

2003 Comprehensive Plan

Community Services and Facilities



City Departments and Services

Administration Department

The Administration Department functions as the heart of the government of the City of Nixa. Within this department are the offices of the City Administrator and City Clerk, the Municipal Court, and the Finance, Utility Billing and Collection, Human Resources and Development departments. The City Administrator acts as the executive officer for the City and the City Clerk serves as the financial officer. All official records are kept by the City Clerk; archives for stored permanent records are located at City Hall. These departments have a combined full-time staff of 20 employees.

Municipal Court is held twice a month on Thursdays. The City has an elected Judge and the City Attorney serves as the City Prosecutor. The Court has a violations bureau where certain tickets may be paid to the Court Clerk without the need to attend court. The Municipal Court processes an average of 250 tickets per month.

All City financial business, including budget management and the bidding process, is handled through the City Clerk's office. The fiscal year 2002 budget was approximately \$29 million and will no doubt continue to grow with the continued expansion and development of the City.

The Development Department handles all of the planning and zoning, code enforcement and mapping for the City. The staff provides administrative support to the Planning and Zoning Commission and administers all subdivision plats, annexations, use permits, nuisance abatement and building codes for the City. The department also has a mapping technician who develops various maps for City staff and the general public.

Future plans call for a much-needed expansion of the City Hall facility, to be built on the land immediately to the east of the current City Hall. In 1990, the current City Hall housed the Administration, Parks and Police Department; in 2002, the space is stretched to adequately house the City's current administrative offices.

The City of Nixa has always been recognized for planning and being ready for the future. Without the foresight of those who have served in the past and the planning of those presently serving, Nixa would not be the City it is today.

Electric Department

The City of Nixa owns and operates the local electric distribution utility. Installation and maintenance of all overhead and underground lines as well as tree maintenance are handled by the Electric Department, which employs eleven people. The city purchases power from Springfield City Utilities (SCU) and from Southwest Power Administration (SPA); however all transmission is handled through SPA. Negotiations are underway with SCU for transmission so that the City has more than one “feed” into the City for electric service. Service equipment includes four bucket trucks, one digger truck, one backhoe, one pickup and a 6x4 Gator.

The City has three electric substations that are fed by two 69KV lines. One substation is located in the downtown area, one is on the west side of the community, and the third is in the central north area of the City.

Future projects are in development to meet the needs of new growth. These projects include:

- Building of a fourth substation;
- Installing a feeder line from an alternate source for back-up purposes;
- Installing a 69KV line to link all substations, creating a “loop”; and
- Upgrading the SWPA substation.

Police Department

During the summer of 1995, the Nixa Police Department moved into a new 5,000 square foot facility located north of the Nixa City Hall on West Mount Vernon. Full-time personnel include 22 officers (including the Chief), seven dispatchers, one animal control/nuisance officer and one Dispatch Supervisor/Administrative Assistant.

This new facility provides the Department with the extra space necessary to meet current needs. The facility includes a dispatch center; offices for the chief, supervisors, investigator, D.A.R.E. program, and administrative assistant; squad room; men’s and women’s locker rooms; processing room with an interview area and holding cell; and a garage which also houses the arms room and the evidence room. The Department maintains eight marked and three unmarked police vehicles, one fully-equipped animal control vehicle, and one mobile command post.

Since 1990, there have been several changes to the Department's services as well as the law enforcement service philosophy. The E-911 Center is staffed 24 hours a day by the Department's seven dispatchers.

In response to community growth and increased service calls, the Department has taken on a proactive approach to meeting community needs. During the summer of 1995, the department received a grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety for a full-time traffic officer. Departmental philosophy is also incorporating citizen involvement in community policing. The Department received a grant to hire an officer to provide instruction in the local schools for the D.A.R.E. Program (drug awareness) and the G.R.E.A.T. program (gang awareness). This officer also provides crime prevention training throughout the community. The Department also is in a partnership with the Nixa School System to provide two full-time School Resource Officers, one with a narcotics canine.

From 1997 through 2001 calls have increased 21%. This ever-increasing call load that the growing population brings is being considered as plans are being made to add more patrol positions for service.

These are some of the department's future needs that will also need to be addressed:

- Replacement and additional vehicles for fleet;
- Increased training budget to cover new areas of responsibility such as post 9-11 Homeland security issues;
- Increased technology budget as tools of the trade become more expensive and technologically advanced;
- With the growth in calls comes a need for more investigative personnel; and
- With additional manpower, space will again become a premium and a possible addition to this building or remodeling will have to be considered.

