bicyclists, including movement between city parks, downtown commercial establishments, and other activity centers. In addition to these bikeway improvements, the city should promote and encourage bicycle accommodations on connecting state and county-maintained roads where recommended in the Bikeway Facilities Plan. It should also promote cooperation with Collinsville, Lebanon, Mascoutah, Shiloh, and Scott Air Force Base to establish connections to bordering bikeways in those communities.

Bikeway connections to SCCTD's MetroLink and MetroBus lines are also very important in terms of further encouraging bicycle usage and supporting transit-oriented development (TOD).

All facilities recommended in the plan amount to approximately \$14.5 million in improvements.

In 2003, the Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) adopted a Long Range Development Plan. Two projects identified and prioritized in the MEPRD plan would have a direct impact on the City of O'Fallon. The first is Ogles Creek Park and the second is Scott-Troy Trail. Below are excerpts from the Plan regarding one of these projects.

"The Scott-Troy Trail extends from the eastern end of the Schoolhouse Trail in Troy along the old Union Pacific railroad right-of-way south through O'Fallon and Shiloh to the MetroBikeLink and Shiloh-Scott AFB MetroLink Station."

Park Lands Dedication Ordinance

To help meet the park and recreational goals of the city and "to maintain the existing high quality of life for present and future residents" the City adopted a Park Lands Dedication ordinance in February of 2005. The ordinance is part of the Subdivision and Development Control Ordinance of the City of O'Fallon. The ordinance requires that developers of new subdivisions dedicate 6 acres of park land to the City for every 1,000 persons estimated to be added to the City's population. Cash payments are accepted in lieu of land dedication. The ordinance further states that no park shall be less than three contiguous acres unless otherwise approved by the City Council.



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7.4 Schools

Public school districts serving O'Fallon include O'Fallon School District No. 90, with five elementary and one junior high school; Central School District No. 104, with one elementary school; Shiloh School District No. 85, with one elementary and one middle school, and O'Fallon Township High School District No. 203, with one high school. Future expansion of the City of O'Fallon north into Madison County would include a portion of the Triad Unit District No. 2, serving both elementary and high school students. A small number of students at Pontiac-William Holiday School District No. 105 in Fairview Heights also feed to O'Fallon High School, as do some students at area independent (private and parochial) schools.

A geodemographic study was completed in late 2005 for the O'Fallon school districts. The study concluded that K-12 enrollment will increase approximately 20% based solely on demographic trends over the next five years, with additional gains expected from new housing construction driving that rate up to 35% over the same interval.

To meet this anticipated demand, O'Fallon High School District #203 has purchased 42 acres on the west side of North Seven Hills Road and 112 acres on the north side of Milburn School Road for potential future expansion purposes. Central School District No. 104 owns 28 acres off St. Ellen Mine Road, west of its current facility on Hartman Lane.

As new facilities are envisioned and constructed, the City should pursue the development of new municipal park and recreation facilities near, or co-located with, these new school locations. The following table provides historic, current, and projected enrollment figures.



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Table 7.2

SCHOOL	GRADE	1997-98 ENROLL- MENT	2004-05 ENROLL- MENT	2009-10 PROJECTED	CURRENT CAPACITY
O'Fallon H.S. #203	9 – 12	1903	2259	3173*	2041
O'Fallon District #90		2535	3268	4278*	4250
<i>Edward Fulton Jr. H.S.</i>	7 – 8		838		900
<i>Marie Schaefer</i>	6		382		700
<i>Estelle Kampmeyer</i>	K – 5		474		550
<i>J. E. Hinchcliffe</i>	K – 5		457		550
<i>LaVerna Evans</i>	K – 5		450		550
<i>Delores Moye School</i>	K – 5		667		1000
Central #104	K – 8	390	395	680	440
Shiloh District #85		437	580	800	1000
<i>Shiloh M.S.</i>	5 – 8		255	360	525
<i>Shiloh Elem.</i>	PK – 4		325	440	475

*O'Fallon Community Consolidated School District #90 Geodemographic Study, Charles Kofron, PhD, October 21, 2005.



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Insert Public Facilities map