Recycling Center

The Recycling Center continues to operate in a very beneficial manner for Nixa residents. Besides the receiving of recyclable materials, it also distributes a useable product. In 2001, the Center gave out 430 tons of compost that had been produced by the Nixa Wastewater Treatment Facility. As of September 2002, current distribution rates indicate that the 2001 total

will be exceeded by several tons. As needed, the Recycling Center's operations will continue to expand to meet the future needs of the City and reduce the need for land application.

Wastewater Treatment System

In 1990 and 1995, the capacity of the city's wastewater treatment plant was expanded to meet the needs of growth. Since this time, unprecedented levels of new growth and development are necessitating a further expansion of the wastewater treatment plant and collection system.

The existing treatment plant consists of two oxidation ditches and a Schreiber system with a treatment capacity of 1,850,000 gallons per day (gpd) and a peak flow clarifier basin. The clarifiers are designed to accommodate incoming wastewater flow in excess of 1,850,000 mgd. It also provides a method by which incoming stormwater is not allowed to use up valuable wastewater treatment capacity. When incoming wastewater flow rates drop below 1,850,000 gpd, the contents of the peak flow clarifier are then pumped back to the main treatment system.

The plant is currently treating close to 1,200,000 gpd. All development within the city is served by the wastewater system. All new development is required to connect to the public wastewater system.

Current improvements to the treatment plant are scheduled to be completed by Spring 2003 and will increase treatment capacity to 4,000,000 mgd. These improvements include an additional oxidation ditch (Westech Process) and installation of a compost facility for handling bio-solids with additional equipment such as a Schrieber screen, grit and grease removal, disk filters and Trojan U.V. for disinfection.

The pipeline collection system includes a combination of gravity and pressure flow pipes. Lift stations are required to pump wastewater over the drainage divides in the city to the treatment plant located to the south of Nixa. The treated water, which is disinfected by means of ultra-violet light, is discharged into the Finley River. All main pipelines are eight, ten or twelve inches or larger in diameter. Lateral pipelines vary in size from four to eight inches, with a four inch diameter pipe being the minimum allowed under city codes.

The collection system experiences significant levels of stormwater infiltration. Infiltration from heavy rains has resulted in instances of flow rates over 2,000,000 gpd. While storm-

water infiltration occurs city-wide, the problem is most intense in the older, central portions of the community due to deterioration of old, concrete pipes and manholes.

The current improvements to the treatment facility will enable the city to more effectively manage excessive flows from stormwater infiltration. The City is planning on relining and replacing some of the collection pipes in the older parts of the community which have been shown through smoke testing and flow monitoring to have the greatest incidences of infiltration. In addition, the City has an on-going program for replacing and resealing manhole covers to further reduce stormwater infiltration. Finally, the City continues to upgrade existing lift stations and assist in the development of regional-type collection and lift station systems.

Water System

All development in Nixa is served by the city-owned water utility. Potable water service is also provided to approximately 100 residences and businesses outside of the city limits. The city's water source is groundwater, drawn from six wells tapped into the deep aquifer in the Ordovician geologic unit 1,230 to 1,700 feet below the surface. The six wells have a maximum combined capacity of 2,835 gallons per minute (gpm) or 4,082,400 gallons per day (gpd). The well pumps are operated on demand, with a combination of wells pumping on any given day. As the groundwater currently meets all state standards for potable water, the only treatment provided is fluoridation.

The water system also includes five elevated storage towers with combined storage capacity of 1,750,000 gpd. The newest storage tower, constructed in 2001, holds 750,000 gpd. It is normally recommended that a community have daily water storage capacity equal to daily consumption rates. With an average usage of 1,500,000 gpd and total storage capacity of 1,750,000 gpd, the city has sufficient storage capacity to meet current needs unless one tower or well site are non-operational.

The water distribution system is comprised of supply pipelines in a combined loop and branch configuration (water distribution maps are on file at the Nixa Maintenance Building). At present there are no known problems with the distribution system. Random fire hydrant testing has shown a water flow at 52 pounds / second (pps) when a hydrant is completely opened, with a rate of 1,090 pps for two hydrants flowing at capacity.

Future plans for expansion include an additional well to be drilled in the northwest and a storage tank in the northeast area. In planned improvements scheduled from 2002 through 2005, there will be the continuation of looping water lines in the south and north areas of the City. Long range plans may necessitate connection to Springfield City Utilities, although this is not anticipated for another ten years.

Other Community Services

Nixa Fire Protection District



The City of Nixa is covered as part of the Nixa Fire Protection District (NFPD), which covers an area of approximately 65 square miles. District boundaries run north to the Christian / Greene County line, west along the James River down to the fork where the James meets the Finley River, north on the Finley River, east approximately halfway between Nixa and Ozark, then north to the county line.

The district is supported by a property tax assessment that is currently at \$0.40 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. The Christian County Assessor's Office collects all taxes for the NFPD. Fire District personnel include ten full-time employees who provide 24-hour coverage. In addition there is one part-time employee and 30 volunteer firefighters. Approximately 80% of all firefighters are state-certified. Firefighters train on a weekly basis throughout the year and also attend training courses at the state and federal levels.

Four stations serve the district:

- Station No. 1 located at 711 N. Main St., Nixa;
- Station No. 2 located at 1765 S. Nicholas Rd. southwest of Nixa;
- Station No. 3 located at 1752 W. Tracker Rd. northwest of Nixa; and
- Station No. 4 located at 301 S. Nicholas Rd. in Nixa, which houses the administrative offices.

Main equipment includes:

- Four engines
- Two aerials
- Two tankers
- Two brush units
- One light rescue
- One heavy rescue
- Two staff vehicles

The NFPD responds to all fire, rescue and emergency medical services (EMS) calls within the District. Normal response time in the city is three to four minutes. The NFPD has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding fire departments.

The District is involved in several community projects which include MDA fund drives, annual Fireworks display, school visitations for fire prevention, Sucker Days, Halloween activities, school athletic programs, all parades and festivals and other community service.

Nixa R-2 School District

The Nixa R-II Public School District has received A+ Certification from the State of Missouri, and has recently been recognized as having the Number One School Board in the state. The District serves a rapidly growing school-aged



population at nine schools: four neighborhood elementary schools serving Kindergarten through fourth grade (John Thomas, George Espy, Helen Mathews and Century), two elementary schools serving grades five and six (Inman and Main Street), Nixa Junior High School (grades six through eight), Nixa High School, and SCORE alternative school for junior- and senior high students. Between the 1990

and the 1995 school years, enrollment in the Nixa schools grew from 2,063 students to 2,806 students, representing a 36% increase over the five year period (743 students) or an average annual increase of 7.2%. Growth continued to an enrollment of 3,803 by the end of the 2001-2002 school year, representing a 35.5% increase between 1995 and 2002 (1,740 students).

Attendance is spread fairly evenly between the four early elementary schools; however, both Mathews and Century Elementary schools are nearing capacity.

**Table 3-1
Nixa School District Enrollment 2002**

School	Capacity	Enrollment	Percent of Capacity
Grades K – 4:			
John Thomas	440	369	84%
George Espy	462	383	83%
Helen Mathews	528	486	92%
Century	396	362	91%
Grades 5 – 6:			
Inman	525	434	83%
Main Street	250	216	86%
Nixa Junior High	675	583	86%
Nixa High School	1,200	1,150	96%
SCORE	45	40	89%
TOTALS	4,521	4,023	89%

John Thomas Elementary

This elementary facility (formerly named East Elementary) is located at the corner of Cherry and Market Streets and houses kindergarten through fourth grades. The school, built in 1960 on a 13-acre site, has undergone general maintenance and improvements, including a new roof and four new classrooms constructed in 1985, as well as air-conditioning in 2002. The building is in good condition and contains 27 classrooms, all equipped with computers, a library, an all-purpose room with a stage, and a kitchen. The playground has been divided into three areas (north, east and south).

George Espy Elementary

Espy Elementary is located on a 20-acre tract of land west of Nixa at the intersection of Gregg Road and Highway 14 and serves grades K through 4. The building was constructed in 1987; 14 new rooms have been added since that time for a total of 22 regular classrooms. There are also seven smaller education classes, art facilities, music room, library, two mobile units, and a multi-purpose room. A counselor, librarian and nurse are on the staff. The building received full air-conditioning and playground improvements in 2002.

Helen Mathews Elementary

This K – 4 elementary opened in Fall 1995 and is located on South Gregg Road. It is situated on part of the 64 acres that also is the site of the High School. In 1997, four rooms were added, providing a total of 23 regular rooms. It also has special education rooms, music room, art facilities, computer lab, library and multi-purpose room. This building is fully air-conditioned and has a phone system throughout all rooms in the building.

Century Elementary

Century was opened in Fall 2001 and is located on 20 acres along McCauley Road on the east side of Nixa. It was built with 16 regular rooms, special education rooms, music room, art facilities, library, computer lab, multi-purpose room and a stage. It also has two rooms designed for early childhood education. It is expected that eight more rooms will be added during 2004.

Inman Elementary

Inman Elementary is located at the corner of Nicholas and Tracker Roads northwest of Nixa and serves students in grades 5 and 6. Constructed in 1992 on a 40-acre tract, the facility includes an eight-acre outdoor classroom as part of the science program and a 1.5-mile cross-country running track. Nine additional classrooms were constructed in 1993. Classes in special education, including gifted student programs, are available. Staff includes a counselor, librarian and nurse.

Main Street School

The Main Street School is located at 301 S. Main Street on a 15-acre site and serves part of grades 5 and 6 as well as the early childhood programs and the preschool for the District. Constructed in the 1940's, the facility has undergone many improvements over the years. The Main Street School contains 21 classrooms, a library, kitchen, arts facility, music room, gymnasium with a stage and some District offices. During the summer of 2002 the facility was completely renovated while retaining its original qualities, and air-conditioning was added. A new library, computer lab and music room were also built. Staff also includes a nurse, counselor and librarian.

Nixa Junior High School

The Junior High School was built in 1969 on a 30-acre site at 205 North Street. This facility serves grades 7 – 8 and contains 27 classrooms, a library, gymnasium, all-purpose room, auditorium, kitchen, science laboratories, art facilities, industrial arts shop rooms, home economics rooms, an outside track, and fields for football, soccer and baseball. In 1993, eight classrooms, a biology and chemistry laboratory, a learning resource center, and a computer laboratory were added.

Nixa High School

The High School was opened in Fall 2002 and sits on the same 64 acres as Mathews Elementary. Frontage for the high school is on S. Nicholas Road. This 3-story building contains 63 classrooms, a large library (also open to the general public during certain hours),

gymnasium, theater, commons area and an office complex. The lower two levels cover approximately 235,000 square feet, with the third floor covering approximately 25,000 square feet. The third floor was built only as a shell and is planned for finishing in 2004, increasing capacity by about 500 students. Outside facilities includes a football and track stadium, practice fields and tennis courts.

SCORE

A separate building for this alternative school is scheduled to be completed by November 2002 and will contain five regular rooms, cafeteria and offices. The building is located on West Mt. Vernon Street at the west edge of Nixa and will be leased from the builder.

Central Offices

The District's central offices are located at 205 North Street and are part of the Junior High campus. The offices include superintendent and directors for special services, curriculum, technology and District development.

School Facility Planning

Enrollment in the Nixa R-2 School District has been increasing for several years and continued growth is expected during the present planning period. The District currently owns 35 acres of open land at the corner of Gregg Road and Northview Road. Evaluation of future growth and construction is an ongoing process and is directly related to the rate and direction of City growth. In addition to expanding the high school and Century Elementary, the District will need to construct another K – 4 school and expand space for grades 5 and 6. Specific plans have not been identified, but a new site will be needed within three to four years. Prior to construction the District will need to add portable classrooms at some of the sites.

Senior Citizen Center

The Nixa Senior Citizen's Center, located at 404 S. Main Street, was established in 1988 as part of the Southwest Missouri Office of Aging (SMOA). One paid employee and over 50 local volunteers currently operate the Center, serving meals and delivering various programs to residents of Nixa, Ozark, Springfield, Republic and Forsyth. The Center is open to anyone interested in utilizing the facilities, including friends and family members of current patrons. The Center's building was built in 1988, is in excellent condition, and has a capacity to hold 200 people. The Center recently acquired land adjacent to the current property for future expansion.

Several services are available through the Center, including Daily Bread (noon meal delivery five days a week), Homework (a housekeeping service), congregate meals at the Center, tax preparation assistance, legal aid, recreation and crafts. Activities include bingo, quilting, exercise classes, game night, and dancing to live band music. Community involvement is another part of the programs available; mentoring second-graders at Mathews Elementary, fund-raising for the high school's "N" club, and food drives are ways that seniors can actively participate in the community.

Funding for the Center comes in part from the SMOA, which covers expenses incurred by the Daily Bread Program and the Home Cleaning Services. The Center requests donations from patrons for each service; however, services are available free of charge. A grant from the Nixa Community Foundation enables the Center to provide additional services. In addition, a separate grant was received from the State, in the form of tax credits for local businesses, as another means of raising funds for the Center.

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